

# BORDERLINE

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## OUTRAGE

### FUNERAL TARGETED BY BRITISH ARMY/RUC

THE UPSURGE in harassment of South Fermanagh nationalists by the British army and RUC took a ghoul-ish twist on Tuesday, January 26th and Wednesday, January 27th, when members of the crown forces invaded the private grief of a family mourning the death of a 93-year-old relative.

Details of the behaviour of the crown forces throughout the funeral of Mary McCaffrey from Roslea were outlined at a press conference attended by close relatives of the deceased woman, including Sinn Fein Councillor Brian McCaffrey and Sister Martina of the Convent of Mercy, Enniskillen. It was revealed that:

- A British army patrol detained the

funeral cortege for more than half an hour on Main Street, Lisnaskea. In the course of this detention the soldiers laughed and joked at the expense of mourners and searched the car in which Councillor McCaffrey was travelling.

• Throughout that night the RUC kept a close watch on the house at Finn Park, Roslea, where the remains of Mary McCaffrey was being 'waked'.

• Early next morning RUC personnel raided the wake-house, including the room in which the deceased was lying. Some of the raiding party wore boiler suits, at least one had been present during the Lisnaskea incident and their commanding officer produced a search warrant - evidence that the terror attack had been pre-planned and sanctioned at a senior level in the RUC.

• A heavy presence of British troops loitered in the vicinity of the wake-house, on both sides of the village street and in the grounds of the community centre (a temporary chapel) throughout the funeral procession and service. Again, they were overheard joking and sneering.

• After the burial the names of those who had sent wreaths were noted by British soldiers.

Admitting that she had been reluctant in the past to give credence to reports of similar incidents, Sister Martina told the press conference:

"I consider that all these incidents



that I witnessed constituted unsolicited provocation. I consider they were a major violation of the rights of mourners at a private funeral and I consider they

were an outrage against the respect due to the dead."

An RUC statement which claimed they had been unaware of any bereavement in the McCaffrey family, was described as "a tissue of lies" by Councillor Brian McCaffrey, who was backed up by Lisnaskea solicitor Frank McManus.

And there was further criticism of the role of the British army and RUC from nationalist members of Fermanagh District Council. A motion was passed to adjourn the council's meeting for a week, in protest at the desecration of the McCaffrey funeral. This motion won the support of the six Sinn Fein members present and an independent councillor. Three SDLP members abstained on the motion while a fourth voted with the unionists against.

According to Sinn Fein Councillor Hugh O'Neill there has been a growing catalogue of harassment cases in South Fermanagh in the past 12 months and particularly since the appointment of John Stanley MP, a veteran of British intelligence, as the co-ordinator of crown forces operations throughout the Six Counties. In recent months alone there have been persistent reports of:

- Increased harassment at British military checkpoints.

- The issuing of death threats.
- A campaign of sexual harassment directed against young women.

Among the main culprits in these incidents are British soldiers currently based in Lisnaskea, at least some of whom are believed to be under the influence of hard drugs. Elsewhere there have been reports of drunken military personnel mounting checkpoints and taunting nationalist individuals and families.

Hugh O'Neill referred to an incident at Macken checkpoint where British soldiers detained a Lisnaskea woman and her 3-year-old son for 3½ hours. When the distressed child eventually soiled himself, the soldiers gathered around the car and began to jeer him and insult his mother.

Calling on people who suffer harassment to report each and every incident to the Republican Movement and/or to a solicitor, Councillor O'Neill concluded:

"If the treatment of this woman and her child is indicative of the new British army policy along the border then nationalist adults and children are indeed in for a very rough time."

## CHOOSE LIFE?

THE IRISH PEOPLE want peace. It is a genuine desire born out of centuries of suffering the harsh reality of injustice and violent death. It is a burning need which successive British administrations have frustrated and continue to frustrate.

A Choose Life campaign is being promoted in schools throughout the North at present. It is a campaign which involves many well-meaning people but it is a dishonest campaign. Choose Life is not about creating the conditions necessary for peace but is a British government approved effort to undermine the Irish struggle for unity and freedom.

It is a campaign which uses children. With its emotive title and its cloak of religious respectability, Choose Life furthers the lie that the British government and its institutions are honest-brokers 'keeping the peace'. It blames the 'natives' and, by implication, it excuses those who created and maintain division in our society - the British government.

