

TROOPS OUT

Paper of the United Troops Out Movement

Vol. 3 No. 1 October 1979

10p

They lure you in with this:



*and
see
you
out
with
this:*



IS THERE
ANOTHER WAY OUT?
see centre
pages.

TROOPS OUT NOW! SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE TROOPS OUT NOW! SELF-D

BRITAIN IN IRELAND

TIME TO GO

London August 12th demo Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

MOST PEOPLE UP TO NOW HAVEN'T given the Irish War more than a passing thought. But the events of August 1979 have concentrated public attention on what is going on in Northern Ireland like nothing has done before.

In this issue of the paper, we are focussing on some of the reactions that the deaths of 18 soldiers and Mountbatten provoked. As far as we can judge, those reactions tend towards getting Britain out of Ireland, fast.

In such a situation, groups and individuals who have never opened their mouths, or gone on the streets before over Ireland are beginning to talk about 'political solutions' which would enable the withdrawal of troops.

Much of the longing for an end to the war is, understandably, self-seeking, in that it is based not on a recognition of the right of the Irish to self-determination, but on disgust, fear and general dismay. But at least it is a longing to get out.

At a time like this, it is important to get as broad a range of people and groups as possible actively involved in withdrawal initiatives.

But it would be wrong to suppose that because more people are now becoming involved, this means that demands like Troops Out NOW should be watered down to 'withdrawal sometime', so that people will not be put off.

We believe that most of the people who now feel that a solution to the war is urgent will understand why we call for troops out now. Unless there is urgency behind the demand for withdrawal, it could become merely a debating point for editorial writers.

And our second demand, self-determination for the Irish people as a whole, is also one which we believe people can be, and are being won to. Typical comments after August's events being 'What are we doing in their country anyway?'

During the last two months, we have had the largest growth in branches, sales of Troops Out and favourable letters in any period since the United Troops Out Movement was formed a little over two years ago.

We think this shows that when withdrawal is on people's minds, they will turn towards the organisation which is campaigning for withdrawal NOW.

We don't say that UTOM is the only group working to get Britain out of Ireland. We do say that we have a growing national network of branches whose sole purpose is to work for British withdrawal. We are open to all groups and individuals who support the two demands. We are non-sectarian in the way we work.

Perhaps most important, our strength lies in the many local branches who are

TROOPS OUT is produced by an editorial collective composed of members of London UTOM branches. We meet every Wednesday. If you are in UTOM, and would like to work on the paper, write to us at the address below.

We would also welcome contributions in the form of letters, poems, articles, news items and suggestions. We can't guarantee to print what you send, but there's a good chance.

If you keep your contributions short, there's an even better chance. We have an editorial policy, dictated by UTOM conference, of not printing material which is an attack on one left

free to carry out propaganda and education around the two demands in any way that they find is most productive. This has paid off, with many branches now in close touch with local trade unions, Constituency Labour Parties, trades councils, anti-racist groups and other community organisations.

We urge any groups or individuals who can support our demands to join or affiliate to UTOM, and to write to us about help in starting a branch if none exists in your locality.

If you are concerned about the war, but don't know what your position is yet, we'd like the chance to send speakers, or correspond, in the hope that you can be won to our position.

To: Box UT, 2a St Pauls Rd, London N1

I would like to join/be sent information on the United Troops Out Movement

Name

Address

group or another, and of trying to keep the paper open for news and opinions which further our work. UTOM has an internal bulletin for the discussion of questions about the policy and direction of the movement. In TROOPS OUT we try to speak to the uncommitted, as well as to those who need our news.

We would like to thank Birmingham, Colchester, Dundee, Leeds and Liverpool branches for their help with this issue. Subscriptions: £2 for 10 issues yearly. Checks payable to 'Troops Out (Literature Committee)'. Send subs and contributions to BOX UT, 2a ST PAUL'S RD, LONDON N1.



after Warrenpoint

WE WANT OUT!

Autumn 1979 may be remembered as the time when the tide finally turned. As the Irish War was literally blasted onto TV screens and newspaper front pages, public desire to get out grew, despite some successful newspaper attempts to channel reaction into anti-Irish incidents. From the garrison town of Colchester, and from Hartlepool, some reports of low troop morale, public feeling, and the reactions of one group of workers.

Selling *Troops Out* in Colchester you get used to abuse. It's one of the oldest garrison towns in England, with a military tradition stretching back into the realms of mythology. Boadicea is said to have fought the Romans here. A building near the town centre still bears the scars of a skirmish in the English civil war. In the present, Colchester is a key stepping off point for troops on the way to Ireland, and the place many regiments return to after completing a tour of duty on the streets of Belfast and Derry.

GARRISON DOMINATES

The attitude of most Colchester people to the army is mixed. Women are afraid to go out alone at night, especially when a regiment has just returned from Ireland. The garrison dominates the town. But although most have grudges of one kind or another, many are fiercely defensive when the Army comes under attack. This is often through personal loyalty to friends or relations who are soldiers, but also due to the tireless efforts of the Army's Public Relations Office, which fills the local press with stories about its local charitable works.

Although the best response to *Troops Out* has always come from soldiers and their families, after Warrenpoint there were some in the UTOM branch who feared we'd be exposing ourselves to physical danger if we stood in our usual spot on Saturday, shouting our heads off.

Feelings were running high. The Staffordshires were just about to leave for Ireland, and the pubs were full of young working-class men getting desperately drunk, alternating between bravado and terror. Their officers were getting drunk as well, becoming more shrilly arrogant as the date of their departure approached. In the same week a young soldier who'd just returned from Belfast took his own life in the Barracks after seeing several friends killed.

OVERWHELMINGLY SYMPATHETIC

As things went, we needn't have worried. There was some sharp hostility from worthy citizens, but in the main the response was overwhelmingly sympathetic compared to any previous experience. On this and successive Saturdays we sold over 20 copies of *Troops Out*, as well as several of the *British Soldiers Speak Out* pamphlet in a few minutes.

'GOOD LUCK'

In the past we'd noticed that while soldiers who hadn't served in Ireland were more confident about the Army's 'peace-

keeping' role, those who'd been over were more likely to say, 'As soon as we leave the Russians will move in'. Recently this has been changing. One soldier said, 'Before you go you just want to kill the bastards, but once you get there you can see they've got a cause'.

Those who haven't yet served in Ireland are also getting more critical. Most memorable on that Saturday after Warrenpoint were the faces of the many soldiers who bought papers. I asked one squaddie if he'd been over to Ireland yet and he said expressionlessly, 'No. I'm not going either.' I asked what he was going to do. 'Desert', he said in a quiet, even tone, adding 'Good luck with your movement' as he walked quickly away.

