

VOLUNTEER

VOICE OF REPUBLICAN DERRY



Monument to be
unveiled in the
Republican Plot
in the City Cemetery
on Easter Sunday

ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS AND
VOLUNTEERS, DERRY BRIGADE ÓGLAIGH
NA HÉIREANN TO HONOUR, AND IN
MEMORY OF THEIR COMRADES WHO
MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE THAT
THEIR COUNTRY COULD BE FREE.

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"Whats wrong with this country is that it's living in the past" I have heard this often, and noticed how it is accompanied by grave nods of assent and murmurings of approval from people who immediately assume expressions of profound wisdom. From my youth I had dutifully respected wisdom and without apology, IS CEART AGUS IS CÓIR SIN, then I met a man who had bought the writings of P. H. Pearse. They had cost him dear, almost as much as many sensible citizens pay for a weeks supply of cigarettes. He opened the book and I read . . .

THE FOOL

"Since the wise men have not spoken I speak that am only a fool."

Reading on I began to feel that the writer was being somewhat modest and then I came to -

"I have squandered the splendid years that the Lord God gave to my youth In attempting impossible things, deeming them alone worth the toil.

Was it folly or grace? Not men shall judge me, but God."

I read that again, then,

"The lawyers have sat in council, the men with the keen long faces, And said 'This man is a fool,' and others have said, 'He blasphemeth,' And the wise have pitied the fool that hath striven to give a life In the world of time and space among the bulks of actual things To a dream that was dreamed in the heart and that only the heart could hold."

I decided to find out about this man. He was a bit of a mystery you might say. The mystery of Irish Ireland, how she manages to survive. "In the world of time and space among the bulks of Actual Things." And some of the actual things that Irish Ireland was up against were extremely bulky. The education system for one. In his "Murder Machine" Pearse says of it "The system has aimed at the substitution for men and women of mere things. It has not been an entire success. There are still a great many thousand men and women in Ireland. But a great many thousand of what, by way of courtesy, we call men and women are simply things. Men and women, however depraved, have kindly human allegiances. But these things have no allegiance, like other things they are for sale."

He goes on to say, "There is no education system in Ireland. The English have established the simul-acrum of an education system, but its object is the precise contrary of the object of an education system. Education should foster; this education is meant to repress. Education should inspire; this education is meant to tame. Education should harden; this education is meant to enervate. The English are too wise a people to attempt to educate the Irish in any worthy sense. As well expect them to arm us."

Writing in this vein in Dublin in 1912 was nearly as likely to land a man in Mountjoy Jail as it is in 1975. However "The Fool" was slow to learn wisdom and continued, by use of pen and platform to preach the terrible doctrines of Liberty, Equality Fraternity, to speak in praise of condemned felons and no half measures either. He said Wolf Tone's grave was a holy place, O horrid blasphemy! and worse was to follow. He told the people in public that "Robert Emmet was one of the truest men that ever lived faithful even unto the ignominy of the gallows, dying that his people might live, even as Christ died." Talk like this was most embarrassing to the "peace at any price brigade" (aye they were around then too) and the fellow had no notion of when to stop. He went on from Emmet to Thomas Davis and John Mitchel. He was not on his own. There were other troublemakers too. A man who had served 15 years in prison for his part in the dynamite campaign, had come back to Dublin, unrepentant; his name was Tom Clarke. He had a small newspaper and tobacco shop. This shop had some not very lawabiding visitors. Sean Mac Diarmada the man with the limp called there. Perhaps this was not so surprising. He called at quite a large number of places all over Ireland and everywhere he went he left behind groups of newly recruited young men and women. Recruited for what? According to one of Pearse's pupils (as well as talking about a free and Gaelic Ireland this "dreamer" set up a school which taught through Irish and was himself a teacher therein) Desmond Ryan "What Pearse really sought was an armed, popular and disciplined movement....and what he really wanted he found, like his friend and colleague Thomas Mac Donagh in the Irish Volunteer Movement" They found a ready ally in James Connolly described by Ryan as "the greatest brain in the labour movement, a student of revolutions all his life for an ulterior motive; he wanted nothing more in heaven and on earth than a

