

RB Page 3

An Phoblacht

Incl.8. Uimhir 14. 10p. Aibreán 5, 1977.

LEO J. MALONE, B.A.
SOLICITOR,
College Square,
KILLARNEY,
Kerry.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland. (1st Dail Eireann)

13

BERSERK



Le GEARÓID Ó HEITHIR

ABOVE: A youth is grabbed by one Garda while another raises his baton to bring it down on the lad's head: the minimum use of force?
BELOW: Vincent Hunt of Sligo was beaten unconscious and had ribs broken by kicking. This picture was taken in the hospital ward while he was still unconscious.

THE TELEVISION screens on Sunday night showed vividly and shockingly the savagery of most of the 500 members of the Garda "Siochana" in Portlaoise earlier that day as some 1,000 Republicans gathered to demonstrate in support of the 20 Portlaoise Jail hunger-strikers.

Our pictures in this and the back page tell the same sordid story. But for the courage of the press corps in general, and one "Irish Times" cameraman in particular, I might very well be in hospital, with some 60 other innocent demonstrators, instead of writing this.

It happened when I was taking pictures, quite obviously a cameraman, running from one area to another to record the happenings.

SURROUNDED BY GARDAI

At one stage I was surrounded by Gardaí with batons in their fists and asked what I was doing. I said I was taking pictures, that I was a pressman.

When I showed them my credentials,

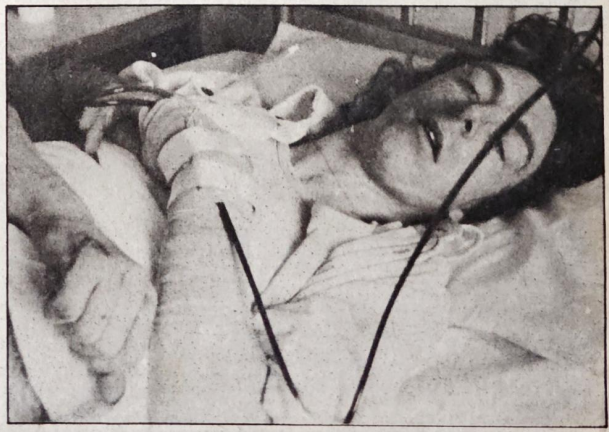
including a Garda Siochana press card, one of them shouted my name and hit me sharply on the wrist. It was a signal for a general assault which, undoubtedly, would have taken place, but for the action of the other journalists present.

They saw what was about to happen and intervened suddenly, the "Irish Times" man stating to the Gardaí that I was a member of the official press corp.

Clearly, the intention was to immobilise me. On the second occasion my watch was torn from my wrist. But the wrist took the blow intended for the camera, which was saved.

The result was that I was incapable of taking any more pictures at that time. Fortunately, by then, I had taken enough to

(Ar leanuint ar chúl)



SOLIDARITY WITH HUNGER STRIKERS

"Issue not security"

- O'Brádaigh

"THE issue in the Port Laoise hunger strike is not the security of the prison, as Mr. Cooney alleges, but the deliberate and vindictive attempt by the Dublin Government to break the prisoners in mind and spirit and turn them into vegetables," Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, President of Sinn Féin, said at a public meeting in Ballina, Co. Mayo.

"The hunger strike of 20 political prisoners was now in its 24th day and the health of some of the men was giving serious cause for concern," he said.

Mr. Ó Brádaigh continued: "Mr. Cooney, in his statement on the hunger strike on Monday night, made no reference at all to the fact that all educational facilities have been denied to the prisoners for years. Mr. Harkins, the Chief Warden has said: 'You will do no education here,' although Prison Rules state: 'The Governor must do his utmost to promote education.' This official rule is treated with contempt.

"As a teacher I took classes in Irish and other subjects during several periods of imprisonment and internment without trial in the Curragh and Mountjoy. I deplore the naked attempt to deny prisoners the right to occupy their minds and improve themselves.

"Enforced idleness and a limit of 1½ hours per day in the open air is causing men to vegetate and indicates the main thrust of official policy towards them to reduce

them to a state of passivity from which they will emerge with the passing of years as broken men.

"Political literature and education is of course, also forbidden which makes a sick joke of the governments alleged desire to see increased political activity by the Republican Movement.

"All of this has nothing whatever to do with security, even in Mr. Cooney's imagination, but I would wish to emphasise that the logical conclusion to an obsession with security to the exclusion of every other consideration is to put the prisoners to the gas-chamber and the incinerator.

"How is it that the British government can hold over a thousand men in Long Kesh and Magilligan camps without resorting to the vile, filthy and vindictive methods of harassment and persecution practised in Port Laoise, a place from which so many people of standing, both lay and clerical, have been refused admission to inspect conditions?" Mr. O'Brádaigh concluded.

Council meeting ends in disorder

MORE than sixty members of a deputation from the County Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin, saw Monday's Roscommon Co. Council meeting break up in disorder before their spokesmen could officially ask the Council to support a call for a public inquiry into conditions in Port Laoise Prison, where twenty men are on hunger strike. Cllr. Paddy Concannon (F.G.), the Council Chairman, after adjourning for ten minutes previously because of shouting by fellow Fine Gael members, Cllr. Michael T. Mitchell, ended the meeting for the day when a proposal by Cllr. Edward Keaveney (Ind) that the deputation be heard led to a direct negative proposal from Cllr. Liam Naughton (F.G.). The Council did not reach item one on the agenda.

After the meeting was adjourned for the day, Sinn Féin spokesmen put their case to the Fianna Fáil members who had stayed en bloc and four Fine Gael Councillors, Seamus Scott, Jack Kirwan, Luke Cunniffe and Paddy O'Donnell.

Cllr. Keaveney said one member of the deputation, Mr. J. Cull, whose father is a former member of the Council, had an uncle murdered by the Black and Tans. It would be a poor day that the Council would refuse to hear him.