Choose Life does not call for an end to unjust laws, discrimination, strip-searching, plastic bullets or torture. Nor does it call for the disarming of the RUC or UDR or the withdrawal of the British army. Far from attempting to tackle the violence of British rule it is directed at those who answer injustice in the only language that Britain appears to heed - the language of armed resistance.

Of course we must choose life; we must choose a future for our children where political violence no longer exists - a future which can only be created in an Ireland united and free. Until that objective is achieved none of us, parents or children, should allow ourselves to be used by a campaign which is little more than a sophisticated British propaganda exercise.

## PUBLIC ORDER SHOW-TRIAL

MORE THAN 50 Fermanagh nationalists are due to appear in court on February 16th to face charges of breaching controversial public order legislation which was introduced early in 1987. All of the charges relate to participation in last year's Easter Commemoration parade in Donagh.

An earlier hearing of the case at Lisnaskea court on January 26th was adjourned when counsel for the accused challenged the basis on which summonses had been signed by the 'Justice of the Peace'. At the next hearing the JP will be asked to satisfy the court that he had "exercised discretion" in approving each of the 52 summonses.

The accused, all but one of whom have denied the charge against them, will argue that the Easter Commemoration is an annual



event held in nationalist areas and giving offence to no-one. Indeed the only time there has been any threat of disturbance has been when the RUC attempted to disrupt the ceremony, as happened in Newtownbutler in 1984. Even then, in the face of a massive and

intimidating RUC presence, the ceremony was held in a dignified and peaceful manner.

One third of those summoned to appear in court on February 16th belong to just five families, none of whom are strangers to RUC harassment. And the vindic-

tive nature of the summonses is confirmed by the fact that some of the accused weren't even in Ireland last Easter, never mind in Donagh!

Whether any of this will have an impact during the RUC-orchestrated show trial remains to be seen.

# NÍ NEART GO CUR LE CHÉILLE (Without Unity There is no Strength)

**BORDERS DIVIDE PEOPLE:** that is their purpose. Most borders are formed by geography or cultural differences, or both, and are accepted as natural political boundaries. The border which divides Ireland, however, is an unnatural frontier which has divided neighbour from neighbour and community from community. It is an evil political boundary forced on our people by Britain.

That truth needs to be stated again and again. But instead we have political and religious leaders talk about 'healing community division' or 'bringing people together' while ignoring the very structures which divide people in the first place. The only way to heal division in our society is to remove the causes of division — partition and continued British interference in the affairs of our people.

As a periodical news-sheet, *Borderline* will assert the national demand for freedom and self-determination and report the issues which affect the day-to-day lives of the people of this region. And in referring to 'this region' we mean Lisnakea, Donagh, Newtownbutler, Magheraveely and Roslea as well as Clones, Scotstown, Smithboro, Newbliss and Scotchouse.

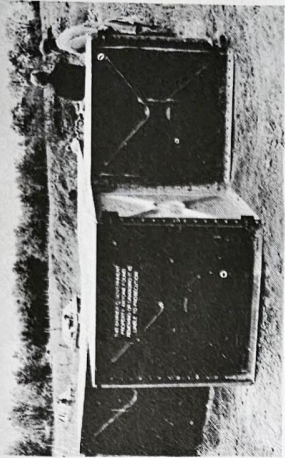
While recognising the damage which the border has done to all our lives, *Borderline* will emphasise the social unity of this area, a unity which is being attacked today as never before. All around us we can see British efforts to deter people from crossing the border to work or to socialise with friends and relations.

Entire communities which had close contacts in the past are now partially or totally cut off from one another by blocked roads or British military checkpoints.

Several parishes are effectively divided as never before and it is common to find younger people who have never visited one or more of the towns and villages listed above, even though they are just a few short miles away.

As the accompanying map shows almost every border crossing between Monaghan and Fermanagh from Mullaghfad to Wartlebridge, has been sealed at one time or another in recent years. The determined resistance of local communities to road cratering in the early 70s halted this British strategy for several years, but renewed pressure from the unionist leadership to seal the border led to a new spate of closures from 1980 on.