MORE OPEN-MINDED

About half our sales are to women, often the wives, mothers or friends of soldiers. In many cases they are more ready to stop and talk than the soldiers themselves, and more open-minded about the causes of the war. (War weariness can take the form of bigotry – a man I spoke to said, 'We should get the troops out, and the elderly, then drop an atom bomb on the lot of them. That's what the Americans would do (!) – but the attitude of these women who buy copies of *Troops Out* is very different.) They are curious, looking for real answers to a situation which is urgently real for them. They can't afford complacent bigotry. A common idea is, 'We're not doing any good over there, just making things worse.' One woman said, 'My son's a soldier and so was my husband. They must be mad. The Army's always poking its nose in somewhere and causing trouble.' People are aware that perhaps we want the troops out for different reasons, but they're ready to listen to our arguments.

A member of Colchester UTOM

When the 1st Bttn Kings Regiment returned to Colchester recently after a 4-month tour of duty in N. Ireland, morale was so low that an unprecedented 'drumhead service' was laid on to commemorate the 3 soldiers the regiment lost on the tour. This antiquated military ceremony had, according to an army spokesperson, never been held before for soldiers killed in the present Irish war.

But for Stephen Shephard, 23, from Widnes, that wasn't enough. He returned with the regiment, after seeing 3 of his friends meet their end, and on September 3rd was found dead in Roman Barracks, a loaded submachine-gun beside his body.

WALKOUT FOR TROOPS OUT

On the day after Mountbatten and the 18 soldiers were killed, 2500 men at a nuclear power station site in Hartlepool, North Yorkshire, staged a half-day strike in reaction to the deaths. On Wednesday morning, BBC Radio interviewed AUEW shop steward Billy Kelly, one of the men who led the walkout.

In a week when the papers were inviting everyone to concentrate on villifying the 'murdering bastards' of the IRA, this interview reveals that the Hartlepool workers were concentrating instead on the wrongness of the soldiers' deaths – and on getting the troops out. Although sorrow is expressed at Mountbatten's death, it is politicians who are attacked. Below are the main points of the interview, which did not appear in later morning news programmes.

Billy Kelly: The men are completely disturbed over the action when all these soldiers died. They think it's completely wrong. It's happening every day and something has to be brought to a head. We think the only way to do it is through our own unions, to try and get our lads out of that, because it's like hell over there now.

Interviewer: What can unions do?
BK: We can see if the unions can get at the Executive Council [of the TUC] and see if we can put some pressure on the Government. . . . It's been 12 years our lads have been in there fighting and it's completely wrong. *We shouldn't be fighting them.*

We hope other firms and other unions will be taking action on this, and will get hold of MPs and make the MPs speak louder, because they're not really speaking loud enough. . . . The only way we can help these lads is by going on strike, losing wages, as long as it's going to push somebody into making a sound decision, because there's been no decisions made. . . .

The men are from various parts of the country, and all these lads have got together to say we are sick of what's going on in Northern Ireland.

Int: What makes you feel that you can succeed where so many people have tried and failed before?

BK: I think if they sit up and listen to the public – some of the public are showing they're really concerned now, and we had to have a go. Nobody knows better than the public what's going on. There's a lot of our lads on our job, they knew Earl Mountbatten, they served under him and they knew what a hell of a guy he was.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

On the eve of the Labour Party Conference in Brighton, a cry from the heart by a Labour Party member and Troops Out supporter.

For an active member of the Labour Party, one of the most disgraceful aspects of the recent General Election was the wilful silence of the Party's leading figures on Ireland. Callaghan may have connived at the ejection of Troops Out hecklers from his meetings and the arrest of Pat Arrowsmith, but even the doyens of the organised Left, Benn, Heffer, and all, maintained a significant and calculated silence.

Significant because their silence casts doubt on their ability to propound and stand up for a socialist policy on Ireland. Calculated because it is based on an appreciation that whatever they said would be unpopular with some section of the electorate and thus lose them some votes and support in their Byzantine leadership struggles.

I have lived through a time when figures who now have little if any reputation as socialists took unpopular stands on matters of principle as the major colonial structures were unwillingly dismantled in the face of independence movements across the globe. The contrast is manifest and I want to draw the lessons as they apply to the issue of the last colony, the Six Counties.

SUEZ

In November 1956 the Labour Party called the largest demonstration since the thirties to protest about the British invasion of the Suez Canal Zone. On the plinth of Nelson's Column were Gaitskell, Attlee, Bevan, Morrison, as well as lesser lights such as Wilson and Callaghan. As the Valiants and Canberras bombed Port Said and Suez, as the destroyers and cruisers pounded the refinery and docks at Alexandria, as the invasion troops crossed the Med in their hastily improvised landing craft, tens of thousands in the Labour Movement were led by leading Labour MPs to reject the war. With the honourable exceptions of the *News Chronicle*, *Manchester Guardian* and *Daily Worker*, the press launched a massive campaign against the Labour Party for 'stabbing our boys in the back'. They were accused of cowardice and treason. Jingoism and flag-wagging were the order of the day and we heard the usual hypocritical cry, 'Even if you don't agree with what's happening, you must not betray the soldier at the Front, prepared to die on your behalf.'

Four days later, the last imperial war ended in ignominious retreat. The Prime Minister's health was broken and he resigned within three months. The whole world condemned the conspiracy of Britain, France and Israel to attack the four-year-old Egyptian Republic. The British Empire had reached its last gasp.

CYPRUS

In the mid-fifties, Barbara Castle visited Cyprus to see the warfare between the British Army and the EOKA guerrillas. She found a Greek Cypriot civilian population terrorised by an occupying army, subject to arbitrary arrest and internment, assault, and 'physical' interrogation. The armed police force was formed almost exclusively from the Turkish minority (about 30%) on the colonial principle of 'divide and rule'. Women and children were shot by soldiers searching for 'terrorists'. Houses and shops were ransacked and wrecked by patrols. The soldiers quite reasonably saw every Greek Cypriot male as a potential or actual EOKA gunman and reacted appropriately with aggression born of fear, thus recruiting them for EOKA. The reprisals exacted on whole villages and districts of towns and the violence sanctioned or condoned by officialdom were not reported in Britain, but had welded the Greek community into a unified hatred of the British occupying forces.

Barbara Castle returned to Britain and spoke out about the terrible things being done there in the name of the British people, called for an inquiry and for Britain to withdraw from the island. Three years later, Makarios was brought out of exile imprisonment to become the President of the new Republic of Cyprus.

KENYA

In January 1959, a report leaked out of Kenya of what was happening in the concentration camp at Hola especially, but in other parts of the prison and internment service as well. A Captain Law had become so shocked by what he had seen that he came to Britain to expose it. He described the 'Cowan Plan' devised by the colonial administration to break the back of the Mau Mau insurrection. It contravened every international convention on the treatment of prisoners, sanctioned torture and maltreatment and had resulted in a number of horrifying deaths as well as maimings and brutal injuries.