After some of the councillors had left, Mr. Parag Ryan, Chairman of the Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair and a spokesman for the deputation, said they were all ratepayers and should not be barred from a hearing.

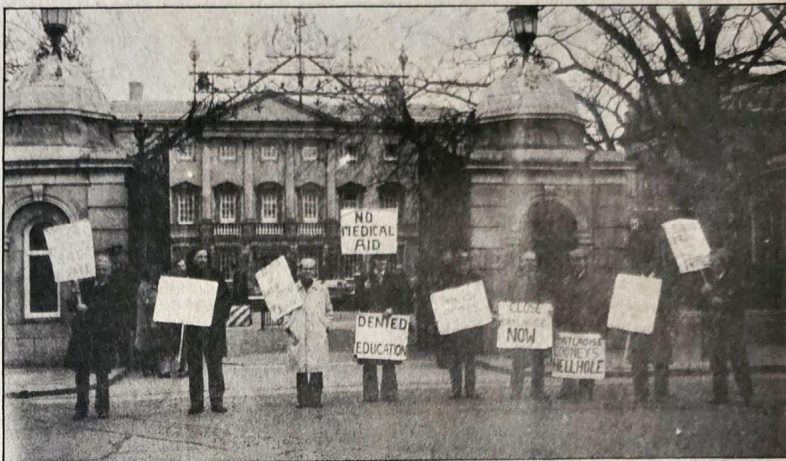
He said they were speaking on behalf of twenty men who were on hunger strike. This was not propaganda and men were being subjected to brutal treatment in Port Laoise that would not be meted out to animals. These men were all Irishmen and our own kin and kin.

If Mr. Cooney, the Minister, was right in saying there was no abuse of prisoners, why would he not allow an independent inquiry or let unbiased people in to see for themselves, he said.

Mr. Farrell Conry, of Elphin, said Mr. Cooney and the Government must take responsibility if one of the hunger strikers should die. People should stand up and be counted now before it was too late.

Mr. Henry Ownes, of Carniska, Strokestown, an ex-prisoner of Port Laoise, said he knew nine of the men on hunger strike. They were not the sort of people to give up easily and they had truth on their side.

Cllr. Sean Doherty (F.F.), said he had rejected the assurance given to the Council by Mr. Cooney.



Our picture shows a group of Sinn Féin Councillors demonstrating outside Leinster House, Dublin on March 30th, in support of the Republican prisoners in Port Laoise Jail, and in particular in support of the twenty prisoners now in this 24th day of their Hunger Strike for humane conditions.

In a statement the SF Councillors said: "We speak not alone in the name of all 26 Sinn Féin councillors but also in the name of all local councillors which have expressed their concern at conditions in the prison. The most recent of these which called for a public

sworn inquiry into the administration of the prison has been Longford Co. Council on March 21st and Galway Co. Council on March 28th.

"Leitrim Co. Council also called for a public inquiry in January while Louth Co. Council did like wise and followed up with the appointment of a deputation of councillors to inspect conditions at the prison.

"In common with many other public figures, elected representatives and churchmen, this deputation was also turned away. Other local bodies have also put their protest on record, but as with the negotiations within the prison

with the Governor, it has been to no avail.

"As elected representatives of the people we declare our abhorrence of the degrading and brutal treatment being meted out to fellow-Irishmen which has driven them to the point of risking their lives on Hunger-Strike as a very last resort to secure just conditions.

"We call on the Dublin Government to hear and to heed the voice of all concerned people on this issue in Ireland and abroad," the Councillors statement ended.

INQUIRY DEMANDED

THE Ormond Hotel was packed to overflowing at a meeting organised by Nora Connolly O'Brien in support of the Hunger Strikers in Port Laoise. From the meeting a call went out for a full impartial inquiry into the barbaric conditions that exist in Port Laoise.

Thomas Mac Anna, Artistic Director of the Abbey Theatre, who chaired the meeting, stated that it was a non party political meeting. The meeting had been called by concerned people, who felt that they had stood by long enough and that they must express their concern at what the Government was doing in their name.

Standard reply

Nora Connolly O'Brien explained to the gathering that she had spoken to Dr. John O'Connell, Labour TD in an effort to gain his support for a public inquiry. Instead she claimed, he ran to Cooney's office and came back with the standard reply: "Tell the men to come off the Hunger Strike and Cooney will review the situation" Mrs. O'Brien said she questioned how any man could hide a stick of dynamite in his person, either before or after a visit. She believed that the strip searching was the work of perverts within the prison service. She quoted from scripture: "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." "Surely," she concluded, "these 20 men are the most Christian of men".

Niall Blaney said the key to the crux was Cooney's assertion that prisoners have no rights. "Any deaths from this Hunger Strike must be blamed fairly and squarely on the Minister," he stated.

"The Governor of the jail and all his staff were acting on the implicit instructions of Cooney."

"The allegations of ill treatment emanating from Port Laoise have the same ring of truth that we heard from the men in Hollywood Barracks in 1971. Isn't it hypocritical of the Dublin Government to be pursuing the British Government at Strasbourg. Who will pursue the case of these men at home?"

"A full independent inquiry is needed to set the public's mind at ease. The personnel of this inquiry should be people who

would not be twisted or screwed," he concluded.

Siobhán McKenna, speaking in Irish said she had come forward to speak at the meeting out of her love for Nora Connolly O'Brien and not to defend the IRA. She condemned the taking of human life except in a position of self defence. She criticised the denial of the teaching of the Irish language and claimed that "Dublin is ruled by the Pale and the rules of the Pale."

Mrs McKenna spoke of her anguish at the men on Hunger Strike and ended by saying: "Cooney will not do anything about it unless people go down to Port Laoise and stand there until somebody does something for the men."

Other speakers at the meeting were Brendan Magill, Deirdre O'Connell, An tAth Piaras O Duill and Padraig Brennan.