Anyone who held the mistaken belief that such closures were a response to the activities of the IRA got their answer in June 1980 when Lackey bridge and several other border crossings were sealed within hours of a rally in Newtownbutler where Ian Paisley was the main speaker. The point was underlined again in August last year when Derryvoolen bridge and the Magheraveely/Clones Road were sealed with



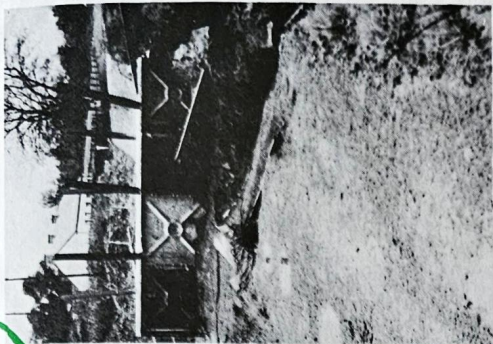
● Derryvoolen Bridge sealed by the British army in August 1987 and reopened by locals within days



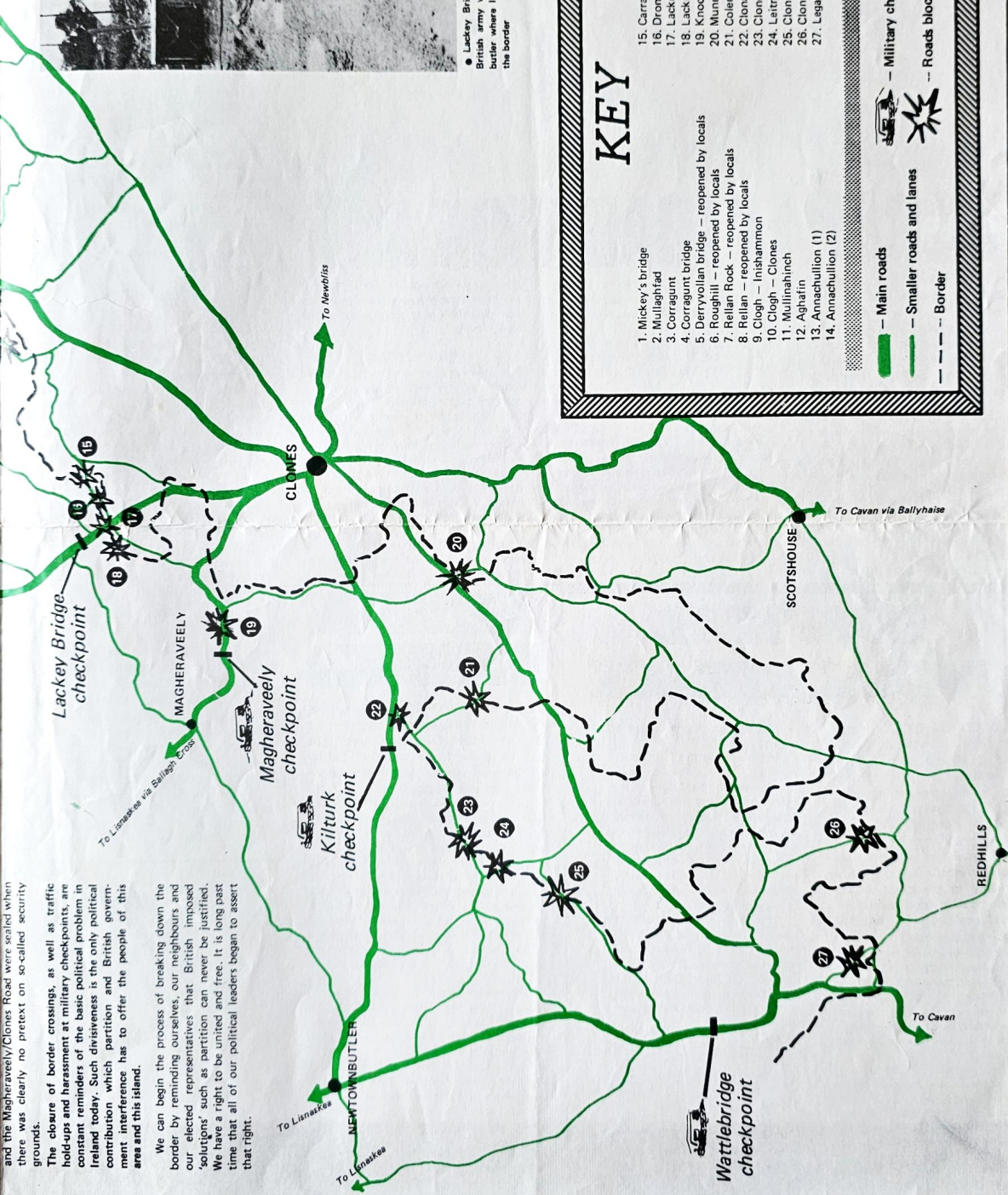
and the Magheraveely/Clones Road were sealed when there was clearly no pretext on so-called security grounds.

