

REPUBLICAN news



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FIFTH WEEK OF

NO WASH

THE "NO-WASH, NO SLOP OUT" tactic of the 330 "Blanket-men" in H Blocks 3 & 5, Long Kesh, entered its fifth week last Monday. For a time (loyalist) orderlies had refused to enter the men's cells to slop-out their buckets because of the increasing smell and threat of infection. Some of the orderlies were punished with solitary confinement and on Monday the 17th they resumed emptying the pões, and this took the most immediate pressure off the Screws who were restless with having to empty the pões themselves.

It is believed that the orderlies, threatened with solitary confinement, and induced by the gift of an extra hour of daily association were won over. Did you ever see men bought so cheap?

INJURED AND ILL

An Armagh man John Anthony McCooley from H-3 has been in hospital since Wednesday week. Whilst he was on-the-boards (in the punishment block) three Screws beat him around the face and forced him to put on the

prison trousers. He was then taken to the Governor who said, "well Mr McCooley, I believe you are going to wear the clothing?" He said he wasn't, and was then brought to the cell where he was hit again. The Screws returned 15 minutes later and asked him what happened to him, as if they didn't know. Beechmount man, Gerard Murray, who is in 'B' Wing Crumlin Road Gaol was removed to the prison hospital also on Wednesday week. When a friend phoned up the Gaol he was told by

unconcerned officials, "Ach, he's in the hospital, with nerves in the stomach, or something."

The war against the prison administration didn't bother to contact the Murray family about their son being taken to hospital.

FIRST 18 MONTHS.

The "Blanket" protest had continued for 18 months without a breakthrough. During that time our fellow Irishmen (now numbering over 330) in the H-Blocks and Crumlin Road gaol have amazed us with their capacity for suffering, and their suffering has made us cry. They are the most courageous men in Ireland, with their message.

DON'T LIE DOWN UNDER THE BRIT, RESIST!

It is a message which they totally practice.

For 18 months they wore that

blanket while the British criminal uniform lay in the corner of the cell. Screws, like Fitzsimmons the tea-man in H-3, treated them like dirt and the Church, Human Rights bodies, and the media ignored the condition of their imprisonment, and more or less adjudicated that they were the "criminals" Mason called them.

Gerard Murray has been refused Mass by his comrades, because of the precondition that they must wear the full British criminal uniform. This has been the situation for ten months without comment, criticism or condemnation from the Church (who hypocritically recall the Mass Rocks of penal days and our cultural struggle, when they want to criticise others for not attending).

The "Blanket-protest" continued without a great breakthrough, but now that the men have won on the offensive with their unique and original 'no-wash' protest things are coming to a head and we on the outside need to mobilise behind them.

In a letter this week one comrade in H-5 wrote:-

"The Screws are trying to put on a brave face, but it's getting to them. At the start

it was rough for us but we are getting used to it. At nights we discuss the protest, shouting from cell to cell. We say what we think about it, what we thought was wrong with it, and also we put ideas forward for to strengthen it. Everyone is doing their bit, and it's not just left to a handful of men.

"We've had some brass round in the last week, from Governor Concanon, to Governor Gibbons, to boards of visitors. We've had the lot and then they say they're not worried!"

"The Governors and PO's we ignore when they come round to kangaroo-court us. We have little talk with the Bears (Screws) and they try their best for to have a talk with you.

"The morale of the men has lifted a lot now that we are doing something instead of taking it from these Bears. We think we've got the better of them. We're suffering yes, but it's nice to know they are as well!"

It is up to us on the outside to play our part. Spread the message of H-Block by informing the ignorant, by challenging the hypocritical, by inflaming the faint-hearted and by mobilising behind all forms of protest.

H-BLOCK PICKETS



Last Saturday Sinn Fein (supported by the RAC) held five simultaneous two hour pickets in Belfast to highlight the latest deterioration of conditions in the H-Blocks.

Our photo here shows some of the Broadway pickets. On page 6 we have more photos of other pickets.

On Saturday afternoon and last Tuesday evening, Turf Lodge RAC also organised pickets and road-blocking at the Andersonstown RUC barracks.

H-BLOCK SUPPLEMENT

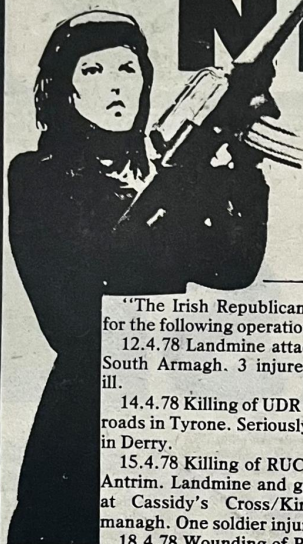
This week our centre four-page supplement is on conditions inside the H-Blocks. [We are producing 20,000 extra copies of this supplement.]

All the material in the supplement will be familiar to our regular readers who will need no reminder of the deterioration in conditions.

However, it is intended to be used [by posting it off to relatives, friends and supporters] to get through to people who are not yet fully aware of the Horrors of the H-Blocks. For it is only in the last few weeks, with the stepping-up of the protest by the heroic blanket men themselves, that we have begun to break out of restricted circles and get through to a wider audience. [There has, for example, been a spate of newspaper articles in the 26 counties in the last two weeks.]

Today Britain's shameful H-Blocks are fast becoming a 'live' issue throughout the thirty two counties. We intend to ensure that the spotlight is kept there until Mason's 'criminalisation' plans are finally defeated.

WAR NEWS



"The Irish Republican Army claim responsibility for the following operations:

12.4.78 Landmine attack on Brit patrol in Keady, South Armagh. 3 injured, 1 soldier very seriously ill.

14.4.78 Killing of UDR Corporal at Creggan Crossroads in Tyrone. Seriously wounding a British soldier in Derry.

15.4.78 Killing of RUC Reservist in Armoyn, North Antrim. Landmine and gun attack on British Forces at Cassidy's Cross/Kinawley Road South Fermanagh. One soldier injured.

18.4.78 Wounding of RUC Woman at Portglenone Barracks.

"The Irish Republican Army was not involved in the killing of ex-UVF Member Robert McCullough. His death was part of an internal Loyalist feud."

STATEMENT ISSUED 19/4/78 BY PRISONERS RELATIVES

BLANKET-MEN HOSED DOWN

"We have just heard from H-Block 5 Long Kesh that several men were hosed down last night. The men are now refusing to use their pokes, since the haphazard emptying of them by the orderlies was used as an extra means of harassment.

"The men are now throwing their excreta out the windows to immediately alleviate the stench in their cells. Men have stomach complaints and migraine headaches and the doctors refuse to examine them unless they wear the criminal uniform.

"A man on the blanket in 'B' Wing Crumlin Road Gaol has been admitted to Musgrave Hospital suffering from Anorexia Nervosa. A H-Block prisoner from South Armagh John McCooney was beaten about the face by three screws last Wednesday afternoon for refusing to wear the uniform and is in hospital.

"We challenge the Church, the SDLP and the Medical profession to make clear their position on the inhumane conditions, not just prevailing now in H Block because of the intensification of the protest, but on the whole H-Block set-up and Mason's attempt to criminalise political prisoners.

Birthday GREETINGS

SEANNA WALSH H Block 5.
Greetings on your Birthday.
Show me a man who does not love the land where he was born. U.T.P. Always thinking of you. God Bless Auntie Ann, Uncle Victor and the Wee Wilkies.

SEANNA WALSH H Block 5.
Greetings Seanna on this your Birthday. God Bless you and your comrades. Your fight is our fight. Thinking of you always. Love Ellis Sean and Family.

SEANNA WALSH H Block 5.
Greetings on your 22nd Birthday. God Bless you in your fight for Political Status and all your comrades. Love Mum Dad, Brothers & Sisters also Liza, Tony, Wee Toni.

SEANNA WALSH H Block 5.
Greetings on this your Birthday though prison bars divide us and we are far apart. They have you in their keeping we have you in our hearts. God Bless you all Love Gran, Grandpa & Uncle Tony.

SEANNA WALSH H Block 5.
Greetings on this your Birthday. May God Bless you and your comrades. Thinking of you to-day and every day. Love Ned, Mo and Marianne.

The recent Public Inquiry into Education organised by the Upper Springfield resource centre, attracted a varied cross-section of interested individuals and bodies involved in Education. Parents, teachers and political groupings made over 60 submissions, including 10 written submissions.

Throughout the three days, almost every issue concerning education was raised and discussed. Topics included, Comprehensive Education, community schools, school management, parent participation, sexism in education, and others too numerous to mention. What was of particular interest especially to local people was a series of revelations by various people into the workings of school management Committees. Indeed, Des Wilson described as scandalous, the underhand methods used by the Church authorities in order to keep the people out of all decision making regarding the education of their children. People were left in no doubt as to the degree of mutual "backscratching" done by Church and State to maintain this state of affairs. School management committees were shown up to be nothing short of window-dressing. In most cases the people on these committees don't even live in the areas where the schools are situated. Not to mention the fact that they cannot even make decisions. All decision making rests firmly and completely in the hands of the Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Philbin.

This theme was taken up by a large number of local speakers

REPORT ON PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION.



and I imagine that when the findings of the report are made public, they will create a minor 'Watergate'.

During the inquiry, we were also treated to some very "heavy" submissions from some very intellectual academic type people, who talked a lot and said nothing. (If you know what I mean?) While for me, the "stars" of the show were local people, whose honest and very perceptive observations of the inquiry and education in general were well worth hearing. I think Barney Gowdy, from Springfield summed education up from a working-class position, when he said during his submission: "All I was taught was the three R's and a series of do's and don'ts. I wasn't allowed to question or inquire; no effort was made to open my mind and prepare me for life. I was told to

remember my place and be thankful for what I had".

This in short, is what the controllers of the education system want. It is also a fact which was almost completely ignored at the inquiry. That the system doesn't want children to question or think for themselves. The education system is controlled by the capitalist state which in turn process children from human beings into "things" geared to the perpetuation of the capitalist system. There is no question of freedom of thought. Once the political establishment sets its economic course, it gears its education system to meet the workforce requirements. It's as simple and cynical as that.

Children are deprived of any incentive to speak their minds, develop original ideas, or to think for themselves.

A teacher with a closed mind (himself a victim of the process) teaches the children under his care to have closed minds. Children are forced to participate in this system, whether they or their parents want to or not. They are urged to compete for their own good. Top and bottom, winner and loser, success and failure, and in this way they learn that not only is competition, winning and success an honourable way of life, but the only way of life. Success means wealth, work hard, pass exams, get a good job, achieve wealth. In simple form, they learn the capitalist dynamic, cash with dividends and profits, hard work, thrift, initiative, ambition, self-reliance and above all self-interest.

The education system serves the political base and its demands. The moral questions raised by this system are ignored. Forget about all the ones who don't make it. Forget about freedom of thought and word, young people are just turned out of school, their minds in a mental straightjacket. These are facts widely known. Liberal reformers pay lip service to every conceivable reform but can only see change by slow evolutionary process. They refuse, because they are part of the system, to see that any "dabbling" at reform is only whitewash to disguise the 'great lie'. Mao Tse-tung said in 1920:

BY JOE O'NEILL.

"Education requires 1. Money, 2. People and 3. Instruments. In today's world, money is entirely in the hands of the capitalists. Those who have charge of education are all either capitalists or slaves of capitalists. In today's world, the schools and the press, the two most important instruments of education, are entirely under capitalist control. In short, education in today's world is capitalist education. If we teach capitalism to children, these children, when they grow up, will in turn teach capitalism to a second generation of children. Education thus remains in the hands of the capitalists." Mao recognised that any attempt at educational reforms within the system are a waste of effort. What use is the freedom to speak, when the listeners have numbing preconceptions which prevent them understanding a 'new' point of view? What freedom is it to have all the symbols of success, and a blank mind? What freedom is it to work within a system and not understand how it works. Or indeed, what freedom is it not even to have the freedom of thought to ask these questions? No, the only change possible is revolutionary change. This the Republican Movement intends to do in due process.

A BAD DAY FOR RUC TORTURERS BUT MASON CONTINUES TO GIVE THEM THE GO-AHEAD



In the Belfast Appeal Court last Wednesday (12th April) it was a bad day for the torturers of the RUC. Two of their many victims had their sentences quashed by the Court and they were both released. (No doubt this news caused great surprise in the refined circles of the Law Society who were recently unable to find significant evidence of torture!)

The two released torture victims were Robert Barclay of Killeter, Castleberg, County Tyrone and Matthew Bradley of Ballymurphy Drive, Belfast.

ROBERT BARCLAY

Robert Barclay was a victim of the routine RUC brutality which happens day and daily.

A medical report stated that his right eye had been blackened and swollen; there was bruising on his body generally, including a long bruise mark on his stomach; and there was also a cut behind one of his ears. At Omagh RUC barracks he had been beaten into making a false statement that he had been in possession of five rifles.

Despite the medical evidence the trial judge last December had rubber-stamped him away for a seven year sentence. It was such a blatant frame-up that his solicitor (Patrick Fahy of Omagh) had then withdrawn from all political cases as a protest. And now at his appeal four months later the evidence of police brutality, covered-up by lies, was so clear that the three Appeal Court judges had no

option but to release him.

The imprisonment of Robert Barclay is exactly similar to literally hundreds of other young men and women where forced 'confessions' have been obtained by our 'impartial' police force. Yet will the three 'Justices', Lowry, Gibson and O'Donnell care to think about similar 'Judgements' passed against these hundreds of other framed-up torture victims?

We doubt it.

MATTHEW BRADLEY

A less routine case of the Brit-operated conveyor belt to prison is that of Matthew Bradley. His case has already made the front page of "Republican News" twice - on June 12th '76 and November 26th '77. In the latter issue we headlined how: "RUC use new method for conviction".

