

REPUBLICAN news



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A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

THE HYSTERIA whipped up by the British Government in the Press and Television regarding the trials of Russian dissidents in Moscow over the last two weeks, and the condemnation that the sentences passed were excessive and could lead to serious injury to the health of the dissidents due to the rigours of the Russian penal system is undeniably the clearest and most recent example of British hypocrisy and duplicity when it comes to commenting on the denial of basic human rights to prisoners.

The British decry foreign regimes for violating codes safeguarding human dignity, while in Britain and here in the occupied six counties they promote a judicial system which arrogantly denies the dissident justice and daily passes terms of imprisonment ranging from three years to thirty.

Over the last two years they have unmercifully unleashed a reign of naked brutality both inside and outside the prison walls.

Within the last few days in the notorious 'H' Blocks their actions have reached new depths of depravity.

The screws now are physically holding down young prisoners, (already weakened by the strain of almost two years of nakedness, solitary confinement and undernourishment) and forcibly searching their back passage, before and after visits.

ATTACK

In a statement smuggled out to "Republican News" the PRO of H3 details the latest incident in the long Brit history of prison brutality.

"In H3 over the last few days there has been a marked increase in the use of the 'strip-search' before and after visits.

"In one instance a young prisoner was turned upside down by four screws while a medical officer prodded his back passage. From today Republican Prisoners in H3 will be refusing all visits rather than be put through this degrading experience".

The meagre but welcomed comfort these men get from a monthly visit is being wrenched from them by these latest excesses.

MEDIA SILENCE

We can expect no clamouring from the pro Brit press or T.V. to comment on or interview any of the relatives of Republican prisoners, many of whom have not seen their son or daughter in almost two years.

The silence by the media on reporting the dehumanising conditions existing in Long Kesh is a despicable example of



Section of the crowd marching past Downing Street in London demanding an end to brutality of Irish Political Prisoners in British jails. (See centre pages).

political censorship (in many cases self-imposed). The relegation by journalists of the prisoners protest for political status to merely a "dirty-strike" or "no-wash campaign" is contemptible.

But let us not despair in the face of this "conspiracy of silence".

The prisoners passive but determined struggle and the patient, consistent work by the many RAC Committees, Sinn Fein and others over the past two years created a new situation.

MARCHING

The people are on the march again, all over the six counties, parts of the 26 counties, and London (see centre spread) demanding an end to the torture of prisoners and the return of political status, for P.O.W.'s.

Even inside the British establishment cracks are beginning to appear as the conditions inside the 'H' Blocks make the news.

Don Concannon, (Brit Minister responsible for prisons in the occupied six counties) has been forced in his retreat to act blatantly by refusing M.P.'s access to inspect the conditions inside the 'H' Blocks, in an ineffectual attempt to hide the horrors of 'H' Block.

The battle for political status is an arduous and perilous one. The prisoners themselves have stated on many occasions, that the struggle for status will take some time. Unfortunately there are no short-cuts when a nation is struggling to free itself.

But now more than ever before there is a need for patient and intelligent planning of demonstrations to maximise the turn out of people.

The way to ensure victory on the Political Status struggle for the prisoners is to help mobilise tens of thousands of people.

These are not over ambitious figures they are realistic.

DEMO

The first attempt for quite some time is scheduled for the 20th August 1978, the tenth anniversary of the first Civil Rights Demonstration.

The venue and route is the same Coalisland to Dungannon. This is a National Demonstration being organised around the demand "Political - Status to the Republican POWs." SUPPORT IT.



Crossmaglen IRA on McEntee

FOLLOWING THE controversy over the IRA execution of Mr. Patrick McEntee, the local battalion has issued a public statement.

A leaflet was distributed at IRA checkpoints set-up in the Crossmaglen area last week.

In the leaflet which we reprint on page 2 the IRA give details of some of the most serious incidents including fatalities for which Mr. McEntee was responsible.

Local people are now known to be well-satisfied with the IRA statement which fully collaborates on their original claim.

WAR NEWS

IN SUPPLIED statements the Belfast and South Armagh Brigades claimed responsibility for the following operations: South Armagh Brigade July 7.

CROSSMAGLEN: A remote controlled booby-trap planted inside a dustbin and detonated by an ASU killed a member of the notorious Para regiment.

Belfast Brigade July 16.

Ten bombs planted in the Great Victoria Street, Downshire Place area, destroyed completely a block of warehouses. Contrary to the claims a satisfactory warning was given. All volunteers returned safely to base.

IRA bomb blasts devastate warehouses in the Belfast area on July 16th.

LOWER FALLS H-BLOCK PROTEST

THE FIRST of a series of local area demonstrations to build up support for a mass demonstration from Coalisland to Dungannon on August 20th was held in Lower Falls area on Sunday July 9th. The demonstration was organised by the Central Relatives Action Committee and the Divis Flats/Lower Falls R.A.C.

About two hundred people walked in the procession, led by the local band, through the small streets of the Falls, towards the Divis flats complex where a public meeting was held.

Many of the local people in the Divis flats opened their windows to hear the speakers.

The first speaker from the Central RAC gave a brief history of almost two years of struggle by the prisoners in their attempts to regain political status. He pointed out that the attempt by the British Government to portray the Republican struggle as a criminal escapade had failed. He said: "However we can only claim victory when the prisoners now naked in the 'H' Blocks and 'B' Wing, Crumlin are wearing their own clothes and receiving visits like human beings, without being degraded by body searches."

The next speaker from the Lower Falls RAC reminded the people of Divis Flats that the first man on the blanket protest

was from that area, Kieran Nugent. She said that Kieran symbolised the iron will of the P.O.W.s when he stated the only way the authorities would get the criminal uniform on him would be to nail it to his back. She called on the people to support all pickets and protests designed to highlight the barbarity directed against Republican prisoners.

The mother of an 'H' Block prisoner said that "the prisoners were going through hell fighting for their right to political status. The prisoners depend on us to keep up the struggle outside. We must not fail them."

Closing the meeting the chairperson said:

"In marching on the streets, we are not only saluting the sacrifice of the prisoners in local gaols, but also the sacrifice made by Irish prisoners in English gaols, who have recently stepped up their protest for political status."

Appealing for support for the August 20th demonstration she added: "Ten years ago, thousands marched on August 20th for Civil Rights, let us turn out in our thousands to show that the demand for P.O.W. status for Republican prisoners has just as much support today."

**Support
the
PoWs**

Thomas Passmore, Martin Smith and James Jolyneux still marching to maintain the ascendancy.

Wexford H-Block protest



A SERIES of twelve successful H-Block protests were held in Wexford Town recently. These meetings were organised by the Padraig O Pearail Sinn Fein Cumann Wexford, in conjunction with the Derry RAC.

The meetings were extended over a period of three days and were addressed by three Derry mothers, draped in blankets. Several thousand people heard these mothers, tell of the horrors of H-Block and a total of 4,500 leaflets and other literature was distributed.

L. McDaid who accompanied the women on the tour, spoke

with local reporters, and all three met with a representative of the 'Irish Press' and spoke to local Councillors.

Sinn Fein, Wexford, would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the tour such a great success but especially the three Derry mothers who brought the horrors of H-Block to the streets and housing estates of Wexford.

Also thanks to Vivian Doherty, Derry, who organised the tour, to Na Fianna Eireann, Wexford who helped distribute leaflets and to the people whose houses were used as billets.

THE DUNLOY KILLING

(Continued from page 3)

in the circumstances, and reality slowly dawned on them all.

We don't expect this incident to cause a change in Mason's murder policy. All that it has done is serve to expose exactly what the Brits intend to do, and how they have the lies prepared in advance of "a kill".

Had a volunteer been killed instead of John Boyle then the Brits would have "leaked" to "friendly journalists" that they were acting on "inside" information and would have milked the utmost divisive effect of the incident, as they attempted to do with the slur against 'Republican News' over the Ballysillan slaughter, and the SAS murder of Paul Duffy

("acting on information given during the questioning of three other suspects").

Incidentally, John Boyle was buried on Thursday as was RUC Constable Turbitt from Richill, whose body the IRA had returned the previous Sunday. Commenting on the burials 'Downtown Radio' with its doublethink and dual standards reported that "Hundreds of people are attending the funerals today of Constable William Turbitt murdered by the IRA, and 16-year-old John Boyle killed by the British Army on Tuesday."

According to media mythology the British Army have never murdered a person in Ireland.

The fact that three of the SAS men were armed with Armalites (as they were in the Ballysillan stake-out) is important. The public has been told that soldiers are using them because Armalites are lighter, more mobile and more efficient than the 7.62mm self loading rifle (SLR). This is nonsense. The SLR is one of the most destructive of modern rifles; its weight can be reduced and the butt modified to fold back if concealment is a priority or operational conditions demand it. Without even going to these lengths the Brits have at their disposal other deadly weapons with a calibre distinguishable from the IRA's arsenal. It is that last point which is the real reason for the Armalite's use.