The closure of border crossings, as well as traffic hold-ups and harassment at military checkpoints, are constant reminders of the basic political problem in Ireland today. Such divisiveness is the only political contribution which partition and British government interference has to offer the people of this area and this island.

We can begin the process of breaking down the border by reminding ourselves, our neighbours and our elected representatives that British imposed 'solutions' such as partition can never be justified. We have a right to be united and free. It is long past time that all of our political leaders began to assert that right.



● Lackey Bridge after it was created and sealed by the British Army within hours of a loyalist rally in Newtown, Scotland, where Ian Paisley called for the complete sealing of the border



## KEY

- 1. Mickey's bridge
- 2. Mullaghtad
- 3. Corragort
- 4. Corragort bridge
- 5. Berryvolian bridge - reopened by locals
- 6. Roughill - reopened by locals
- 7. Reilan Rock - reopened by locals
- 8. Reilan - reopened by locals
- 9. Clogh - Inishammon
- 10. Clogh - Clones
- 11. Mullinahinch
- 12. Aghafin
- 13. Annachullion (1)
- 14. Annachullion (2)
- 15. Carravetragh
- 16. Droimard
- 17. Lackey bridge
- 18. Lackey bridge (by-pass lane)
- 19. Knockballymore
- 20. Munnilly
- 21. Coleman Island
- 22. Clonagun - reopened by locals
- 23. Clonsley
- 24. Leitrim bridge
- 25. Clonkee
- 26. Clontarf
- 27. Legakelly

- Main roads
- Smaller roads and lanes
- Border
- Military checkpoints
- Roads blocked or created since 1970

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## JOB'S IN HISTORY

ELEVEN YOUNG PEOPLE from the Clones area are currently employed on a Teamwork scheme which started on December 15th last in the Cara Street office of the Irish World Citizen Organisation (IWCO).

Sponsored by the IWCO, the scheme has been described by its co-ordinator Vincent MacDonald as an attempt to make the oral and written records of the past easily accessible for future research. The young people are gathering local folklore and social history and building an information bank. It is hoped that permanent jobs will be created in providing the information collected to emigrants as well as people locally.

Clones has already been selected as the centre for family history research in County Monaghan and there is a growing prospect that a heritage centre will open within a few years. Like the present Teamwork scheme this would help to open up the whole area of local history to a far wider audience than before.

## FIRESIDE MEETINGS

A SERIES of "fireside meetings" has begun, to inform townspersons about Clones Development Association and to recruit shareholders.

Several meetings have already been held with neighbours gathering together in local houses to listen, question and learn what exactly the Development Association is all about. A short video of the proposed National Garden Festival, as well as the wider plans of Clones Development Association, is shown at each meeting.

Members of the management committee of the association have told meetings that the decisions affecting the future should not be made by one group only but that each area of the town needs to organise and to present its own proposals for community development.

## SNOOP

A REGULAR visitor to the Scots-house/Connors area these days and nights is the Donegal snoop, Detective Garda Liam O'Hagan. Game hunters from the locality are in danger of tripping over the wiley fox as he emerges from his lair to keep a beady eye on customers in Connolly's pub and on mass-goers.

A busy boy is our Liam, burning up gallons of taxpayers' money to keep us all from harm. Ah sure, it's a small sacrifice to make for queen and country, what, what!



every right to expect as much as well as to expect that the stance he adopted on major local issues such as opposition to water rates will also be adopted by whoever succeeds him.