On June 2nd '76 Matt Bradley was arrested at his Ballymurphy home around tea-time and taken to a local Brit post. At around 8 o'clock he was taken to Springfield Road Barracks for interrogation.

His shoes were taken from him and he remained barefoot for the next three days. He was brought

into an upstairs room. There were no questions asked, no interrogation. RUC Detectives began beating him with batons, they slapped and punched him.

He was stripped (to this day his clothes have disappeared!) hooded and handcuffed and Branchmen played Russian roulette with a gun held to his head. At one stage the gun was pointed at his leg and a shot was fired. At the same time he was struck with a baton on the back of the leg to simulate a wounding.

He was then given a pair of overalls to wear. The beating continued.

FIFTY TWO BRUISES

In fact, his beating was so bad that at 9.40 p.m., only one hour and forty minutes after arriving in the barracks, a doctor had to be called to examine him.

According to the medical report Matt Bradley bore 52 bruises and abrasions all over his body, which, the report concluded, were caused by a blunt instrument.

However despite this evidence of torture, the RUC - who had absolutely no charge against him -

then charged Matt Bradley with causing "grave, grievous, bodily harm to Detective Constable Patterson and others".

This malicious court prosecution clearly showed up the bankruptcy of the RUC.

Matt Bradley had been arrested under the 'Emergency Powers'; he was barefoot, handcuffed, and stripped; a shot was fired at him; and he offered no aggression but defended himself when attacked by four Branchmen.

The hated RUC could prefer no political charges against him and so one was faked up within the precincts of the barracks itself.

Eighteen months later, last November, Matt Bradley found himself before a non-jury special (Diplock) court and was sentenced to three years imprisonment on a conviction of "causing grievous bodily harm".

At his original trial the RUC denied brutalising him and claimed that he had thrown HIMSELF violently about the interview room.

But last Wednesday the appeal judges found the guilty verdict "unsafe and unsatisfactory in that the trial judge did not reconcile police evidence with that from medical experts."

COVER UP TO CONTINUE

To counter such evidence of RUC torture chief peeler Newman has stressed that prisoners have inflicted wounds on themselves. But in this case even the Crown lawyer was forced to agree that of Matt Bradley's 52 bruises, at least half of them could only have been caused by "the use of a blunt instrument". (i.e. a police baton).

Yet two days after the convictions of Matt Bradley and of Robert Barclay were quashed, Enoch Powell stated in Westminster that "in view of the RUC's growing success in obtaining arrests and convictions, it (the House of Commons) should be alerted to the renewal campaign of denigration and false allegations against it (the RUC)".

Mason agreed. He said, "Mr. Powell was right to keep the House alert to it; there had been a protracted (slander) campaign against the RUC".

So any hope of a let-up in police torture at the direction of 'the mother of democracy' (Westminster) would be ill-founded. Instead, just two days after the true nature of two pieces of RUC 'peace-keeping' activity have been exposed, Mason says with authority: "Keep up the good work boys, torture and brutalise away, we'll cover-up for you."

ATTACKS ON WOMEN

STATEMENT FROM

ROBERT EMMET/FRANCIS
LIGGET SINN FEIN CUMANN.

The members of the above cumann would like to bring to the attention of the public the recent attacks meted out to local women of the area by thugs of the Royal Marine Commando Regiment. In the past 72 hrs four attacks have taken place.

On Sunday 16th April a young woman was walking home when she was accosted by a gang of soldiers in the Rodney area. They proceeded to make filthy comments to and about her. The woman got frightened as the streets were dark and deserted. Two soldiers grabbed her and began pushing her around. She fell to the ground where she was kicked in the

legs and groin. By this time she was screaming hysterically. Local people hearing this came out onto the streets only to see this woman being dragged to a jeep and being driven off at high speed out of the area.

Local people immediately gathered together and proceeded to march to Springfield Road Barracks where a picket was held until the woman was released some hours later.

On Monday 17th two other women in the area were punched and jostled by these thugs for failing to move off the footpath to let a foot patrol past. However, the most serious

attack took place on Monday evening of the 17th. At precisely 8.00 p.m. a member of our Sinn Fein cumann was stopped by a foot patrol at the top of St. James Road. She was treated to the same treatment of leud and filthy remarks, which seems to be a trademark of this regiment as well as thuggery. However, after Sunday's episode the local people came onto the streets fearing a repetition. After a few minutes our member was released. Suddenly an elderly soldier who looked like an officer seemed to go berserk and told his patrol to arrest a woman who was standing idly by. This woman was trail-

ed by the hair along the ground to a waiting jeep where she was driven to Springfield Road barracks.

Sinn Fein immediately organised local people who held a march and picket on the barracks until this woman was also released.

In all but one of these attacks there was not the slightest provocation and in the last case the woman had received a kidney operation less than four weeks ago.

PRO
ROBERT EMMET/FRANCIS
LIGGET SINN FEIN CUMANN
ST. JAMES DISTRICT.

FREE DERRY NEWS

BRIT SPY POST DISCOVERED IN BOGSIDE



Arrow shows the Brit spy-post discovered in the Bogside, Derry.

A Brit spy post equipped with an elaborate camera, directional microphones with large amplifiers, and full sleeping gear for a spy team, was discovered in the Lisfannon Park area of the Bogside on Thursday, April 13th, shortly after dinner-time. Within minutes of the residents making this discovery, a Saracen packed with Brits rushed to the area. A foot patrol materialised out of nowhere. Locals investigating the find were roughly shoved aside by the Brits.

In their attempt to smuggle the spies out of the area unnoticed, Brits tried to throw the Bogside into confusion by saying there was shooting in the area, then changed this story to "there's a bomb in the house." This failed to distract eyewitnesses' attention from a bearded, smelly Brit who was quickly packed into the waiting Saracen, while other Brits pulled sleeping bags, mick sacks, radios and other gear from the house and into the vehicle in great haste. Because of the speed of the Brits appearance, no photos, unfortunately, were got of the spy post.

The spy-post was set up in two derelict houses in Blucher Street, with a house sheltering a young family sandwiched between these two. The spy team moved from sleeping quarters in one to their spy apparatus in the corner house via the bedroom ceiling space in the occupied house.

For some time, it had been noticed that the concrete blocks bricking up the top window in the corner house, looking out onto Lisfannon Park, had a large crack between two of them, easily seen from the street. However, nothing was thought of this until further events took place, and this large crack was revealed to be a man-made observation hole.

Last Thursday, April 5th, between 8 and 9 p.m. the young mother living in the house between the two derelict houses of the spy set-up was alerted by her child's cries of fright. She went upstairs to comfort the child and was startled to hear strange noises in the vacant house next door: sounds like a person tripping over themselves, and then she heard English voices.

At this stage, she became frightened and hurried downstairs again, for the lights in her house began flashing on and off, like fairy lights on a Christmas tree.

Alone in the house with the wain, who was screaming in fear, she picked up the child and ran across the street to her mother Mrs. Anderson. But no one was at home, so she went and got a neighbour who went with her to sit in her home.

Her mother returned home shortly afterwards, and seeing the strange flashing lights, went across to her daughters. As she stood at the front door and called, "How's your lights?" her daughter's entire house was plunged into darkness. Her mother called out loudly, "I'm ringing the emergency number about that," and the lights went on again immediately.

Friday night at tea-time, the young mother phoned the RUC and reported the noises she heard. The RUC suggested it might be "pigeons." She stressed the fact of the English voices, and they asked, "Are you sure it's not winos having a hooley?" Finally they said they'd ring back and let her know what they'd do. They didn't ring, so at 8 p.m. she rang again, still hearing the noises, and they said they'd send out a joint Brit/RUC patrol to investigate. But then they rang back 40 minutes later to say they weren't coming out but they'd come up in the morning instead. Despite the young mother making it clear that she wanted this investigated that night, as the wain was crying and no one wanted to sleep in the house that night, the RUC neither phoned back nor ever arrived to investigate. The family never bothered with them again.

NOTICEABLE GAP

On Thursday, April 13th, a neighbour passing through the street with a ladder was persuaded to examine a noticeable gap between the concrete blocks bricking up the top window in the corner house opposite the Anderson's. He put his ladder up and climbed to the top window, turned pure white and almost fell off his ladder: he saw his own face reflected back at him. The young woman living beside this derelict house then went up the ladder and saw her face. Three other neighbours, including Paddy Doherty, a well-known community leader, went up the ladder and saw the same: their own faces reflected back at them by what seemed to be a bit of mirror. While the men went to the

back of the house and climbed over the wall to investigate, other neighbours tried to break the mirror with chisels, but it proved to be made of a high-impact, shatterproof material.

Meanwhile, the neighbours who went inside the corner house to investigate found a massive camera, set up on a tripod, positioned in front of a one-way mirror, focussed on the Anderson's house across the street in Lisfannon Park. Two huge amplifiers attached to directional microphones completed the spy apparatus.

"I never saw the like of that camera before," reported an eyewitness. "It took two Brits to carry it out of there. It was at least three and a half feet by two feet, and it looked like a cannon." Another eyewitness described it as having a lens "like the periscope of a ship, painted black."

NERVOUS AND EXCITED BRITS

Before the two men could leave the room with the spy equipment, a Saracen packed with Brits roared up and a foot patrol appeared out of this air. "They seemed very nervous and excited," reported one neighbour. They told us there had been shooting in the area. None of us heard any. "Mrs Anderson heard none either, and asked the Brit who was telling everyone about the shooting, "Did you hear any shooting?" His reply was nonsensical: "There has been shooting, and we have information there will be more." The astonished eyewitnesses had no time to ponder the meaning of this unusual statement, for another Brit came up and changed the story abruptly: "There's a bomb in that house. You'll have to clear the area."

ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT

This simple-minded attempt by the Brits to distract the people of the area didn't work, for the by-now considerable crowd of residents watched Brits enter the derelict house on the corner where the spy equipment was found and others entered the house on the other side of the young family's. From the latter emerged at least one filthy Brit

in camouflage gear, wearing a kangaroo-style coat with the hood pulled to cover his face as much as possible - but not enough to hide the heavy rough growth of beard. "He had an awful smell about him", reports one neighbour, and he was the first one put into the Saracen." Jeers of "Peeping Tom" and "Big Brother is watching", greeted his appearance, from the angry crowd.

Judging from the almost instantaneous appearance of Brits as soon as their spy-post was discovered, the Brit or Brits operating it must have radiao for reinforcements and rescued immediately after seeing the inquisitive neighbours.

A RIGHT TO BE THERE

Because the Brit emerged not from the observation set-up in the corner house, but from the other derelict house on the other side of the young couple's house, and because of the noise heard above the bedroom ceiling in the occupied house, the Brits spies were evidently using one house for sleeping and the house on the corner for spying, travelling between them across the bedroom in the occupied house.

An interesting aside: when the spy post was discovered, the RUC were phoned. They were told of the find, and all they could think to say was "If it's squatters, they're illegal." When it was pointed out the kind of gear discovered, and that it was Brits, the RUC told the young woman, "If it's an intelligence set-up, they have a right to be there to observe terrorist activity." The RUC told the young woman to tell the Brits to stay there until they arrived on the scene. This the young woman did, and the officer-in-charge told her, "F..off out of my road," and continued what he was doing.

SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT

The serious consequences of this spy-post cannot be underestimated. In the past spy posts have been unearthed in Derry, but none yet with such sophisticated equipment. Their equipment was taken away in such great haste that photographs were impossible, but from the descriptions of eyewitnesses, the large amplifiers and directional microphones combined with what may have been a cine camera with zoom lens was set up for very selec-

tive spying on the house across the street. Directional microphones have been used before by the British forces in Derry to spy on the local population. They need only be pointed in the direction desired, and it is said that they can pick up conversations up to 500 yards away. They are designed so that their operators can tune out everything irrelevant to what they want to listen to.

OBVIOUS DANGER

Such S.A.S. style spy-posts are of obvious danger to every one living near or passing by. The ease with which Brit assassins could operate from such places cannot be underestimated. It is quite likely that a murderous tragedy was averted by the discovery of the spy-post at this time: Recall the murder of young Duffy in Co. Tyrone recently.

Anyone hearing any such suspicious noises or noticing anything unusual in derelict or unoccupied houses - including new houses being built - should report this immediately, for their own safety's sake, to the nearest Republican Information Centre.

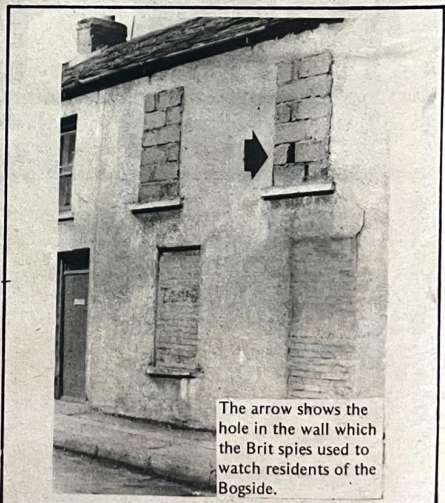
PRO DERRY SINN FEIN

NOTE: The young family living between the two derelict houses involved in this spy-post were unwilling hosts to these Brit spies for electrical supply. After the spy-post was found, the electrical supply to this house was cut off completely leaving a family with a young child in utter darkness that night, despite promises that an electrician would be sent out.

A further and very sinister development:

Last Friday night at tea-time, Mr Frank McFeely, the occupant of this house sandwiched between the 2 spy post derelicts, entered the house on the corner to see if he could fix the electricity supply for his family. Entering the upstairs bedroom where the spy post was found, he narrowly missed stepping on a pressurised connected to a bomb - a box with wires and batteries attached.

Sinn Fein condemn this utterly sinister twist by the Brits to their spying operation. The excitement and curiosity generated by news of this discovery ensured that many young people would be sorely tempted to climb into the house to see the remains of the spy set-up, with fatal consequences.



The arrow shows the hole in the wall which the Brit spies used to watch residents of the Bogside.