Julian Amery, as Colonial Under-Secretary, said that 'The Prison Service in Kenya is perfectly capable of keeping its own house in order and is doing so. . . . Safeguards against abuse are effective.' A week later, eleven Africans were beaten to death in Hola by warders keeping their own house in order.

Barbara Castle, John Stonehouse, Michael Foot and other leading Labour MPs led a campaign over Hola and called for an overhaul of the treatment of prisoners in Kenya. The Labour Party as a whole and the left wing especially campaigned for independence for Kenya. Two years later, Jomo Kenyatta was released from exile and imprisonment and

in 1963 became the President of the new Republic of Kenya.

ADEN

In November 1967, British troops were withdrawn from Aden when South Arabia gained its independence. The army had fought a guerrilla war for five years against forces which swam like fishes in the waters of the people of Aden and when it came to the point of withdrawal, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who formed the last battalions on tour, were sent to show the strength of the British Army on an unsupervised march through the Crater district where most of the poor felaheen lived and the fedayeen guerrillas were based. They rampaged for several hours through the quarter, raping, looting, shooting wildly and indiscriminately, wrecking shops and houses, throwing grenades and beating the poor people they caught in chases through the narrow streets. Their commanding officer, 'Mad Mitch', Colonel Colin Mitchell, congratulated them on their soldierly bearing and showing what the 'Jocks' were made of, and defended them from criticisms by Labour MPs at home (the Labour Government did nothing to discipline them).

THE LESSONS

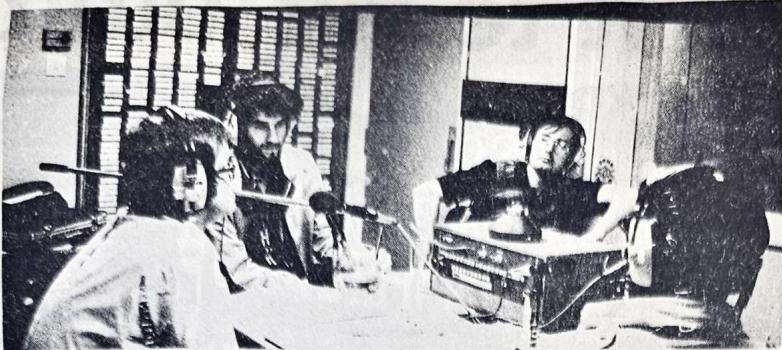
I have rehearsed this colonial history to show how the British activities in Northern Ireland are part of a dishonourable tradition and to point out the discontinuity in an honourable Labour Party tradition of defending the oppressed of the colonies.

At all stages, there were leading members of the Labour Party, and especially MPs, prepared to court unpopularity and stand up for principles such as self-determination, the right of people to live their own lives, to be given a fair trial and just treatment. Where are they now?

We hear much of the expected blood-bath to follow a British withdrawal, but far more worrying is the prospect of another Aden, the last fling bloodbath of a politically defeated army settling old scores. What we do not hear about is the denial of civil liberties under the Diplock courts and the PTA, the arbitrary violence and injustice of military repression, the savagery of the treatment of prisoners in Long Kesh and the interrogation of suspects in Castlereagh and other centres, and the daily intimidation of a people in their own homes by forces trained and indoctrinated to attack one section of the community.

It has happened before. It is part of the imperial heritage which is Britain's shame. Previously, there have always been those who said, 'No!' Where is the Labour leadership now?

David E Spilsbury
Birmingham Selly Oak CLP



Radio Phone-in, Birmingham, 9th August

BRITISH SOLDIERS Phone in & Fall out

Ed Doolin (Programme presenter for Birmingham Local Radio): *'Every single caller has expressed doubts about the troops' presence. The feeling that has come from our callers has been that perhaps the troops shouldn't be there at all. One or two callers feel that perhaps they have a place, but nobody has actually said that they should be there.'*

'This was the programme presenter's summary of the reactions to a local radio phone-in on Birmingham local radio on August 9th when three ex-soldiers called for a withdrawal from Ireland and described their experiences in the British Army.'

Ex-Captain Michael Biggs told how he had come to realise that Britain's so-called peacekeeping role in Ireland was a myth and that the army was really an army of occupation.

Ex-artilleryman Brian Ashton told how he had been made to harass and arrest people who he knew had committed no crime. 'That hit me like a sledgehammer; and I realised that what we were doing was wrong.' He refused to go back on the streets of Northern Ireland and obey orders and was sent to military prison.

Ex-military bandsman Lloyd Hayes described the racism that runs through the Army and how black soldiers were used in Northern Ireland.

But it was the response of the callers that was most striking.

The first caller had served 6 months in Northern Ireland in the Royal Corps of Transport. He told about the beating up and jailing of an innocent man. 'I felt really degraded.'

Another caller had done over two years' service in Northern Ireland between 1969 and 1973 and stressed how the Army's role was purely to keep down the Catholics and support the Protestants. At the end of his call he stated categorically that the troops should not be there.

The feelings of more and more soldiers about what they are doing in Ireland can perhaps be summed up in the words of one of the ex-soldier callers: 'I didn't leave the Army as a conscientious objector. I left the Army with an objection in my conscience.'

A contingent of ex-soldiers marched on the August 12th London demonstration for British withdrawal. Since then, some of them have formed Ex-Soldiers Against the War in Ireland. *'Troops Out'* spoke to Brian Ashton about their future plans and some of his own army experiences.

How was the group formed, and why?

There was a fairly large group of ex-soldiers who put their names down for the August 12th demo. On the demo a few of us talked it over, and kept in touch, and we had our first meeting in September.

How many are in the group?

About 6 in London. And we know of some more in Birmingham, and in Bristol. We'd like to appeal for ex-soldiers in other parts of the country to get in touch with us and set up similar groups.

Are you all pacifists?

No.

How did most of you leave the army?

Most of us bought our way out.

Did the army help you with advice?

No. You were told you could buy your way out, but how, and under what circumstances we weren't told. Once you are in a regiment people tell you. But it is all very vague, and nobody knows the exact rulings. You never see anything in writing.

What is the purpose of a special ex-soldiers group?

We feel that there is a need for an ex-soldiers movement, because most of us have been in Northern Ireland and we know what the army is up to and we feel that we are qualified to speak out against it, and that people will listen to us.

How do you plan to let people know you exist?

We will contact the national papers – particularly the *Daily Mirror* because of its stand on troops, and ask them to get in touch with us for comments whenever there are developments about the North of Ireland.

What are your future plans?

We are producing an anti-recruitment display that we can take around the country; photos and statements. In opposition to what the army puts out in its recruitment literature. We have been in touch with Camerawork about that.

We also had the idea to get a list of the

Troops Out of Schools

The National Union of School Students, with 10,000 members, recently decided at its national conference to support UTOM's demands. School student Pete Taylor of NUSS explains their policy.