social and political revolution in Ireland. He was at home in a library or on a barricade. He was the master of any crowd he addressed from the first minute, through the sincerity and conviction behind his words. Off the platform his words were few, and few, if any really knew him well." Thomas Mac Donagh was a scholar, a poet, a university lecturer, a wit and a talker. Joseph Plunkett was a poet and a mystic. At the first meeting of the military council he produced a plan of the insurrection on which he had worked for years. Connolly who had studied many revolutions highly approved of Plunkett's plans, and together they worked on and perfected the first draft. And what was the rest of Ireland doing? We had something like the S.D.L.P. in those days too. They were led by John Redmond. They waited for justice from England. They were constitutional. Pearse said at one time he "believed them honest but they have sat too long at English feasts." They had. When war broke out between Germany and England, the English made Redmond believe he could have Home Rule in return for Irish recruits. He recruited thousands upon thousands to die for England. At home the revolutionaries worked doggedly on. The date was set, Easter Sunday. The plans were secret because even the Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers, Eoin Mac Neill, was opposed to open rebellion. The secret leaked, Mac Neill was against the rising. The call to mobilize went out Mac Neill countermanded it. Confusion reigned. Finally on Easter Monday morning mobilisation began. By noon they had marched off in the sunshine to take up their posts; and then the revolution had started. A policeman lay in a pool of blood at his post at Dublin Castle gate and green uniformed men darted and dashed about the city taking up positions. Dublin stood still and gaped in disbelief. Over

the post office floated the flags of the Republic, and at Princes Street corner a strange banner proclaimed in white and gold Celtic letters IRISH REPUBLIC. Pearse read the proclamation and as he concluded Connolly clasped his hand and cried "Thanks be to God, Pearse that we have lived to see this day." The British lancers galloped in at one o'clock. As they reached Nelson's Pillar the Volunteers opened fire killing three and fatally wounding another; and then for a week the population of Dublin trembled, cheered, cursed, shrieked, looted or went hungry and talked and wondered. The British after the initial shock settled down contd. p. 7

The Birth of Provisionalism

MUCH HAS BEEN said in recent times about the men of violence and many opponents of the Republican Movement have stated, "The Provos started the violence, the bombings and the killings, let them end it." So as to prevent the truth from being known and anyone losing sight of the wood for the trees we present below facts which may be readily substantiated:

March 1966 : In Belfast many Catholic owned premises petrol bombed and extensively damaged.

May 27th, 1966 : John Scullion, 28, was shot at from a passing car in the Clonard area of Belfast, he died three weeks later.

June 26th, 1966 : Four Catholic barmen were gunned down in Belfast's Malvern Street. Peter Ward aged 18 years died as a result. Gusty Spence was charged with both murders whilst two other U.V.F. men were jointly charged with him for Ward's murder. The three of them are now serving life imprisonment.

August 24th, 1968 : Civil Rights march in Dungannon, prevented from entering the Market Square by the R.U.C. anti-riot thugs.

October 5th, 1968 : Derry, an occasion well documented which put this historic city on the lips of the world for

all time.

November 23rd, 1968 : Peoples Democracy's four day march from Belfast to Derry. Again we don't have to go into detail as everyone is well informed of what happened.

On all these dates the Loyalist agitators, publicly identified as Paisleyites, in conjunction with the R.U.C. and B. Specials tried with jackboot treatment to put the Nationally minded people down. The atrocities of Burntollet at the conclusion of the P.D. march is representative of the civilian brutality whilst the R.U.C. stood by and assisted. The R.U.C. and the Specials played their part that week end when in the early hours of Sunday Jan. 5th., they ran amok on the Catholic dwellings in Fahan St. and St. Columbas Wells.