END TORTURE IN H-BLOCK

OUR PICTURES SHOW MEMBERS OF BELFAST SINN FEIN AND BELFAST RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE STAGING THEIR PROTESTS AT VARIOUS ROAD JUNCTIONS LAST SATURDAY

H-BLOCK MARCH AND MASS RALLY

MARCH IN BELFAST ON SUNDAY 30th APRIL IN SUPPORT OF MEN IN H-BLOCK (DETAILS LATER IN LOCAL PRESS) ALL AREAS WELCOME.



NEW LODGE

FALLS ROAD



WHITEROCK/St. JAMES' Rds.



SPRINGFIELD RD. CORNER

NEW LODGE/ANTRIM Rd.s.



MONITORED MAIL USED FOR PSY-OPS —H-BLOCK MEN

We the Republican POW's (on the Blanket) in H-Blocks 5 and 3 Long Kesh wish to inform our friends and relatives that from Monday 10th April we have been refusing to accept or send out the weekly letter which is supplied to us by the so-called prison administration here. We realise that by doing this we will be denying ourselves the little communication we have with the outside world. We know that this will cause distress and further hardship to our families and friends. But we feel that it is absolutely imperative that we cease forthwith in sending mail out through the prison authorities.

We wish to emphasise that this is in no way connected with our present protest against prison conditions but at the same time our reason for stopping our outgoing mail must be seriously considered as another sinister aspect of the institutionalised violence which is now a daily occurrence within the confines and behind the closed doors of the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

Up until three months ago our letter quota was a meagre two out going letters per month. If a man took the monthly visit his letter quota was then reduced to one per month. It was quite usual for a letter to reach its destination heavily mutilated by the censor's pen or go missing altogether. This we term as part of the general harassment, as our mail is like everything else, just another means through which to get at us.

We received the above quota for 15 months then out of the blue three months ago came an increase in our letter ration to one letter per week in and out. Needless to say we more than anyone else, were completely shocked by this increase, it being in total contrast to the normal prison policy of making things as unbearable as possible for the Republican POW's on the blanket protest.

We were informed that this increase in letters was due to a change in prison rules etc. At the time we received this unexpected news with both caution and suspicion. But after a week or two we accepted our good fortune and threw all caution to the wind. After three months we discovered the real reason for the extra letters, they were being used as a means and aid for the perpetration of psychological warfare on three hundred Republican POW's on the blanket.

We have known for some time that certain screws pay particular attention to men in order to assess the men's morale. If one of these screws thinks a man is getting his time hard he will go out of his way to coax, bribe or induce that man to come off the Blanket Protest. But successes in this line are very rare indeed as looks are very deceiving.

So someone in the Administration came up with the very ingenious plan of gauging the general and individual morale of the Blanket men through the outgoing mail. Two letters a month would not give a good indication so our mail was generously increased to the present quota of one letter a week in and out, allowing a larger and better stream of information to flow on a more regular basis. We know that usually all our outgoing letters are censored of anything that the prison administration think should not be heard about outside, but now it is carefully sifted for certain details, which are recorded and analysed for use against men.

For a clearer picture one must consider that at some-

time or another every prisoner in gaol either meets with domestic and personal problems, or experiences periods of distress or depression. When a man in here receives bad news his reaction to it is usually immediate, and through a letter he either asks for more details or expresses his feelings of sorrow, anger or distaste etc.

Like wise out of 300 men a certain number are bound to be in a state of depression some-time due to the intolerable and inhuman conditions that exist here and some will and do mention or give hint of this in their letters.

So broadly our out going mail is being used to gauge the general morale and over all mood of 300 Blanket men plus individual morale. It is also being used to collect information which may be of a distressing nature to men if it is presented to them. Information of this nature ranges from marriage problems, deaths, sickness in family, to any form of domestic problems which cause personal grievances or hardships.

This information, of if you prefer intelligence, is gathered by a specially selected team of screws (at least we think their screws) and it is acted upon. Individuals who have been weighed up through their letters and deemed as soft or vulnerable targets are approached by screws who attempt to lure the man of the Blanket knowing the man's frame of mind. They apply pressure on him with the aid of facts and conversation distressing to him.

This coupled with promises and other inducements may and have led men to despair the depressing environment around them and thus help a man to finally succumb and end his protest.

We know of dozens of men who were approached in this manner. Each man at the time had some sort of problem and this was played upon. In several cases some very accurate and intimate details were used. It is obvious to us now that these facts were gathered from our mail for this purpose of breaking men's will-power and get as many men as possible off the Blanket. This is not a figment of our imagination as within a period of two weeks 8 men left the protest. We know that four were subjected to the above mentioned tactics, one man in particular was having trouble with his wife. This was used and things were added to it to despair the man and it worked.

Outside of the above mentioned the average rate of men leaving the protest was about one every month or so, so eight men was quite a success for the prison administration. But things don't stop with a nice little disturbing or distressing chat if that fails the man can be removed to the punishment block where he can be subjected to both psychological and physical attacks in total isolation. This also has occurred regularly. Because these methods are being used on us and they depend on mostly our out going mail we have decided it would be better to sacrifice this our main means of communication rather than supply the prison authorities with the means to break us. We feel we must halt our letters until we reappraise this situation as what use is a letter if we cannot write anything in it, or we must limit ourselves to small talk.

PRO
H BLOCK 5,
LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP.

H-BLOCK PROTEST INTENSIFIED

We have been asked to issue the following supplied statement to our office from the PRQ of H-Block 3 Long Kesh:

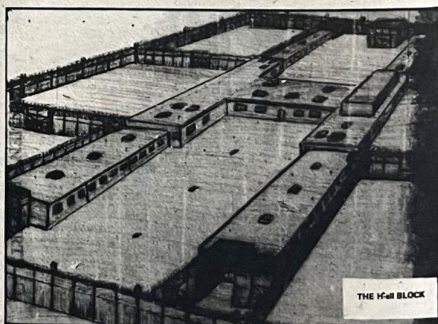
"On Monday the 10th of April we the Republican POW's (almost 300 men) in H-Blocks 3 and 5, Long Kesh, entered the fourth week of the intensification of our protest for recognition as political prisoners. The "Blanket Protest" had been going on for 19 months so we began a policy of non-cooperation, refused to wash ourselves, or sweep the cells or slop out.

"The prison administration retaliated by taking men out of the normal

H-Blocks and putting them into punishment blocks (complete isolation and strict diet). Screws tried to break the resolve of the young prisoners by concentrating their venom on them. Presently, the screws are wearing overalls and gloves when they are searching us. We have it on good information that they are refusing to take their uniforms home with them, in case infection spreads. A number of us have broken out in a rash, and the prison

horse-doctor will not examine us unless we wear the British criminal uniform. He is roped in with the administration since he decides whether or not we are fit to be placed in the punishment cells.

"The situation has become critical. Don Con-cannon was up on Monday in H-3 to see the situation for himself. The four wings of each of the H-Blocks are stinking. Some orderlies (UDA men who wear the uniform) refused to slop out



cells because of the risks of infection. They were put into the punishment blocks. The screws are restless with the deteriorating conditions.

"We are determined to maintain our stand for our just demands. We are

told that the media, the Church and the Medical profession are ignoring our plight but we have no way of knowing.

PRO
H-BLOCK 3.

H-BLOCK

REPORT

HOW THE PROTEST STARTED

The Blanket protest started in September 1976 when the first Republican Prisoners of War to be sentenced after March 1st were refused Political Status. But no doubt to the surprise of the H-Block men sentenced refused to conform to criminal status. They would not wear prison garb or do prison work for they were POW's not criminals. So they were stripped naked and put into an empty cell where they have remained in solitary confinement. They were clad only in a blanket. They ate their meals in their cell, they washed and went to the toilet in their cell, they never left their cell. They had nothing whatsoever to occupy them, to help pass the time.

It was during the early stages of the protest that the prison authorities under the direction of Mason tried to break the spirit of the first POW's on the blanket. The idea was to get the men off the blanket protest before it could get a grip, thus began a campaign to break the protest and discourage those men who were due to follow their comrades. The first indications of this strategy became apparent to those of us who were on remand at that time, when smuggled notes came filtering through telling of constant harassment, atrocious conditions and men receiving severe beatings at the hands of the Screws. So we all knew what to expect. It did not deter the men on the blanket or those due

By a 'BLANKET MAN'

to follow. Admittedly a few (a very few) fell by the wayside, but the protest remained secure. We knew there was only one way we would survive and that was through 'Solidarity and Resistance.'

We remained solid, we have withstood every attempt to break us and now after 19 months we are now 300 strong. If in two years time we are still here we will be 1,000 POW's. But we make no bones about it. It is very, very hard here. Each day is a constant up-hill struggle. The harassment, atrocious conditions, and beatings are still with us, although all the beatings are carried out in the seclusion of

the punishment block. We are still confined to our cells as we have been since September '76. Our health has suffered more than anything else, the deterioration is quite noticeable in most men. A lot of us have not seen our families or relatives for many months.

I think most of us have a special longing, some for a walk, others for their clothes or

maybe even a book, paper or cigarette.

We could obtain these things right away if we put on the prison garb and conformed, but we won't as our resolve is strong and our determination and resistance is infallible, they have to be because that's what it's all about here on the blanket and it is that, that will see us through to the end of the day.



THE STRUGGLE FOR STATUS

The sufferings of the 'blanket men' are nothing new for Irish Republican political prisoners-of-war. Throughout past centuries imprisoned Irish freedom fighters have resolutely refused to accept the classification of 'criminals' despite the terrible sufferings inflicted upon them.

Just over 100 years ago after the abortive Fenian uprising, within a period of about 2 years, over 20 Fenian POW's died or were driven insane in British prisons. The greatest single indictment of the treatment of the prisoners in the last century comes from the writing of O'Donovan Rossa:

'I have already told you about the hypocrisy of these English masters who after placing me in a position which forced me to get down on my knees and elbows to eat; are now depriving me of food and light and giving me chains and a bible.'

'The minute precautions taken by the prison authorities to prevent me writing are as disgusting as they are absurd. The most insulting method was to strip me once a day for several months and then examine my arms, legs and all other parts of my body.'

Nothing much changes for an Irish political prisoner from one in an English dungeon a century ago to one in a Long Kesh Hell-Hole today. And the mass media doesn't change much either.

It is not surprising to read that in a major English paper of the time, 'The Daily News', the editorial comment stated the following: 'O'Donovan Rossa is simply being treated for what he is, that is, an ordinary criminal.'

HUNGER STRIKES

Almost 50 years later, the year following the rising of 1916 the 84 Republicans imprisoned in Mountjoy demanded from the British their right to be recognised as POWs.

This demand for political status was refused by the British authorities and as a result a hunger strike was undertaken. Consequently, Thomas Ashe, after being deprived of his bed, bedding and boots, and having been forced to undergo the terrible experience of force-feeding, died in the Mater Hospital Dublin.

Again there was a similar

struggle in Belfast in 1943. The Minister for Home Affairs reported to Stormont that 'convicts' in Crumlin Road prison were refusing to wear prison garb in protest over the refusal of the Unionist regime to treat them as POWs.

In the South, Republican prisoners also refused to accept the tag of 'criminals'. The result was that Sean McCaughey died in 1946 in Portlaoise after 23 days on hunger and thirst strike. For 5 years he and his comrades had been kept naked in solitary confinement for refusing to wear, prison clothes and for demanding recognition as POWs.

SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS

During this war, in 1972 the issue of political status again came to the forefront and a lengthy protest was engaged in by Republicans held in Crumlin Road prison. Billy McKee led a hunger strike which forced the British to back down in the face of growing threats of massive violent demonstrations throughout the 6 counties.

'Special Category Status' was introduced; effectively this was POW status and today hundreds of Republicans in the cages of Long Kesh (and in Armagh) continue to keep this status; much to the embarrassment of Mason and his minions.

The Brits falsely assert that the 'nature' of the violence has changed since status was granted. But in fact all that has changed is Brit policy.

Their policy of 'Ulsterisation' (pushing the UDR and the RUC to the fore) involves 'criminalisation' of Republican POWs and of the Republican Movement.

Since March 1st two years ago the Brits have implemented this policy of non-recognition of POW status for 'new' prisoners. And since the first man so treated entered the gates of the Kesh six months later in September '76 Republicans have resolutely resisted their policy.

CONDITIONS WORSENING DAILY

Today more than 300 Republican prisoners lie incarcerated in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh; they are totally naked except for a blanket which they clutch around them. They are justly demanding their rights as political prisoners.

Their incredible sufferings are forced upon them by the evil inhumanity of the foreign invaders with their vicious prison regime of degrading treatment. Yet the solidarity of the protest is glaringly evident. For whereas in the early days the 'Northern Ireland Office' used to put out statements saying what percentage of men were accepting 'criminal' status (figures which included loyalists, sticks and actual criminals) nowadays they maintain a 'diplomatic' silence.

The Brits' instinctive response to failure is repression and yet more repression and that is what we are now seeing. The beatings of the prisoners are now being stepped up, anyone seen, or suspected to be playing, any kind of leading role in organising resistance and keeping up the men's spirits is immediately dragged away to the punishment cells on trivial or trumped-up charges. (It was such treatment that led to the recent hunger and thirst strike by two men, Thomas McFeely and Sean Campbell)

MEN'S RESPONSE

The men's response to this increased inhumanity and brutality is to step up their protests through the only means left open to them. They have

NEW PHASE

But now we are entering a new phase both of repression and of resistance. Not just in the H-Blocks but in all the British prisons the screws are being tightened as the Brits react to their failure to beat down the resistance of the prisoners and their failure to defeat the resistance of the risen nationalist people and their armed vanguard the IRA.

been driven to refusing to wash, or to clean out their cells, or to slop out their poots.