The NUSS has joint membership with the Irish Union of School Students, and is divided into area branches, of which N. Ireland is one. It's purpose is to protect the rights of school students.

We support *Troops Out*, and self-determination for the Irish people, and an end to sectarian schooling. These policies came into existence last July at the National Conference.

In future, we will support UTOM's demos and campaign against army recruitment. The Army is not very successful recruiting in schools. Our leaflets which we distribute tell school students about the army's role in N. Ireland, their role in strike-breaking, and tie up recruitment with youth unemployment, etc.

There was a public meeting organised by the local area branch in Huddersfield on the army and N. Ireland which was quite successful. Barnsley area branch supported Brendan Gallagher in the election against Roy Mason.

We also organise pickets outside Army recruiting offices. We supported the August 12 march, and there were 100 members present with the banner.

I think that a lot of students who were going to join the army have been dissuaded by our campaign.

'trades' the army offer to teach you – which is the reason a lot of young people join. And expose them as 'non-trades', because that is what the majority of them are. They're not trades, and not recognised as such by employers or the unions.

I, for instance, was told I was going to be trained as a surveyor – I thought a land surveyor – and in fact I was trained as a battery surveyor, which is only an army trade – the skill of converting various data relating to where to set up guns. When I came out, there was no skill I could say I had.

Any other plans?

We want to work together with the NUSS and the NUT to do anti-recruitment work in schools. We'd like to appeal through your paper for funds to get going, and also to be put in touch with any ex-soldiers anyone in UTOM knows of who might want to work with us. Once they see there's a group, we think a lot more will be willing to speak out.

Ex-Soldiers Against the War in Ireland
can be contacted c/o Box ES265,
27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R OAT

If you want to get out of

Third (Report, London)



IT'S NOT EASY TO GET OUT OF THE ARMY. In *Troops Out* we've always concentrated on persuading people not to join in the first place. But in the last few months UTOM members have had increasing contacts with serving soldiers eager to leave. So we have decided to print an outline of the information we have about how to try for a discharge, together with the names of organisations who can give more detailed advice. Our main source of information was AT EASE, a counselling group for soldiers and their families, and we would advise contacting them to make sure of your (and our) facts, and for further help.

Once you *are* in the army, getting out is made more difficult because of what seems to be deliberate army policy of keeping soldiers in ignorance of their rights. You're not entitled to a copy of your terms and conditions of employment. And while any soldier (who knows they exist) may consult Queen's Regulations and the Manual of Military Law, these are written in such confusing legal language that even trained people have difficulty answering certain questions. Basically, at certain periods of service, you have a right to leave, and beyond that, there are other ways of trying to get out which depend on proving a case for discharge, or on whether the army wants to keep you or not.

RIGHTS DURING BASIC TRAINING

If you change your mind about army life soon enough after joining, you have the right to get out, without paying anything.

If you joined as a 'boy soldier' – the army's definition of soldiers under 18 – there are periods during your first 6 months of training when you can choose to leave. These are specified on the form you sign when you join, but unfortunately you're not allowed to keep a copy of this form. At Ease will tell you.

If you joined as an adult (over 18), there is a period ranging from 6 weeks to 3 months when you have the same option.

In either case, it is very important to say you want out as soon as you know that you do, because very often you will be advised to 'wait until you join your unit' – by which time it is too late to leave before completing a minimum of 3 years of 'adult' service.

RIGHTS AFTER JOINING YOUR UNIT

For adult soldiers, after completion of basic training, there are no more automatic rights to discharge during a term of service, although there are various other ways you can try, which will be discussed later.

For boy soldiers there are still two options open. When you turn 18, if you signed on for longer than the 5-year term from age 16 to 21, you can apply to have that term shortened to 3 years of 'adult' service, meaning you can leave at age 21.

Or if you miss that date, when you have completed 18 months

of adult service, you can apply for an 18-months optional discharge, which again would get you out at 21.

In both these cases, it is very important to apply to leave at exactly the right time, or you will lose the right.

DISCHARGE AT THE ARMY'S DISCRETION

There are three other ways to try, besides buying out and conscientious objection, but in all three it is entirely up to the army whether they accept the grounds for discharge.

'Unhappy or unsuitable boys' can be discharged at the army's discretion. But this doesn't mean that you – the unhappy young soldier – can ask to leave. You can be as unhappy as you like, but requests for your discharge must come from outside; from your family, social workers, doctors, clergymen, MP's, and the like. They must be backed up by their grounds for believing you are unhappy. Outside requests should go direct to the commanding officer (you can only complain to the adjutant), and MP's can also apply direct to the Ministry of Defence on your behalf.

Compassionate discharge is sometimes available. This doesn't mean compassion for your unhappiness in the army; it refers to the circumstances of your family members. For instance, if staying in the army is causing distress to – say – a widowed parent undergoing a breakdown, you might have a chance. But the army will probably try to suggest alternatives, like a posting closer to home. We have heard of a case where a soldier was refused discharge even though he wanted to leave to take care of his children after their mother's death. If you think you have grounds, it is important to see that your application gets through the adjutant to your commanding officer.

Disabilities which 'affect the ability to soldier' can also be grounds for discharge. At Ease has had several reports of soldiers so desperate to get out that they have shot off fingers or toes. But the danger in that – besides the obvious physical ones – is that you are most likely to wind up in the psychiatric wing of a military hospital, or on a charge – since in the army's view you must be either insane or criminal to find army life so terrible that you would risk maiming yourself to get out.

Considering the many stories of soldiers going out on patrol in Northern Ireland pilled-up with anti-depressants and in a state which 'would have been called shell shock in the First World War' – as At Ease put it to us – it is difficult to see how, short of a serious wound or completely flipping, you could be considered to be in a condition which would 'affect your ability to soldier'. But if you believe you have grounds for discharge on this basis, it is important to get doctor's reports from civilian doctors sent direct to your unit's medical officer, marked 'confidential', so that they may be treated on a professional doctor-to-doctor basis. Otherwise, they may simply be ignored.

the Army, read on



BUYING YOUR WAY OUT

Lots of people who might join the army without realising the consequences imagine that buying out is the way to a quick exit from army life. But this is a dangerous myth. If you realise after a few months that army life isn't for you, you can't just turn around and buy your way out. It isn't the money that is the problem, it's the limitations on *who* can do it, and the army's *right* to say no.

Soldiers on long-term engagements are eligible to apply to buy themselves out. But training courses may limit that eligibility, either by increasing your overall term of service, or by increasing the price you would have to pay. If you are eligible, you must go to your commanding officer and apply for 'premature discharge through purchase'. It is then up to the army whether they are willing to let you go.

If you're in a unit liable to Irish posting it is Ministry of Defence internal policy (not military law, but MoD instructions) to refuse in cases where you have not served at least one tour of duty in Northern Ireland.