Actress Siobhán McKenna makes a point at the meeting. Miss McKenna is one of a large number of prominent persons who have been refused admittance to the prison. Included in the picture is Mrs. Nora Connolly O'Brien who called the meeting.

'Brits Out - What Next?' Campaign continues

On Sunday, March 20th, an after-Mass meeting was held in Monageer, Co. Wexford, organised by the Wexford Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Fein. The speaker was P. O Ceallaigh, Runai of the Comhairle Ceantair.

Members of the George Plant Cumann, in whose area the meeting was held, saw to it that the area was well postered and distributed hundreds of leaflets. Most of those who attended Mass waited in bitter cold until the meeting ended, there was loud applause and the speaker answered many questions on the Movement's policy, put to him by the public.

In his address at the Managers meeting Mr. O Ceallaigh said:

"We in the Republican Movement, believing that the major political social and economic ills which beset our country stem from the interference of the British Government in our affairs do hereby call on the British Government to:

- Acknowledge the right of the Irish people to determine their own future without let or hindrance.
 - announce a date for the withdrawal of British armed forces from Ireland.
 - Declare a general amnesty for all political prisoners and all on the wanted list.
- "Let us look at the three demands. First of these British demands from the British Government an acknowledgement of the right of the Irish people to determine their own future without let or hindrance. This has been the historic claim of our people for centuries. In every generation, men and women have come forward to assert the right of their nation to full freedom and sovereignty. In this century alone, the right has

been asserted in arms on no fewer than five occasions. "Today we witness an assertion of this fundamental right to freedom unprecedented since 1921. The action of the I.R.A., the civil resistance movement and the staunch endurance of the Northern people to determine their own future, cannot be subdued despite the military threat of the British Government.

PARAMOUNT ISSUE

"The struggle has now reached the stage where the sovereign right of this nation is the paramount issue. Those who speak about 'Unity' at this point in time, are ignoring the simple truth that as long as there is a British presence in Ireland the policy of divide and conquer will demonstrate their ability to fashion institutions of state which will win the willing consent of the vast majority of the nation. "The Ulster Loyalists will have a vital role to play in the task of nation building. Day by day they grow more disenchanted with the policies of the

British Government. Some of them give expression to a desire for an independent 'Northern Ireland'. What they seek for the 6 Cos. of Ulster, we seek for the whole of Ireland. "The age of Orange supremacy is over. We in the Republican Movement have no desire to impose a green supremacy; together, Orange and Green, we must go forward to build a new Ireland, as free citizens of a free country.

"England can give us that freedom, but what she will not give we must take. The right of self determination is a fundamental demand, which the Republican Movement makes from a position of strength. On this issue there can be no compromise; it is not a negotiable point. "Secondly we demand a date by which British troops are withdrawn from Ireland. They were never acceptable in our country and they are less acceptable now, even to the Unionist minded people of the North. In every country they have British troops have left their

Mullingar meeting . . .



Our picture (above) shows George Lynch (Dublin) addressing the "Brits out: What next?" meeting held in the County Hotel, Mullingar on Tuesday, 16th March.

The local press exercised strict censorship and not a single report of this meeting was circulated in the Longford/Westmeath area.

mark, with a litter of corpses. How many more must die before the British Government decides to cease using our country as an experimental area for the theories of Brigadier Frank Kitson?

"There are some people in the South who express horror at the thought of British troops leaving Ireland; Cosgrave, Corish and Lynch are on record as stating such. Coming from them, it is no surprise. They have collaborated to such an extent with the Brits that it will be just as well they leave with them.

Demands

"Finally, our third demand is a general amnesty for all politi-

cal prisoners and people on the wanted list. Some of our have spent over 8 years in jail. No solution is possible until they are free. Without their lead and courage this struggle would not have reached the stage it has. The debt we owe to them is second only to that of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice. There can be no weakening in this demand for the release of all prisoners, Loyalist and Republicans. The opening of the jails will signify the beginning of a new freedom in a New Ireland.

These then are the demands of the Republican Movement. They are not made to secure a defeat over Britain, they are made because they are just and necessary to establish a true peace with

justice in our country. It behoves all of us and not only those in the Republican Movement to double our efforts to ensure their speedy implementation. "We now call for your support for the Brits Out - Peace In campaign and ask you to join Sinn Fein. There are no second class roles in this movement. It will take all of us, acting together, to ensure that this battle is the victorious one in the long struggle for Irish freedom", Mr. O Ceallaigh concluded.

Mass Meetings

Other after Mass meetings have been arranged for Sunday, April 3rd and will take place in Ferns and Camolin.

SATURDAY, MAR. 26

Co. Armagh: The I.R.A. in Co. Armagh launched a series of attacks on the British Army at the weekend. The first attack took place, as acting on intelligence reports, the I.R.A. ambushed a 12 man Brit patrol as they were being dropped by helicopter near Cullinville, south of Crossmaglen. Two units of the I.R.A., operating from different positions pinned the Brits down for nearly 2. The Brits returned fire (350 shots according to Lisburn G.H.Q.) but neither side claimed any hits. Afterwards the I.R.A. warned that it will intensify its campaign against the Imperialist forces.

BELFAST: The R.U.C. came under sniper fire near the junction of the M.I. Motorway and Donegal Rd. Several shots were fired at a mobile patrol. As R.U.C. reinforcements arrived they also came under fire. Despite the extra help of the Brits who also arrived at the scene, the I.R.A. snipers made a safe getaway back into the Republican area.

SUNDAY, MAR. 27

CO. ARMAGH: For the second consecutive day the Brits were attacked by units of the I.R.A. This time the attack took place on a Brit foot patrol operating four miles south of Keady. Shots were exchanged by both sides but there were no injuries.

News from the North

Later near Forkhill a 12 man Brit patrol opened fire on three men whom they claimed were masked and armed.