For many men the screws have refused to bring around buckets to allow them to slop out their poots. This has led over a period of days to some of the cells getting into a disgusting condition with urine and excreta overflowing from the poots onto the cell floors. This has necessitated some men using the prison boots, (which are left with other prison clothes in a locker in the cells), to urinate into and then to empty out of the window; also some of the men have been forced to leave excreta lying in the corner of their cells.

Because the screws reduced the normal (ridiculously inadequate) 3 sheets of toilet paper a day, to 1 sheet a day, the men had to tear pages out of their religious magazines to clean themselves; and some men had to use these pages to cover up excreta in the corner of the cells.

Normally the men are allowed two religious magazines (their ONLY reading material) BUT because some men had to use these pages for sanitary purposes this 'privilege' has been withdrawn.

SPIRITS RAISED

Although nearly all of the men are suffering from medical complaints of some kind (muscular aches, skin rashes, dandruff, eyesight complaints); and despite their thin haggard appearances with death-like pale features, their morale and spirit of unity remains sound.

In fact their spirits have been raised by their latest step-up of the protest (a protest decided upon solely by themselves contrary to any malicious suggestions regarding 'arm-chair godfathers'.)

The men are possessed by a quiet confidence that what they are doing is right and eventually they will win. Thus there can be little doubt that the morale of the screws will break before the morale of the men 'on the blanket.'

The screws are there for mercenary purposes only and while sitting around playing

cards for hours on end for £80 per week is not so bad, 'shovelling shite' (which is what the protest now means) is not to their liking.

Already an important crack has shown through in the morale of the prison regime.

In H-3 a group of (Loyalist) orderlies refused to go into the cells or to take round buckets for slopping out poots. For this refusal the orderlies themselves (who are prisoners with special privileges) were sentenced to a spell 'on the boards.'

The screws are now wearing overalls and gloves when they search the men. Also the screws are reported to be refusing to take home their prison uniforms for fear of spreading infection to their families.

The health hazard of the H-Blocks is increasingly a desperately serious matter. And as the men intensify their protest inside the concrete H-Blocks we must intensify our protests on the streets outside.

PROTESTS

The central question is how much more must these men endure? Their right to political status is not just THEIR fight, but it is OUR fight also.

Meetings and protests are being organised up and down the country.

These protests must be supported.

We are going to crack through the wall of silence erected by the Brits around the horrors of their Hell Holes in Long Kesh. We are going to keep pushing until the H-Blocks crumble into dust.

These Republicans will not be 'criminalised' by the instructions of the 'god fathers of terrorism' sent from Westminster and Whitehall. And there should be no confusion that these men are just struggling for better prison conditions, or even for their own personal freedom. What these men are struggling for is the freedom of their country and for the freedom of all Irish 'men (and women) of no property.'

WE should not fail THEM in their hour of need.

How many times have you heard the phrase "You can adapt to anything" on hearing it, did you ever stop to think about it? Well I have to admit it never meant anything to me until I came into H Block on the Blanket. I remember while on remand in H-1, asking the priest among others, "Is it really as bad as you read in the Republican News?" "What's the reception committee like?" "No, I don't think it is, they don't get beat up. It's just now and again they get a slap across the face, no more than you'd get at a Christian Brothers' School."

There were six of us that day. We were told to stand between the grills on entering the block and we were brought into the circle 2 by 2. There were about 15 screws in the circle plus one white shirt. They ordered us to strip naked and brought us round to B Wing.

They put me into an empty cell, just a bed and a big grey locker. I started to walk up and down the cell, I was still naked but there was no sense of embarrassment. I was too worried about what was coming. I hadn't too long to wait. After what was about 5 minutes or so, a Screw opened the door and said "Here's one here".

A large English Screw came in, "What's your name son?" I told him. He knocked me on to the bed with a right hook. "Answer SIR" when speaking to an officer. He asked me again as I was getting off the bed and he knocked me on to it again but he followed it up and punched me several times about the head and back. He asked me again, again I refused. He laid into me again but my mouth was bleeding inside. I could feel no pain just numbness. He asked me how I was, and I told him there were no 'Sirs' to me. He stopped at this, looked at me and walked out with a sort of puzzled look on his face. I sat, "Phew!" some Christian Brothers!!! And I thought the worst was over. Ah well, that's what happens when you start being presumptuous!

They opened the door again. Two Irish Screws came in this time.

Dig in the stomach, fell on the bed. Got back up. The one that hit me said "What are you shaking for? Are you nervous?" "I'm nervous because you are going to hit me again." Whack! The other Screw standing on my right hit me a left that caught me on the jaw and lifted me right up off my feet. I came down on the bed. Got back up again.

The English Screw came tearing back into the cell and knocking me on to the bed proceeded to severely punch me about the head. He stopped after a few minutes; and walked back out of the cell without saying a word. I got up once more.

Thinking back on it I remember the main thought in my head at the time of the beating: "You're completely alone; at their mercy" and I thought of my girlfriend and wondered if I'd ever see her again as the girl I knew and loved or would she be plump, coming on to middle age when I next held her close!

At this stage I could remember neither the day of the week nor the date, I had a

THE EARLY DAYS

faint idea that there was to be Mass the next day but I didn't know. After a while in the cell I heard a shout, "Unlock" and thought they were letting us out for exercise or our tea or something, but no it was the shout to let the 'crims' (criminals) out. We were being allowed to go down to the canteen naked, with all the 'crims' sitting eating their grub, lift ours off the hot-plate and then back up to the cell. We got slopped out about 6.30 p.m. got our supper, a cup of tea and 2 rounds of bread. The Screws called 'Lock-up' about 8.00 p.m. and that was us for the night. They woke us up next morning banging doors 'Get up! Make your bed and don't lie on it today again'.

They opened up to allow us to slop out. We were in the nude any time we came out of the cell. Whether for grub, slop out or wash, we were naked. After slop out, we were allowed to collect our breakfast from the canteen. Again you walk naked past the Screws who were standing joking and giving abuse about your nakedness. You had to try to laugh it off but it hurt. When you walk into the canteen, if you're new, all the eyes lift from the plates and stare you up and down examining, then it's back to the cell.

The next day I was called out to the doctor and then the governor. I was walked into the doctor and he asked me was I fit. I told him I thought so and that was him finished with me. The governor was a different story. When I walked in he asked "What are you doing here?" "I got 10 years for possession".

"I know that, but why are you streaking?" (This is the authorities term for on the blanket). "I'm here because I refuse to wear prison garb or do prison work. I'm protesting for political status."

"You were in before from '73 to '76. Haven't you learned your lesson?"

"This is it".

"The sooner you wise up the better".

"You see, it's just that I can't understand that I got political status for armed robbery and possession for the IRA in '73 and I don't get it

for possession in '76. I can't see any difference in what I did then and in '76."

The governor lost the head at this and shouted "Get him back to his cell." As I was leaving the PO whispered in my ear, "We'll have to pay you a visit later on, sunshine". So I went back to my cell. Later on that day the governor came round to adjudicate me and take away my association, letters, parcels, visits and earnings plus 2 weeks' remission and confined me to cell for 3 days.

He asked me had I anything to say. "You mentioned all those privileges I lost; would I be allowed to get a picture in, you never mentioned that?"

"Look son, you've lost all privileges".

"The position you're in now, breathing is a privilege!" He walked away with a smirk that was like a cheshire cat's and the Screw slammed the door. The next day I was moved back across to the other wing.

Life continued for another few weeks till one day a fella was moved to our wing from the other wing. That night he was talking to his mate down at the other end of the wing. He talked for about half an hour then went to bed. Round about the middle of the wing a fella was whispering to his next door neighbour on the pipe. The Screw lifted the flap and just looked at him. He thought no more of it till the next day after coming back from Mass. Three screws came into the cell pulled the blanket from him, "Who's Jo-Jo then?" "Say 'Sir' to an officer!"

Then they blattered him about the cell for 15 minutes. When he fell to the ground he was kicked on the back. When they were satisfied they left and went in, in turn, to beat the other 2 fellas. All the while this was going on the rest of us sat shaking in our cells. I remember thinking "Look don't let it break you. Imagine you were in Castlereagh and they were trying to force you to sign a statement", but I knew there was no comparison.

What was 7 days compared to 10 years? I knew that this time next week, I'd still be sitting on that same chair, looking at the same four bare



white walls. But they only beat the three. It's impossible, to remember now the relief I felt at that time.

Life continued without further incident until one day we were told to get our gear ready we were going to H-5.

The first phase of the blanket protest was over. All the blanket men in the blocks were moved to H-5.

SIX-FORGOTTEN BLANKETMEN

I propose to describe the tremendous sufferings endured by six courageous Republican POW's who are 'On the Blanket' and totally isolated in the Punishment Cells of Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast.

The reason that these men are kept there is because they are short-term prisoners over the age of 21.

PERMANENT SOLITARY

These six men are kept in permanent solitary confinement in separate cells totally isolated from one another. They are denied anything which may help to occupy them such as books, radios, papers, educational material and of course food parcels and cigarettes.

In their Cells there is only a bed and bedding, a chamber-pot, water container, and a bible. The cells in which they are held, are in the Punishment Block, they are filthy ancient concrete tombs, which are very very cold. There is a window which is too high to look out of, most of the small panes of glass are broken, and the wind continually howls in through them.

The heating system is primitive and totally inefficient. It consists of an old pipe running through the back of the cell. When on full, it adds little heat to the cell. Outside the back of the cells is a generator. When in continual use it creates a drone, which would drive you insane.

When these 'unfortunate' men get washed each day, it is either in their cell or in the toilet, (depending on the whims of the screws). When they wash in their cell it is in a small plastic wash-hand basin, which you must set on the ground, then kneel down naked on a concrete floor and wash yourself.

COMPLETELY NAKED

Sometimes you are let out to the toilet to wash, where there

ALL THE ARTICLES ON THE H-BLOCK HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY BLANKET MEN AND HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE H-BLOCKS,

is a small filthy wash-hand basin. There you must stand completely naked and wash in cold water. The journey to this toilet is most degrading, as you go there at least 3 times per day to empty your chamber-pot. Each time you make this journey you are completely naked. Besides having to parade in front of the Screws you must walk past hundreds of criminals and occasionally two female members of the prison staff pass by, and on several occasions men have been out emptying their pots as they passed.

The men there receive two



BRITAIN'S C

THE H-BLOCK

300 'BLANKET

EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY SUFFER:

NO CLOTHES

Only a blanket to clutch around them

NO ASSOCIATION

Either kept in solitary confinement or minutes per week to go to Mass.

NO EXERCISE PERIOD

Those who try physical exercise in the of fresh air, and lack of normal exercise

NO BEDDING FOR 3 DAYS

Every fortnight their bedding is removed sentenced to 14 days loss of remission.

NO PROPER FOOD

No food parcels allowed; all food in ser

NO CIGARETTES, NO NEWSPAPERS

Only two religious magazines are allowed out of toilet paper (of which 3 small she

NO PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT

Every man suffers a variety of unmet eye-sight complaints due to the bright

NO PROTECTION

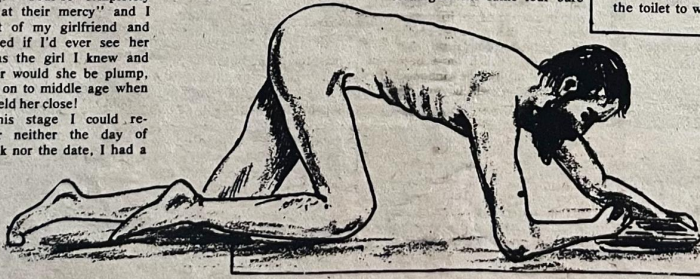
These men are regularly beaten with

NO RIGHTS — P. BLOCK

The extra horror within the H-Blocks the boards' with no bedding at all (dark small pipe; and are totally sound-proof beatings) are handed out to men, to get

PROTEST NOW

HEROIC MEN IS — POLITICAL STAT



ON THESE TWO PAGES
TEN BY MEN 'ON THE
VE BEEN SMUGGLED
OCKS, LONG KESH.

showers per week, which is the high-light of their unbearable week. They see each other here for a brief few minutes. They are denied the right to attend mass (because they won't wear Prison Uniform) therefore they receive Holy Communion in their cells each Sunday.

Their only contact with the outside world is through two monthly letters in and out, which are usually heavily censored. One of the men is married and takes one visit per month, that is all the Prison Authorities allow.

THE CONCRETE MONUMENT OF SHAME —
P-BLOCKS OF LONG KESH
'BLANKET MEN' ARE BRUTALISED DAILY
OF EVERY DAY OF EVERY WEEK THESE MEN

id them with bare feet on concrete floor.

ment or two-to-a-cell built for one; these men leave their cells for only 45

es in their cells get exhausted very quickly due to lack of proper food, lack exercise.

s removed from the cells during the day for three days; and the men are

is served stale and cold in small revolting portions.

NO PAPERS, NO BOOKS, NO TV, NO RADIO, NO GAMES
re allowed, plus the Bible. One man was punished for making chessmen
small sheets are allowed per day).

TMENT
muscular aches, persistent colds, skin rashes and dandruff, and also
right neon lights continuously glaring on the shining white cell walls.

with batons and boots by 'prison officers'.

Blocks is the P-Block of 28 punishment cells where the men are put 'on
during the day. These cells can not be seen out of; are heated only by a
1-proofed. Frequent spells of up to 30 days (with extra-frequent
, together with No. 1 Bread and Water diet, for trivial or false offences.

OW — BEFORE ONE OF THESE
IS BROUGHT HOME IN A BOX.
STATUS FOR REPUBLICAN PRISONERS

H-BLOCK REPORT

THE PUNISHMENT BLOCK

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

The methods used range from physical violence to humiliation of prisoners. The P-Block is an isolated block of about 30 cells. Total silence is maintained all the time. The cells are bare except for a wooden board (bed) a concrete block to sit on and a concrete

slab cemented into the wall serves as a table. It is a concrete tomb, prisoners have only a blanket around them. They must continually exercise to keep warm. The screws in P-Block hand out unmerciful beatings to Republican POW's.