If money is a problem (for instance if you have a family to support and money is scarce), there is an organisation (details below) which will help you raise the money.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO SERVING

Many soldiers lying in solitary confinement in military prisons for 'refusing to soldier', or for having gone AWOL because they thought army service was wrong should have been released from service as conscientious objectors. This is also true of many deserters, who couldn't soldier any longer, but chose desertion rather than prison. But the right to be recognised as a conscientious objector (which then makes you eligible for discharge) is not widely known in the army, either among ordinary soldiers, or among the officers whose duty it is to advise on such matters.

AT EASE are based in London, and can be contacted c/o Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, London W9 (phone 01 289 3876 between 7.30 and 9.30 Thursday evenings). They offer free, confidential counselling to service people or their families. They are in touch with similar groups outside London, so that you might be able to visit a group nearer where you are stationed. But if this is not possible, they will give advice by mail or phone. They need more volunteer counsellors — particularly ex-soldiers. A training weekend for volunteers will be held mid October. Phone Phil, 061-224 3003 for further details.

MANUMISSION (the word means release from slavery) will try to help with money if you are hard up and want to buy your way out. They can be contacted c/o Aberdeen People's Press, 167 King Street, Aberdeen, Scotland.

The NCCL (National Council for Civil Liberties) can be contacted for legal advice. 186 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1 (phone 01 278 4575 or 01 278 3259).

It doesn't only apply during wartime or to soldiers with religious objections. Although you will probably be told that you 'can't leave the army just because you think it is wrong', this is precisely what Captain Michael Biggs did early in 1979. He didn't claim to be any kind of 'ist' — he stated that he objected to army service because he felt it was immoral for British troops to remain in Ireland, and he won his case on those grounds. It isn't common, but it is possible, and if you have similar objections to his, you should get in touch right away with At Ease, or with the NCCL.

HELP FROM OUTSIDE THE ARMY

If you are on a charge (for going AWOL, for desertion, for refusing to soldier) you are entitled to have a civilian lawyer defend you. You do not have to accept the officer who comes to you in prison and says he is your defending counsel.

Your family can instruct a lawyer to act on your behalf. Or, if you are AWOL, and considering giving yourself up, it would be wise to visit a lawyer before doing so, so that he or she then knows that you have returned, and can get access to you in prison. And doctors and social workers reports can also be used in defense in such cases.

LACK OF BASIC RIGHTS

As a British soldier, you 'enjoy' fewer basic rights than the soldiers of most EEC countries. And of course, the army won't tell you how to get in touch with groups like At Ease.

But pay close attention to 'security' lectures. Many soldiers first heard about At Ease when they were warned that it was a 'subversive organisation claiming to help soldiers' which they must not go near!



Harrassment of UTOM supporters by the police continues as criticism of Britain's role in Ireland is getting to a wider audience.

When Leeds UTOM leafletted a big army display and recruitment exercise at the Pudsey Show four of them were arrested by the police for 'distributing a hand bill likely to cause a breach of the peace'. It is still to be seen whether the police will press the charge.

The Army had kids climbing all over Chieftain tanks and were peddling pro-military propaganda left right and centre. Teaching kids to kill, it seems, is O.K., but wear a badge saying 'End British Torture in Ireland' and the police will come and take it off you as 'evidence'.

Later, in August, the local branch leafletted another display, in Roundhay Park on the 'Children's Fun Day'. Part of the Fun laid on was teaching kids how to shoot rifles.

letters

Dear Comrades,*

When claiming responsibility for the execution of the Queen's cousin, Earl Mountbatten, the Provisional IRA stated: 'The tributes paid to Earl Mountbatten will be seen in sharp contrast to the apathy shown to the deaths of British soldiers in Northern Ireland.'

Mountbatten was a member of the English ruling class, and that is why he was worth more than 18 ordinary soldiers. The newspaper corporations were obviously upset at the death of a member of their own class. 'These Evil Bastards' snivelled the Daily Express in a massive front page headline. 'Murdering Bastards', echoed the Daily Star.

The Daily Mirror was so shocked that they even left out their pin-up for the day. Politicians, the press, and churchmen all had the same message — Mountbatten was one of the greatest ever Britons, and the IRA are the enemies of civilisation.

What hypocrisy!

Mountbatten spent his life as a professional soldier. He built his career in the business of killing and maiming people. During the Second World War he was Allied Supreme Commander in the Far East. Among his 'peacekeeping' missions was the one in 1945, when he took Japanese fascists out of prison camps, re-armed them, and used them to restore French rule in Indo-China, thereby beginning the Vietnam War that ended in 1975. Another of his jobs was the partition of India in 1947.

He was killed because he is a symbol of British imperialism. The military forces of which he was so proud have killed countless

The UTOM leafletters were told to stop or they'd be arrested for a breach of the peace. This only happened after two soldiers had requested the police to do so.

A photographer for the Leeds Other Paper was ordered out of the park, after having his name, address and date of birth taken, and his bag searched — despite the production of his NUJ Press Card.

And as we go to press, an East London UTOM member is coming up on trial on the same charge — distributing a leaflet likely to cause a breach of the peace because it insulted the army. It is thought, however, that the police will present no evidence to back up the charge — only the leaflet, not the insulted soldiers — which seems to go to show that these arrests and threatened arrests reflect the paranoia of the army at present, rather than any concerted legal attack on the right to leaflet against recruitment.

A Yorkshire supporter

Dear Comrades of the Irish People,*

Being a worker in a hotel here I am interested in Communist affairs and especially the people of Northern Ireland. I attended and marched on August 12 in support against the brutality of the RUC and the British soldiers in Northern Ireland. I read the Morning Star and saw the notice there. I thought it was a great demonstration in support of the British troops withdrawing from the Six Counties. It was a great pity that the 10,000 marchers were not allowed by Michael Heseltine to use Trafalgar Square, which I realise was for obvious reasons.

I listened to former MP Bernadette Devlin McAliskey who called for a 'free and Socialist Ireland', whom I greatly cheered. I thought it was terrible to listen to, and was greatly moved by Mrs Kathleen Stewart, mother of Brian Stewart who was brutally killed by British troops in Belfast in October 1976, and who was only 13. I was sad to hear her choked in tears.

I hope they hold more rallies for the British troops being withdrawn from Northern Ireland. I hope to attend your meeting in November. I do not think there is a branch here, but will support your cause all I can.

Yours faithfully,

A H Knott, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent

*Cut for reasons of space

Agitprop:

Labour Party Conference: Fringe meetings on Ireland, organised by Hemel Hempstead CLP and the Committee for Democracy in Ulster. Monday, 1 October. Also Blanket protest outside Conference Monday morning at 8.30.

Women & Ireland Conference: A working meeting for women currently involved in or interested in working around Ireland from an anti-imperialist standpoint. Details from Women & Ireland Group, c/o A Woman's Place, 48 William IV St, London WC2.