CO. DERRY: Several shots were fired at the Creggan British Base. Fire was not returned, and there were no injuries.

MONDAY, MAR. 28

CO. ANTRIM: A 63-year-old woman was shot at her home at Crosskeys near Toomebridge. The house came under attack after her son had escaped in his lorry. The men escaped and their abandoned car was later found near the shores of Lough Neagh.

BELFAST: Brit soldiers shot a man in the stomach and arm after they claimed they saw the man taking part in a hold-up. The shooting happened at the junction

of the Hallidays Rd. and Duncain Gardens.

Train services on the Dublin-Belfast link were disrupted, as were some local routes, when a bomb was left in a hijacked van in Diamond Gardens, Finaghy, south-west Belfast. Brit bomb disposal experts defused the 71lb device after several hours work on the van, which was parked near the railway line.

The nearby village of Dunmurry was evacuated yesterday morning when a petrol tanker, earlier hijacked on the Falls Road, was driven and dumped there. Brit explosives experts also dealt with the bomb which had been left on board.

TUESDAY, MAR. 29

BELFAST: 4 Brit soldiers in an armoured "Pig" must consider themselves to be the luckiest men alive.

The I.R.A. attacked them vehicle at the junction of White rock Rd. and Springfield Rd. with a Rocket Launcher. The rocket penetrated the armour plating and went out the other side. 3 Brits were injured but the driver managed to get the "Pig" back to base.

One of the biggest fires seen in the city for some time took place at a warehouse in the docks area.

Incendiary devices are believed to have exploded at Powers Carpet warehouse in Dunlow St.

It took nine fire engines to bring the blaze under control. The remiss were completely gutted.

WEDNESDAY, MAR 30

CO. DERRY: The British Customs station on the Derry-Raphoe road at Moleen was badly damaged after a bomb exploded.

A phone warning about the bomb had been received by the Gardai at Carrigans and the area cleared.

There were two explosions in the city. The first was at the timber yard in Quay-side and it caused minor damage.

A bomb planted in a wallpaper shop was carried out onto the Shariot Rd. where it caused slight Brit disposal units were dealing with two other suspect devices in Strand Road.

BELFAST: Francis Cassidy a 43 year old Catholic from the New Lodge Rd.

was assassinated by Pro British Elements.

His body was discovered on a footpath in Highfern Gds. in the Highfield Est. He had been shot in the head and severely beaten.

The Highfield estate has been the scene of several murders of Catholics in the past few months.

THURS. MARCH 31.

CO. ARMAGH: The IRA

attacked a Brit patrol at Flurrybridge. Several shots were exchanged and the IRA claimed they hit one Brit.

BELFAST: In east Belfast a bomb left at a shop started a fire which destroyed the shop. On the White rock Road in west Belfast a bomb on the pavement outside a house was detonated from 150 metres away as a Brit. patrol passed; one soldier was seriously injured in the leg.

EASTER PARADE

A parade led by the Cullen Pipers will form up at the Fair Green at 3.00 p.m. to march along the Old Road, down Old Post Office Street and into Main Street to lay a wreath at the Republican Monument.

Then the parade will proceed to the Republic plot in the cemetery where the oration will be delivered by a prominent Republican.

Meath & Kildare

Republicans in Meath and Kildare will combine to hold a commemoration at the grave of Tommy Allen, a Meathman who was shot dead while commanding a unit in the Four Courts.

Longwood

All taking part are requested to assemble at Longwood at 2.30 p.m.
SPEAKER: George Stagg
CHAIRMAN: Paddy O'Neill.

CEILI

EASTER CEILI in Staffan Hall from 10.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.
MUSIC by the High Noon Band.
ISTEACH 70p.

SYMPATHY

At a meeting of the Sean South Cumann, Sinn Fein, Roscomon town, on Friday last, a vote of sympathy was passed to the O'Hanlon family of Monaghan, on the recent death of their father, Eugene O'Hanlon.

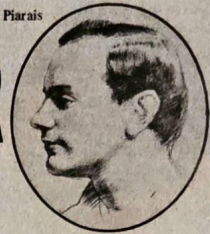
Notes of sympathy were passed to the following at last weeks meeting of the County Roscomon Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Fein, at Strokestown, to the O'Hanlon family of Monaghan on the death of Mr. E. O'Hanlon and the McManus family of Arigna, on the death of Mr. Pat McManus.

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS

Send a subscription today to: An Cumann Cabhrach,
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, Baile Átha Cliath, 1, ÉIRE.

Séamus Ó Conghaile

Pádraic Mac Piarais



ROLL OF HONOUR

Óglaigh na h-Éireann

CO. ANTRIM

- Gerard McAuley Fian 1969
- Liam McParland 1969
- Peter Blake 1970
- Liam McGoldrick 1970
- Michael Kane 1970
- Henry McIlhone 1970
- Tony Henderson 1971
- Terence McDermot 1971
- Martin Forsyth 1971
- Charles Hughes 1971
- Seamus Simpson 1971
- Dorothy Maguire CnamB 1971
- Maire Meehan CnamB 1971
- Eamon McCormick Fian 1971
- James Saunders 1971
- Billy Reid 1971
- Patrick McAdorey 1971
- Tony Nolan 1971
- Gerard McDaid 1971
- Phelim Grant 1972
- Michael Sloan Fian 1972
- Charles McCann 1972
- Tony Jordan 1972
- John Finucane 1972
- Danny O'Neill 1972
- Albert Kavanagh 1972
- Gerard Crossan 1972
- Tony Lewis 1972
- Sean Johnson 1972
- Tom McCann 1972
- Sean O'Riordan Fian 1972
- Patrick Campbell 1972
- Michael Magee Fian 1972
- John Dougal Fian 1972
- Michael Clarke 1972
- Ann Parker CnamB 1972
- James Quigley 1972
- Daniel McAreavey 1972
- Patrick Maguire 1972
- Joseph McKinney 1972
- John Donaghy 1972
- David McAuley Fian 1972
- Joseph Cunningham 1972
- Gerard Bell 1972
- Patrick Campbell Fian 1972
- Joseph Campbell 1972
- Bernard Fox Fian 1972
- Gerard Steele 1972
- Robert Dorrian 1972
- Joseph Magee 1972
- Samuel Hughes 1972
- Charles McCrystal 1972
- John McElean 1972
- Edward McDonald 1972
- Jackie McIlhone 1972
- Joseph Fitzsimmons 1972
- Martin Engelen 1972
- Joseph Downey 1972
- Seamus Cassidy 1972
- James Reid 1972
- Louis Scullion 1972
- Robert McCrudden 1972
- Sean Hughes Fian 1972