It is a common occurrence to see men arriving back from the P-Block with black eyes and swollen lips etc!

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

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

1. For breakfast, two rounds of dry bread, a mug of black tea.
2. 'Dinner' two small scoops of potatoes and small ladle of watery soup.

3. 'Tea' same as breakfast.
 4. 'Supper' nothing!
- Men have been subjected to 6 days and longer on this starvation diet.
- INSTITUTIONALISED VIOLENCE**

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

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

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

The following statement is a short account from a man who spent 16 days in the punishment block.

16 DAYS.

'I was sitting in my cell in H-Block 5 when a Screw opened the door and came in. He stared at me and then he simply said "You called me a stupid c..." I was totally astonished and could only stammer "I didn't." He immediately started shouting at me and swearing. Before I could say anything he struck me.

I asked to see an M.O. and when I saw him he made a report of what I told him. When I got back to my cell I was charged with a breach of prison discipline i.e. "swearing at a prison officer". Also, I was charged with "making false allegations against a prison officer", because I reported to the medical officer that I had been struck by a screw. I was taken to the punishment cells. I remained there for 16 days during which time I was not allowed to get to the toilet. I had to use the chamber pot in the cell for a toilet. Sometimes it was overflowing before the Screws brought a bucket to the door to allow me to empty the stinking contents.

I was freezing the whole time that I was there as I had only a blanket to cover me; I was threatened two or three times by the Screws and I heard them threaten several other lads who were in the cells near me. I was brought before the governor in the nude as I do not wear prison clothes. When I got back from the punishment block I was exhausted and totally shattered. Before I left there the Screws told me if they ever saw me down there again they would do me right.'

HEALTH ON THE BLANKET

The most common complaint of all is the common cold, as we are held completely naked with only a blanket for warmth. We are very vulnerable to the cold. When you catch a cold it is very difficult to get rid of, it just stays with you; there are hundreds of medical complaints that men suffer, which have been brought on by the inhuman conditions in which we are kept in.

Everyone of us are held naked in total solitary confinement, rarely being allowed to leave our cells. This means we never receive exercise or fresh air. After a few months like this your health deteriorates steadily, after a year or in many cases seven or eight months you suffer from a multi-

tude of complaints. But mostly your legs are pained and heavy, due to no exercise. You continually suffer from blinding headaches, which are possibly caused by being stuck in a small, stuffy cell with no fresh air, except that that can get in two small windows.

AN EXAMPLE

I came onto the blanket on the 2nd of June 1977 and until then my eye-sight was okay. After a couple of months I started to get headaches, I was on tablets, on and off for weeks, the doctor examined me and said it was migraine, caused by looking at the white walls of the cell which hurt my eyes, and made them glare and water. The lights in the cell also hurt and annoy my eyes: my eyes

water when I am reading and writing my letters. These headaches would last all day at times and ordinary pain killers would do no good. Finally I had my eyes tested and found that I need glasses for reading and writing. I still have the headaches but not as often as before.

Secondly, I went out with a pain in my chest and when I had it I found difficulty in breathing inwards, as it hurt. The doctor said it was muscular pain. It has recurred a couple of times since and the pain is in the middle of the chest and more frequently it seems to go under the right rib cage and lung. It lasts for a couple of days at a time; I also suffer from pains in my arms and legs - supposed to be from lack of exercise. Sean Fitzsimmons H.S. February 78.

H-BLOCK REPORT

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF H-BLOCK 5

By a 'BLANKET MAN'

I suppose the most preferable time of day for those of us here on the blanket is in the evening. It is then that the population of H-5 comes alive, men start 'slagging' and shouting to each other from behind their cell doors, conversations develop, news is exchanged and rumours are created: the wing becomes a din of verbal activity. The most common pastime in the evenings is conversation or discussions. Any topic at all could be discussed among us as long as it's interesting. We have had some very constructive and objective discussions and debates. Sometimes a particular topic would develop into an argument which might go on for several nights. Outside of discussions, etc., we must try and organise our own sort of entertainment like quizzes or concerts.

That was about the height of our entertainment until one week. As usual in times of need someone came up with something original. Well, at

least it's original in H-5.

"Bingo" that's what it was! Thought up by some genius or other and it worked, in fact it was a grand success. The bingo cards were drawn on square sheets of toilet roll and there were several exciting prizes such as, a Kleenex tissue for a line, and a shampoo for a full house; the jackpot prize was a bar of soap and the star prize or scoop was a real thin cigarette!

The star prize was won by a pair of Lurgan men. The winning sheets had to be smuggled to the caller the next day for scrutiny. The sportsmanship was really tremendous and it was something to lift us and take our minds off the reality of H Block 5, to keep our spirits up and give us a laugh for a change. It's quite ridiculous when one thinks of 45 half-naked blanket men sitting playing bingo behind steel doors, but then I wonder how many people think of why we are doing it?

In the Hell Holes of the Kesh hidden behind twenty-foot high corrugated iron fences the heroic resistance of the men on the blanket goes on.

Today there is a higher proportion of men on the blanket than ever before; involving roughly 19 out of every 20 Republicans sentenced since removal of political status.

Despite the Screws being turned even tighter the men's spirit of resistance and confidence in their ultimate victory remains unbroken; typical of their spirit of resistance is Martin McKenna from Greencastle.

Martin McKenna was released in December following a successful appeal against a fourteen year prison sentence. He had spent seventeen months inside. The first half of this time he spent on remand, and the second half on the blanket after being Diplocked away last March.

At a Belfast Sinn Fein press

RESISTANCE INSIDE

conference he told how:

"Being in there you think the day's never going to end. What with the cold, and with nothing to do, and what with the bright light affecting you, at times I felt that this is the end. But I never wore the uniform and the men will never give up."

RESISTANCE INSIDE

In fact republican resistance goes on even within the cellular confinement of the concrete H-Blocks.

At night times the men have organised sing-songs, quizzes, political discussion (on re-

publicanism and socialism) and gaelic classes. All this was carried out by (illegally) shouting through quarter-inch gaps between their cell doors and the wall.

At the turn of the New Year in an attempt to stop such communication thin strips of metal were welded on all the cell doors to close up the gaps.

However the infinite ingenuity of the POW's ensures a continual struggle is waged to organise successfully in defiance of the prison regime. Such Republican self-organisation is the prisoners' prime support. Each man reinforces his personal inner strength through drawing on the solidarity of his comrades. But also the scraps of news which filter in about IRA successes and about street protests is essential to their morale. (Such news filters in despite a total ban on access to TV, radio and papers.)

THE BRIT CONVEYOR BELT



To achieve their 'normality' the central tactic in the Brits' overall strategy of Ulsterisation is that of criminalisation. To dub all those actively opposing Brit rule as 'criminals'.

This means denying Republican POW's political status and covering-up internment with the legal fiction of 'normal' processes of 'law and order'.

Short-term internment is by 'remand in custody'.

Long-term internment is by a signalled conveyor belt transporting people from the streets of the six counties, through the alleged 'confessions' of Castlereagh, under the rubber-stamp of the Diplock Courts and into the Hell Holes of Long Kesh.

LETTER FROM H-BLOCK MOTHER

22nd March.

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

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

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

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

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

In H5 where my son is, the men are refusing to wash themselves or brush their cells in protest, at the fifth of the wash basins handed into the cells each morning. In his own words: "The basins are leaping."

I asked him about the punishment block, and for what reasons they were put in these cells. He told me that the least little thing could have them put in the 'punishment cells'. For instance a screw comes along to a fellow's cell, calls him a Provo bastard and says he's only an animal. The young man answers by calling the screw a yellow bastard, or a black pig. The screws then proceed to beat him, he is then charged with using abusive language to a prison officer, and sentenced to anything from three days upwards in the punishment cells, in solitary confinement

and number one diet 'Bread and water.'

This is just one example of the inhuman and degrading treatment handed out to these men of principle by these 'animals' posing as prison officers.

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

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

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

H Block Mother.

INTERVIEW WITH RELEASED "BLANKET MAN"

During November of last year 19 year old Martin Lynch from Lenadown, west Belfast was released from H5 Block where he had spent his one year sentence 'on the blanket'. We reprint below a shortened version of an interview with him.

What happened to you when you were transferred to the H Blocks?

First, I was measured for and given prison clothes, which I refused to wear. I was taken into the Circle (corridor between two lengths of blocks). My clothes were trailed off and I was kicked about and called names. I was then practically run to the wing and thrown into the cell. Then the 'heavy squad' came into the cell and I was kicked around in the cell and the prison clothes were thrown in.

How many Republican political prisoners were there when you went in?

Of about 64, 45 were on the blanket. Now in November there are about 240 on the blanket. The numbers increase every day, many men are going back on the blanket. In one week 11 men went back on it because of the confidence gained from those leading the protest.

Our numbers began to swell, there were so many coming in. Then the guys who hadn't the confidence to go on the blanket, were given confidence by the numbers increasing of those refusing to wear prison clothes.

How did you learn about Screws "getting hit" [shot] on the outside and what was the reaction of the Screws on the inside?

We always knew by the reaction of the Screws themselves. They normally banged the cell doors at night as a form of harassment, but when anything

happens they go out of their way to harass, throw water at men going to the toilets etc.

The last one to be "hit" really wrecked them. Every body was put on the boards. On one occasion we found torn up resignations in a bin! But most of them are only in for the money. They are there for a while and they are away again.

(EDITORS NOTE: One of the reasons why vacancies are continually advertised in the local Press, with over 45 television and radio advertisements per week. One in three Screws leave every few months)

What was it like during the Summer?

Terrible in the Summer, you cannot get a breath of air. They use the old trick, turning the pipes up in the Summer and down in the Winter. If you took the links out of the windows to try and make the windows wider, you were thrown on the boards for doing so.

What was the food like?

Terrible, they deliberately left it out in the corridor to go cold. There were some Loyalists Orderlies who threatened to tamper with the food.

A few times they covered the food with salt and different things. It was so bad no one ate the food for a few days and as a form of protest, the food, plates and all were thrown out the windows.

A few days before I came out everyone was out on a diet of a few pounds of dry bread, a cup of black tea, a half cup of cold soup and a small potato.

How long do you think they can maintain this type of protest. And the hardship?

There is no way they will give in. That's the message they sent out. They know it will be a long drawn out process, but they have the strength and courage to maintain it.

"LOCK-UP LADS!"

One method of resistance is the H-Block comrades recognition of their own authorised leadership. Every Sunday after Mass, the only occasion in the week when they are together, the Screws herd them

back into the Wing. The Screws are continually pre-empted from shouting "Lock Up!", by one of the lads who shouts it first, and then they all go into their cells, undermining completely the authority of the Screws.

Several weeks ago Tom Mc Feely from South Derry, who was recognised as leader, called "Lock Up, Lads!" Furious Screws took him out and put him in solitary confinement, whereupon he went on hunger and thirst strike. When the authorities saw his determination, at a time when the Strasbourg verdict was due, they relented and he was put back in his cell.

The next Sunday an anonymous Republican called

"Lock Up Lads!" and they all went back into their cells. Raging at this continued resistance and undermining of their authority the Screws put the occupants of the first seven cells into a separate punishment block. Last Sunday the call "Lock Up Lads!" rang out again, pre-empting the Screws. They took out the next seven lads and put them in 3 days punishment.

In jail the war continues!

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170a FALLS Rd. Belfast, Telephone 46841....Telex 747523.

Q. For the benefit of our readers what exactly is the N.U.S. conference?

Answer: It is a meeting held once per year which is attended by some 2,000 delegates from universities and colleges all over Britain (And 'the six Counties'). They discuss the problems facing students in their every day life and also they discuss relevant issues which affect Britain as a country.

Q. Why were you going to the conference?

A. Sinn Fein had received an invitation to attend and address the main body of the conference and also a fringe meeting. We thought that an opportunity like this one should not be let pass by.

Q. Where exactly were you arrested?

A. I was stopped by the plain clothes special branch at the entrance to the Manchester airport building. I was held for a few minutes until all the other passengers were checked out then I was taken to a holding centre inside the airport. Here I was stripped of all my personal belongings and placed in a cell. I was asked why was I attending the conference and I informed the Branch that I was a speaker.

Q. Do you think the Branch were waiting on you or was it accidental, your arrest?

A. I believe that the airport authorities at Aldergrove work closely with the British police and when I bought my ticket at the airport my name was immediately phoned through to the British army's computer in Lisburn to be checked out. When the authorities received their reply from the computer they would've realised that I am a political activist and as such an 'undesirable person' to visit Britain.

Q. How important would you rate addressing N.U.S. conference in terms of the present struggle here?

A. Well it's Sinn Fein's view and mine that an important ingredient in winning this struggle against the British is to convince the British people that the role of their army in this country is that of an occupier and not of a peace-keeper. It is a well known fact that students are normally amongst the most radical of people and open to militant political activity. It is also well known that in the case of American withdrawal from Vietnam and the French withdrawal from Algeria the student population played a significant part in building a Troops Out Movement. I believe that a similar role could be played by the British students in building a troops out of Ireland movement. So I would rate the opportunity of addressing the students as highly important in trying to break down the "wall of misrepresentation" the British government is putting across to their people about their role here.

Q. What would have been the theme of your address to the students?

A. My speech would have centered around the different

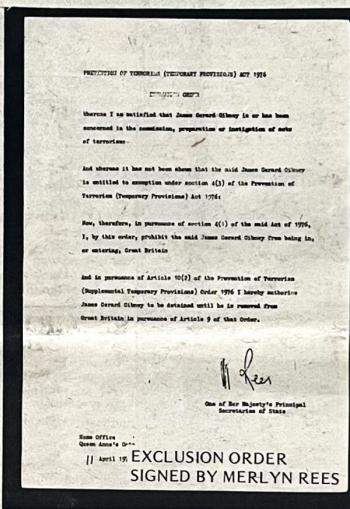
We print below an interview with Jim Gibney, member of Belfast Sinn Fein and secretary of the Central Relatives Action Committee. Last week Gibney was arrested and held for seven days in Manchester on his way to address the National Union of Students conference in Britain. At the end of his seven days detention he was served with a deportation order under the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act excluding him from "Great Britain" for life. The penalty for breaking this exclusion order is 5 years imprisonment. We try in this interview to draw out the political reasons for his arrest and look at the wider implications an Act of this nature has on the Irish community in Britain.