The increasing use of this weapon is because of the new policy of assassination and execution against any IRA Volunteer caught in a vulnerable position, armed or unarmed. At least one "phantom" Volunteer with an Armalite must always "escape", in the event of civilians getting "caught in the crossfire".

With a policy of slaughter the Brits need that their ammunition is indistinguishable from IRA ammunition, otherwise embarrassing post-mortems would give the game away.

THE "GLORIOUS TWELFTH"

THE "GLORIOUS TWELFTH" with its "carnival" type trappings was the theme of all the pro-orange broadcasters on both Television and Radio reporting 12th July demonstrations from around the Six Counties. Listening to the commentators one could quite easily fall into the trap of believing that the "traditional" orange processions were nothing more significant than a day's outing for the family ending up with a fun-filled picnic, at the field.

The heavy media coverage ensured that the message of protestant supremacy reached every corner of the six occupied counties.

This year saw the renewal of the Orange processions in County Donegal for the first time in eight years. As to the role of the Orange Order in maintaining the partition of Ireland, the Orangemen reigned triumphant.

Keady Town in County Armagh, was the setting this year for a huge show of force by the Orangemen. The dictum that "no town or road is closed to the Orange Order" is as true today as ever.

This small Nationalist town

was invaded by the RUC and Orangemen for most of the day.

The local people decided to close all the business premises (and pubs) and ignore the parade through their town.

We were assured by UTV's reporter in Keady that the local people welcomed the Orange procession with "politeness".

No amount of window dressing by the BBC, UTV or Downtown Radio of the Orange Orders role in the six occupied counties will fool those people who don't want to be fooled.

A brief look at some of the speeches made by leading Orangemen confirms the belief held by many people that this pro-Brit institution still retains

its grip on the infra-structure of the six counties.

The Loyalist M.P. at Westminster, Harold McCusker defending the torturers in the RUC said, "Let us not desert these men. I know of no innocent man behind bars because he signed a confession.

TOMÁS AGAIN

Thomas Passmore, Grandmaster of Belfast, called for sterner "security" measures: "Every political shackle must be removed from our security forces, so that they can get on with the job of rooting out terrorists. We told Mr. Mason about the IRA bolt holes such as Crossmaglen, Andersonstown and the Bogside, last year when we demanded an end to the Poleglass Housing Scheme".

No doubt one of Mr. Passmore's marching friends, a leading member of the Housing Executive in Belfast will assist in delaying the building of

Poleglass as long as possible. The marching Orangemen and their leaders were in no doubt about their role of defending the British crown in Ireland.

The spirit of revived triumphalism was evident on all the platforms as the Orange leaders spat out their well worn clichés of "staying British" and "strengthening the link" with Britain.

Their message was unambiguous, the Six counties belong to them, and that's the way they intend to keep it.

UNSCRUPULOUS MEN

The 12th demonstrations were once again used by the unscrupulous Unionist politicians in clerical and lay garb to whip up religious sectarianism which ensures their political majority and unfortunately the mass of protestants are inextricably tied to the Unionist dream of "Not an inch".

Pawns on the international chess-board of human rights

ALEXANDER GINSBURG and Anatoli Shcharansky have become over the past few weeks international pawns in the chess game of debate between the power blocks of East and West. "Enemies of the Russian state", heroes of the "free West", the political repression of both eclipsed by the political opportunism of the world's "Big Powers".

It is not long ago at a Washington meeting of the heads of NATO, presided over by U.S. President Jimmy Carter that he took the opportunity to re-emphasise one of his favourite themes — Human Rights. Applauding enthusiastically on the same platform was Britain's Prime Minister James Callaghan.

Carrying the British government's banner of political commitment to safeguarding human rights at a meeting of E.E.C. Foreign Ministers, around the same time was British Foreign Secretary David Owen insisting that any financial assistance given to third world countries should be monitored against their flexibility in the field of human rights.

Between the NATO meeting in Washington, the E.E.C. Ministerial meeting and the present 'trials' of Ginsburg and Shcharansky, Amnesty International published a report on the repression of Irish political dissidents by the British government. The report indicated that there was systematic torturing of political dissidents apparently authorised at the highest level (Roy Mason) while questioning the entire dubious structure of law enforcement, known locally as the RUC "shuttle service". Through this method political dissidents are tortured into making self incriminating statements, legally interned by remand (up to 2 years), processed through non-jury courts (where the only "evidence" against them is the statement which is accepted by the politically motivated 'judge') and then the political dissident is sent to the horrors of Long Kesh's notorious H-Blocks. Amnesty International called for an open public enquiry into the treatment of political dissidents in the occupied six counties.

Since the Amnesty Report was published, confirming for the second time in 12 months that the British government is torturing political dissidents in the occupied six counties, there has been virtually no comment from the international crusaders of human rights. Far from reproaching the British government U.S. President Jimmy Carter seems, if not actively, then through his silence (supported vocally by Senator Edward Kennedy), to be attempting to stall Sen. Mario Biaggi's Congressional investigation into British activities in the occupied six counties. No comment, to

THE DUNLOY KILLING — WHAT MASON PROMISED

"Finally, we are just getting reports of a shooting incident in the Dunloy area of County Antrim. The army in a statement just issued said that at 10.22 a.m. a patrol challenged three men seen armed and carrying bombs. They say that one of the terrorists ran off when challenged and was shot and wounded."

"We'll have a full report of that incident in our next Bulletin." That was how Belfast's 'Downtown Radio' originally announced on the 11 a.m. News, Tuesday 11th July, the summary execution by the SAS of 16-year-old Dunloy youth John Boyle.

The circumstances of the shooting and the immediate release of a "prepared" statement (telexed within 20 minutes of the incident) by the British army at Thiepval Barracks claiming that a "terrorist" had been shot followed a familiar pattern of SAS activity in recent months which has left unnamed IRA Volunteers Paul Duffy, Dennis Heaney, Jack Mealy, Dinny Brown, Jim Mulvenna, all dead, civilian William Hanna dead, and civilians Bobby Gamble and Dessy Mackin seriously injured.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES

However, the lying machine at Thiepval Barracks ran into serious trouble, and the routine "credible" statements which usually save the media's conscience backfired.

On Monday night (10th July), Mr. Cornelius Boyle was

attending a family grave in Dunloy graveyard along with his son John. John discovered a black plastic bag under a headstone, which he couldn't remove. That evening Mr. Boyle telephoned Ballymoney RUC Barracks about the find, telling them the exact spot where it was concealed.

From what happened next it is clear that all RUC Barracks are under instructions to immediately contact local military Headquarters, and not to remove arms' dumps which have been discovered.

The RUC rang Ebrington Barracks in Derry, and during the night the SAS sent in a team who verified that an armalite rifle was in the bag. (They probably also removed any ammunition just be 200% sure that their victim, to be executed anyway, couldn't defend himself). The four SAS men (3

with armalites, one with an SLR) then staked out the graveyard from two positions, one being only 10 yards from the arms dump, and waited on a "contact" with presumably IRA volunteers.

THE KILLING

The next morning John Boyle and his brother Hugh were in a tractor on their way to a hayfield. John left his brother and was curious to see if the suspicious bag had been removed yet. So he walked into the graveyard and approached the spot.

The SAS quickly opened fire. He was shot five times. The post-mortem later showed that the fatal shot entered the back of his head, with an exit wound out his left eye. (The army in a second statement at 6.00 p.m. said that John saw two soldiers, lifted the Armalite and pointed it at them, and that they then shot him. They would have been safer sticking to their first statement which said "one terrorist was shot as he ran off". It too would have collapsed but at least

they would have got the bullet wounds in the right place).

The SAS then ran out onto the road and arrested Hugh, brought him into the field where he was made to lie on the ground for 2½ hours. He heard one soldier say to a colleague, "there's another bastard lying dead around the corner".

The Father who had originally tipped-off the RUC arrived on the scene and he then was made lie on the ground for an hour. As far as the SAS were concerned they had captured three "terrorists". The Godfathers of state violence when contacted at Thiepval Barracks were ecstatic, Mason was doubtfully overjoyed (this is what he had promised), and the propaganda machine swung into action with the "prepared" statement.

Meanwhile the local RUC arrived about an hour after the shooting and found their informant lying in the field surrounded by SAS. Mr. Boyle was lucky enough to be alive

(Continued on page 7)

CROSSMAGLEN IRA STATEMENT

REGARDING the recent death of Patrick McEntee, the following statement has been supplied to us: In response to Republican sympathisers who desire to ascertain the facts relating to the recent execution of Patrick McEntee, Dundalk Road, Crossmaglen, it has been decided to issue the following statement:—

Patrick McEntee was regarded in the area as a respectable good-living man and he was respected by our volunteers until positive evidence emerged to identify him as an informer and Crown Forces undercover agent.