Whether such a candidate will come forward in time - at least ten days before the next UDC meeting on February 2nd - remains to be seen. The alternative is a contest with as many as four candidates attempting to take the vacant seat.

# SCRAP EXTRADITION ACT

THE EXTRADITION ACT (1987) should be scrapped and until it is there should be no more extraditions to British "justice" - this was the message that local Sinn Fein County Councillor Pat Treanor gave to the last monthly meeting of Monaghan County Council.

Councillor Treanor's call, which came during a lengthy debate on the Stalker and Birmingham Six judgements, won the support of five of the ten Fianna Fail councillors present in addition to the two Sinn Fein members.

An earlier motion, slamming the British cover-up on the Stalker inquiry and the verdict in the Birmingham Six appeal, was proposed by Fianna Fail's Macarten MacCormack. This motion won

the support of all the Fianna Fail councillors as well as those from Sinn Fein. Fine Gael members abstained, despite their alleged concern.

In the course of his contribution to the debate Councillor Treanor warned that "there are more Birmingham Six-type cases in the making." He outlined the plight of Martin Shanahan, a young Dublin woman who was one of three people arrested by British police and charged with conspiracy to kill Northern direct ruler Tom King.

"She is being held isolated in a cell, strip-searched continuously and while she should have been moved to a remand prison near the large Irish community in Brixton, she is still being held in a remote rural area, making it difficult for her family to visit her.

"There is a clear parallel with the

Birmingham Six case in that sections of the British media have already found her and the others guilty, as has the British legal system."

## FIANNA FAIL

Within the Fianna Fail party a growing number of members and supporters are questioning the contradictions of their leadership which condemns British "justice" but is still prepared to see Irish citizens extradited to such a regime. An indication of the extent of disquiet within that party was seen by the numbers of Fianna Fail people, including executive members, who joined an anti-extradition march and rally in Dublin on Saturday, February 6th.

A further rally is planned to take place on the weekend of the Fianna Fail party Ard Fheis.

# HOSPITAL UNDER ATTACK

CLOSED WARDS, a drastic reduction in staffing levels and a general deterioration in facilities are all part of a deliberate government campaign to close Monaghan County Hospital. This is a view shared by many hospital staff as well as patients who are convinced that there is a strategy in place to undermine public confidence in their local hospital, thereby forcing it to close.

Reports of growing demoralisation amongst hospital staff have been fuelled by news that some of the hospital's highly qualified personnel are applying for, or have already been offered, employment in the new regional hospital in Cavan.

The process of undermining Monaghan County Hospital began several years ago under the hospital centralisation scheme being introduced by the then Coalition government. This policy has continued under present health minister, Dr Rory O Hanlon. Since closure of the hospital would be politically damaging to him, it is likely that Dr O Hanlon

will leave such an announcement to his successor.

In the meantime, however, nothing is being done to build confidence for the future of the hospital. As the now defunct County Health Advisory Committee warned more than a year ago a process is already underway to undermine public confidence in the ability of Monaghan County Hospital to provide proper health care for its patients.

It is clear that the issue of hospital retention is no longer enough. What is needed is a revitalised campaign which will demand the upgrading of the hospital and an immediate reversal of the present undermining process.



## CO-OPTION

## BATTLE LOOMS

THE RESIGNATION of Padraig Duffy as an independent member of Clones Urban District Council has set the scene for a co-option battle at the next council meeting to determine who will replace him.

In normal circumstances a councillor who resigns is replaced by someone from the same party but, in the case of an independent, it is an open contest.

Padraig Duffy was elected to the UDC in 1985 with a massive first preference vote. His phenomenal success came at the expense of the Fianna Fail and Fine Gael parties, both of which lost voter support. Indeed, if that election showed anything, it was the extent of public contempt for the antics of both major parties on the council down the years.

Throughout his term as a councillor, Padraig Duffy was made to pay for his election triumph. Like the two newly-elected Sinn Fein councillors, Peter MacAleer and Fintan MacPhillips he was regarded as a threat to the cozy set-up which Fianna Fail and Fine Gael have going between them. Despite the size of his vote he was kept out of important council positions by an alliance of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael councillors - who between them represent much less than half the votes cast at the last election.

There is no doubt that a genuine independent should replace Padraig Duffy on the council. Those who voted for him have