

# CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE.

PAY  
NO  
RENT  
PAY  
NO  
RATES

No. 96

Saturday, 21st July (De Sathairn, 21 Iúil), 1973

## Clann na hEireann speaks out

CLANN NA hEIREANN in Britain last week accused the Taoiseach, Mr. Cosgrave, of "complete capitulation" to Britain over his policy on Northern Ireland.

The organisation stated that while every generation in Ireland had produced "the bravest of the brave to resist imperial domination", each had also produced its Quislings.

"Unfortunately this generation is no different. For years now, Britain has been able to rely on the co-operation of Irishmen to aid progress towards its imperial designs. It has enjoyed the backhanded connivance of Lynch and his cronies. It has found solace in, and indeed reused, the mouthings of that champion of the Congolese people, Conor Cruise O'Brien. It has now the complete capitulation of the 'Eire Prime Minister' to be thankful for."

The statement continued: "But it is our conclusion that Cosgrave has jumped too high and too soon. He has read too much into the riding to power, on the backs of the dead and suffering, or that other group of place-seekers, the SDLP.

"The spirit of freedom is not dead . . . the Irish people will not give Cosgrave, O'Brien, Hume or anyone else carte blanche for treachery.

"Rather, the Irish people will have realised now, more than ever, that the presence of British troops on our soil presents us not with any solution but with a major expression of our problem — British domination.

"Clann na hEireann says that the lessons and message of the last 750 years is take British troops out of Ireland and break the connection. In that process Cosgrave and his ilk will be committed to the limbo of traitors."

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

IF you write a letter in Irish to the Northern Ireland Community Relations Commission they will translate it and send a reply in English and ask you to in future correspond in English. This is the substance of a reply by the Commission to a query from Conradh na Gaeilge. They said they knew nothing about the use of Irish by other State bodies in the North.

## General Seán Mac Eoin R.I.P.

I LISTENED with amusement to panegyrics on the late General Mac Eoin. I noticed how each speaker studiously avoided saying what he wanted to say. They were all actors on a hurriedly erected stage. The Play itself had been cut to pieces by the censor. They gave the impression of people who were remotely controlled. Someone would try to say something which he very much wanted to say and then he would falter—"the controller" pressed a button and the words were frozen, the tongue was tied, and another actor took over.

Even though this was a radio transmission I had no need of TV to see The Play. It was pathetic, and a wretchedly poor tribute to a great man. I thought, if listening-in in the great beyond, the Blacksmith of Ballinalee must be laughing quietly at the simple faith which drove him—though personally I believe he was conned into a system which can spawn such hypocrites.

They came to praise him, and because he was a great man they found it difficult not to praise him. But they succeeded in not praising him with the prod-aid of "the controllers".

The presence of one man, the President of Sinn Féin, An t-Uas. O Bradaigh, almost redeemed The Play, in the closing moments. His silence was the loudest and most eloquently sincere praise for a great soldier and guerrilla fighter.

Ar dheis—láimh Dé go raibh sé.

## KITSON'S FINEST HOUR



Brigadier Frank Kitson

IF you're short of something to read this weekend, might we recommend a new paper-back called "Internment", written by John McGuffin and published by the admirable Anvil Press at 75p. It's not exactly classifiable as light reading, but it's extremely informative and obviously thoroughly researched, and it has the advantage of being both objective and subjective.

It covers the subject from 1916 to 1973, with a passing mention of the years 1881-82, when more than a thousand Irishmen were put in prison without warrant, charge or trial as "suspects", and it opens with the author's vivid and often humorous account of his own arrest, interrogation and detention in August, 1971, when the original British Army internment swoop brought into its net, among others, one blind man, three winos and a dog. That day, 9th August, 1971, is said to have been hailed at staff level in the British Army as "Kitson's finest hour".

### NEW BOOKS

WHITELAW'S TRIBUNALS. A history of Long Kesh internment camp; the immorality of Whitelaw's tribunals, tortures, hooded men. By Father Denis Faul and Father Raymond Murray. Price 30p.

TOWARDS A GREATER ULSTER. A coherent and challenging view of the last few years in North East Ulster and in Ireland as a whole. By Desmond Fennell. Price 30p. From 3 Queen Street, Enniskillen.

### FERMANAGH CIVIL RESISTANCE

## End Internment NOW!

9th AUGUST, 1971

-----

9th AUGUST, 1973

DO YOU CARE ANY MORE? DOES THE HORRIBLE SUFFERING AND TREATMENT OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN — OUR BROTHERS IN LONG KESH HELL HOLE — TOUCH YOUR CONSCIENCE AS IT DID WHEN THE NEWS FIRST REACHED YOU IN 1971?

IF SO, YOU WILL ATTEND THE ANTI-INTERMENT PROTEST IN ENNISKILLEN ON THURSDAY, 9th AUGUST, 1973.

