

MISTREACH

CAGE 18

SENTENCED REPUBLICAN PRISONERS
LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP

UIMHIR 10

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MAY '74



Teddy Campbell

: BELFAST RIOTS 1935 ---- THE REASON WHY :

These riots of 1935 had their roots, like all other outbreaks of sectarian violence, deep in the religious and political divisions of the Six Counties. Other immediate causes in 1935 were the economic depression of those years and the activities of an organisation called the Ulster Protestant League. Some working class leaders who were involved in the movements of the early thirties might say that the disturbances were simply the Unionist ruling class's reaction to the working class unity that was created during the out-door relief demonstration of 1932. In the Autumn of 1932, Shankill Road and Falls, Ballymacarret and the Markets, Protestants and Catholics in many parts of Belfast, joined in a wide-spread demand for basic working-class rights, among them the right to a minimum standard of living and an income that would at least protect them from starvation. But when these working people demonstrated, under the leadership of men like the late Tom Geehan of Ardoyne, the British Army, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the B Special Constabulary were ordered out to stop them. In October 1932 two demonstrators were shot dead in the streets of Belfast West. The unemployed nonetheless won their demands. Their allowances from relief were improved. The Board of Poor Law Guardians which they saw as the source of all their trouble was abolished. But the Unionist politicians realised, as they had realised earlier during Larkins' famous Belfast strike in 1907 and again during the industrial movement in 1919, that a united working class was the greatest threat to their power. They planned once again to exploit the religious and political differences between the Catholics and the Protestants. By 1933 the forces of sectarian reaction were well mobilised. The Ulster Protestant League intensified its activities especially when the Eucharistic Congress of 1933 brought all Catholic Ireland together in one national manifestation of faith. In Belfast, largely because of pressure from the UPL, permission for the Catholic Truth Society to hold a Eucharistic Congress Exhibition in the Ulster Hall was refused by the Belfast Corporation. The UPL had been formed in 1931, at the beginning of the great depression. It had three aims: to protect the employment of 'loyalists'; to harass and persecute Catholics; and, when Hitler came to power in 1933, to promote the principles of Nazism on the awful assumption that somehow Hitler was the champion of Protestantism against Communism and the Pope. Among the prominent members of the UPL in those days was a woman named Harnett, a Councillor Cleland, and a half-crazed barber who lived in East Belfast. But the principles of the UPL were merely the reiteration of the anti-Catholicism being preached by Government leaders like Craigavon, the Stormont Prime Minister, and many of his ministers. The UPL, following the lead of the Unionist politicians whipped up the worst feelings of the vulgar Protestant working class and when St. Anthony's Catholic Church was opened in the Willowfield district of East Belfast in 1935 they organised mass sectarian demonstrations during which they carried insulting and blasphemous placards. York Street however was the centre of the 1935 disturbances. An inoffensive Catholic man was shot dead in 1934 as he was pushing his barrow along the street. About the same time, Andrew Mc Comb, a cripple lad of whose father had died of war wounds in 1919, was killed when a mob of Protestants invaded the street where he lived and hurled a block of concrete through the window of his house. The disturbances continued intermittently with isolated Catholics being threatened and evicted in Protestants districts. They reached a climax during the Orange demonstrations in May, June and July 1935. Dawson Bates, who was then Stormont's Minister of Home Affairs, tried to curb the Orange marches by imposing a ban, but he quickly changed his mind when told to do so by the leaders of the Orange Order. During that Summer 430 Catholic houses were wrecked by the Protestants mobs; Catholic families were forced under threats to leave their homes, 12 people were killed, many others were wounded or beaten insensible in the streets by hostile mobs. The Protestants were incited to these acts of violence by Unionist politicians, one of whom actually said, during a murder trial in Belfast, that the victim was 'a publican and a Roman Catholic and was therefore liable to assassination'. Another told a meeting of Loyalists in Belfast's Ulster Hall that if it cost a million pounds to get rid of the fenians -- by which he meant Catholics -- it would be well worth it. Unionists like Hugh Minford of Antrim and James Little, a clergyman who ministered to a Presbyterian congregation at Castlereagh near Belfast, endlessly incited the Protestants to hate the Catholics. "There are only two classes in Northern Ireland," said Minford, "The loyal and the disloyal. The loyal are the Orangemen. The disloyal people are Socialists, Communists and Roman Catholics."