CO. ANTRIM (continued)

- Arthur Liggitt 1973
- Edward O'Rawe 1973
- Tony Campbell 1973
- James McCann 1973
- James Sloan 1973
- Stan Carberry 1973
- Patrick McCabe 1973
- Brian Smyth 1973
- Tom O'Donnell 1973
- Sean McKee 1973
- Francis Dodds 1973
- James Bryson 1973
- Patrick Mulvenna 1973
- Freddie Hall 1973

DERRY

- Thomas McCool 1970
- Thomas Carlin 1970
- Joseph Coyle 1970
- Eamonn Lafferty 1971
- Jim O'Hagen 1971
- James Sheridan 1971
- Martin Lee 1971
- John Bateson 1972
- Colm Keenan 1972
- Eugene McGillan 1972
- John Starrs 1972
- James Carr 1972
- James McDaid 1972
- John Brady 1972

TYRONE (continued)

- Seamus Harvey 1973
- Gerard McGlynn 1973
- Patrick MacDonald 1974
- Kevin Murray 1974
- Sean McKearney 1974
- Eugene Martin 1974
- Hugh Gerard Coney 1974

ARMAGH

- Michael Crossey 1972
- Julie Dougan 1972
- Michael McVerry 1973
- John Green 1975
- Sean Boyle 1975
- Francis Jordan 1975
- James Loughrie 1975
- Sean Campbell 1975
- Peter Cleary 1976
- Seamus Harvey 1977

DOWN

- Peter McNulty 1972
- John Carlin 1972
- John Curran 1972
- Colin Murtagh 1972
- Patrick Hughes 1972
- Oliver Rowntree 1972
- Noel Madden 1972
- Leo O'Hanlon 1973
- Alphonsus Cunningham 1973
- Vivienne Fitzsimmons CnamB 1973
- Edmund Grant 1973
- Brendan Quinn 1973
- Patrick McKeown 1974
- Paul McCorrian 1974
- Michael Hughes 1974

FERMANAGH

- Louis Leonard 1972

SLIGO

- Kevin Coen 1974

DUBLIN

- Tom Smyth 1975
- Patrick Cannon 1976

TYRONE

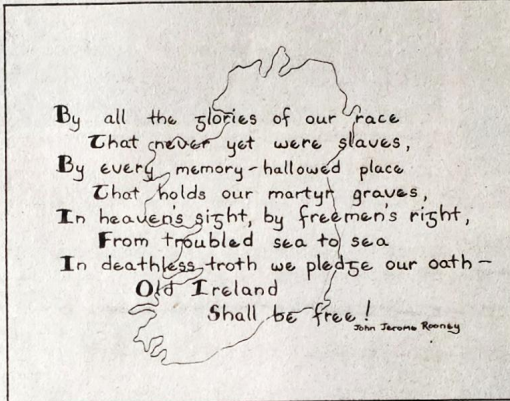
- Eugene Devlin 1972
- Tobias Molloy 1972
- James McGinn 1973
- Denis Quinn 1972
- Dessie Morgan 1973
- Kevin Kilpatrick 1973
- Sean Loughran 1973
- Patrick Carty 1973
- Dan McAnallen 1973
- Patrick Quinn 1973

ENGLAND

- Michael Gaughan 1974
- James McDaid 1974
- Brian Fox 1974
- Prionsias Stagg 1976
- Noel Jenkinson 1976

CORK

- Tony Ahearne 1973
- Dermot Crowley 1973



CAVAN

- Jack McCabe 1971

DONEGAL

- Peter McElear 1976



Tomás Ó Cléirigh



Seán Mac Diarmada



Tomás Mac Donnchadh



Eamonn Ceannt



Jóseph Máire Ó Pluingcéad

**Easter
'76**

RESISTANCE

**Easter
'77**



In the North, the British forces of occupation and their fellow travellers continued to meet with stiff resistance from the volunteers of Oglai na hEireann.



Republican Ireland paid a massive tribute to Máire Uí Dhroma gunned down by pro-British elements on Thursday, October 28th, 1976.



Seosamh O Cleirigh, (Joe Clarke), a 1916 veteran and the world's oldest active revolutionary died in April 1976.



In Bodinstown, some 20,000 people paraded to the grave of Wolfe Tone in June 1976 — one of the greatest Republican postings since the present phase of the freedom struggle began.



In the Free State the clamour for a public probe into the brutal methods used by the Special Branch against suspects detained continues to grow.



As 1976 drew to a close, Belfast women shivered in the December frosts in their battle to have political status restored to their menfolk in the North's concentration camps and prisons.

Fitzgerald's U.S. visit

ONCE AGAIN, on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day, a prominent Irish politician was in America. And once again many observers were asking the same question as last year: "why didn't he take his place in the reviewing stand?" Yes, last year it was Willie Cochrane; this year, Garret Fitzgerald.

Of course, many other observers who follow the unfolding daily torture of the unenviable nationalists of the north at the hands of the British SAS squads, and hounding of Sinn Fein supporters by the Free State Special Branch in the south, know very well why these Free State politicians eschew the public limelight.