THE PTA IN BRITAIN-

AN ACT OF INTIMIDATION



JIM GIBNEY, ONLY HOURS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL BACK IN BELFAST AFTER RECEIVING HIS EXCLUSION ORDER



forms of brutality directed against the Irish people; namely the horrors of the "H" blocks and Crumlin Road gaol and the brutality against young people in Castlereagh and other torture centres. I intended relating the actual numbers of British soldiers and RUC and UDR; the number of political prisoners, the number of ex-political prisoners and the number of people killed as a result of the British occupation of Ireland. This I thought would help the students grasp the enormity of the struggle and the extent to which their government employs the weapons of torture and murder to impose their will on the Irish people.

I intended taking the students briefly through the past ten years of struggle. Explaining how the struggle developed from one of demanding civil rights within the six county state into what it is today, a struggle for National Independence and socialism.

Q. Did you intend asking the students union to do anything positive in helping to bring their government's occupation of the 6 counties to a speedy end?

A. Yes. I had two proposals to put to the body of the hall. The first was: "That this National Union of Students conference calls upon the British government to

immediately withdraw British troops from the 6 counties of Ireland; thereby creating the conditions for 'self-determination' for all the Irish people" and "That this N.U.S. conference calls upon the British government to immediately end the human misery and degradation of Republican political prisoners in "H" block Long Kesh, 'B' wing Crumlin Road gaol and Armagh womens prison, by giving political status to these prisoners pending a British withdrawal". Irrespective of the outcome of the vote I would have called on the students executive to set about working positively among the students informing them about the true role of their troops in our country.

Q. During the seven days you were held were you abused in any way?

A. If you mean was I physically ill-treated the answer is No. In fact during the periods of questioning by the Special Branch they didn't raise their voices to me. Their attitude seemed to reflect a lot of satisfaction that they were preventing me from speaking at the students meeting. One of the striking things about the Branch man handling my case was the depth of political understanding he had about the struggle in the 6 counties. He had obviously served for a period of time here and seemed

to take delight during the questioning sessions in displaying this awareness. I got the feeling from speaking to him that his interest in defending the British presence in the 6 counties was a defence of his class privileges. Although he no doubt was from a working class background the 'rewards' of his job elevated him from his background. I think he was acutely aware of the revolutionary nature of the political and military struggle being waged by the Republican Movement.

Q. What were the conditions like during your detention?

A. They were deplorable. I was held in a cell which was on the fourth floor of a modern building. The cell itself was situated beside a door to an open yard. The whole time I was there this door was opened, day and night. I was almost frozen, to the bone. I was not given any bedding or blankets for the first five days. During this time I tried to sleep on a board-bed, I covered my body in an overcoat. For the first few days I wasn't permitted to wash. All meals were eaten inside the cell, these were passed through a square hole in the cell door. The attitude of the screws was distant and hostile. I didn't expect anything else. I had a lot of difficulty getting let out to the toilet, the screws pretend-

ed they didn't hear me shouting to get out.

Q. What was the attitude of the ordinary prisoners towards you?

A. I didn't find any open hostility in fact one young prisoner who had been warned by the screws not to pass me in a newspaper took the risk when the screws back was turned and threw the paper into my cell. I thought this a gesture of kindness among the antagonism.

Q. Did you know that the students union organised a picket whilst you were being held, outside the detention centre?

A. At the time the picket was taking place I didn't know. I found out when I got a visit from my solicitor. I'd like to take this opportunity to send my thanks to both the students in Manchester for picketing and also to the solicitor who visited me on two occasions.

Q. Having experienced the P.T.A. what are your feelings about it?

A. Before being detained under this Act I hadn't thought about it at all, except in the context of it being yet another piece of repressive legislation designed to help maintain the Brits presence here. However now I feel that it is the most ruthless piece of legislation enacted outside of fascist dictatorships. The threat of using this Act especially against the Irish immigrant population undoubtedly contributes to their reluctance to becoming involved in their country's fight for independence. The reality of 7 day detention incommunicado, the possibility of losing ones job and the likelihood of deportation are just some of the pressures on those interested in helping to end British rule in Ireland. I think the repeal of this act is a priority and I believe that it's repeal would help open the door to more people participating in the struggle to get the Brits out.

Q. How do you see the future in respect of political work in Britain on the Irish struggle?

A. Well the fact that the British government is hypersensitive to Republican speakers going over to Britain, I think we should send as many as possible. We should support initiatives like the forthcoming International Tribunal on Britains Presence in Ireland and we should for ever be searching for ways of enlightening the British working class about the true role of their government here. A more definite programme of trying to help build an effective mass Troops Out Movement should be our priority.

Q. Have you anything to say in conclusion?

A. Well having experienced the anti-republican attitude at first hand I must pay tribute to our people in Sinn Fein in Britain and the people who work in direct contact with our prisoners. The pressure on them must be unbearable at times. At least here we do have a sympathetic population and we do have some recognition of our activity. Over there it's difficult just being Irish but being Irish and a republican must be even more difficult.

*** POSTBAG ***

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

'NATIONWIDES' MERCENARIES

A Chara,
Tonight, I sat and watched in amazement and anger as the B.B.C. programme 'Nationwide' spent most of its time shedding crocodile tears over the fate of 7 British mercenaries imprisoned in Angola for their part in the indiscriminate slaughter of Angolan men, women and children. The programme's presenters spent a great deal of time questioning relatives and detailing the alleged inhuman conditions under which the convicted war criminals are being held. Indeed the B.B.C. in its eagerness to drum up sympathy for these paid white mercenaries went so far as to build a mock up of the type of cell which the mercenaries are held in.

In the H Block Long Kesh there are 300 Republican political prisoners held in 8' by 6' concrete cells. They are naked; permitted no papers or books to read; have been denied access to radios; and they never leave those grey drab concrete coffins. Their only contact with the outside world and with their parents, wives and families is the occasional monthly visit. Medical facilities are almost non-existent and the food is on most days inedible.

Unlike the paid British mercenaries in Angola, these men, in spite of British claims to the contrary, took up arms against an establishment which they believed to be foreign oppressive and illegal. They are not 'criminals' nor did they become involved in the conflict in order to capitalise and make a profit on the suffering of their families and neighbours. To even try and compare these Irish patriots with the British mercenaries is to do them a grave injustice for they are the 'lowest of the low'. They are paid killers whose only aim was to make money at the expense of human lives and suffering.

The Nationwide programme is typical of the British media's approach to the barbaric treatment meted out to political suspects and prisoners in the 6 counties by the British forces. Since the present conflict developed it has patently avoided many major issues concerning basic human rights in the 6 counties. The British press has deliberately turned a blind eye to the atrocities carried out here in the name of the British people. In the 2 years now in which the men have languished in the H Blocks, only one British documentary programme dared to mention it, while the many British papers have totally ignored it.

Yet there is ample evidence, well documented and substantiated by many independent bodies, such as the Association for Legal Justice, and the Catholic Church to prove that almost every International Human Rights Convention ever devised is being deliberately and blatantly ignored, by the Prison Administrations in Long Kesh and Armagh.

It is typical of the hypocrisy and corruption which now pervades British society, that the well being of 7 highly paid professional mercenaries should take complete preference over the treatment of 300 Irish Republican Political Prisoners.

Is MISE
R.G. McAuley,
Cage 12,
Long Kesh.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE IRISH PEOPLE

I notice that some of you when campaigning for political status for our P.O.W.'s direct your energies towards Mason; this, I wish to point out, is a mistake and a waste of that energy and time.

All our energy should be utilised in highlighting the infamy of 'H' Block and Long Kesh to the rest of the civilized world with emphasis on such places as the E.E.C., America, Russia and China.

The reason why we should ignore Mason is obvious; British soldiers were themselves P.O.W.'s and if we are to believe them they lived in terrible conditions, which leads one to ask, why did they

not burn down the camps, why did they not go on hunger-strikes? why did they co-operate with their jailers?

We must assume that they did not do these things because even then like now they were gutless.

So if Mason was to grant this status to us through our intercession then he would in fact be indicting those heroes of the Empire who became P.O.W.'s through such gallant action as surrendering to inferior numbers of Japanese at Singapore.

LE MEAS MOR
AN EX-P.O.W.

POW'S ON THE STICKS FROM PRO. REPUBLICAN POWS, ALBANY, ENGLAND

A Chara,
During the recent Ard Fheis of Republican Clubs the 'Workers' Party' claims were made by a delegate of that party that they were carrying on the work of Connolly. This is a terrible slander of the man and his ideals. Connolly fought imperialism at every level, ultimately using the armed struggle because he realised that imperialism could not be defeated by any other means. He was a signatory of the Proclamation along with six other Irishmen of which two or three at the most could be called 'socialists'.

He and his socialist army fought side by side with 'green nationalists', as the 'Workers' party would call them. Now what does this mean? Simply that Connolly knew that a Socialist Republic could best be achieved through a broad anti-imperialist movement. He certainly would not have agreed with a socialist party who reject using the armed struggle against British imperialism yet who have found time to take part in five feeds, being the aggressor on four occasions, against anti-imperialist, socialist groups.

Nor would he have agreed with the leader of a socialist party bolstering imperialism by pouring invective on the vanguard of anti-imperialism in Ireland today, namely the Republican Movement. He would not have given credence to a party who reject revolution in their own country but who pay lip service to supporting revolutions against imperialism throughout the world. By taking part in colonial run elections in the Six-Counties the 'Workers' Party have shown themselves to be a pragmatic reformist group which contrasts with their international stance, eg. Zimbabwe where they have given verbal support to the

Patriotic Front for refusing to take part in colonial run elections in the Smith 'internal settlement'. They have in fact rejected revolutionary politics and have gone up the blind alley of pragmatism in taking part in 'Governmental' elections in both the Six-Counties and the Free State. This must ultimately lead to further splits in their movement.

The 'Workers Party's' ultimate aim of a centralised socialist state was not what Connolly envisaged. All his writings point to a Workers Republic where the workers would own and control industry at all levels and land would be distributed by setting up agricultural cooperatives which would be owned and run by the peasantry or, if you prefer, agricultural workers. A bureaucratic socialist state would merely mean an upgraded welfare state for the workers. Industrial power and ownership would not pass to the workers. This power would be kept by the same bureaucracy that runs Ireland today - 're-educated' of course.

Any limited good done by their agitation is far outweighed by the damage they have done to the anti-imperialist forces in Ireland, i.e. feuding with progressive socialist groups and taking part in colonial run elections. The 'Workers' party can carry on under the illusion that they are helping to create a socialist state but they should now desist. In the words of Tom Paine's The Rights of Man: 'These are the times that try mens souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of their people - yet we have this consolation with us, the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.'

POUND LONEY FUNCTION FOR LIFFEY DOCKERS

Dear Sir,

I would like through the courtesy of your columns to inform people of a social function that is to be held in the Pound Loney this Saturday the 22nd April at 8.00 p.m. This social is being held in order to raise funds for the legal defence in the High Court in Dublin, for the Liffey Dockyard workers defence fund. These Dockworkers - occupied the Liffey Dock last January. They took this action because the management were refusing to implement the just demands of the dockworkers which included improved working conditions, and a change of the system by which the dockers were engaged, this involved a blacklist system. As a direct result of their occupation these workers have been charged under conspiracy and forcible entry as well as occupation charges. This repressive law was originally passed in 1971. Despite the fact that when it was introduced Des O'Malley (The Fianna Fail minister for justice at the time) promised that it would not be used against striking workers or trade unionists.

According to the dockyard workers who have been charged if they are convicted they will be demanding political status, as they are charged under a political act. Their trial resumes on May 25th and we ask all trade unionists North and South to help ensure that they are not convicted. All messages of support should be sent to: Liffey Dockyard Support Group, C/O 6, Gardiner Row, Dublin 1. We ask all trade unionists in Belfast to support the social for their defence costs this Saturday night.

Yours fraternally,
PRO
WEST BELFAST BRANCH
TUCAR (Trade Union
Committee Against Repression)

THOSE BEER STAINS

Dear Sir,

Re-Mrs Durin's letter of surprise about where I purchase 'Rep News'. A few words of clarification. I do not frequent Pubs and there should be no necessity to state that....

(Quoting Mrs Durin)... 'Wherever Mrs Toal lives her bars aren't too clean'.

Thanking you. Do not know the lady's address to inform her outside your paper.

Yours very sincerely,
Mrs Una Toal, Dundalk.

FIANNA BARRED FROM CORK PARADE

A Chara,

I write to you on behalf of NA FIANNA EIREANN. A few weeks prior to St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cork City. We of Na Fianna applied to march in the Parade. We wrote to the Cork Junior Chamber of Commerce who were running this parade. We received a reply from them which is as follows:-

"I refer to your letter of 7th instant and wish to advise that we are unable to accept your application for entry to St. Patrick's Day Parade."

After this refusal the President of Cork Junior Chamber Miss E.T. Lordan was approached for an explanation and on being asked she admitted freely that the Garda authorities in Cork told her that they were not to allow NA FIANNA EIREANN Scouts to take part in the parade. So I feel Na Fianna Eireann Scouts were discriminated against.

This is something I feel very strongly about, and wish that you through you as Editor you may cover this and express my feelings on this type of discrimination as strongly as possible.

IS MISE
BART O'C
CORK CITY.