He was detained by our Intelligence Corps at 1 p.m. on Saturday, 24th June, 1978 and admitted in interrogation to his activities as an enemy informer. He was subsequently executed after midnight on June 24th.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FACTS:—

From 1971, Patrick McEntee maintained occasional telephone contact with the Occupation Forces at Bessbrook. In 1975, British Army Intelligence visited his home at Dundalk Road, Crossmaglen, where personal contact was established. He agreed to travel to Bessbrook Military base two days later and when there he met a man who became known to him as "Stephen". He was then directed on the movements of all known republicans or persons whom he suspected might be in the IRA. He was also supplied with the names of persons sought for questioning in connection with "serious crimes" and he agreed to maintain a regular contact with the enemy.

WE NOW GIVE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THESE INCIDENTS RELATING TO HIS SPYING:

(1) Bomb at Monog Road, Crossmaglen, 1975.

Our volunteers were observed after dark by a Mrs Mackin digging along the road verge to conceal a bomb which was meant for the Crown forces. The following morning

ing Mrs Mackin reported what she had seen to a woman friend on the Dundalk Road and she mentioned that the man had been digging at 'The Dirty Hollow'. In casual conversation, the information was told to Patrick McEntee, who three days later, met his British contact at their pre-arranged point, Ballytemple Viewpoint, and informed him of the bomb on the Monog Road. The British Army then immediately avoided the road until it was sealed off and they inquired from local people where 'The Dirty Hollow' was located. Subsequently they found and defused the bomb.

(2) Silverbridge Bombing, 1975.

In December 1975, Patrick McEntee was a regular postman on the Silverbridge route and he learned from local people that the IRA checkpoints were operated regularly. The information he gathered led him to mistakenly believe the IRA was using Donnelly's Pub and he passed his suspicions to his British contact at one of their regular meetings at Ballytemple Viewpoint. British Intelligence subsequently fed the information to the UVF and Donnelly's Pub was attacked, causing the death of three innocent civilians and the maiming of a number of others.

(3) Crossmaglen Car Bomb, 1978.

Patrick McEntee's spying activities continued and his last meeting with British Intelligence and a new contact "Phil" who replaced "Stephen" after the latter had left Bessbrook — was on Wednesday, 21st June, 1978. McEntee had gone to Newry and when he met his contact at Ballytemple Viewpoint, at the pre-arranged time of 3pm on his return journey, it was to provide information about the recent car bomb in Crossmaglen.

Patrick McEntee was in possession of two special telephone numbers to ring at Bessbrook — 531 and 581 — for urgent contact with the enemy and he kept these

secretly hidden in a split page in his driving licence.

These are just a few facts relating to his activities as an informer. They should bring home the danger of loose talk. Stop and think, did you at any time in the last five years talk loosely to Patrick McEntee about Republican activities? If you did then you too are guilty of loose talk. Think now of the person beside you. How do you know if he or she is not an informer? Remember you must NEVER at any time discuss Republican activities for the sake of conversation — if you do it could be fatal to our volunteers

..... or to you! In the circumstances related we do not propose to take action on this occasion against persons named in this statement, over their loose talk, but in all similar circumstances in future ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

This statement also carries a message for the priests in the parish: If they want to save lives they should engage themselves in keeping drunks such as Bernie Morris, who regularly frequents the RUC barracks out of town. We also say to one priest in particular that he should adhere to his ecclesiastical duties rather than involving himself in politics and using the influence of his clerical garb in an intimidatory request to call-off activities in the area.

We note that there are no outpourings of condemnation from hypocritical clergy when our Volunteers are cut down by British gunfire.

We emphasise the IRA has never made statements or phone calls to direct any premises to remain open or closed, in Crossmaglen in the past, as has been recently alleged.

Once again our last word to Crossmaglen Clergy: ACT NOW AND GET THE TOUTS OUT OF CROSSMAGLEN AND YOU WILL SAVE LIVES.

Informers cannot be tolerated in the War of Liberation, the statement concluded.



Alexander Ginsburg



Anatoli Shcharansky

the knowledge of the author, has emanated from the E.E.C. Foreign Ministers on the Amnesty Report. Nor indeed has any prominent member of the NATO embassies to Washington commented either.

Perhaps though Britain's Irish political dissidents are less valuable powers on the international chess board of human rights.

NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS

LAST WEEK a young prisoner from Creggan, Don Bosco Doherty, was so viciously beaten that he was taken to no less than three hospitals for treatment. The cruel treatment of not only this P.O.W. but also that of his family is typical of what P.O.W.s and their families are subjected to almost daily. The sole object is to destroy every last vestige of human dignity and crush the spirit of resistance in the men, their families and sympathisers.

When Bosco Doherty's sister went up to the Kesh to visit him on Friday, she got word that he was in the hospital wing of the camp. The family phoned Saturday, and was told that he was back in his own wing. At no time was the family informed of the reason for him being in hospital. A visit was arranged after a phone call to the Kesh revealed that he was being moved from H-1 to H-2, on Sunday.

In H-2, four screws told Bosco, "Take off your glasses," which he did. The chief tormentor then asked: "What do you call me? What do you call him? And him and him?" he shouted, indicating the other screws. "You call them SIR," the chief screw shouted. Bosco refused: "No way". Immediately he was attacked: a heavy thump on the back of his head, a punch in the stomach, then he was kicked to the ground and with boots and fists was beaten nearly unconscious.

On Monday when his sister

visited him, his face was badly swollen and there were aches and bruises all over his body from the battering he got. On Tuesday his family phoned Long Kesh and was told that he was waiting to go back to the hospital wing.

Worried, the family phoned Mrs. Gallagher of the Derry P.O.W. Welfare Worker. She investigated and reported to the family that he was held in the Royal Victoria Hospital. The family phoned there and was given permission to visit him. Transport was arranged for his mother, father, aunt and his granny who hadn't seen him since his arrest.

At 7.10 pm, the family arrived at the Royal Victoria Hospital and was informed that Bosco had been removed to Musgrave Park Military Hospital at 5.30 pm. The family had not been told of this despite the fact that they have a phone, and didn't leave Derry until 5.45 pm. However, at 6.10 pm a phone call from a Sergeant Hicks was received, informing them of the move. Bosco Doherty's brother told him that the family had already left for Belfast, and at this Sergeant Hicks told them to go ahead, and a visit would be arranged at Musgrave Park.

When the worried family finally got to Musgrave Park, they met with the most deliberately cruel treatment possible. An RUC member, Sergeant Ferguson (No. 3034) stood at the doorway and shouted "there

is no way you are getting in to see him."

A Marine Commando stood by RUC Sergeant Ferguson, with a baton in one hand and a revolver in the other, blocking the doorway to their son's hospital ward. At one stage the family was told bluntly, "You're not getting in. I'm the boss." When the family asked if an allowance could be made for the granny to visit, the RUC sergeant shouted, "No, I'd need a policewoman to search her." The family enquired why this was not possible, but only got Sgt. Ferguson shouting louder, "No, no, you're not getting in, any of you."

"It was as if he wanted my son to hear our anguish and this harsh treatment", said Mrs Doherty later.

At this stage, Sergeant Ferguson shouted, "Get!" and banged the door in the faces of the Doherty family and put a heavy bolt across it. Such vicious treatment not only of Don Bosco Doherty, but of his family is typical of the "break them at any cost" attitude of the Brits, the RUC and the screws.

Only ten days ago four screws, Jamison, Courtenay, Kennedy and Savage beat another young Derryman Pinta McKnight, into a hospital ward for the "crime" of refusing to drink salted water given to him by these screw. Such savagery will surely be remembered.



SPEARHEAD

THE ARTICLE below is a review of 'Suspect' (Episode 1 of the new TV series 'Spearhead'), a supposedly down-to-earth version of life inside the British army. The review is written by Jan Taylor of London Sinn Fein who spent nine years in the British Army from 1961 to 1970.

Episode IV of the series (The Jackal) due to be broadcast on the eve of the seventh anniversary of internment is also about the North of Ireland. Predictably this episode is to be banned from UTV.

Episode 1 - SUSPECT

This first episode of Spearhead, produced by Southern T.V. and networked on Tuesday July 18th was set in the North of Ireland. This series is not a documentary or even a semi-documentary, therefore the facts of real life don't have to be faced. What the producers have done is to create images, distorted images, that bear little resemblance to the real situation. In so doing they have de-politicised the imperialist presence in Ireland and the Republican struggle against it.

The facts about the British presence in Ireland are well documented. The torture, the raids, assaults and cold-blooded murders by uniformed and plain clothes troops have been verified by Amnesty International and the European Court of Human Rights.

The appearance of this programme at this particular time is no accident. The public image, not to mention the morale, of British troops is at its lowest point. So STV has set out to reconstruct the image of good old British Tommy, always in the firing line but bravely battling on, keeping to the rules of the game even when his adversaries don't.