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- the Workers Council to have a general directive to reorganise production to meet the needs of the people, determining the actual products, the method of production and the implementation of a principle of production for need not for profit.

POSSIBILITY:

None of the experiments in control from the bottom upwards of an industry, a factory, or the whole of society have lasted for any great length of time. The reasons for this are various, and should be the subject of another article. What the experiences of workers' councils have started to demonstrate is the possibility of a different order, the possibility of making work that is unavoidable, more interesting and enjoyable. The workers have it in their power to build a society where life is worth living, not a round of clock punching, boredom and insanity.

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: AROUND THE HUTS IN CAGE "18" :

: EARLY RELEASE :

With the advent of the Loyalist strike we have seen the introduction of fires in the cage. As the lads gather round them to heat their meat etc... there is usually an amount of slagging. On Friday night the most hilarious moment of the week occurred. It seems that **DOMINIC** (the fella with 4 months to do) **DRUMM** had a small Steak and Kidney pie on the fire and it was really well done and all the lads were waiting on him to come and collect it. When he did arrive a cheer went up and as he lifted it off and made to leave, **BILLY** (the celebrated Blue) **KELLY** was heard to say, "Hurry up and eat that pie or you may be released before you finish it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"NUFF SAID!!

: FOOTBALL :

We would like all the lads in the cage to give a big cheer to **MATT KELLY**, who on Friday, set up a world record for a goal keeper. A truly tremendous achievement in his first match, **MATT** let in 18 goals!!!!!! Now if thats not bad enough, we go even further, he let in 11 goals for one side in the first half and at half time they (wisely) got rid of him, and in the second half he let in 7 goals for the other side!!!!!! **Fantastic!!** Comment from **MATT** after the match, "I wasn't really trying!!" That definately must be the understatement of the year!! Well done **MATT** and by the way---- YOUR DROPPED!!!!!!

: BARBARIANS :

We came across a rather 'nourishing' story the other day. It appears that 4 (for the moment, nameless) fellas were walking around the yard a few days ago and one suggested that nothing was impossible. The youngest member of the group argued that there were things which he deemed impossible. He put forward the idea that it was impossible to eat this cage!!! "Nonsense" was the reply, The other 3 fellas said, "We could eat this cage and everyone in it and digest it and ----- it in approx. 24 hours!!!" Amidst the outburst of laughter that followed this statement the amazed and absolutely flabbergasted 4th member of the group asked "How", "What way??" The answer which the other 3 members of the group gave him was this "We will eat hundreds of oranges so that they build up the acid in our stomachs and then we will be prepared to take on the task of eating the cage and everyone in it!!!" Then the most interesting moment came when one of the men involved said to the, by then bewildered, youth, go around and see the O.C. and ask him for his permission for us to begin and we will start by eating you!!!! At this the youth fainted!! Now I'm sure everyone in the cage would like to know the names of these 'Man-Eaters' - -- just in case you bump into them one night. Under pressure we print these names.....
.....THESE MEN ARE DANGEROUS.....
.....Stand up.....**JOE DONNELLY.....KEVIN TRAINOR.....BILLY (FUZZ) DALY.....!!!**

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT FOR JOEY SURGENOR!!!

A certain good looking fella from the gaeltact will soon be getting married to a girl in Armagh. We wish him all the best. Is that O.K. **JOEY**. Now don't be asking me to give you a mention again!!!

: WORKERS' COUNCILS ----- ALTERNATIVE TO PARLIAMENTS :

COMPLICATED:

To anyone who starts to talk in terms of workers' control, it is often objected that modern society, and the modern state, are so complicated that they cannot be run effectively by the workers, from the base. Such objections are usually founded on the idea that power must always be concentrated in a few hands. Nobody would deny that society is very complicated. But technological advance has also produced machinery to make decision making and planning easier, and to do away with a lot of unnecessary work -- for example, the computer. Most people associate the computer with massive, anonymous, bureaucratic organisations; but under workers' control, and if the profit motive was no longer determining, it could be 'liberated'. It could become an essential instrument of planning in a worker managed society. Computers could evaluate the likely effects of different decisions and proposals put forward by different groups-- at least those of a technical kind. Programmed with the knowledge of an industry or a group of industries it could balance changes in one sector with changes in another.

