

STOP PRESS

POBLACHT NA h-EIREANN.

WAR NEWS No. 6.

SUNDAY, JULY 2

Seventh Year of the Republic

PRICE THREEPENCE

THE FIGHT GOES ON LATEST INTELLIGENCE—Official

The Republican forces operating in Dublin have been reinforced with both men and material.

For military reasons no further information can be given on this subject at the present time.

I.R.A. Prisoners Treated as Criminals

DESPATCH FROM COMDT.-GEN. LIAM MELLOWES.

Mountjoy Criminal Prison,
11 p.m., 30/6/22.

At 9 p.m. to-night 50 prisoners of the Irish Republican Army were brought under heavy escort to Mountjoy Criminal Prison. On arrival there they demanded, through the Chief of Staff, Comdt.-Gen. Joseph McKelvey, that they be treated as prisoners of war. To this demand the officer in charge of the prison garrison troops of the so-called Provisional Government replied that the orders issued him by his superior, Gen. O'Duffy, were that no concessions were to be granted—that is, that they would be treated as criminals. Comdt.-Gen. McKelvey, speaking on behalf of the Republican prisoners, then stated that they would refuse to enter the cells, and that they would have to be carried there by force.

After further parley, the O/C. in charge of the prison garrison, decided not to use force to put into effect his orders. The latest development of the situation is that at the moment of writing, 11 p.m., the orders issued to the O.C. of the prison are:—That the Republican prisoners are to enter the cells without any conditions being agreed to beforehand. Failing acquiescence to these terms the prisoners are to lie on the grass all night with machine guns trained on them. If the prisoners move about or attempt to escape they are to be shot. The prisoners have accepted the alternative, and many of them are asleep on the grass. The soldiers of the Army of the Irish Republic now incarcerated in Mountjoy Prison recognise only the authority of the Government of the Republic they fought to establish, and during the last few days they sacrificed all and suffered to maintain. Here in this spot, sacred to the memory of Kevin Barry and other martyrs of the Republic, they deny the authority of any usurping Government that recognises the right of the British King in Ireland. With this principle clearly defined they are prepared to carry on the fight for the Republic inside the jail.

(Signed) LIAM MELLOWES

Comdt.-Gen., I.R.A., Camp. Adjutant.

LATER.

At midnight, June 30th-July 1st, the prisoners were forcibly removed by the Civic Guard in uniform, 4 men to each prisoner, and dragged into cells.

"CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY"

FALSE PROPAGANDA OF THE FREE STATE.

In a Proclamation issued on the 30th the Provisional Government said:

"We ask no man or woman to yield up any ideal or principle. Liberty will be secured to all under constitutional guarantees, but it will be constitutional liberty."

This is barefaced deception, meant to deceive the Irish people and the world. We Republicans are told that we need not to give up our Republican ideal, but we are to achieve it constitutionally, under a system of constitutional guarantees.

The first answer to that is that the Republic is not an ideal. It is a living fact, whose existence up to the moment even Free Staters have admitted by acknowledging the authority of Dail Eireann, the Parliament of the Republic. They are destroying the Republic. We are upholding it.

The second answer is to point to the Free State Constitution, dictated at the point of the bayonet by Lloyd George and Churchill. Every loophole for the achievement of national independence is closed by this shameful document.

Republicans are made outlaws under this so-called "Constitution."

Republicans cannot swear an oath of allegiance to the King of England.

They cannot elect members to a Parliament of which the English King is a part, and whose members will swear that serve oath.

They cannot recognise the authority of such a Parliament or the validity of its laws, which have to receive the assent of the English King.

They cannot accept the authority of an Executive whose head is the English King.

They cannot accept the authority of a Governor planted in Ireland as the King's Deputy to appoint Irish Ministers and Judges; veto, if it pleases, Irish Acts, and control Irish administration.

Republicans cannot do these things.

How, then, are they to work constitutionally for the Republic? They cannot do so. However few or many they are, they cannot do so.

The Treaty and the Constitution compel all honest Republicans to deny and defy the authority of any Free State Government, and to give obedience and allegiance solely to the living and indestructible liberty.

Prisoner Shot in Mountjoy

At 5.10 p.m. at Mountjoy Prison to-day three shots were fired. Immediately afterwards some of the Republican prisoners shouted to their friends that one of their comrades was shot at and wounded by a warder. A doctor arrived, but no information was given to the people.

Several persons witnessed above, and heard the prisoners shout to people outside. Prisoners withdrawn from windows.

LATER.

Prisoner was shot by a Free State soldier, not by a warder.

THE WEST'S AWAKE

Galway Free State troops have sent a despatch to the Free State G.H.Q. appealing for reinforcements, as they are being strongly pressed by our troops and cannot hold out much longer. The West's Awake!

ESCAPED PRISONERS

Of the prisoners who escaped from Jameson's two are—Comdt.-Gen. Ernest O'Maille, and Comdt.-Gen. Joseph Griffen, both Staff Officers of the Republican Army Executive.

FOUR COURTS NOTES

BY AN ESCAPED PRISONER.

The Free State Press contains reports of the shooting by the "irregulars" at Red Cross officials. This is untrue.

On the other hand, a continuous fire was kept up on the hospital in the Four Courts.

Comdt. Daly, on this being pointed out to him, refused to remedy the matter, and the firing at the hospital continued. It was necessary on this account to transfer all the hospital staff under fire.

The firing upon a Red Cross medical officer while carrying in a wounded Republican soldier has already been reported.

Men fighting for the Republic were attacked at the Four Courts by some of those who fought with them for the Republic in the Custom House last year. The defenders of the Four Courts were fighting for the same cause. Their assailants took the place of the British.

The position of the men in the Four Courts at the time of the surrender was a hopeless one. They had retired to the last available quarters, the rest of the building having been blown in.

Shells then played on these quarters, while the only point of retreat was covered by armoured cars and machine gun emplacements.

Free State officers expressed the belief that in such a retreat not a man could escape.

The men marched out with their heads up, not with their hands up, as stated in the daily Press.

During the fighting Comdt.-General O'Connell, of the Free State Army, was given the best possible treatment. As each position in which he was held became dangerous he was transferred to the next safest position. After three hours of the siege General O'Connell expressed his amazement that the Republican troops had not already surrendered and that the place had not been taken.

After the last position became untenable and when the Republican soldiers were removed to the premises of Messrs. Jameson and Sons, Bow Lane, Comdt. Ernie O'Malley, Comdt. Joseph Griffen, and other Republican officers and men succeeded in effecting their escape.

One of the Free State officers guarding the prisoners was a man whom Comdt. Paedra O'Donnell rescued from gaol.

TOO SOON TO EXULT!

Mr. Churchill, speaking in London on the Irish situation last night (Friday), said it was far too soon for them to raise their voices in exultation.

He knows the Irish Republic still lives.

They cannot exult until Griffith and Collins have delivered the goods.

The soldiers of the Irish Republic will see to it that this act of treachery will never be consummated.