This first episode concerns a stake-out by troops of an isolated farmhouse in South Antrim. A young woman is suspected of being a carrier of bombs for Frank the bomber. That is all we ever get to know about him. The woman speaks but only to British soldiers. She is aggressive and sullen, hardly surprising when troops are ransacking her house. She has no name and there is no relationship with Frank, they are never seen together. Not only is there no relationship between Frank and the woman but they have no relationship with the rest of the community. This is symbolised by the isolated farmhouse. Frank never speaks, we glimpse him once and what little we get to know of him comes only through the mouths of his pursuers.

On the other hand the Brits are shown as individuals, each with his own name and personal identity. They relate to each other (or attempt to, the quality of acting is about one notch above Crossroads) and one even

has his wife with him, to give the inevitable romantic flavour.

All the personnel of a typical Army barracks room are there, the loud mouth Cockney, the aggressive bully, the quiet one and even a black soldier who is protected by his mates from racist jibes, they're the only ones allowed to insult him.

So the images are created, the Brits are the real people, the bombers are superficial, devoid of any personality. The situation is non-political, the bombers could as easily be bank robbers and the troops ordinary policemen just like in 'Kojak' or 'Dixon of Dock Green'.

UNITE FOR POW STATUS

In reality the reverse is nearer the truth. Army training in general and Infantry training in particular is designed to produce a soldier, who is dependent on orders from his "superiors", who doesn't question those orders, who is deprived of his individuality and who becomes one of a squad.

The Irish man or woman planting bombs is part of a mass movement, not isolated from the nationalist community but part of that community. Why they risk their lives to plant bombs is a question that is never answered, indeed the question is never asked.



Johnnie Johnston speaking at the recent commemoration of all those Derry men and women who died for justice and freedom.



A section of the crowd at the recent protest in Derry Centre against H-Block and SAS murders of Irish men & women.



Derry Sinn Fein bring City Centre to stand still over H-Block and SAS murders.



Collecting signatures in Derry for A.L.J. Campaign to abolish Section 12.

DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY

SOLIDARTY

PRISONERS' MARCH — A BIG SUCCESS

ABOUT FIVE thousand demonstrators marched behind the Irish tri-colour through London on July 9th demanding Political Status for Republican prisoners in Ireland and Britain.

The march initiated by the Prisoners Aid Committee was the largest demonstration through London in support of the Irish struggle since Bloody Sunday 1972. Marchers leading the demonstration carried placards with the names of over 80 Republican prisoners in English jails, and banners listing the English gaols the prisoners are being held in.

Attending the march were contingents from Sinn Féin, PAC, International Marxist Group, Big Flame, Workers Revolutionary Party, Socialist Workers Party, United Troops Out Movement, Revolutionary Communist Tendency, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Revolutionary Communist Group and branches of many trades unions.

The parade surrounded by a heavy escort of London police left Hyde Park after being addressed by a number of speakers. They included Jim Reilly of Lutan Sinn Féin, Jacqueline Kaye of Prisoners Aid Committee and other speakers from British Left Wing groups. A statement of support from Sinn Féin Vice-President, Daithi O'Conail, was also read out.

Mid-way through the large procession was a truck with a mock-up cage containing two men wrapped in blankets depicting conditions inside the 'H' Blocks.

An encouraging sign was the number of trade union banners. Among these were A.S.T.M.S. Manchester Central, T.G.W.U. Central London Branch, A.S.T.M.S. Edinburgh, Harringey Trades Council, N.U.J. Book Branch, National Federation of Claimants Union and T.G.W.U. Cowley Assembly Plant. Many other banners from British Left Wing groups were also carried.

The central theme of the speakers addressing the march was one of unity amongst anti-imperialists against British rule in Ireland. This large and impressive display of unity and enthusiasm in defence of the prisoners is a welcome development given the normal passivity of the British Left in the face of the Irish war.

We print below edited extracts from those of the main speeches given by speakers from the PAC, UTOM and RCG.

Extract of speech given by UTOM speaker

'A Mass solidarity movement'

THE PRISONERS and their fate are now the key to what is the struggle for prisoner-of-war status in H-Block, Armagh and Crumlin Road is now the political spearhead of the anti-imperialist struggle. We are now watching the kindling of a fire: one that stands to burn down finally the hell-holes of

Castlereagh, Armagh, Long Kesh and the Crumlin Road. The morale of the anti-imperialist people of the six counties is staked on the prisoners and that morale is at a new height.

"Human Rights" is a phrase on the lips of every carpet bagging politician; from Jimmy

Carter to Jim Callaghan. But none of them want to mention the human rights of Irish political prisoners. For if the Irish prisoners gain P.O.W. status we will be able to write "H-Block" on the political gravestone of Roy Mason and Britain's other butchers in the North.

'A principled campaign'

THE SUFFERINGS of Irish POWs, the tortures they have and continue to endure in the concentration camps and the tombs constructed for them by the British government are a poignant reminder to us of the imprisonment of the whole Irish nation by British imperialism. We asked you to come out on the streets today to support the prisoners politically - by calling for Prisoner of War status and an amnesty for all the prisoners.

There is a great precedent set for us in our demands and in our building a mass campaign on the issue: the precedent set for us by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the last century who through the International Working men's Association were able to mobilise 200,000 people on the streets of England to call for an amnesty for Fenian prisoners. It is this great example that we ask you to try to emulate. We are asking for a principled

Extract of speech given by PAC speaker and disciplined campaign in support of the prisoners.

We believe that the truth about Ireland, the truth about H Block, about the government directed assassinations and torture, about the brutalisation of prisoners in this country, the murders of Michael Gaughan, Proinsias Stagg, Noel Jenkinson and Sean O'Connell are sufficient propaganda to convince all socialists and anti-imperialists in the working class of this country that the time has come to call for an end to the despotism of British rule in Ireland.

The prisoners demand POW status and we support this demand. A war is being fought in Ireland. It is a war of national liberation. We demand that those who have taken up arms against British imperialism be treated as soldiers.



'A WAR OF LIBERATION'

Extract of speech given by RCG speaker

THE BRITISH ruling class understands what is at stake in Ireland - it is British imperialism which is at stake. The British ruling class well understands that if its rule in Ireland is to be maintained it must defeat the national liberation movement led by the Republican movement.

The British ruling class well understands that it must defeat the prisoners struggle for prisoner of war status. And we in the British working class must understand that when we gather to defend Irish prisoners we have also to defend the national liberation movement that those prisoners represent.

This is why the question of the prisoners is not a question of human rights but a question of a war of liberation. Our stand must be resolute, our message clear

and simple, there is a war of liberation in Ireland and we are on one side - the side of the Irish people against the British state.

The prisoners are freedom fighters captured by the British state. We have the duty not only of marching today in their defence but carrying on after today, the fight in the British working class for opposition to British rule in Ireland till we reach the point where thousands and thousands of British workers take up the struggle of the Irish people for national unity and independence. When we have done that we can say that we have defended the Irish prisoners, we can say that we really do support the Irish people.

Then we can say we are socialists.



IN LONDON



WESTMINSTER SPATTERED

BY REALITY

AS CONDITIONS in 'H' Block, Long Kesh, continue to deteriorate members of the United Troops Out Movement (UTOM) and the Irish Political Prisoners Support Group, held three very successful demonstrations in London two weeks ago, (on July 8th).

A taste of reality shattered the British House of Commons when two UTOM members (one a member of the Socialist Workers Party) hurled three bags of horse manure from the gallery onto the area below where M.P.s sit, shouting "what about the conditions in Long Kesh?" "Free Irish Political Prisoners", and "British Troops Out Now".

The bags of manure burst and spattered those M.P.s nearest. A twenty minute adjournment took place, in order to clean up the manure and allow time for the pungent smell to fade.

A statement claimed that: "The demonstration was directed against the

British policy in Northern Ireland and British treatment of Irish Political Prisoners".

The statement continued, "Excrement and urine was thrown from the public gallery at M.P.s sitting below as a reminder of the conditions of the Irish prisoners held in Long

Kesh H-Block who are demanding political prisoner of war status.

"As part of their campaign more than 300 men are on a cleanliness strike. As a result many of now living in cells which are piled high with excrement and alive with fleas, maggots and lice."

The statement concluded that the House of Commons was selected because the present British Government was responsible for the conditions the prisoners were in.

Political prisoners!

SCOTTISH JOURNALIST Donald McCormick of the BBC's 'Tonight' programme when reporting on the dung-throwing incident in the House of Commons said that the people were protesting "over the conditions in which the British Government is holding Political Prisoners in Ireland."

Not "criminals" or "terrorists" but Political Prisoners! That's right Donald!