FROM AN ENGLISH BOY

Dear Editor,

I realise of course you won't be interested in my letter as I am your enemy, I am English. I would like to say I'm sorry for all the bad things that my people have done to yours, which I would change if I could but I can't. I am sorry for Mrs Stewart and Mrs O'Hare the mothers of Majella O'Hare and Brian Stewart. I can't understand why some men are bad, my friends' dads are all nice people.

I know of course you hate me and I now know why. It's very hard for me to write this and you'll be laughing about it for a while maybe. I was at school one day and an Irish boy from Northern Ireland came from Belfast (our school is a Catholic school).

He came in, in our geography lesson, the teacher said "here's a new boy, from Ireland". Everyone looked because he was a new boy. He was quiet. He sat down beside Joe and didn't talk

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Evenin' all,

The Brigadier here again. Not many of you appreciate what a full-time job I do. I know that some of you think that all I do is guzzle Whiskey in the Officers Mess with Kenny Newman and make up the odd pack of lies about how the UDR is winning the war against terrorism etc. Well, let me tell you there's a lot more to it than that! Take last week for instance. First of all I had to see the DPP about Kenneth Davidson (24) of Hawthorn Walk, Dromore. Kenny, who is a full-time member of RUCR has been charged with trying to rape a 17 year old girl at gunpoint and it's up to the rest of us in the security forces to ensure 'hat he gets off. He's a keen young lad and only a bit of a rapist and just the kind of officer material I'm looking for.

While I was talking to the DPP I managed to put a good word in for some of the boys in blue at Springfield Road and Omagh RUC station. The DPP, who, I must admit is a bit of a wet, had actually been considering charging some of the lads who beat up and framed Matthew Bradley and Eugene Barclay. We'd glitched them up a treat and had put them away for

THE BRIGADIER'S BAD APPLES

BY THE BRIGADIER

3 years and 7 years respectively, and what does that old fool Lowry and his mates do but release them. Said they were innocent and had a lot of medical evidence to show that they had been badly beaten. Of course they were beaten up, what do you think the RUC is there for you stupid man? I must admit I almost lost the rag. Really, if it wasn't for his record at never getting a conviction against a policeman for torture or brutality I think I'd give the DPP a swift kick!

Next day was as bad! I had to go and see four soldiers who the DPP has had flown home from Gibraltar and charged with abduction and assault. They, Corp. Stephen Still, private David Price, private Max Parrott (yes,

really!) of the Second Batt, Queens Regt. and ex-soldier Dayne Roy Cox beat up and kidnapped an Andersonstown man last May. I managed to get the DPP to see that it was probably just a matter of high spirits and he gave them bail.

I've been having a bit of a time with the press lately. They haven't always been too co-operative. That was why I was pleased to see that although this distasteful Noreen Winchester business has been getting a lot of coverage none of the papers who have reported how her father, who raped her every week from the age of eleven until she took a knife to him at the age of 19, was a well known UDA man in Sandy Row. Personally I think he was a bit of a

bad lad who deserved all he got, but that's no reason to slander the good name of the UDA after all, they're a perfectly legal organisation!!!

Finally on a rather lighter note, I had to have a chuckle at the magistrates at Banbridge Court last week. A loyal Protestant, probably in an excess of high spirits, was fined twenty pounds for shouting 'Pigs' at a passing RUC patrol and jumping on the bonnet of their vehicle. At the same court a Roman



Catholic, and therefore almost certainly disloyal was fined thirty pounds for 'shouting fowl slogans at the police'. Presumably he must have called them 'chicken'. Ha! Ha! Just my little joke. Bye bye for now, I'm off to another UDR military funeral. It's all go, isn't it!

TILL NEXT TIME,
YOUR OLD CHUM
THE BRIGADIER.

POST BAG

FROM AN ENGLISH BOY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

to him. I didn't like him because he gave us dirty looks, and then in the playground Tucker's gang got him and beat him up. Joe wanted to help him but he wouldn't have it, he was crying behind the dinner hall. His name was Seamus and all the boys in the school laughed 'what a stupid name'.

He was tough really. He cried because they beat him up, but he never crawled to their teachers. Seamus stopped crying and went back to class, he sat there still not speaking [even though Joe was trying to be nice]. So was I at first, then I hated him for not being friendly. I said 'I hope they beat the hell out of you again!' He just looked at me.

Later on he was going to a different class. The rest of the boys in the class told us and the girls not to show him where to go for the lesson or to speak to him. But Joe did, so Seamus had no choice in the end but to speak to him [they became friends].

What really got everyone talking was this. On the way home from School Seamus followed Tucker and beat him up. Tucker never came to school the next day and some people were talking about it, then all Tucker's mates were going to kill Seamus. So Seamus decided to get them before they got him.

He jumped one of them, John Marshall, going down the stairs and nearly killed him. All the girls were screaming and we were all watching. Three of Marshall's mates jumped in so did Joe [to help Seamus], next minute [I don't even know why] I was in there punching Marshall's mates in the face. The teachers came and they were very angry. All of us got the cane [but I didn't care]. We all [me, Joe and Seamus] became great mates, we are mates. I don't buy your paper, but Seamus does and me and Joe read it, so maybe if you print this he'll know a lot more than he thinks he does. We have been mates for over a year now since Easter '77. After the fight with Marshall I got worse. Some of the girls were okay, but most shunned us, we were called 'Paddy Lovers' and 'Bum boys'. We didn't mind. Seamus' mum thanked us for sticking by him [I say now, he made me grow up a lot]. Now I know what love and friendship is. I don't need Betty Williams to tell me. She doesn't really care. After Marshall and Tucker, gangs of boys came after me and Joe a lot, we were really scared.

A British soldier came up to me one night in a disco in the Towncentre and spat in my face. If it hadn't been for Seamus I would have given up. [He came over and wiped the spit off with his jumper]. The soldier said nothing, the whole disco was quiet, the D.J. stopped playing records.

Me I was 10 feet tall when I walked out of there with my friend Seamus. My dad and my family [my mum's dead now] say stick with Joe and Seamus they're your mates. Seamus lives quite near me. I met a lot of Irish people, not from the Republic of Ireland but from the North of Ireland. I met a great girl she's 19 years [nearly] and she takes care of all the children from Belfast, Armagh etc. There's boys older than her but everyone likes her, when Seamus took me to her house she smiled. There were about 8 teenagers and children there in her house. She never said 'get lost you English swine' or anything you might say. I went in with Joe and all the kids [Irish], looked at the room [bedroom] which had a lot of posters for the Provos [that's what I call them now] and other posters. We had tea and biscuits and played records. All the Irish kids danced, so she said 'Go on dance'. I danced with a girl from Dunganannon. Anyway to cut a long story short we learnt [me & Joe] all about Ireland. The cities, the people, everything. We read about Majella O'Hare and Brian Stewart. Even my dad read about Brian Stewart. I don't know if you read these books there from Father Denis Faul and Father Raymond Murray. I suppose you read different ones.

To finish I'll tell you about the time Seamus saved my life. This boy came after me with an iron bar because I was a traitor. [I suppose I must be]



They went out to free their country
They fought by night and day
Ever mindful of the children
And the price they'd have to pay.

but my dad doesn't mind. [I don't really have a country now]. Seamus was at the top of the road by the school, I was at the bottom, and four boys came for me, one had the bar, but Seamus saw them and came to the rescue [thank God].

Now this year I am going to Belfast for the first time, a place they call 'Andy-Town'. I will then see what it's really like. I'm not scared. I know the Irish boys there will hate me. Just as I once hated Seamus. But I know that I stood by Seamus and he will stand by us, he invited us to come with him [me and Joe] and we were worried about his family over there. He said 'If they love me then they'll love you'. 'Just wait until you meet them'.

I suppose I will have to fight my way to his family's house but if there's a 100 Irish boys would fight me, I'll fight them all one by one just like Seamus got Tucker's crowd. It took him a long time nearly 11 months but he got them one by one [he's the tough one, he doesn't need a gang]. Tucker and him don't speak but Tucker's scared to death of him.

THE MEN ON THE BLANKET

Their deeds they weren't for profit
Or indeed for selfish gain
Their only thought was for people
And now they pay with pain.

The British jailers have their bodies
But their spirits are still free
And every day we'll say a prayer
Till each one of them are free.

L. Fitzsimmons.

I know the Paras are in Belfast, My dad says 'be careful of the soldiers and the Irish gangs'. I know the soldiers read your paper I know they'll be ready to kill me now, if they meet me in Belfast.

Laugh if you want. I don't really mind. It's like a Catholic man who marries a protestant woman over there. He doesn't care if he loves, he doesn't mind what the people say. Or a black man with a white girl. Me I have learnt about war, and about H Block [the men who live on blankets]. It's terrible, but it's not in the English papers? Seamus came the other day with the round the other day with the paper [yours]. Look he said 'there's letters from this area'. Anyhow I am coming to West Belfast soon, and I will see everything. The Irish boys and their gangs can laugh. But Seamus is an Irishman [a boy, but a man to me], a republican, a Catholic, a good person, and my friend. Me and Joe we're Englishmen, Catholics, we're not evil but we're alright, we're not as holy as Seamus, but we would gladly die for him. So laugh if you want!
Chris King (and Joe McManhon)

No RN hasn't started a sports page! We just want to draw our readers attention to the conditions in which the football World Cup will be held this year. A military dictatorship came to power in March 1976 and since then the large scale murder of trade-unionists, journalists, lawyers, and priests has become a daily routine. Every single democratic right: to vote, to free speech, to organise in trade unions, and political parties etc. is ruthlessly denied. It is estimated that there are 20,000 political prisoners held in concentration camps up and down the country. Torture of the most brutal kind is standard procedure for anyone lifted by the army or the right wing terror gangs - in fact one of the main torture centres is quite close to the football stadium where the World Cup matches will be held.

The military rulers of Argentina hope that the World Cup fanfare will restore their fading international image. In fact in many European countries a campaign has begun to boycott the games and persuade the national team not to travel to the junta's circus in protest against the repression. This campaign is active in Sweden, France, Spain and Scotland. Some would argue - especially nationalist minded Scotland fans - that we are mixing politics and sport. But think a while. Hitler organised the

WORLD CUP IN ARGENTINA

BY R. DALY

Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936 precisely to bolster his image and help propagate his racist views in the superiority of the Aryan "superman". And closer to home, what about the Loyalist councillors who refuse money to the GAA on the grounds that they quite sensibly don't want ex-Brits in the game? Or what about the GAA field in Crossmaglen, taken over by the Brits to land their helicopters on, (when they aren't being brought down by other means)? In all these cases politics is mixed up with sport and we must urge on Scottish comrades to impress on their football team the barbarous conditions in which they would be playing in Argentina.

It is interesting to note that the French Communist Party is refusing to support the -boycott campaign in their country - in spite of the national protest over two French nuns who were dropped into the sea from helicopters by the military butchers recently. The reason is perhaps



related to the fact that the Olympic Games will be held in Moscow in 1980 and there are bound to be protests over the Soviets

habit of locking up dissidents in mental hospitals, etc. And it would be best to clearly say that politics should not interfere in

sport now so that later on they won't have to condemn the repression of dissidents in the Soviet Union!

The recent escalation in the right - wing bombing campaign in Britain should come as no surprise to anti-fascists there. In the past 18 months there has been a marked increase in the number of fire - bombs and other attacks on left-wing bookshops and immigrant cultural centres. It is only a matter of time before someone is killed in an attack. The British police refuse to admit publicly that there is a co-ordinated bombing campaign going on. In fact after one recent fire-bombing of a London pub (used by the NCCL and the committee organising the International Tribunal on Ireland among others) the police said that 'because they had ruled out IRA involvement, that there was no political motive behind the attacks!' (Roy Mason, please note IRA political motive).

Up to now the attacks have been claimed by 'the 11th hour Brigade', a fictitious group. Significantly however one of the latest attacks, a chlorate bomb sent to the headquarters of the British Communist Party on 4th April, was claimed by a neo-nazi group called Column 88. British police scientists have established that the other 2 bombs sent through the post (to the Lambeth office of the National Union of Public Employees and to a member of the Anti-Nazi League in High Wycombe)

COLUMN 88-BRITISH NEO-NAZI GROUP

BY SINN FEIN, BIRMINGHAM

came from the same source.

Column 88 (so called because the 8th letter of the alphabet is H, thus 88=HH=Heil Hitler) was formed in 1960 by some members of the 'National Socialist Group', a break-away from Colin Jordan's 'National Socialist Movement'. Unlike 'Spearhead' whose members never did much but dress-up in paramilitary uniform, the NSG managed to acquire a considerable supply of arms. Believed to have been responsible for a series of plastic-explosive bomb attacks in 1963/64, against the Jewish Chronicle, a 'black smear' bombing attack on Peter Griffiths, the Smethurst racist MP, and the bombing of electricity pylons in the Midlands. In the late 60's the growing NSG developed links with international Fascist military units, which were subsequently collectively organised under the name Column 88.

Through the European New Order Movement,

HITLER AND GOERING THE FORE-FATHERS OF EUROPEAN FASCISM



THE SPECTRE OF FASCISM IS MATERIALISING ONCE MORE IN THE FORM OF COLUMN 88 A BRITISH GROUP WHICH DERIVES ITS NAME FROM THE GREATEST TYRANT OF THEM ALL, ADOLF HITLER.

and in particular the Italian MSI, finance was sent to Britain for the Column 88. The British group, until starting its recent bomb-campaign, specialised in building up files on the left-wing groups there and talent-spotting for recruits from right-groups like the National Front and British Movement. It uses an organi-

sation called the League of St George's as a 'recruiting conduit' for new members. As Column 88 operates clandestinely little is known about its leadership. One of its British leaders is believed to be Peter Ling. The president of the League of St George - H. Grestock is a member. A senior prison officer at Strange-

ways Gaol, Manchester, one Brian Baldwin, is also a member of Column 88. From time to time Irish POW's are held in isolation there. Eddie Butler, Limerick, is presently in solitary there.