6th October, 10am - 6pm.
St Matthews Church Hall, Lancaster Rd., London W10.

Campaign for Democracy in Ulster: Irish Evening (to raise money for debts incurred for the August 12th Demo). Music. Bar. Tickets £1.
Friday Oct. 12. 8-11.30pm. Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1.

'Germany in Autumn' & 'Freedom for Astrid Proll': A film and video event to remember the Stammheim murders on Oct. 18th 1977 and to mark the beginning of the trial of Astrid Proll in West Germany. The video 'Freedom for Astrid Proll' devotes a section to the treatment of Irish Political Prisoners in Britain, to remind us of the war on our own doorstep.

Sunday Oct. 7. 3pm. Rio Dalston, 107 Kingsland High Road. For details phone 254 6677. FAP video can be hired from Liberation Films, 450 7855.

Demonstration for Irish PoWs: Sinn Fein demo to demand P.O.W. Status for Republican Prisoners & Repatriation for those in prison in Britain. Oct. 22. Assemble 2pm. Chapel Street (off Cowley Rd.), Oxford.

National Petition: The broad-based Committee which helped organise the August 12th march for withdrawal has launched a petition for nationwide signatures, calling on the British Government to commit itself to a policy of withdrawal from Northern Ireland. **National Day of Action** for collecting signatures 17 November. London signatures to be collected in Trafalgar Square at noon.

Contact Steve Daws, Youth Office, National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1 for copies of the petition, and for news of future activities.

UTOM National Conference: Early December in London. Watch this space. UTOM Branches use Internal Bulletin (write to Colchester Branch) for discussion documents.

UTOM Demonstration. In Liverpool in November. Organised by Merseyside UTOM Branch. Contact them for further information.

Reviews

Five Days in Ireland, Newcastle on Tyne Trades Council.

'Can you imagine the situation if Britain had been invaded by the Germans and we had later kicked them out of Britain with the exception of six counties in the South-West corner. This is the position in Northern Ireland. What would be the position when English people were denied the right to work, the right to live? Demonstrations would start.'

(Bro. Neary, National Union of Seamen, Trades Union Congress, 1970)

The above quote comes from the Newcastle on Tyne Trades Council report back of their visit to the six counties.

Whilst stating that they do not propose to offer any solutions to the troubles, the pamphlet can prove to be a useful aid in promoting a discussion in labour movement organisations or an aid to labour movement conferences on Ireland.

It could be advantageous, not providing another definite line/position to either agree or disagree with. Instead, much useful background information is provided, in addition to verbatim accounts of discussions held with a wide range of organisations and individuals, including Seamus Heaney of the Creggan Resource Centre and Glen Barr, one of the leaders of the 1974 Ulster Workers Council strike.

In a motion passed after their return, they propose:

'A joint TUC/Labour Party Committee on Northern Ireland formed to develop a distinctive labour movement policy and utilise the experience of those organisations who have sent delegations as well as to study in detail the proposals and policies emanating from organisations of the working class in Northern Ireland.'

However in order to achieve the stated aim of developing a 'distinctive Labour movement position', the trade unions must break out of their total obsession with economic issues and enter the political arena. *That means taking sides*, not looking for the lowest common denominator.

They partially recognise this weakness when they state in the 'TUC - Views and Policies' section of the pamphlet:

'There is also a fundamental contradiction which a delegation of 5 days duration is in no position to explain - between the stress laid on non-sectarian trade unions and the undoubtedly long standing discrimination in employment in both the public and private sectors with highly unionised work forces.'

Perhaps the last word should go to Seamus Heaney: 'Almost everyone on the Creggan would say pull the troops out now if you asked them.'

J Green, Kilburn UTON
Published by Newcastle on Tyne Trades Council.
Copies from 199, Hugh Gardens, Benwell,
Newcastle 4
£1 + postage. 58 pp.

The Orange Card: Racism, religion and politics in Northern Ireland. Flann Campbell.

Flann Campbell begins by discussing racism and its links with imperialism and fascism. He goes on to Ireland - Britain's oldest colony - and to how the philosophy of the superiority of the imperial people to those of their colonies was manifested in Ireland as well. 'The abusive language used in Papists, wogs, niggers, yids, bogmen, coolies, Kaffirs was specific, but the message was the same.'

He shows how Protestantism was introduced into Ireland, not just as a religion but as a way of separating the planters and the ascendancy from the 'natives'. The Orange Order began when differences between people's religions was beginning to become less important, and was immediately utilised by the imperialists to sow disunity. 'If class privileges, ethnic identity and religious allegiance could be tied together so that Catholics and Protestants were always at each other's throats then the real struggle could be diverted into sectarian warfare.'

He finishes by comparing the Orange statelet of Northern Ireland with the Orange state of South Africa, and deals with the connections between the National Front, Powell and Orangeism.

I sometimes found his belief in the ability of the churches, and establishment figures to combat racism very optimistic, and his conclusions a bit muddled. However, the facts and arguments are well presented. It is important reading for people interested in Ireland and in combatting racism.

F.O., East London UTON
Connolly Publications Ltd., 283 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1

Reporting on Northern Ireland.
Camerawork

This special issue of Camerawork, produced by the Half Moon Photography Workshop, should open many eyes to what's going on there, and not just through the quality of the photographs. Camerawork regularly examine the use of photography in our society, and this issue on the north includes interviews with working photographers from milieu as far apart as Temporary Hoarding and the Observer. A short history of Ireland, taken from the Troops Out slide show, set the stage. Then its on to the pictures, of West Belfast, of soldiers, of the Shankill Road - and not just the usual sensational pics we're used to.

There's a long account of how the army uses photos - and photographers - and an examination of media reporting on Northern Ireland.

For its revelations, for its questions, and for the wealth of useful material, this issue is a must for all those working for troops out now. And it is well worth while getting every issue of Camerawork, because there's a lot we could all learn about how, politically, to use - and stop misusing - photography.

Published by the Half Moon Photography Workshop and Camerawork.
Copies from 119 Roman Rd, London E2.
60p + postage

British Labour and Ireland: The Cost of Bipartisanship, The case for Troops Out Now. Geoff Bell.

The 1979 Labour defeat cannot be blamed solely on its disastrous policy in Ireland - a policy encapsulated in Roy Mason's almost suicidal wish to beat the IRA. However, it can be said that militants within the Labour Party, aided by a campaign of successful heckling of Labour Party members during the run up to the election, - in which UTON members took a prominent part - helped to force the question of Ireland into consideration - one of the factors in the analysis of Callaghan's defeat.

According to the Irish Post Irish people deserted Labour en masse in the last election. Exceptions were places like the Hampstead constituency, (which includes Kilburn), where the vigorous Troops Out Now position of the Labour candidate meant that he got a higher percentage of the poll than the national swing would have indicated, although not high enough for election.