Disorder in the House

The Honourable gentlemen were seated in the House Quite serene and tranquil, all was quiet as a mouse From somewhere in the Gallery an angry shout there rung And down upon the noble heads showered bags of horse's dung

The jolly chappies scattered like discarded fish and chips Where was British courage and the old stiff upper lips? And good old Brit tradition to the four winds was all flung As they all beat a fast retreat pursued by horse's dung

Oh! such a blow to British pride it stabs one like a dirk Not the like was ever seen since the Gallop from Dunkirk It must go down in history like the works of Mao Tse Tung That the British House of Commons fled from bags of horse's dung

The English papers spread the news, the nation was aghast That honourable M.P.s and such were made to move so fast Like the great Olympic sprinters their praises will be sung How ancient members "broke the clock" gee'd on by horse's dung

The matter was debated and a member said "Of course Mr. Speaker should request a motion from the Horse" The Chief Whip frowned upon him and said, "Please Hold Your Tongue, Old Chap, your talking nothing but a load of horse's dung

Now everyone is screaming that security is lax When H-Block men supporters can slip in behind their backs No one knows how they got in or from where the stuff was brung But an expert vowed as he sniffed and said that's Irish horse's dung

Now this case should be taken to the Court of Human Rights To stop Irish sympathisers from giving M.P.s a fright Permission must be granted to have the culprits hung To protect the Brit from things like — it and nasty horse's dung.

By — Hu Flung Dung (Honourable Chinese Poet)
"Liam"

Buckingham Palace protests

ANOTHER demonstration took place outside Buckingham Palace (on the same day) when four English women actresses sat down in front of the Household Cavalry blocking the changing of the guard. The four women were protesting against the ill-treatment of Irish Political Prisoners in British gaols.

The four women were arrested and charged with "obstructing the Queens highway". When they appeared in court one of the women Miss Charlesworth read a statement from the dock. "We demonstrated because we felt appalled when we became aware of the plight and conditions of Irish prisoners.



ON the same day as the other protests, demonstrators held up the first day of Summer Sales at Selfridges stores in Oxford Street by handing out leaflets explaining the conditions Irish Political Prisoners were being held in, both in Britain and the occupied Six Counties. They also held a token sit-in in the store (pictured above).

POST BAG

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

THREE CROWN MURDERS

Dear Friends,

I sit in a state of mixed emotions, sadness because of the death of another three valiant young Irishmen whom I knew. I think of their bodies, cold and lifeless, wasted after their lives blood is gone.

I think how the English and their imperialist mentality have always had only one answer to Irish patriots, to smash, suppress and kill them.

I think how they failed with internment, how they failed with torturing people and how even today they are failing with Castlereagh and H Blocks, but still the British continue these policies.

I think that maybe genocide is their latest and yet their oldest method — they will fail again.

I think of those often quoted words "It is not those who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will win".

I think that the British don't know and never have known what they are fighting. Even if they did they could not defeat it because of its nature; for it is indestructible.

Three young men dead but their spirit, their driving force



has not expired; it has found its way into the hearts of other young Irishmen and women. It commands those left behind to continue the struggle.

Yes! I sit in sadness because of Jim, Dinny and Jake, but I know their death will not be in vain. They died fighting for an ideal yet unfulfilled.

An Ardoyne Friend

WHERE DOES THE GAA STAND?

A CHARA,
"THE NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION."

"THE ASSOCIATION IS A NATIONAL ORGANISATION WHICH HAS AS ITS BASIC AIM THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY IN A 32-COUNTY IRELAND THROUGH THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF GAELIC GAMES AND PASTIMES."

"THE ASSOCIATION FURTHER SEEKS TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO FOSTER AN AWARENESS AND LOVE OF THE NATIONAL IDEALS IN THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND."

The above is the opening paragraph of the Charter governing the G.A.A. If this is what

the G.A.A. stands for, why then are they silent over the systematic torture and the suffering being endured by over 350 men and women in 'H' block, Long Kesh, Crumlin Rd. and Armagh jails, for something which is theirs by right —

They are fighting for the same basic aims as the G.A.A. but use different methods. If the G.A.A. are really concerned about fostering an awareness and love of national ideals in the people of Ireland why have they ignored these Irish people in their fight? Why have they not used their position of influence to call on the British government to grant political status to these brave Irish men and women?

Surely they must make this call on humanitarian grounds at least?

When Con Murphy, the President of the G.A.A., came to Belfast I wonder did he even spare a thought for the brave Republicans on the blanket protest?

When these people were free many of them took part in G.A.A. activities. Can the G.A.A. not return some of that support?

The Derry board are the only County board in Ulster to call on the British Government to grant political status. There has been a deafening silence from each of the other eight County Boards.

In our own County of Antrim and especially South Antrim the silence on the plight of the prisoners has been almost overwhelming.

Does the County Antrim board think that if they keep their eyes and ears closed long enough this issue will go away? Maybe they are prepared to drag their feet on this issue the same way they did when the Brits took over Casement Park!

All the G.A.A. County boards should waken up and make their voices heard on this issue. If one of these prisoners on the blanket protest should die would these people who have sat back and done nothing still be proud to call themselves Irish?

The G.A.A. can call on the support of thousands of people throughout Ireland. Can this support not be used to help their fellow Irishmen win their just demand for political status. Wake up now before it is too late!!

Is mise le meas,
P.R.O. Robert Emmet/Francis
Liggett Sinn Fein Cumann
St. James, Belfast

Nothing has changed

A Chara,

The following official notification was issued at Belfast on Monday 8th May, 1916:-

"The police, acting under instructions made on Friday last, a large number of domiciliary visits (a nice term for early morning raids) in the city and suburbs of Belfast, and arrested some twenty-six persons who were suspected of being connected with the Sinn Fein movement. These prisoners, together with eight others who had been arrested in County Louth, were sent on to Dublin on Saturday last."

"On Easter Tuesday, 25th April, a party of Belfast police,

numbering 200, left the city by motor transport, and until Saturday morning they had been actively engaged in rounding up about 1,500 rebels in various parts of the country. They affected some 300 arrests, and of these 136 have been sent to Dublin, while 130 are confined elsewhere."

Nothing has changed in Belfast since 1916 the old early morning raids, sorry I mean "domiciliary visits", which were so beloved by the R.I.C. have been kept as part of the Brit/RUC's repressive techniques.

At present the 'Irish News' is actively campaigning for the re-introduction of the R.U.C., while at the same time embarking on a propaganda campaign of vilification against the IRA; preying as it does on the natural humanity of the Irish people. Preferring instead to offer the people only insults and innuendo as a form of enlightened information.

A part of this insidious campaign is to claim that the IRA are not like the men of 1916. All of this campaign revolves around the lack of knowledge of what really happened during the Easter Rising in Ireland. Much has been said about the loss of life over the last nine years of war in North East Ireland, while claiming that in the '16' rising very few lost their lives. Nothing could be further from the truth, in seven days fighting a total of 300 people were killed and one thousand wounded. So much for the low loss of life in the 1916 Rising!

IRA bombing today is merely an extension of the campaign started in the Easter Rising. From 24th April to 1st May, 1916, the men of 1916 burnt, according to Captain Purcell, chief of the Dublin fire brigade, more than £2.5 million worth of buildings; this explodes the myth of their respect for private property. They, the men of '16' had a war to fight, and their enemy is still with us, more than sixty years later. The enemy has not changed since 1916 and the morals, methods and aims of real Republicans have not changed either and let no insidious Brit propagandist tell you otherwise.

A Belfast Republican

From a Scottish Republican

A Charaid,

Reading "Republican News" is like political fiction regarding the goings on by the Brits and their treatment of political prisoners. Yet we know, unhappily that its true. My heart goes out to the brave sons of Ireland and their families.

Although we have a common enemy, the situation in Alba (Scotland) is obviously on a much lower key although there are winds of change blowing in the streets of our cities.

We still are behind the S.N.P. even though they have swallowed the devolution bait but I think every republican knows ultimately that England would refuse even a democratically procured mandate for independence.

But how can we move forward when even the 'Broad left' in this country support the Brit. Labour party at elections! Even the Communists, if they don't have a candidate in the race!

We have a prime example of a political prisoner in Mathew Lyojate (24 years for bank robbery!). Most of the 'Broad left' don't know or don't wish to be concerned with the plight of this unfortunate freedom fighter who was convicted on trumped up evidence.

However, we are at last building on firm ground as Republicans and we continue to support the Irish cause via ex-patriots in this country but I'd like to see our efforts being reciprocated more fully, both in terms of finance and co-ordination.

Finally, the Irish immigrant population are by and large Brit. Labour Party voters and it would help to a certain extent if they could be convinced to change to S.N.P. possibly as a step towards voting Scottish Republican, which would seem a likely step in the near future!

Yours fraternally
Ian Crumach
Scottish Republican Socialist
Clubs (Glasgow).

OSLO SLOGANS



No to the 'Peace People'



'Brits-out'

SOLIDARITY FROM BRITTANY

THE FOLLOWING message of solidarity was sent to 'Republican News' from a group of young Bretons living in Rennes.