EXPERTS:

The final arbiter, however, on decisions affecting the lives and everyday existence of the working people must be the workers themselves through their representative bodies. Socialists strive to keep this idea present at all times: they aim to explain how the question of power and control are posed even in the day-to-day struggles of workers under capitalism. They oppose the idea that a few 'experts' -- whether economists, teachers, technicians or sociologists -- should take decisions 'on our behalf'. Modern capitalism is infested with the experts and specialists who are presented as if they have all the answers. Education and other influences aim to discipline us into accepting without question the decisions of authorities.

CONFIDENCE:

Obviously some people will get more pleasure from, and will be better at, certain jobs than others; some specialisation is inevitable. But there is no reason why this should be a basis for privilege; these people can help others understand problems facing society, and help towards the democratic solution of those problems. At present we find that many workers lack the confidence to insist that they can, and do, acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to a whole range of work and political activities. They are trained to accept the rule of the few. Yet, in many different and small ways, everyday experience can lead workers to discover their own power. How many times have we had to listen to the boss telling us how to do the job and making it abundantly clear that he doesn't have the first idea of the problems involved! Most of us tend to prefer an easy life and say: OK, and then go straight ahead and do it as we always have done it. If we start to relate that kind of experience to the whole of society, we can see how many wrongheaded assumptions we make about the political and economic power. The sum total of working class experience is infinitely more than the knowledge of any 'experts'. It is the working class which has built the world as we know it -- not experts and leaders. It is the working class which can change ~~xxxxxx~~ a situation where a tiny minority have effective control of the whole of society.

DEMANDS:

If we build a truly democratic society, a society controlled from grass roots by the workers' own organisations, we will be able to build our society in the way we want, not the way the bosses want. These are a few of the demands which workers have made in the past through Workers' Councils:

- introduction of a maximum and minimum wage leading on to equal wages and eventually the complete abolition of the wages system;
- delegates to the Workers' Councils to remain at their jobs, or if this is not practical all the Council members to receive no more than the average wage for other workers;
- the General Assembly of all workers being the highest decision-making body for the factory as a whole to amend, reject, refer back or endorse all but the most routine decisions of the Workers Council;

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: FREEDOMS' LIGHT :

For two minutes silence, I stood today,
And the tears did fill my eyes.
'Twas in the memory of Teddy Campbell,
For now in a martyrs grave he lies.

And as I stood there, I thought
Of Cage 6, a year and a half ago,
When Teddy Campbell stood unafraid,
Against the might of the British foe.

The boots and fists, that night did fly,
The batons split many a head,
For Ireland, in Cage 6 that night,
Teddy Campbell bled.

Afterwards in the hut,
His body black and blue,
He went from bed to bed,
To see what he could do.

His courage gave us strength,
That fierce and savage night,
And the words that Teddy spoke,
I'll remember all my life.

The beating you received tonight,
Bear the pain and scars with pride,
You've suffered for the very cause,
That countless thousands died.

Like Frankie Dodds before him,
Teddy never recovered from that night,
But he will live forever in our minds,
And in Freedoms' Golden Light.

It was many years ago,
Teddy answered Ireland's call,
Today we paid a sad farewell,
To a soldier who gave his all.

: SEOIRSE MAC SIOSTA :

" TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE, NO EXPLANATION IS NECESSARY, TO THOSE
WHO DO NOT BELIEVE, NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE."

: BIOGRAPHY OF FIDEL CASTRO RUZ :

Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz was born on the 13th of August 1927, in the district of Biran, Mayari, in Oriente Province, son of Lina Ruz Gonzalez and Agel Castro Argiz.

He began his primary education in the state school of Biran. At seven years of age he was sent as a boarder in the La Salle School, in Santiago de Cuba, after which he went to the Jesuit Dolores College in the same town, where he concluded his elementary education and began his advanced studies. He completed his secondary education in 1945 at Belen College in Havana where he was a resident student, showing proficiency in the Arts subjects after which he went to the University, where he graduated in Law.

At Havana University he became popular in the student movement and took an active part in the student struggle of that time.

When the Military coup by Fulgenci Batista took place on the 19th of March 1952, he presented a statement before the Law Court denouncing this action and soliciting its sanction.

He organised and carried out, at the head of 95 young people, the assault on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba on the 26th of July 1953.

In the trial of those who took part in the assault, which was held on the 16th October 1953, he took on his own defence, delivering the famous speech, "History will absolve me", where he put forward the political, economic and social programme which guided the subsequent Movement of the 26th July.

As a result of the extraordinary popular mobilization he was granted an amnesty after having served two years in jail in the Isle of Pines, where he afterwards left in exile for the United States, and later for Mexico, where he organised an expedition with the aim of freeing Cuba from tyranny.