Geoff Bell's pamphlet dispels the notion that the Labour Government sent troops in in 1969 to keep the peace. He shows that troops were sent in to preserve the statelet of Ulster. 'We are getting the troops ... and getting them without strings', he quotes a Unionist MP of the time.

The pamphlet contrasts the attitude of the Labour Party today (summed up in Wilson's 1971 comment 'The Border is not an issue') with the militant democratic position of the 1920 Parliamentary Labour Party Commission which concluded: 'Ireland is suffering from a malady ... which has only one cause ... the frustration of natural aspirations in social and political affairs ... against the British rule.'

He is excellent in charting Labour's adherence to a parliamentary bipartisan line, through Tory butchery to Labour Party compromise and equal butchery, ending with Callaghan telling an IRSP heckler at a 1979 election meeting that he 'should be ashamed' of himself for raising Ireland.

Excellent also is his demolition of the Communist Party's pathetic Better Life for All campaign (and London march) and its clamour for a Bill of Rights, and its fierce denunciations of the Republican movement as 'murderers' and 'terrorists', with no base in society - which outdo the statements of the British Army itself, now widely known to recognise the working class support given to the IRA.

But what the pamphlet does not clearly offer is advice on how to build a fight within the Labour Party for an alternative, socialist policy. He might have made mention of the lead given by Barnsley UTON in pursuing the butcher Roy Mason, before and since the election, so that now his position as MP for his constituency is threatened - not just because of, but partly because of, his Irish record.

A.W., Kilburn UTON
Available from G Bell, c/o IMG, P.O. Box 50, London N1.
40p + postage.

Diary of Events

June

22 Northern Ireland Secretary Atkins goes to Dublin to ask for: new Gardai anti-terrorist force on border; right of RUC to interrogate suspects held in the Republic; joint RUC/Gardai border operations. Later tells press in Belfast there is reason to think his proposals will be accepted. (Which is promptly denied south of the Border.) He does not mention new political initiatives.

30 Archbishop O'Faich, whose condemnation of the H Blocks drew wrath of British government, is made A Cardinal.

July

2 Northern Ireland Office announces its response to the Bennett Report which earlier this year found evidence of mistreatment of interrogees in RUC custody: to allow access to solicitors after 48 hours in custody (one of main recommendations of the report) but 'in the presence of a senior RUC officer where this is considered necessary'. Irish National Liberation Army, responsible for execution of Tory spokesperson on Northern Ireland Airey Neave is declared a proscribed organisation in Britain and Northern Ireland.

4 Northern Ireland Chief Justice clears 2 SAS men who killed 16-year-old John Boyle last year while staking out an arms cache which he had discovered and reported to his father (who reported it to the RUC). His comment: 'Probably they did act quite correctly given that SAS men are — as is now widely known — allowed to "shoot to kill" and ask questions later.' Foreign Editor of the New Statesman, writing in the New York Times, says 'Britain has lost all competence to deal with the Irish situation'.

5 Official Unionist MP Harold McCusker asks the House of Commons to congratulate the two acquitted SAS men. The Association of Criminal Lawyers (whose members work mainly in the no-jury Diploc Courts of N.I. handling cases arising from the war) announce that they will not cooperate with new regulations allowing the presence of a senior RUC officer during consultations between clients and solicitors.

7 18-year-old soldier, who had only been in N. Ireland 48 hours, is killed in Crossmaglen.

10 Three explosions at BAOR bases in Dortmund, West Germany.

11 Republican in Belfast sentenced to 20 years for attempted murder: on doctor's reports, he suffered a ruptured eardrum, cut lip, bruising to the stomach, bruising of the scalp and blood in the auditory canal, but according to the judge 'I am satisfied no ill-treatment was inflicted on him by any of the interviewing officers.'

Loyalist anniversary marches for the Battle of the Boyne pass with minor press notice.

15 Patrick O'Hanlon shot dead in Belfast car park.

Another factory closure in West Belfast brings total of 630 jobs lost in recent weeks.

16 12-year-old girl shot dead in Belfast by British soldier on social visit (apparently showing off his weapons).

17 Booby trap bomb aimed at UDR kills woman at bus stop in Co. Fermanagh.

According to NIO statistics, 79 'worst year for violence since 72/73'.

Paisley makes debut as Euro MP by objecting to Union Jack flying upside down at opening of European Parliament.

19 Unexpectedly large majority in House of Commons rejects return of capital punishment.

22 Vatican announces that Pope is to visit Ireland in September. Speculation on whether he will go to the North.

23 N.I. Police Complaints Board complains of 'severe handicap' in investigating complaints against the RUC because it is not allowed access to information about internal RUC disciplinary investigations. British Government reduction in subsidies to industry in N.I. likely to cost 2000 jobs at 90% Protestant Harland and Wolff shipbuilders in Belfast. Irish Times breaks story of how MP Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Manpower in the Northern Ireland Office, attempted to bribe the Chairperson of the Fair Employment Agency, set up by Government to deal with cases of discrimination in employment in NI. He offered government insistence on 'no discrimination' clauses in its contracts with firms, in exchange for FEA not investigating discrimination in the Civil Service.

24 Newman, head of RUC, to leave at end of 1979 to take up job as head of British Police Staff College.

27 Ex-RUC reservist killed by booby trap bomb in Portadown, Co. Armagh.

28 Catholic killed, apparently in retaliation.

30 New York Daily News, largest mass circulation paper in US, urges President Carter to pressure British Government to 'declare its intention to allow all of Ireland, Catholic and Protestant, to be governed by the Irish people.'

31 RUC plainclothesman shot dead in Armagh.

August

2 RUC man shot dead on Falls Road, Belfast.

2 soldiers killed by mine near Armagh City.

US army sales to RUC frozen during review of Atkins meets Governor Carey of New York in London at Carey's initiative to talk about Northern Ireland.

3 Carey criticises 'perverse silence' of British Government on Northern Ireland

6 Carey invites O'Kennedy, Irish Foreign Affairs Minister, and Atkins to tripartite talks in US.

8 Snippings, petrol bombs, burning of hijacked vehicles, general disruption in Belfast and other towns, leading up to August 12th anniversary of internment and 10 years of troops in the North.

12 15,000 at rally in Casement Park, Belfast, give rapturous welcome to IRA men (and women) on Sinn Fein demonstration. In London, over 10,000 march for British withdrawal.

13 Loyalist reactions: UDA threatens to 'turn to a more positive(!) role and start sectarian killings again.'

14 Daily Mirror Front Page Headline: 'Bring the Troops Home'. Inside: 'Ulster remained part of the UK when the rest of Ireland was given its independence because of the cowardice of the politicians of the 1920's. The



legacy of this cowardice is division, death and devastation. Today's politicians have a chance to eliminate that legacy instead of passing it on. Merlin Rees, ex-N.I. Sec'y, says 'British army never could defeat the IRA and I never thought they could'. Paisley supporters sing hymns outside Belfast Downtown Radio studio to take the curse off phone-in on N.I.'s illiberal laws on homosexuality. Atkins turns down Gov. Carey's invitation for talks because the political future of N.I. is a matter for the British Government, Parliament and the people of the North and cannot be discussed outside the UK'. Guardian reporter given interview with members of UDA, UVF, Red Hand Commando Loyalist para-military groups, who announce renewed campaign of killing of Republicans.