In 1976 there was a minor political scandal in Britain when it was discovered that Column 88 had engaged in joint military exercises with Army Cadets and TAVR personnel in Savernale Forest. The army Cadet Officer, who was a member of Column 88 was forced to resign. In the past 2 years there has been a marked increase in collaboration between the European neo-fascist groups. Regular training-camps in paramilitary tactics have been held particularly in Italy, but also in Belgium and Britain. The Italian camps have been attended by British Fascists and also the UVF. Last year police in Spain discovered an arms manufacturing factory, run by local fascists, producing weapons which were being used by Italian fascists. So it is inevitable that terrorist attacks by right-wing neo-nazi groups like Column 88 will continue and escalate in Britain. How much longer are the British police and media going to cover - up such attacks, since by doing so they are tacitly condoning them.

IN MEMORIAM

DUNDALK H BLOCK PROTEST

Sinn Fein will be holding an H-Block protest at Market Square, Dundalk on Saturday 29th April at 3.00 p.m. Prominent Republican speakers will attend including those recently released from the hell holes of Long Kesh.

DEMAND POLITICAL STATUS

LOUTH COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR

A Convention will be held in Hotel Imperial on 4th June 1978 at 3.30 p.m. Candidates will be selected at this meeting for the Local Government Elections planned for 1979. This meeting is open to the General Public.

O'CALLAGHAN 1ST ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of our most precious son and brother, Brendan O'Callaghan (1st Batt) Volunteer, Irish Republican Army, shot by the British Army on 23.4.77 R.I.P. Masses offered.

O Brendan, son of Ireland. Brave soldier unafraid you fought when tired and weary, yet never once complained. Things, you had and they were many. For you were young and life was sweet.

You gave it all, yes everything, and laid it at your country's feet.

You made the sacrifice supreme, for that ideal you held so dear.

An Ireland free and without fear.

Suckled on an Irish Breast, and now in Irish soil you rest. Deep in fertile, lovely ground, for which you gave your life. Rest easy brave young warrior as in your grave you lie, for you were loved too much in life, to be forgotten when you die, and from your lonely resting place, there very soon will spring, an Irish

O'CALLAGHAN BRENDAN. Volunteer 1st Battalion Irish Republican Army. Murdered 23 April 1977 by British Army. We will have great men but definitely none better. Never forgotten by Comrade FLUFF

1st ANNIVERSARY BRENDAN O'CALLAGHAN

In proud and loving memory of Brendan O'Callaghan Volunteer 1st Battalion Ogligh Na h-Eireann shot dead by British Troops on 23.4.77. R.I.P. Masses offered.

The news, the shock, the grief the pain. The face we loved to ne't see again.

That boyish grin, those happy ways, no more memories of those by-gone days.

Just 21 and in his prime, his love of country, his only crime.

Shot down on the bloody streets of our town, by a British gun in the pay of the crown.

Dear is his memory, and sweet is his name, deep in our hearts he will always remain.

For we will remember, no matter how long, Brendan O'Callaghan a brave Irishman.

Remembered with pride by his Aunt Bridget and the entire Burns Family.

nation, one and free, for every living thing.

Life is but a dream Brendan, for some its gain and greed. But your dream, it was for freedom, like many of your creed. But God in all his wisdom that all men might be free, brought you home to peace and rest, in the land of Liberty.

Sleep easy, Brave son of Ireland, while your killers deeds go on for as sure as there's a heaven, brave Irish sons are born.

There is a very special love, that is so sweet and rare. Its the deep and ever-lasting love, that a brother and sister can share. We shared that love Brendan you and I, from the moment we were born, till the day you died.

[Wrote and dedicated to Brendan O'Callaghan by his sister Marian.]

Always loved and remembered by his Father, Mother, sisters Marian, Michelle, Pauline.

VOL. BRENDAN O'CALLAGHAN A TRIBUTE FROM A COMRADE

FUALT SE BAS AT SON SAOLTSE



This article is written for the purpose of paying tribute to a friend and a comrade whose first anniversary occurs on the 23rd of this month. He was shot dead by the British army whilst protecting the people of Andersonstown against attack by the pro-Brit elements in this country. I couldn't attend his funeral and the first anniversary of his death has prompted me to write this tribute to him.

I heard about Brendan's death on the one o'clock news on Radio Eireann on the 24th April 1977. At the time I was lying in a cell in Crumlin Road gaol. The newscaster's voice seemed distant but the impact of the report felt like a sledge hammer crashing on to the top of my head. I'll never forget the feeling of emptiness and hopelessness as I took stock of the news report and the details. The first thing that entered my head was that if I hadn't been responsible for swearing Brendan into the army then he might still be alive today. But in fact this idea was silly, because Brendan was the type of bloke had he not met me would have sought out someone else to ask about joining up.

For me it was indeed an honour to have worked with Brendan and to have had him and his beautiful family as friends. The people who knew Brendan as a friend all remarked how wonderful a personality he had and how he always had a smile on his face. The smile he usually wore was broad almost ear to ear. Brendan O'Callaghan had everything to live for but he was shot dead at the young age of 21, his life barely one third over.

His young life was taken by a foreign army whose role here has created the same loneliness which now exists in the O'Callaghan household many times over in households throughout the six-counties. His death, to the politi-

cal pundits in the British government and those politicians with a vested interest is just a statistic; at the time the Brit who killed him was probably congratulated on scoring a kill. To those who knew him and loved him the blow is incalculable and everlasting. To those who worked with him in the I.R.A. his death serves, like all the other deaths, as a constant reminder of the need to continue this struggle and to finish it this time to ensure that never again shall the Irish people be subjected to the misery of the past years of British rule here.

Brendan like all of us wanted to live in peace and bring up a family, but this basic human right was robbed from us by the events of 1921, partition, and the events of 1969 which witnessed the beginning of the end of British rule in Ireland.

I remember the time Brendan contacted me about joining the IRA. It was 1974. I had just been released from internment and I was greatly encouraged to find someone interested in active service work despite the strong possibilities of internment hanging over his head. Brendan's reasons for joining up were similar to my own when I had joined up a few years previously. I listened to him as he told me from his heart how he hoped his son, also called Brendan, would not grow up and experience the feeling of being a second class citizen in his own country.

For Brendan as for us all the only way to achieve this was to engage in armed struggle against the British Army. This he did and those who know him will in time to come tell of the bravery and determination of Brendan in the face of a far superior trained and equipped army.

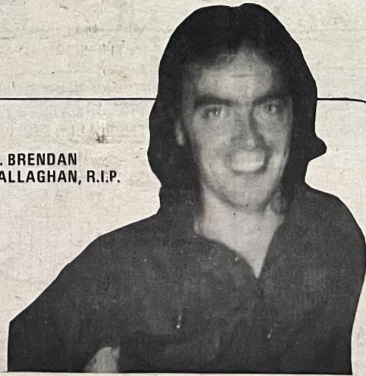
It was not an easy period when Brendan joined up. Internment was still on, although a few months later talks of a truce resulted in a period of ceasefire. For many this provided an opportunity to seek out a new life outside the IRA, but for Brendan the emphasis and type of activity changed. He remained in the ranks aware that the war was not over by a long chalk and that he would be needed shortly. During this period of time he spent several months on remand on an arms charge in Crumlin Road Gaol. He walked free from the court house and he again made himself available for active service.

He didn't have to become active again, he'd 'done his bit' as some would say. But he knew he was needed and inside six months he was to die. When the British Army asserted their presence in our country nine years ago Brendan was only 13. He grew up and witnessed the raids on his area knew that many of his relatives had suffered years of internment and he knew that to end this injustice we needed to end the British presence. There are many hundreds with the same thoughts who have travelled the same path as Brendan and no doubt because the struggle is not over many more will follow his path.

Over the years of struggle I have met and worked with many men and women some of them are now dead, some are now imprisoned. The one thing they had all in common was the determination to carry on the fight until victory. In conclusion, I will always remember Brendan as one of these people and he and all those who have died can be sure of one thing: the struggle is to continue until all vestiges of British rule are eradicated from this country and then no one shall be treated as a second class citizen. May the soil rest gently on his grave.

A Comrade in Struggle.

VOL. BRENDAN
O'CALLAGHAN, R.I.P.




REPUBLICAN NEWS

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Voice of
Republican
Ulster



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NAME LEFT OUT OF EASTER "ROLL OF HONOUR"

VOL FRANCIS RICE

It has been brought to our notice that in the roll of Honour printed in the Easter Editions of this paper for the past two years the name of Vol. Francis Rice of Castlewellan, Co. Down has been left out. Republican News extends its apologies for this to the family and friends of Francis.

BODENSTOWN BUS LEAVING ANDERSONS- TOWN CENTRE

Week-end Bus run to Bodens-
town 11.6.78.
Bus leaving outside Ander-
sonstown Centre 77b Ander-
sonstown Road (Tel. 622904),
on Friday night 9.6.78. Return-
ing Sunday night.
Hotel booked at Bray for this
week-end (Bed & Break-
fast). The cost to be deter-
mined but should be approx
£17, (inclusive of hotel and
bus). Already people have been
enquiring for seats, deposit
to be £3.00 then weekly pay-
ments - or full amount at start.
Contact Andersonstown
Centre, Tel 622904 to book
seats. Payments to start this
week-end.

IN MEMORIAM

VOL. BRENDAN O' CALLAGHAN, R.I.P.

In proud and loving memory of my dear husband and our Father Brendan. Volunteer 1st Batt Belfast Brigade. Mur-
dered by British Crown forces 23rd April 1977 R.I.P.


There is a gift in life you cannot buy, that's very rare and true. Its a gift of a wonderful husband like the one I had in you.

The many things you did for us, in your kind and thought-
ful way, you give us happiness no British soldier can take away.

Although you are not beside us you're always in our hearts
through every passing day.

"He was a man of overwhelming integrity a man who put
total faith in the ability of the ordinary people to rise out of
their bondage".

Always remembered and sadly missed by your everloving
wife Amella and your loving sons Brendan and Paul.
A Mhuire Na nGael Dean Idir gúar a anam usáil.



ST. JAMES H- BLOCK PICKET

Picket for 'H' Block 12-2
p.m. Saturday 22nd April
at bottom of Whitelock and Top
of St. James's Road, Belfast.
Road, Belfast.

IN MEMORIAM

SMYTH AND McKIBBEN

In proud memory of Vol. Brian Smyth "A" Coy., 3rd Batt.
Belfast Brigade (shot dead by British Paras on 17th April 1973)
also Vol Trevor McKibben, "A" Coy., 3rd Batt., Na Fianna
Eireann (shot dead by British forces on 17th April 1977). Al-
ways remembered by Staff and Volunteers 3rd Batt. Bel-
fast Brigade, Oglagh Na h-Eireann.

"Let our memorial to our dead comrades be the onward march
to the establishment of a 32-County Socialist Republic."

VOL. BRENDAN O' CALLAGHAN

First Anniversary 23 April. Vol Brendan O' Callaghan. In proud loving
memory. "Wherever death may surprise us, it will be welcome, provided
that this, our battle cry, reach some receptive ear, that another
hand stretch to take up weapons and that other men come forward to in-
to-our funeral dirge with the staccato of Machine Guns and new cries of
battle and victory"

Always remembered by Pat and Jeanette.

SYMPATHY

The Trustees Executive and Members of Green
Cross 73 deeply regret the death of their
trustee and friend Mr. J.P. Lane FRCS R.I.P.
and tender to his wife and family their deepest
sympathy.
Masses offered.

O'CALLAGHAN

In proud and loving memory
of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan
died on active service 23rd
April 1977 defending his people
against attack by pro-Brit
Forces. "The sign of a true
Revolutionary is that he is
prepared to die not just for
an ideal but rather to make
that ideal a reality". Forever
remembered by his comrade
Jim.

O'CALLAGHAN

In proud and loving memory
of My brother Brendan
O'Callaghan. Killed in Action
23rd April 1977.
To some you were quickly
forgotten, to others part of the
past, but you were ours and
we loved you your memory
will always last.
Always missed, Pauline.

CHILLINGWORTH.
Billy, H Block 3 Long Kesh,
"On the blanket".
Happy 24th Birthday, to my
son Billy. May our lady's mantle
take the place of the blanket,
wrapped round your naked
tortured body. And give you
strength to keep the fight
against injustice and oppres-
sion. Your fight is our fight.
May God Bless you and all
your comrades.
My deepest love Mum.

CHILLINGWORTH, H Block

Sincere Best wishes to our
dear brother Billy, on his 24th
Birthday. Each night and day
we think of you and all of
your comrades too.
God give you strength to
see it through, and remember
Billy we're all behind you.
Love from all the Gang at
Monagh Crescent, U.T.P.
XXXXXX

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

CHILLINGWORTH.
Birthday Greetings to my
dear Brother Billy, on "Blanket
Protest" H.3 Block. It is not
those who inflict the most
but those who can endure
the most, who are the victors.
God Bless you and all your
comrades. From your loving
sister Kathleen, Charlie and
Family, u.T.P.
XXXXXX

CHILLINGWORTH.

Billy, on the Blanket H3
Block. Long Kesh, Happy
Birthday Billy, behind their
bars you're held today, because
you dared to have your say.
But when old Ireland's won
and free. With our big brother
united we'll be. May God
bless you and your comrades.
From your sister Mary.

U.T.P.



NOTES

BY CORMAC

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE LEFT-WING LABOUR M.P. WHO HAS CONDEMNED THE CONDITIONS IN H-BLOCK?

GOOD HEAVENS, NO!

HE'S PROBABLY HAVING A DRINK WITH THE SOLD POLITICIAN WHO NEVER BETRAYED HIS PRINCIPLES...

AND THEY'RE BOTH BEING GUARDED BY THE...

EKK!

BY THE RIC MAN WHO NEVER PERTURBED HIMSELF IN COURT!