On the 25th of November 1956, in command of the Granma, he left the port of Tuxpan in Mexico, with 82 expeditionaries, and landed at the beach Las Coloradas in Belic, Oriente, on the 2nd of December 1956.

Three days later, the expedition was discovered and dispersed by the forces of tyranny in its first encounter, and succeeded in recuperating only 12 members, with whom he went into hiding in the Sierra Maestra, where he began his guerrilla warfare to overthrow the Batista dictatorship.

On the 17th of January, 1957, together with 20 men, he attacked the La Plata Barracks, where the rebel forces obtained their first victory.

On the 10th of February 1958, the second eastern front 'Frank Pais' was opened led by Raul Castro.

An invading of the western part of the island was arranged, and on the 21st of August 1958, the invading column 'Antonio Maceo' set out from El Salto, in Oriente Province with Camilo Cienfuegos at its head, and No.8 column 'Ciro Recondo' left 'Las Mercedes' in the same province under the leadership of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara.

After the taking of Santa Clara by the invading army on the 31st of December 1958, Fidel called a General Strike on the 1st of January 1959, giving the order to an advance on Havana to the Rebel Army, whilst Santiago de Cuba surrendered to his troops.

On the 8th of January 1959 he delivered his speech culminating the Revolutionary triumph in the former 'Campamento de Columbia', today called Ciudad Libertad.

He took office as Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government on the 16th of February 1959. After having accused President Manuel Urrutia of holding back the governments revolutionary plans, he resigned from office on the 17th of July, but the Nation showed itself to be ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ unanimously behind him, and he once again assumed his functions.

Eire Nua, Eire Nua, Eire Nua -- in here we all know what this means. We have discussed it, we have debated it, we have been lectured on it, we have broken it down and gone through it bit by bit. What is it all about? The 'Social and Economic Programme of Sinn Fein' it says on the pamphlets. Sometimes you would think it was produced for our sakes here in Long Kesh so that we would have something to discuss, debate and get lectures on. Does anyone on the outside go through it and study it as closely as we do? Do many people, other than ourselves, know it exists? Well lets hope they do for if they have never heard of it, we have problems. However, our job at this time is to acquaint ourselves even more with this new society we plan to build. We must know why we were in here when we get out and more important we must all be able to put our points forward in an argument and put them well. The old argument, "I'm a soldier and a fighting man - what do I want to know about politics for!", is no good in this army. This ~~x~~ is a revolutionary army and we are all revolutionaries not conscript soldiers. We fight for an ideal and a belief -- not 20pound a week. So any man who fights for an ideal must also be able to defend his ideal when challenged -- not only by force of arms but simply by an argument in a pub.

Therefore, what do we do while we wait? Do we keep on studying Eire Nua until our heads are turned with it? Well that wouldn't do some of us too much harm, but anyone who has a fair understanding of its proposals should now move on to the next stage. If you reckon you know Eire Nua fairly well you should now try it out in practice.

As some of you may have noticed this last few days, there was 'New Ulster' maps put on the walls of each hut. Have a close look at them and find your own area. Then see how it fits in with the rest of the Province. Now is the time to develop your ideas from Eire Nua to 'Ardboe Nua', 'Lower Falls Nua', 'Armagh Nua' or 'Andersonstown Nua'. See how the Sinn Fein proposal will work in your own areas. Study the local government proposals and draw up a plan of action to implement them in your own street, estate and district. This will prove valuable when you are released because you will have thought it all over and have it clear in your mind. Therefore when people come up to you and ask how to start building an Eire Nua, you won't have to send them to Kevin Street, Dublin, or to Maura Drumm's house, but instead you'll be able to show the lead and initiative expected of all Republicans.

For us all to be able to take an active part in our community when we get out is as important as being able to handle a weapon. It was suggested before that men from each area should get together and discuss community structure in their own area. After all no one knows the needs and faults of any community better than the people who live in it. ~~It~~ is not difficult for 4 or 5 men from the same area to get together in a 'Study Group' and there are plenty of pamphlets etc... to help you draw up a structure --- a workable structure.

So once again you are asked to show an interest in what shape our New Ireland will take and show that we are capable of showing the way forward. We have a lot of work ahead of us and this is as good a time as any to start.

: PROINSIAS MAC CHOILIGH :

(TO BE CONTINUED.)