Lord Louis Mountbatten, his 15-year-old grandson, and a 15 year old acting as pilot for his boat are blown up off Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo, by the IRA. The same day 18 soldiers (16 of them paratroopers) are blown to bits by two booby-trap bombs in Warrenpoint, Co. Down. A British tourist across Carlingford Lough from Warrenpoint, on holiday in the Republic, is killed by British Army fire. The 18 dead soldiers are more than have been killed in any whole year from 1975 on.

Irish Cabinet meets in emergency session, but Taoiseach (PM) Jack Lynch continues his Portuguese holiday. Catholic man shot dead in doorway of his home in North Belfast.

Brussels bomb under bandstand where British Army band scheduled to play explodes, injuring 16.

Thatcher makes lightning visit to Belfast and Crossmaglen to boost sagging troop morale, placate Loyalists. Unionist Euro MP John Taylor suggests Loyalist para-military groups should choose retaliation targets south of the Border.

Vatican announces Pope will not visit North, because of the killings.

British Cabinet 'summons' Lynch to London the next week for talks on security.

Two men from N.I. charged in Dublin with Mountbatten's killing.

Irish Times interview with Provisional IRA: 'The killing of Mountbatten caused the political effects . . . which were expected. . . . We have been burying people for years, now they know how we feel. We will continue to hit prestige targets without apology. . . . Wait and see if Peter Jay and Jim Callaghan return to their holiday cottage in Co. Cork next summer.'

Sept

- 1 Gerry Lennon, Belfast Catholic, shot dead outside shop where he worked.
- 2 British to ask Lynch for right of soldiers to engage in 'hot pursuit' across the Border, RUC interrogations in south, increased liaison.
- 3 British soldier just returned from N.I. found dead by suicide in barracks in Colchester.
- 4 Pierre Salinger, former press officer to President Kennedy, arrested by RUC while interviewing Provisional Sinn Fein spokes-people.
- 5 Belfast Catholic narrowly escapes assassination attempt on city bus.
- 6 Lynch in London for talks. Does not concede main British demands, but in his public utterances, has significantly dropped usual insistence on 'eventual unification' and pushes instead, for 'political solution acceptable to both communities in the North. IRA address to British people: 'Now that you have buried your dead . . . we sincerely hope that

You can begin to understand the immense problems your Government's presence has created in our country. We sincerely believe that you, the British people must now honestly and logically begin to re-examine the role of your government in Ireland. . . . While Britain continues to interfere in the internal affairs of the Irish nation there will be many more deaths of British and Irish people.

- 9 Sile De Valera, Deputy in the Irish Parliament, makes a speech accusing Lynch of abandoning the republican principles of Fianna Fail (the ruling party). Sets off crisis in Fianna Fail, and for Lynch personally as leader.
- 11 Six British army instructors on 14 charges of involving recruits in mock execution and other sadistic pastimes.
- 13 N.I. Housing Executive Annual Report: 20% of Belfast houses lack 4 out of 5 basic amenities of bath, kitchen sink, wash basin, internal lavatory, hot and cold running water. Worst housing conditions concentrated in Catholic West Belfast; 19% population loss since 1971.
- 14 Crumlin Road jail warden shot dead; another seriously injured.
- 17 Peter Jay, son-in-law of Callaghan, and former British Ambassador to Washington, says in television interview that the solution to the Irish problem is reunification.
- 18 Irish Times article claims UDA, UVF, Red Hand Commandos all active again in sectarian assassinations. 7 sectarian killings of Catholics in the last 6 months, plus several other narrow escapes.
- 19 Five men from N.Ireland questioned in Dublin in connection with Mountbatten killing. Another man and woman held in Monaghan. Assistant Governor of Crumlin Road Jail killed.
- 21 Soldier from 2nd Bn. Scots Guards dies in Aldershot military hospital after collapsing the day before while on a route march with his regiment. Parents to seek inquiry. About the same time, a private in the 1st Bn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders dies after a 3-mile route march in Hong Kong.



UDR out of Scotland

At present there are 3,000 troops of the Ulster Defense Regiment (UDR) being trained outside Dundee in the local Territorial Army grounds, 'Barry Buddon'.

Given the construction of the UDR (mostly from the notorious B-Specials), their association with Loyalist paramilitaries and involvement in sectarian murders, the local UTOM branch is calling for support for a rally in opposition to their presence.

Ernie Ross, Labour MP for Dundee West (whose party oversaw the formation of the UDR) has called for their withdrawal from Tayside, and people from the more affluent suburbs are now expressing fear at soldiers carrying rifles (at least they don't shoot them) and the sight of low-flying helicopters.

Dundee UTOM welcomes support from all Scottish branches, Sinn Fein, trades unions and any other source.

Speakers will include UTOM, Sinn Fein, and hopefully Harry McShane, and Mary Nellis, from Derry Relatives Action Committee.

SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER

11.30am

Assemble Tofthill Car Park, Lochee.

LIVERPOOL DEMO

The Liverpool branch of U.T.O.M. is organising a march through the city in the beginning of November for the demands 'Troops Out Now, self determination for all the Irish people', and also making opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (P.T.A.) a central issue.

Given the continued use of the P.T.A. in Liverpool (where the local Trades Council has declared its opposition) and the large support there for Loyalist politics and paramilitaries (UDA, UVF etc) the Liverpool branch feel it is essential that they show their opposition to the right-wing propaganda in the press and the continuing indiscriminate use of the P.T.A. to harass and deport those arriving in the city whom the state 'considers a threat'.

Speakers at the march will include representatives from the Labour, Republican and Troops Out Movements.

Date: Sat. November 3rd

Time: 1.30 pm

Place: Junction of Scotland Road and Boundary St. (any bus from Pier Head terminus via Scotland Road)

Screws

riot

On the night of August 31st, prison warders at Wormwood Scrubs went on the rampage. Between 37 and 50 prisoners were injured. Irish POWs were a particular target and 2 of them are reported to have been badly hurt.

The immediate cause of the attack was a sit-down by about 200 men in 'D' wing in protests against the continuous whittling away of their so-called 'privileges' — such as being allowed to wear civilian underpants or jerseys with their prison gear.

The warders attacked the protestors using full riot gear and in particular singled out Irish POWs to 'revenge' themselves for Mountbatten.

Since then there has been a determined effort to stop any details of the events getting out.

Banner at the head of the several-thousand strong Troops Out Now contingent on the August 12th march for British withdrawal.