The indignation which these individuals arouse in American-Irish communities is so strong that disturbances of the peace would surely follow their appearance in public. And the same applies to John Hume. This individual didn't take the trouble to "cover his tracks" because it is well-known that the British Information Service here in New York represents him when promoting him on to radio and TV programmes. If he wishes to deny this I will give my source to anyone who wants to know.

And now, the latest "victory" for Fitzgerald is to get four prominent American-Irish politicians to publicly voice their opinion that no money should be sent to "Irish organisations". They never said a word about the suffering and agony on the doorstep of half a million nationalists in northeast Ireland, nor about the stark medieval conditions in English and Free State jails darkening the minds and bodies of Irish-nationalists in northeast Ireland; nor about the stark medieval conditions in English and Free State jails darkening the minds and bodies

of Irishmen whose only crime is to see their own country take its place among the nations of the world. No, not a word. On the advice if Fitzgerald they declare that the only evil in Ireland is the IRA as if everything was all roses till the emergence of a strong resistance to fifty years of tyranny in 1968.

Never a mention of the fact that Ireland and Ulster was disloyal to suit Britain's settler-stock, a minority of the whole nation, so that those settler-stock, a minority of the whole nation, so that those settlers would forever keep the native Irish in a perpetual state of servitude and permit these despicable loyalists to parade their attachment to the British throne by dragging their coat tails and kicking up dust in the faces of the long suffering Irish people of the north. Never a word that the Special Powers Act is still the central legislation facing those half million people.

Fitzgerald and Co. are quite certain that if the freedom is maintained and as a result, the British will finally get out, and his friends would not survive the National election that would follow British withdrawal. I can assure him that the struggle WILL be maintained because the millions of supporters here will not be influenced by Fitzgerald's "publicity work" . . . they support the struggle because they know the facts and thus they will increase their support to hasten the day when we all can say to Fitzgerald . . . "GOOD RIDDANCE".

Tom Duffy, Broadcaster, Radio WNYC, 273 East 194 Street Bronx, New York 10458.
Endorsed by: Hon. Paul O'Dwyer, City Council Pres. Hon. Lester Wolfe U.S. Congress, Hon. Mario Biaggi, U.S. Congress.

Labour in Gerrymander

— le Marie Comerford —

TOLERANCE of every honourable Irish view must be the foundation of our thinking about the structure and character of government in the Irish Nation of the future. In that spirit we can argue about the world which Pearse and Connolly hoped to serve, and also we can go more or less, or none of the way with people whose good will is obvious when they write letters to the papers. I wish some no grain drop the idea of permanent partition which is now seen by all except those who don't have to live with it, to be incapable of working without coercion.

With Dr. Fitzgerald and his colleagues I can find no grain either of respect or agreement. Some of them are the second generation trying to do an impossible thing, and no nearer to doing it in half a century. In Washington, round St. Patrick's Day he reiterated the policy now being spearheaded at home in Portlaoise and on the border in collusion with the British, of liquidating republicans. In the dulcet tones used by diplomacy to cover such-like barbarities, he explained the alternative for free election in the partitioned area (who have never known a free election since 1918). It was a bloodthirsty declaration thinly veiled. He was in strange contrast to the Taoiseach who, when attempting to stop the Easter Commemoration last year, announced that St. Patrick's Day would be future be the occasion for all national commemorations. Messrs. Barry and O'Brien forgot about that!

No progress can be made by people of good-will thinking about solutions until we distinguish between the possible and the impossible. Ireland has to accommodate all her people.

What we have is a counter-revolution (1922) from a counter-revolution (1921), from a disguised and soft spoken counter-revolution (1919) during the first year after the legislation of the Democratic Programme (so eloquently praised by Bishop Cahir Daly very recently).

President de Valera and Vice President Griffith reduced the aims stated in the 1916 Proclamation at a time when First Dal Eireann should have, and had committed itself to be a revolutionary parliament of a sovereign nation. (Read the paragraph in the Proclamation about cherishing all the children of the nation equally). "Freedom to attain freedom".

Michael Collins was convinced the Treaty would "give but he found out his mistake inside six months. His ideas are to be found in at least four books which must be in the libraries, or should be re-printed. He was at first intolerant of republican opposition. He was seeking an end of the civil war when he died.

EASTER '77

EASTER commemoration ceremonies will be held at the following venues on Easter Sunday, 10th April, 1977.
(Wreath-laying ceremonies will be held at many others)

- CO. ANTRIM: Longford Town
- Belfast CO. GALWAY: Oughterard
- CO. DERRY: Headford
- Derry City CO. MAYO: Leitrim
- The Lough CO. SLIGO: CO. ROSCOMMON:
- Carrickmore Aghyaran CO. CORK: CO. DOWN: Newry
- Castlewellan CO. KERRY: CO. ARMAGH: Lurgan
- Armagh city Cullybanba
- Crossmaglen Bealek
- Camloch Jonesboro
- Drumintee CO. CAVAN: Swainlinbar
- CO. MONAGHAN: Monaghan town
- CO. DONEGAL: Drumboe
- CO. LOUGH: Dundalk
- Drogheda CO. MEATH: Longwood
- CO. DUBLIN: Glasnevin (morning)
- Deansgrange (afternoon)
- CO. WEXFORD: Wexford town
- Enniscorthy CO. KILKENNY: Kilkenny City
- CO. LONGFORD: Easter Monday: On Holy Saturday, (9th April) a commemoration will be held at Mullaghbaun, CO. ARMAGH.

HAPPY EASTER

THE Seamus Harvey S.F. Cumann Aghyarn send Easter Greetings to Irish freedom fighters incarcerated in Irish and English Prisons. Joe Floyd, (Magilligan), William Rushe (Long Kesh) and Vincent Donnelly (Brixton, England) are remembered especially. Your fight is our fight.

HAPPY Easter, Rita. It isn't Easter eggs waiting for you, just two years of dirty dishes. — The monsters.