"The Irish solidarity collective in Rennes has organised a series of information outings designed to inform the Breton people about the struggle of the political prisoners and the fight of the Irish people against British imperialism."

"By using picture boards, films and leaflets we have covered Rennes population and informed them about the Irish struggle for national liberation."

THE YANKEE CARROT

Le An Seancaide

— PART THREE

AS A result of the frequent toing and froing between Ireland and the U.S.A. by individuals such as John Hume, Garret Fitzgerald, the Cruiser O'Brien, and the 'Peace People', American politicians are gradually taking a pro-Brit stance on the war here. This traffic is of course all one way.

The refusal of travel visas to republicans to attend conferences and dinners etc. guarantees the pro-Brit boot lickers almost a total monopoly to communicate without political opposition.

At the time when Carter is supposedly concerning himself with human rights internationally all this reveals rank hypocrisy on the part of his administration. Carter's recent statement on Ireland ends fifty years of 'official' silence by the White House on Irish affairs, and has committed the U.S. to support power-sharing and an agreement by the Irish Government on any settlement in the north.

The 19th. Century Brit. Empire-builder, Lord Palmerston once wrote: "AMERICA HAS NO FRIENDS ONLY INTERESTS", and if we dig deep enough we soon discover that this 'official' change of heart has more to do with dollars and cents, rather than any genuine concern for the Irish nation and its people's welfare. Let us now consider the economic realities of Carter's apparent concern for Ireland.

Investment by U.S.

companies in both parts of Ireland is now considerable and growing steadily. And it is in order to protect these interests that Carter has thrown the weight of his administration behind power - sharing plans. (For just the same reasons that led the C.I.A. into a strategy which ousted the democratically elected Left-wing President of Chile, Allende, the U.S. will no doubt increase its Central Intelligence Agency personnel here in the months ahead.)

A very radical change has taken place on the part of the U.S.A.'s overseas investment. They have switched from low technology/high labour projects in the Third World to high technology/low labour projects in Europe. The Survey of Current Business Vol. 57, No. 9 shows that the Free State is increasingly attracting a high share of U.S. investment in Europe.

COUNTRY	% INCREASE IN U.S. INVESTMENT 1974 - 76
Free State	77.0%
Denmark	60.9%
W. Germany	37.9%
Italy	22.0%
Belgium & Luxembourg	21.4%
France	15.7%
Netherlands	12.0%
Britain	5.0%

The total U.S. investment in the Free State is 738 Million Dollars which as investment per capita equals 236 Dollars. The reason for so much investment is the comparatively high rate of profit to be gleaned. Two factors are crucial and will continue so in both parts of Ireland in relation to profitability rates. One is the low level of wages and the other is the high degree of state subsidies to industry.

The overall trend by U.S. investment is aimed at

capital intensive industries, which use little labour compared to other industries. Wages in Ireland by European standards are extremely low, and this is a vital factor. Overall the number of jobs created by American investment is limited, as finance is not directed towards fields where high labour intensity is required as the table below shows. It is correct even to argue that, IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES U.S. INVESTMENT EQUALS A RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT. For example, Gallagher's Cigarettes (Belfast) and Du Pont, (Maydown Industrial Estate, Derry) are two recent cases which put the lie to John Hume's and other pundits' claims, who would have us believe that the 'Almighty Dollar' will save us all by taking us to the promised land of fuller employment and prosperity.

CAPITAL INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

Investment in Million Dollars	
Petroleum	114.0
Chemicals	444.0
Other Manufacturing	16.70

LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

Investment in Million Dollars	
Mining & Smelting	1.0
Food	48.0
Metal & Engineering	80.0
Trade & Distribution	33.0
Finance & other services	10.0

(This was the position in 1976 of U.S. Investment)

Finally, the most staggering point, is that American investment is rapidly approaching the level of British investment in the Free State. At the end of 1974 British investment stood at £312 million compared to that from the U.S. of £209.9 Millions. By early 1976 U.S. investment had risen to £270 Million. We will if this trend continues soon be known as "UNCLE SAM'S OTHER ISLAND".

THE ALGERIAN WAR

by
Thomas
Fitzpatrick



THE ALGERIAN war lasted nearly eight years — almost twice as long as the first world war of 1914 - 1918. France's 130 years involvement in Algeria had started with the toppling of the last Bourbon throne, and the war itself was to cause the collapse of the Fourth French Republic itself. It came close to bringing down General de Gaulle and his fifth Republic and - twice - to confronting metropolitan France with the threat of civil war. It was a war of "peace" in that no real declaration of hostilities was ever made. The war itself was horribly savage, it brought death to an estimated on million Muslim Algerians and the expulsion of the same number of European settlers (The Pieds Noirs).

The Algerian war was victorious in defeating French Imperialism, but the monster France created in Algeria the pied noirs (Settlers) resisted to the last minute, Algerian Independence. This culminated in the fanatical horrors perpetrated by the OAS (L'Organisation del Armee Secrete).

This is a story of an heroic and tragic war of liberation. This was shown two weeks ago on a TV programme entitled 'Children of the Revolution'. As was mentioned on this programme it is one thing to start a revolution, it is quite another to achieve victory. But once victory is achieved then the job of re-construction is a monumental task. We in Ireland can and must learn from the Algerian struggle because until British Imperialism and it's allies are defeated in Ireland we cannot start the re-construction of our social, political, and cultural life.

PART ONE — SETIF 1945

Setif was a watershed in Algerian history (just as the 1916 Easter rising was a watershed in Irish History). The market town of Setif situated on a high and treeless plain eighty miles west of the city of Constantine. On the morning of the 8th May 1945 the inhabitants of this largely Muslim town were preparing for a mass march. It was V.E. day; for Europe, the first day of peace following the Nazi capitulation the previous night. Setif was always known for it's radical Arab nationalism. Once the sub-prefect (police chief) of Setif heard about the Arab demonstration, he agreed to let it proceed for after all, were they not nominally celebrating the triumph of the "Mother" country and her allies, they were also to lay a wreath at the war monument in memory of all the Algerian troops who had fallen in the recent conflict. However he did impose a strict ban against the march assuming any political character.

But as soon as the procession had formed up outside, it was clear that the ban had been defied, slogans such as long live a free and independent Algeria appeared, there was also for the first time, the flourishing of the green and white flag, which was

later to become the flag of the FLN liberation movement, the police chief at once ordered the seizure of the banners, the moment the police moved in to do this there was a riot. As a result a number of arab youths were shot dead. For five days rioting continued, the arabs enraged by the police killings took reprisals on the pied noirs (Europeans). The French army were called in to "restore order".

The repression the French army unleashed was savage. Muslim prisoners serving time for petty-crime were dragged from prisons and lunched on the spot by the crazed white European settlers (this was condoned by the French army). At one village alone 219 Arab men women and children were shot out of hand. At Guelma where the European fury reached it's peak, the Algerian Community Party, who had a strong base amongst the European workers, demanded and were well to the fore in the work of organising reprisals against any Arab, they called for the leaders of the demonstration to be put in front of the firing squad.

The French army, navy and air force were used to restore "order". When it was all over there was an estimated 45,000 arabs dead, many as a result of summary executions or by the strafing from planes or the battleships shelling the Muslim quarters from the

harbour. In France the atrocity was played down, yet all this was carried out on the orders from de Gaulle's coalition government, on both scores it is to be noted that the communists ministers shared, in France, responsibility without a murmur.

Setif was the point of no return in Algerian history and things were never to be the same again. The 7th regiment of Algerian Tirailleurs, a unit that had distinguished itself on the battlefields of Europe against the Nazis disembarked shortly after Setif. Many of these men came from Setif, they were utterly appalled by the stories they heard. A number of these returning soldiers were later to become the leaders of the FLN. Among them was a much decorated sergeant, named Ben Billa, he wrote; "The horrors of Setif in May 1945 succeeded in persuading me of the only path: Algeria for the Algerians." Ben Billa was later to become one of the main organisers of the liberation war which began on All Saints Day 1954. After the revolution he became the first president of an Independent Algeria. In effect the shots fired at Setif represented the first volley of the Algerian war. For nine and a half years later France reaped the whirlwind of Setif. The leadership of the future FLN were born out of a bitterness of Setif. (To be continued).



●Brits-Out demo in Edinburgh●

ON THURSDAY 6th of July the Royal Scots Dragoons guards paraded their hardware along Princes St. in Edinburgh to mark the 300th anniversary of their proud part in upholding Britain's imperialist glory about the globe.

Opposition to this event had grown in preceding months and the Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Campaign organised the "July 6th Troops Out Committee", to campaign against Britain's role in Ireland with the support of most of the revolutionary left groups in Edinburgh.