It was then clear to everyone that this series of pogroms led by the Stormont Government's military authority and the Specials, verified that major violence on the Nationalist areas was on hand. To reinforce these warning signs there was an obvious armed presence of R.U.C. and B. Specials in Derry in 1969, when Sammy Devenny was murdered by members of the R.U.C. Prior to that incident and following it the U.V.F. were attempting to demon-

strate their military supremacy. They expertly blasted the electricity sub-station at Castlederg on March 30th. (admitted damage in the region of £500,000) electric pylons at Kilmoreon on April 20th, and on April 21st, the outlet from the Silent Valley reservoir which supplied most of Belfast's water. This was the build up to August 1969, but when the inevitable happened in Belfast's besieged Nationalist ghettos on August 14th '69, from the sterling machine gun carrying R.U.C. in the British Army issued Shoreland's armoured cars. When the Nationalist people sought the weapons they needed to defend themselves, those weapons were not available, apart from a few old guns which were quickly put to use and at least saved an even greater massacre.

It should always be remembered that Oglach na hÉireann, Provisionals, did not go to war with the British Army until the Falls was attacked by order of one Reginald Maudling. Maudling declared war on the Nationally minded people of Belfast, who were subsequently defended by the Irish Republican Army and it was only then they went on the offensive. It should also be remembered that the first British

Contd. p. 5



AMBUSH AT CROSMAGLEN

IN MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES WHO
MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE THAT
OUR COUNTRY COULD BE FREE

Staff Capt. Joe Coyle,	27th June, 1970
Lt. Tommy McCool,	27th June, 1970
Vol. Tommy Carlin,	27th June, 1970
Lt. Eamonn Lafferty	18th August, 1971
Vol. James O'Hagan,	19th August, 1971
Staff Capt. Colm Keenan	14th March, 1972
Vol. Eugene McGillian,	14th March, 1972
Vol. John Starrs	13th May, 1972
Lt. John Brady,	28th November, 1972
Vol. Jimmy Carr,	28th November, 1972
Vol. Seamus Bradley,	31st July, 1972
Staff Capt. James McDaid,	29th December, 1972
Vol. Joe Walker,	3rd December, 1973
Vol. Jerry Craig,	24th June, 1974
Vol. G. Russell,	24th June, 1974
Vol. Michael Meenan,	30th October, 1974
Vol. John McDaid	
Lt. Ethel Lynch	
Vol. James Moyne,	13th January, 1975
Fianna Gerry Donaghey,	30th January, 1972

BRIOGÁID DHOIRE

D'ár gcairde i ngeibhinn beirígí

bua is beannacht

Greetings to our comrades in

LONGKESH, ARMAGH, CRUMLIN RD.,

PORTLAOISE, MAGILLIGAN, THE

CURRAGH, MOUNTJOY

— and in English Prisons

Your sacrifice has ensured victory

Derry salutes you.

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soldier killed in Ireland since 1966 was on the 14th August, 1969 in Belfast, when the R.U.C. and armed Loyalists attacked the Unity Flats, and Ardoyne. The soldier was on leave from his unit in Germany. The first member of the R.U.C. was killed when a Loyalist sniper opened fire on a joint R.U.C. / Army section trying to control a riot in the Agnes St. area of Belfast.

THE BENEFITS of reduced violence to the people of Northern Ireland are obvious. Once the 'gunman' is eliminated the R.U.C. can resume normal policing in all areas. Church and political leaders, who have not encouraged their followers to support or accept the police in the past, now realise the necessity for their return. As the R.U.C. resume normal policing in more and more places, so the Army can reduce its force level accordingly.

Extract from the B.A. newsheet 'Visor'

To The People of Derry

IN THE PAST few weeks we have seen emerging on the forefront of these present troubles a new and ugly situation, but not unexpected fiasco. The impending self-destruction of a few notorious Para-military Organisations.

The first of these organisations to participate in self-destruction were the Official Republican movement and the Irish Republican Socialist party.