HAPPY Easter, Rita and a Cead Mile Failte abhaile. By the time you're finished celebrating you'll wish you were back inside. — Love from Cathleen and all your friends in Dun Laoghaire and elsewhere.

RAFFLE RESULTS

FOLLOWING are the results of the drawing of prizes held by An Cumann Cabhrach (Donegal Branch) recently.

- 1st Prize (harp) A Ward, Classy Doochay;
- 2nd Prize (round tower) Peter Pringle, c/o Harbour Master, Killybegs;
- 3rd Prize (wallet) Seamus Ardmaccoole, Stranreer;
- 4th Prize (framed hankerchief) Patsy Kerrygan, Mountcharles.

TO: Charles Kevin O'Donnell, in Portlaoise Prison a Happy Easter. We love you, and are very proud to be your sisters. — Nora in the Yukon Territory; Vera in Philadelphia U.S.A.

QUIZ No. 5

A Silver Phoenix Badge to be won each week. Winning entry will be drawn each week from all correct entries. Enclose 10p in postal orders with entry and mark it:



'An Phoblacht Quiz', Box 7, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. To arrive not later than ten days after date of issue.

- 1) Who, arrested in Dublin on Monday, September 20th, 1920 was described as "respectably dressed and good-looking"?
- 2) Who said of Cathal Brugha: "my own conviction is that, except for war, he is

- not worth a damn for anything else"?
- 3) Who composed the Fenian oath?
- 4) What 1916 leader received his First Communion on the morning of his execution?

Carlingford Lough arrests

AT a recent meeting of the Louth Comhairle Ceannair the following resolution was passed:

"We call for the unconditional release of the five Marine Commandos on Carlingford Lough."

The men Paddy Agnew, Arthur Morgan, Gerry Bradley, John Murphy, and Peter Dullaghan were subjected to the most vicious and violent treatment at the hands of the R.U.C. Special Branch and the Marine Commandos. The boat in which the men were in was riddled with bullets, contrary to Brit propaganda (that only two shots were fired).

On being taken ashore the five men were kicked, pun-

ched, and spat upon. During their interrogation they were beaten black and blue as well as been urinated upon. In an effort to get the men to confess to alleged crimes of which they were totally innocent. Some of the men received busted fingers from rifles butts of the Marine Commandos.

In view of the arrests of members of the S.A.S. we challenge the right of the Marines and indeed the British Government as to the patrolling of Carlingford Lough inside Irish territorial waters under the constitution of Ireland. Some time ago in that same Locality there was an unsolved murder of Seamus Ludlow murdered by weapons similar to those used by the S.A.S.

I gCuimhne

SMILL: In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tom Smill, who was murdered by free state soldiers in Portlaoise prison March 17, 1975.

S. neána Dia trocaire ar a anam. Always remembered by Barneah/McCormick, Sinn Fein Cumann, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

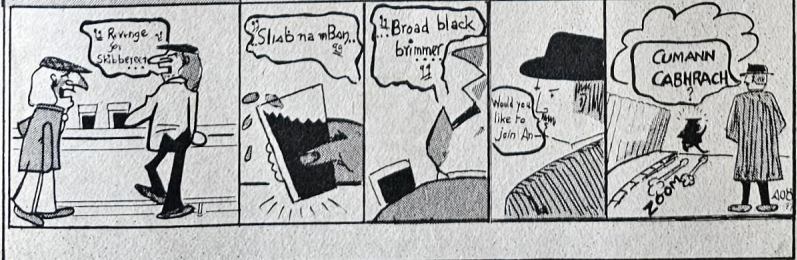
McDERMOTT: In loving memory of a friend and soldier, Sean McDermott who died for Ireland, 5th April, '76.

"We may have great men, but we'll never have better". Always remembered by Cathleen Knowles.

CLEARLY: In proud and loving memory of Peter Clearly, murdered by S.A.S. on 15th April '76 from his friends and comrades in South Armagh.

CLEARLY: In proud and loving memory of Peter Clearly, murdered on 25th April by S.A.S. Always remembered by the Peter Clearly Cumann, Sinn Fein, Lislea, Sth. Armagh.

...ON THE LONG ROAD...



I gCuimhne



McDERMOTT: (1st Anniversary): In loving memory of a brave soldier, revolutionary and friend, who died in our struggle against the system. "The spirit of Tone, that gallant soldier spirit, the spirit that loved and served the spirit that dared and soared, the spirit that laughed and sang with the gladness of a boy".

Always remembered by Rita (Limerick Jail), Gerry, Terry, Jane Frances and Ruairi.

BERSERK

(Ar leannint o lch 1)

record some of the worst scenes of Garda brutality I have ever witnessed.

It is an undeniable fact that a press photographer, after showing his press card, was assaulted by a member of the Garda "Siochana" and that this took place before a number of other cameramen sent to cover the demonstration.

One Garda shouted, after my press colleagues moved in to protect me: "Fuck you, press bastards. You all deserve to be stuffed."

I was not the only cameraman assaulted. A freelance cameraman, employed by one of the Dublin dailies, fared even worse.

A formal complaint will be made to the National Union of Journalists.

A working Journalist, Eamonn McCann, was on the platform of the meeting which, eventually took place after the Sinn Fein uachtaran, Ruairi O Bradaigh, and the leas-uachtaran, Joe Cahill, finally managed to talk some sense into the Gardaí.

By this time, following a mile long pursuit of the earliest demonstrators, and the merciless batoning of late arrivals, including women and children, a section of the crowd had taken refuge on a hilly junction on the Dublin Rd.

The Gardaí had made various unsuccessful sallies to dislodge them but were driven back on every occasion. Ruairi intervened, spoke to a Garda officer, and orders were given to the Gardaí to withdraw.

At the start of their first mad rush the Gardaí had been ordered back by their officers but had paid no heed. This time they obeyed and the meeting took place, continued and finished without further incident.