Every vehicle in that parade - Chieftan Tanks, Saracen Armoured Cars, Ferret and Fox

Scot Cars — are strategic vehicles in the British armies repressive role in Ireland.

These were met by a demonstration which gave good voice to the protest against the conditions of Irish political prisoners and the army's murder and torture in Ireland. The slogan "End British Torture, Troops Out Now", echoed down Princes Street to meet the "glorious" military toadies on their menacing metal junk.

Sympathy for this protest was expressed by a surprising number of the people who were watching the parade.

This demonstration followed a month of publicity by the July

6th Troops Out Committee and Irish Solidarity Campaign about the torture of political prisoners and their fight for political status on the blanket in 'H' Block, Long Kesh. A series of leaflets distributed in the Labour Movement, Women's Movement and Students Movement in Edinburgh began the work of fighting the idea that Britain has any right to repress Ireland.

Work will have to be done to make this support real. The repression of Ireland is no longer going to remain a censored subject on the streets of Edinburgh. The Irish Solidarity Campaign in Edinburgh will work closely with the Glasgow Campaign to force these demands into the open.



BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING open letter is being circulated to all Labour Party and trade union branches in the English Midlands.

For more information on this conference please contact:

The Conference Planning Committee, 65 Woodville Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, 14.

Dear Brother/Sister,
We are writing to you to ask whether your organisation would be prepared to sponsor a broadly based Midlands Conference on Northern Ireland, which we are planning for November 11th 1978, to be held in Birmingham.

For many years now British troops have been present in force in Belfast and throughout the six counties, and there is still little sign of any kind of political solution to the problems facing the Catholic and Protestant communities. The nature of those problems and the role of the troops is far from clear in the minds of very many people in the Labour movement and elsewhere, yet there has been very little informed discussion of Northern Ireland in Labour Parties or Trade Unions. This is specially unfortunate in view of the absence of such discussion in the media. One leading television commentator, Jonathan Dimbleby, has gone so far as to say:

"There has not been a serious detailed account of the history of Northern Ireland because it is a delicate political issue...the reason is because the political institutions, BBC, IBA, and the British Government don't wish us to know

about the situation in Ireland."

The November 11th Conference will be an attempt to help break this silence with speakers on the history of Ireland from Partition to the present 'troubles', and on the current situation in the north. It is hoped that several speakers will be from the six counties. We also hope to include a session on the effects of the war in Ireland on the British political situation and the British Labour Movement. We have begun to approach speakers from a broad range of political viewpoints, such as from the NCCL, the Relatives Action Committee, the Better Life for All Campaign, and the Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland.

In order to guarantee a broadly based and representative conference, we are asking you to sponsor this initiative, and participate in the planning committee, where you will be welcome to put forward any ideas that you may have for making this initiative a success. Sponsoring bodies will be notified of the date and time of future planning committee meetings.

Yours fraternally,
Mary Pearson
for the planning committee

London UTOM Protests

THE LONDON united troops out movement has organised a series of demonstrations about 'H' Block at the beginning of July.

At the first protest, four members sat on the pavement just outside the busy Shepherd's Bush market, 1,000 leaflets were distributed and speakers linked up the struggle of the Irish people with that of black people and highlighted how soldiers after serving in Belfast are recruited as mercenaries to fight against liberation fighters in Zimbabwe. This protest was lively and many 'H' Block posters were sold.

On 17/7/78 West London UTOM organised another protest in Southall (a predominantly Asian area). The Irish struggle was explained as a colonial war (Asian people of course understand this immediately) and links between the National Front and Loyalists were

CENSORSHIP AT THE BBC

THE ARTICLE which we print below appeared on the front page of the July issue of the British trade union paper 'Film and Television Technician' (journal of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and allied Technicians.) The article highlights the continuing censorship operated by the BBC toeing the Mason-line. However LIMITED and TIMID such English trade union opposition to Brit rule here is, it is most definitely welcome.

"Once again the issue of censorship in television programmes on Northern Ireland has come to the surface. Colin Thomas, a documentary director and a member of both the ABAS and the ACTT, has resigned from the BBC over what he believes to be censorship of the two Northern Ireland programmes in which he was involved - one on a village called Ballintoy on the North Antrim coast and the other on the city of Londonderry (the latter has now the title *The City on the Border*).

In his letter of resignation, Colin Thomas referred to the process of censorship and said 'In the case of the Ballintoy film the process has been blatant BBC senior management in Belfast have decided that my impression of the village of Ballintoy is not theirs and that therefore the film I made should not be transmitted without substantial changes. In the Derry film the process has been more subtle - there has been a process of gradual compromise (which in the early stages I was myself a party to) ending up with a film which in my view overlooks a substantial body of opinion in that city.

Why I resign

I do not wish to be party to censorship, whether it is exercised by senior management or by myself, and it is for that reason that I wish to resign."

On June 7th a joint ABAS/ACTT meeting was held at the Bush Hotel, Shepherds Bush. After considerable discussion which was not confined to the issue of the Ballintoy and Londonderry films, the following motions were passed:

1) That this joint meeting of ACTT/ABAS is concerned about evidence of increasing

and unreasonable censorship within the BBC and calls upon the N.E.C. of both Unions as a matter of urgency to set up a joint committee to monitor possible censorship and to produce a formula with the BBC to enable the Unions and management to have formal discussions on what is considered to be censorship.

Programme maker

2) That this joint ABAS/ACTT meeting deeply regrets the fact that Colin Thomas has resigned from the BBC. We recognise his integrity as a programme maker and support his stand on the principles involved.

We further demand that no subsequent victimisation of Colin Thomas shall take place after his resignation has taken effect, and call upon the NEC of both Unions to ensure that he is not denied the opportunity to make programmes for the BBC in the future.

Protect and support

It also calls upon both NEC to consider what steps should in future be taken to protect and support individuals whose programmes the BBC wishes to cut or substantially alter or suppress and to prevent further resignations of this sort becoming necessary.

3) That this joint meeting deplores the actions of the BBC in controlling the transmission of open information about Northern Ireland.

4) That this joint meeting of ACTT/ABAS requests the NEC to black the film about Ballintoy - *A Bridge of Sorts* if it is altered against the wishes of the director. The NEC are also requested to seek a viewing of the original film by union representatives."



pointed to by the four speakers, 1,000 leaflets distributed.

On 27/7/78 North West London UTOM organised a blanket protest at the Gaelic Games in Roundwood Park, Willesden. Thousands of people were there and a blanket protest was set up outside the Holidays in Ireland tent. The stewards at first said it was not allowed but mutterings in the gathered crowd persuaded them not to pursue this further. The protest

continued for 2½ hours and 4 people sat in blankets. There was always a crowd of probably more than 100 people around at any one time and speakers from UTOM, PAC and Sinn Féin spoke about conditions in 'H' Block to an attentive crowd who were upset at what they heard. Literature taken was sold quickly. People were urged to come on the demo on the 9th July past."

Republican protests in English gaols



A SERIES of token hunger-strikes and roof top protests were carried out in six English gaols on Friday July 7th. The gaols were Albany, Long Lartin, Parkhurst, Wormwood Scrubs, Gartree and Wakefield. Over 80 Irish political prisoners were involved in the protests.

Alistar Logan, a Guildford Solicitor, who campaigns on behalf of Irish political prisoners in England informed the meeting that of the 40 cases before the European Commission on Human Rights claiming brutality in English prisons one has been accepted, that of Sean Campbell, serving 10 years in Long Lartin Prison, and another four cases were being seriously considered.

Among the prisoners

protesting on the roof of Gartree prison were Martin Brady, Paul Holmes, Phil Sheridan, Gerry Mealey, Ronnie McCartney, Eddie O'Neil and Paul Hill. The protesters spent 52 hours on the roof, during which they sang Republican songs and chanted support slogans for their comrades in the 'H' Blocks, Crumlin and Armagh.

At a press conference given by the Irish Political Prisoners Support Group on

the same day, in the House of Commons, Labour M.P. Joan Maynard said that the prisoners took the action to highlight their demands for humane visiting conditions, political status and the right to serve their sentences in Ireland.

Joan Maynard also told reporters that Irish prisoners in English gaols were subjected to discrimination, brutality and solitary confinement.



GARTREE PROTEST

THE ROOF-TOP sit-in by eight Republican prisoners at Gartree maximum security prison, Leicestershire, ended after 52 hours.

The eight men, who climbed on to the roof of the kitchen block on Friday morning, were demanding political prisoner status and a transfer to Ireland to serve the rest of their sentences.

Their protest coincided with

the big London demonstration which also demanded full visiting rights, without harassment for relatives of prisoners.

Reporters, photographers, police, and many sight-seers saw the men wave their Republican flag and shout down their political demands.

It was a wet and windy start to the protest and the men sheltered from the fine rain

under a large red blanket. Later on Saturday they managed to climb down into one of the kitchen block lofts and leave their heads and banners just visible from the outside.