During the past four weeks these two groups have murdered between 4 – 6 people, namely each others members, and injured approximately 20 more, not to mention bomb attacks on Public Houses, a very uncouth tactic so much that bombs do not choose their victims as is a well known fact.

Now in more recent days we have two more organisations to enter the butcher's arena; they are the U.D.A. and the U.V.F., by the way it appears these four groups are on friendly terms occasionally. They have a good way of showing it. Well, to be going on, the 4 groups involved profess such principles as non sectarianism and workers control. Yet the 4 parties concerned openly practice religious murder and rule the working man with an iron fist plus these people practice the art of medieval backstabbing i.e. murdering each others members, truly a vicious and ruthless tactic and one that holds no religious boundaries. These Stalinist type tactics are hardly a mandate for any party. As days go by and these feuds still exist, one organisation and one alone stands unmarked by 5 years of diabolical attacks from every capitalist and right wing organisation in the 32 Counties. The Provisional movements stand and theirs alone has shaken the pillars of Imperialism to an extent it can't take any more. The men and women of this movement, the ordinary people of Ireland have been and will be United not only to themselves but to their leadership, their ideals, and Ireland. That is the difference between the Provisional Movement and the other so called organisations mentioned. To class the Provisional Movement as the officials and the U.D.A. etc. is a fallacy and an affront to the dignity of any decent Irishman or woman. For truly the Provisional Movement is the movement for the people.

Volunteer.

Sinn Féin serves the people

ADVICE AND COMPLAINT CENTRES

AT SIX CENTRES throughout Derry, Sinn Féin Advice and Complaint Centres are busy investigating complaints and getting action on people's problems. Groups of unpaid volunteers — Sinn Féin members from your own district — give up their free time to keep each centre open seven days a week.

The Republican movement established these advice and complaint centres to meet a long-standing need — to provide a convenient place where local people can go for advice and action on nearly every kind of problem imaginable. People know when they come to report an incident or complain that their complaint will be treated as strictly private between themselves and the Republican movement.

In the month the centres have been in operation, people have come to Sinn Féin to report lost children, lost money, stolen cars, broken gates, vandalism, suspicious strangers in their area, etc. — to name just a few examples. Of course, when people notice the Brits and RUC sneaking around in their areas, abusing the ceasefire, people use the Advice and Complaint Centres to report



incidents to the "hotline" or Truce Supervisory Centres as well.

Through the centres, the Republican movement has recovered lost children, money, stolen bicycles and cars, etc., plus dealt with vandals, drunken drivers, and a wide variety of other complaints.

Housing complaints have been high on the list of priorities. In the Creggan, Sinn Féin circulated a Housing Complaint Form, which people used to list the repairs they needed done. When these are turned into the centres, Sinn Féin gets to work on the Housing Executive. Sinn Féin

delegations from Creggan and Shantallow centres have met with the Housing Executive. One result of these meetings has been getting an emergency repairs scheme underway in Creggan.

No other political party has six advice centres in this city. No other party has centres in every part of Derry, including the Waterside. No other party can keep its centres open 7 days a week.

Just another example of how the Republican movement serves the people.



Provisional Prisoners

Commencement of Weekly House to House Community Street Collection Creggan Area

IN SPITE OF the slow torturous release of a small number of Internees, many of our townspeople, men, women and boys, remain imprisoned in concentration camps and prison dungeons; Under sentences imposed by a psychopathic British regime, intent on continuing to its final collapse, the gross imposition of suffering and injustice.

In the light of this, the P.D.F. shall most certainly, and most determinedly, continue to stand by its Christian duty on behalf of the people, by providing all possible help and aid to these prisoners, until the release of each and every one has been effected as indeed it most surely will be.

Knowing as we do, that all true Derry folk, irrespective of creed or class, hold a sincere sense of deep concern for the welfare and care of Derry's Political Prisoners,men, women and boys; who continue suffering the brunt of the most cruel, harsh and brutal extremities, with such fine un conquerable spirit and courage.