Eamonn McCann stated that the newsmen, reporters and cameramen, sent out by their papers to cover such demonstrations, told the story as it happened before their eyes, with professional honesty.

However, when they turned in their stories and pictures, he pointed out, because of political decisions at high editorial level, a very selective operation followed of the grossest and most discriminatory censorship imaginable.

The public was being allowed to see only that side which favoured the establishment so that a misinformed public would form the worst possible impression of the Republican Movement and its sympathisers.

One did not have to be a member of the Provisional Republican Movement to be in support of the demands of the hunger-strikers for decent jail conditions, he pointed out.

This paper, and the Republican Movement in general, holds no brief for the *agents provocateurs* (mischief makers paid by the state to create incidents in an effort to discredit the Movement).

The intention on Sunday afternoon was to have a dignified, peaceful protest in favour of the hunger-strikers and their demands. There is little doubt that the meeting would have been both peaceful and dignified but for the provocative attitude of the Gardaí, under orders to provide the greatest provocation possible.

The platform party and the stewards made supreme efforts to keep the demonstration and meeting to the original plans and, in fact, finally succeeded in holding a successful meeting when the savagery of the Gardaí had been brought under control by their officers who, initially, had been so blatantly ignored in the lust to draw blood and smash heads.

Ruairi O Bradaigh emphasised the need for people to come out every day in support of the hunger-strikers and their demands for humane conditions of imprisonment in line with the model rules laid down by the United Nations and to which the Dublin regime has subscribed.

Joe Stagg, Irish Civil Rights Association, told his listeners that they were the people of the streets and with him, he was sure, they would remain on the streets, to demonstrate for justice until it had been forced from the authorities.

Joe Cahill, who chaired the meeting, stated they they had witnessed that day the "heavy gang" in action and Garda brutality had been seen in all its viciousness by the newsmen sent to report the demonstration.

The demonstrators were gathered not only to back the hunger-strikers and their just demands, he stated, but also to support the men in H-Block, Long Kesh, denied political status, and the tortured prisoners of war in English jails.

A few years ago, pointed out Sean O Cinain, the Unionist monarchist, installed in Stormont, had been in virtually unchallenged control of the Six Counties.

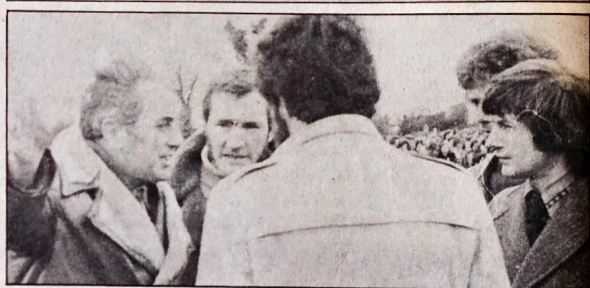
Now, after eight years of war, it had been shattered; and where was Stormont today?

The same fate was in store for the other partitionist parties and their structure, he forecast.

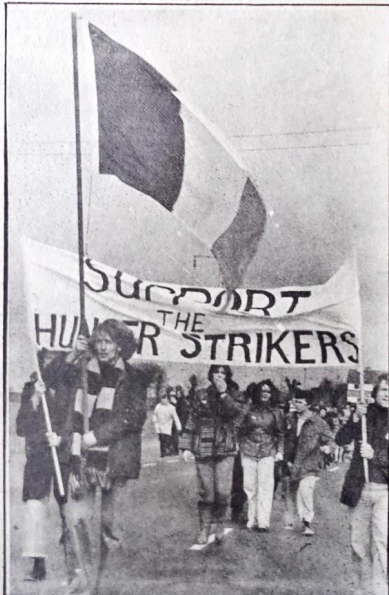
At the end of the meeting Joe Cahill urged those present to leave Portlaoise peacefully, just as they had done on arrival.



ABOVE: Another victim of Garda brutality during the Portlaoise batoning. BELOW: And yet another - beaten to the ground he attempts to cover his head.



ABOVE: Sinn Fein uachtaran Ruairi O Bradaigh tells newsmen that he had persuaded the Gardaí to withdraw, to enable those on the hill return to the main body of the crowd for the delayed public meeting. On Ruairi's right is Risteard Behal, a member of the Ardchomhairle. BELOW (left): Jack Glynn, almost 70 years of age, with eight stitches in his head, complaining to the Garda. He had been an innocent bystander. BELOW (right): Two newsmen are confronted by a Garda.



What it was all about: the banner tells the story.

Support the hunger strikers: their fight is your fight

DUBLIN SUPPORT

A TOKEN fast organised by the Casement Nolan and Thomas Clarke SF Cumainn will be held at St. Michaels Church, Dun Laoghaire on Friday, 8th April.

Token fasts will be held at other churches in the South Dublin area on Thursday 7th and Friday 9th.

Motorcades will leave from Beach Road, Ringsend at 11.00 a.m. and from Palmers, 9th Lock, Clondalkin at 2.30 p.m. on Easter Saturday, 9th April.



Hunger strikers in Curragh

TWO of the Portlaoise hunger-strikers were removed to the Curragh Military Hospital in the middle of last week, another two on Friday last and six more on Saturday. This leaves 10 fasting men still in Portlaoise.

The 10 removed to the Curragh are: Finian Henry, James Ferry, Tom Keenan, Robert McNamara, James Nolan, Phil O'Donnell, Daniel O'Sullivan, Liam O'Mahony, Seamus Swan and Kevin Walsh.

Attempts by relatives to obtain information of the condition of the men transferred to the Curragh are being met with callous replies.

One relative who rang last week and asked to speak to the doctor was told there was no doctor. When she asked to speak to the nurse she was told there was no nurse.

"Are you saying that there is no doctor and no nurse in the military hospital?" she asked. "Yes," was the reply and the phone was slammed down.