They were out again on Sunday as the weather broke and — as the London demonstration came to an end — they went quietly back to their cells.



From Long Lartin to Wakefield

VINCENT DONNELLY (Tyrone) serving life imprisonment, went on hunger-strike on 19th May because of an illness to which he felt no real treatment was being given. He had demanded proper medical treatment which included x-rays. This was refused, as was his daily milk which had been prescribed by the prison doctor.

Because of his determination to get treatment and to establish the cause and nature of illness, Donnelly was transferred from Long Lartin on 4th June to Wakefield prison. A very long journey for him in his poor state of health, and under the conditions in which he had to travel.

The particular prison he was headed for was not intended as a convalescent trip; there is no doubt that Wakefield and its regime has a deserved reputation for viciousness, especially to Irish P.O.W's and their visitors. It is no coincidence that

Proinsias Stagg died (was murdered on 12th February, 1976), in Wakefield prison. Stagg, like Donnelly, was transferred from Long Lartin prison following a hunger-strike because of his refusal to work. Stagg was not long in Wakefield before he was ordered again to work (despite previous assurances given at Long Lartin that he would not be asked to work again. Like always, Stagg would not work, and like previous punishment finished up in solitary confinement.

During his time in prison he spent most of it in solitary confinement, deliberately calculated to break his spirit. Stagg died a Republican, demanding his rights as a political prisoner, in one of England's well-known "hell-holes".

Could this despicable treatment of Donnelly be another attempt to murder yet again by the same regime?

AMERICAN STREET PROTEST



PROTEST PARADE — Members of the Irish National Caucus of New Jersey march in solidarity with the blanket men.

ON Saturday June 24, a Human Rights for Ireland Demonstration was held outside the White House in Washington, D.C.

The Metro (Maryland) Irish National Caucus, along with Irish Nor. Aid organised this very successful demonstration. This was the second large turnout in the U.S.A. expressing concern for deteriorating conditions of Human Rights in Ireland. The first such demonstration was held in Elizabeth New Jersey, on April 24th, where a parade was led by the Mayor of Elizabeth Tom Dunn. The parade was followed by a Rosary recited in Irish for the men on the blanket. Much valuable publicity resulted.

The Washington demonstration was well attended despite many supporters participating in the A.O.H. Convention in Killarney. A bus load from Nor. Aid units in the New York area ensured more regional coverage. The rally swelled by passers by who, upon understanding the value of the demonstration, joined in.

Speakers were Mathew Hannon, Metro I.N.C., and Bill Kelly, Div. II A.O.H. New York. Credit must go to Mary Baggesly, Northern Aid D.C., for having done so much to ensure the success of this demonstration. Jack O'Brien also of Northern Aid has left all of us feeling secure with the knowledge that all is well with the "Cause" in D.C.

Presently plans are shaping up for a nationwide demonstration in the Autumn



RAC PLANS



AT THE second indoor meeting held in County Antrim on Sunday 16th July, two dozen Relatives Action Committees from all over the Six Counties discussed the organising of demonstrations on a Six County basis to step up the campaign to win back political status.

The first proposed activity was the staging of a 24 hour token hunger-strike by the relatives and friends of the protesting prisoners. It was pointed out that this activity should take place at venues all over the Six Counties beginning at 11.00a.m. on July 29th and end the following day at 11.00 a.m.

A Belfast delegate informed the meeting that the idea of the token strike originated from the hunger strike by Chilean exiles in Britain and elsewhere protesting about the torture of their imprisoned relatives. Initially, some delegates expressed the view that this type of activity was ineffective and would receive little or no press or T.V. coverage.

A delegate from Derry outlined the events at a similar protest held in Derry's town centre by 50-60 people and the necessity to co-ordinate activity on a Six County basis to show the widespread support the prisoners enjoyed.

A delegate from Tyrone Central

RAC pointed out that the proposed action was worthwhile but he felt that where possible towns in the 26 Counties should also stage a 24 hour hunger-strike and sympathetic groups in Britain should do the same.

A delegate from Trade Union Campaign Against Repression (TUCAR) informed the meeting that his organisation would partake in the demos. He also supported the suggestion that token-strikes take place in Britain especially outside British Government buildings, like the British House of Commons. After some further discussion the meeting agreed to stage 24 hour token-hunger-strikes in towns, villages, throughout the 6, 26 Counties and Britain on the 29 - 30th July. The meeting then went on to discuss the organisation of the mass demonstration marking the 10th Anniversary of the first civil rights march from Coalisland to Dungannon, on August 20th.

The discussion was opened by a Tyrone delegate who proposed that another meeting be held on the 10th August in Coalisland to finalise all the necessary details for the mass demonstration. He also informed the meeting that Tyrone Central RAC would produce 30,000 leaflets for the march.

Some controversy arose when the Tyrone delegate informed the meeting that a speaker from the Irish Independence Party would be speaking at the March on August 20th. The body of the hall impressed upon the Tyrone delegation the necessity to invite speakers from those organisations who had prisoners protesting for political status and those groups who not only supported the prisoners demands but also unequivocally supported the struggle for national independence. The Tyrone delegates agreed to review the platform speakers.

Some discussion then took place among the delegates about the demands of the August 20th march. Most people felt that the march's central theme should be the political status demand placing it firmly within the context of the national liberation struggle. It was also agreed to carry the individual names and the length of sentence of each prisoner at the demonstration along with banners and placards demanding P.O.W. status.

The meeting concluded with an appeal from the chair to the delegates to work harder than ever before for the protests on 29th - 30th July but especially for the August 20th march to make it a huge success.

IN MEMORIAM

Hightstead (2nd Anniversary)
Memories today and always of Derek, died 16th July, 1976. Always remembered by Brendan and Frances Magill and family. Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

Hightstead (2nd Anniversary)
In memory of our good friend Derek who died so tragically on the 16th July, 1976. Some may forget you Now you are gone But we will always Remember you, Derek No matter how long Simple words but very true Always remembered by Derek Hightstead Cumann, Cricklewood, London.

Jordan and Finucane
In proud and loving memory of Vols. Jordan and Finucane killed on active service. Many Queen of Gaels, pray for them. Always remembered by Big Seamus, Micky, all the boys of Lenadon and comrades in the H-Blocks.

Dougan (6th Anniversary)
In proud memory of Volunteer Julie Dougan (Portadown) who died on the 8th July, 1972, (result of a car crash) whilst on active service.

Remembered always by the Republican Movement, North Armagh, comprising of Oglagh na hEireann, Na Fianna Eireann, Sinn Fein, National Graves Assoc. and Republican Political Prisoners. Lay her away on the hillside Along with the brave and the bold Inscribe her name on the roll of fame In letters of purest gold.

Carr, Crowley, Loughran (5th Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of our dear comrades, Paddy, Sean and Dermot who died on active service 25th June, 1973. "He who died for Ireland lives".

Inserted by their comrades: The Staff Officers and Vols, East Tyrone Brigade; the Officers and Volunteers of the 1st, 2nd/3rd Battalions, East Tyrone Brigade; 1st Battalion Na Fianna Eireann; 1st Battalion Cumann gCailini; East Tyrone Sinn Fein; and South Tyrone Sinn Fein.

H-BLOCK PROTESTS

DUBLIN: Organised by Dublin Sinn Fein. Leaving Stephen's Green at 3.00p.m. 22nd July. Support the Prisoners

BELFAST: AND SIX COUNTY AREA 24 hour token hunger strike on 29th July at 11.00 a.m. Ends 30th July. Belfast venue Dunville Park. All relatives of prisoners asked to attend. J.

BELFAST: Joint RAC/Sinn Fein rally on August 6th (Internment-day protest) Solidarity with Blanket Prisoners, Brits out.

TYRONE: Mass demo. 10th anniversary of the first Civil Rights march from Coalisland to Dungannon 20th August, 1978. Demand Political Status. Watch out for transport arrangements. Organised by RACs from all over the Six Counties. Supported by Republican Movement and IRSP. All anti-internment groups welcome.

Demand PoW status

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Wilson, Padric Conor, P.O.W. H 4 Block, 'C' Wing, Long Kesh

Happy 19th Birthday to our son and brother. 8 months "on the blanket".

All our love. Mother and Father, Brothers, Gearoid, Cormac, Pol. Sister, Fiona. Also Margaret, Sean, Mairead, Aunt Kate and Granny and all the family.

We may have brave men but we'll never have better. U.T.P.

Loughran (H.5. Block) Greetings to our son, Paddy, on his 20th birthday. (20th July) Keep your chin up son. God bless you all.

Mum, Dad and all the family, also Ann and Grainne.

Roger Casement

MURLOUGH BAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6,

BUSES WILL BE LEAVING DUNVILLE PARK FOR THIS COMMEMORATION

12.00 NOON

ALL INTERESTED PEOPLE SHOULD CONTACT SINN FEIN, 85 B FALLS ROAD BELFAST