To this end, Derry is now in the process of being organised, so as to give these suffering souls the most ideal and practical form of help, by arranging a weekly collection for this purpose, from each household throughout the community. Every adult person, of 18 years and over, in each household, is being asked to subscribe a weekly amount towards the care and welfare of Political Prisoners held hostage by the British War Machine.

THE PROJECT HAS NOW BEEN LAUNCHED, FIRSTLY IN THE CREGGAN AREA and the other districts will follow immediately, as arrangements reach completion. The Provisional P.D.F. Collectors, will be persons of good character from your own district, and therefore well known to you; each collector will be in possession of a collector's card, issued by P.D.F. Central Executive, and every donation shall be recorded on printed sheets issued for this purpose. Householders are therefore requested to ask to see this authorisation prior

Dependants Fund

to making their household donation. The Provisional P.D.F. is operated by a totally voluntary labour force of Christian people in action, giving freely of their time and labour, without payment, salary, commission or any form of remuneration or expenses. Therefore every penny donated goes totally and entirely towards providing for the prisoners, their children, and dependants; and is most strictly accounted for throughout.

The P.D.F. has long been Derry's largest charitable organisation, paying out funds in the region of £1,000 weekly which however, in these days of rampant

inflation, allows but a very frugal sum to be allocated on an individual basis, particularly for the provision of food parcels, on which all prisoners solely depend to remain alive. It is therefore most vital, that we now be enabled through increased funds, to provide a corresponding increase in the present weekly allocation to each prisoner.

Clearly then, it rests solely in the hands of you the people to ensure that the P.D.F. is fully supported in all its endeavours, and be thereby enabled to fulfil the community's duty towards the suffering prisoners.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE DERRY REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT TO ALL

Irish American Prisoners of Conscience

AT THIS TIME our thoughts are with those who have given their all in the cause of Irish Freedom.

We are also keenly aware of the hundreds imprisoned here in Ireland and Britain. Our concern and work on behalf of these are continual, hour by hour, day by day, which is their right and our duty.

I think that at this time too we would do well to pay tribute to those who are imprisoned in "lands beyond the seas". We are not in a position to render the aid and comfort that we would wish, and which we do furnish to those nearer to us in terms of distance. But it should go out loud and clear, that we are conscious of their sufferings. We are also aware of the extent of British influence on their jailors, as witness the situation regarding their deliberate placing where it causes the greatest possible suffering and inconvenience. We just list these four as an example: Francis Michael Larkin, married, 1 child - Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. James Conlon, married, 4 children - Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Frank Mc Mahon - Atlanta, Georgia. Harry Hillick, - Terre Haute, Indiana.

These men are from the Philadelphia area and one doesn't require to be an expert on American geography to see the huge distances involved.

To these and to all others, including those who work so unceasingly on behalf of prisoners and their dependents, without whose assistance it would be extremely difficult to continue, we record our sincere recognition of their tremendous efforts, and send them Easter Greetings.

1916

Contd. from p.2

to crushing the rebellion. The ring of steel closed in, the artillery boomed, flames crackled and the centre of Dublin crumbled. Amidst the flames the leaders conferred, and Pearse sent his last orders to his men, "We surrendered, not to save you but to save the City, and the people of this City from destruction, you would have fought on.....I am proud of you. You made a great fight....They had the men, the munitions, the force. BUT THIS WEEK OF EASTER WILL BE REMEMBERED, AND YOUR WORK WILL TELL SOME DAY."

Over Our Dead Bodies!

AT TIME OF WRITING, the R.U.C. are poised to edge their way back into the North's Catholic ghetto areas. 'Never!', you say? While it's true that the same force has absolutely nothing in its favour to recommend itself to the minority community, nevertheless, powerful voices have, and are being raised, urging their return. The most common argument for this - usually put forward by unthinking people, - is that if the R.U.C. had been in our areas all along we would not have had any gangsters. Unfortunately, these people overlook the fact that we had the R.U.C. in our areas when our homes were burned and our men, women and children were murdered. We had them all right - supporting the rampaging loyalist mobs !

But has not the R.U.C. become a service, since? Judge for yourselves. On March 15th, loyalist hordes swept through the vulnerable Short Strand ghetto area in east Belfast, until checked by local residents. The R.U.C. then proceeded to mercilessly baton the people busy defending their families and homes ! Same leopard - same spots ! The R.U.C. are in all the areas where the Loyalist murderers can walk to safety, guns in their hands, after they shoot Catholic workmen and boys.

The S.D.L.P.'s attitude to the R.U.C. and their role in our society, is hypocritical, to say the least. They say they reject the R.U.C. - yet they insist on R.U.C. bodyguards for their persons and homes. What plans have the S.D.L.P. for the protection of the Catholic ghetto areas? If they reject the R.U.C. (as they say), let them dismiss their bodyguards.

Another argument advanced by 'R.U.C. 'lovers' is that the police force reflects the make up of the general body of the public thus implying that it will act in an impartial manner, because of the nature of its composition.) This whole argument falls down, though, when one examines the constitution of the R.U.C. It is a matter of public record, (successive Chief Constables have said it), that the number of Catholics in the force has, and continues to dwindle. Also, of the most recent three hundred recruits into the force, only one is a Catholic. In spite of heavy financial inducements, and massive widespread



DERRY '69

SAME LEOPARD - SAME SPOTS !

DERRY '75

advertising, Catholics just don't want to know !

Perhaps the most vocal and insistent advocate for the return of the R.U.C., however, has been the Catholic Church. Prominent members of the hierarchy, and leading Catholic laymen, have been calling, and continue to clamour for an R.U.C. re-establishment in the Catholic ghetto areas. Only the other day Bishop Philbin of Belfast attended the funeral of a police woman. All very well, except that he refuses to grant audiences to members of his flock who wish action on the many injustices prevalent at present. (They may cry out to Heaven for vengeance, but the good Bishop doesn't hear the noise on its way up !)

The Church's political party, led by Canon Murphy and Tom Conaty (remember them?) state, through the Belfast Central Citizen's Defence Committee, that the R.U.C., (with the most notorious thugs purged) would be welcomed back with open arms by a grateful minority. Not so. Perhaps the Church and its servants fear a politically aware people. Whatever its reasons for sponsoring the R.U.C., however, all its urgings are due for failure. The minority will not accept these hoodlums back into its midst.

Other advocates for the return of the R.U.C. argue that, with its previous high criminal detection rate resumed, peace would return to this fair land. They conveniently overlook the findings of the Hunt Report on this matter. (Read it - but keep your eyes skinned, for its in the small print.) The R.U.C.'s proud boast of a 60% + detection rate in criminal

cases was a deliberate hoax ! The real rate was 17%. To achieve the other high figure, the "fly" peelers counted in parking tickets (served by wardens), "spitting in a public place", etc., etc. So, the R.U.C. never even gave value for money !

Think of all the taxpayers' money gone west on salaries, uniform allowances, plain clothes allowances, high rent allowances, boot allowances, travelling expenses, and exemption from death duties, (the latest dodge).

Then ask yourself the following questions. Why are sectarian attacks allowed to continue? How have those responsible for them been able to evade detection? (Remember, there have been to date no arrests in East Tyrone, despite a staggering number of sectarian killings there). Why has the R.U.C. got carte blanche to implement repressive laws and behave in a biased sectarian and brutal way?

The answer is that the R.U.C. has always been an armed paramilitary force - and wishes to remain one.

Reform and civil rights have been shown to be impossible in the sectarian gerrymandered six - county Ulster. But, the Nationalist people of the north have shown that they will not return to the British - imposed Six - county regime, which will always require lawless paramilitary institutions like the R.U.C. to keep its subject Catholic population in order. Those days are over, and no Six - county police force will now be accepted by the Irish nation.