# WHO IS IRELAND'S ENEMY?

Who is Ireland's enemy? Not Germany nor Spain, Not Russia, France nor Austria—they forged for her no chain,  
Nor quenched her hearths nor razed her homes, nor laid her altars low,  
Nor sent her sons to tramp the hills amid the winter's snow!

Who murdered kingly Shene O'Neill? Who poisoned Owen Roe?  
Who struck Red Hugh O'Donnell down? Who filled our land with woe  
By night and day—a thousand times in twice three hundred years—  
Till every blade of Irish grass was wet with blood and tears?

Who spiked the heads of Irish priests on Dublin Castle gate?  
Who butchered helpless Irish babes, the lust for blood to set?  
Who outraged Irish maidenhood and tortured aged sires,  
And spread from Clare to Donegal the glare of midnight fires?

Who sent in thousands o'er the waves to slavery and to shame  
The children of the Irish land, to end the race and name?

Who sold them like a flock of sheep and laughed in hellish glee  
When Irish mothers, made with grief, sought death beneath the sea?

Who scourged our land in '98; spread torture far and wide,  
Till Ireland shrieked in woe and pain and Hell seemed fair beside?

Who plied the pitch-cap and the sword, the gibbet and the rack?  
O God! that we should ever fail to pay those devils back!

Who robbed our land in '47 of all her stores of food,  
When at her gates, with poisoned breath, gaunt famine grimly stood?

Who filled her fields with whitened bones? Who drove across the sea  
The kindest hearts in all the world, the kin of you and me?

Who slew the three at Manchester, one dread November dawn,  
While round them howled in fury the devil's hungry spawn?

Who shattered many a Fenian mind in dungeons o'er the foam,  
And broke the loyal Fenian hearts that pined for them at home?

Who shot down Clarke and Connolly and Pearse at dawn of day,  
And Plunkett and Mac Diarmada, and all who died as they?

Who robbed us of Mac Swiney brave? Who murdered Mellows true,  
Sent Barry to a felon's grave and slaughtered Cathal Brugha?

Not Germany, nor Austria, not Russia, France nor Spain  
That robbed and sieved this land of ours, that forged her rusty chain;

But England of the wily words—the crafty, treacherous foe—  
'Twas England scourged our Motherland, 'twas England laid her low!

Rise up, O Dead of Ireland, and rouse her living men!  
The chance will come to us at last to win our own again;

To sweep the English enemy from hill and glen and bay,  
And in your name O Holy Dead! our sacred debt to pay!

# THOUGHTS ON JULY

IN the month of July ones' thoughts should normally turn to the joys of summer, lovely gardens, buzzing bees, busy haymakers and sunny beaches. But somehow nowadays it is hard to find joy or pleasure in the lovely, serene attractions around us. There seems to be more place in our minds for the many significant events associated with what so many of our elders called the "mad month of July"—the month when every Orange Dick, Bob and Willie marched with their drums to indicate "Croppies lie down" and thus keep kindled that sectarian strife in which Mother England rejoiced as the fulfilment of her age-old policy of "divide and conquer".

"Men may come and men may go,  
But the Boyne goes on for ever."  
(Apologies to Tennyson.)

July in Ireland seems to have a meaning all its own—so much is associated for so long with that month.

Let us quickly pass from July, 1690, to July, 1921, which was a very momentous month in Ireland. I will digress to 28th June—Election Day here. It was on 28th June, 1921, that Mr. de Valera replied to a note from Lloyd George inviting him to a conference in London. In that reply he expressed his desire to help in bringing about a lasting peace between England and Ireland, but saw no avenue by which it could be reached "if the essential unity of Ireland was denied". Have our politicians forgotten about unity today?

The 9th July, 1921—it was on this date that truce terms between the British Army were finalised to come into effect on 11th July. But on 10th July the Covenanters in the North carried out an attack of such ferocity against the Catholics in Belfast that Bloody Sunday is the name by which 10th July, 1921, is still remembered in that city. Orange mobs and Special Constables took part. One hundred and sixty Catholic homes were burnt out. Fifteen people were killed and sixty-eight seriously injured. Not one Protestant home was burnt. Over one thousand Catholics were found sheltering in old stables and stores. The British Government and British press made propaganda use of the holocaust, placing the blame on the Irish people. They claimed that the British Government had made a liberal gesture to Ireland and if the Irish didn't show their gratitude Britain was morally justified in using the utmost violence to beat the rebels.

20th July, 1921.—On this date peace proposals were handed to de Valera in London. He rejected them saying he would not even take them home with him for consideration. Lloyd George on that date made his first threat of immediate and terrible retaliation.

We could quote from every July for the past fifty years — Brookeborough's July boast that he had no Catholic employed, Ferguson's regret that Catholics were in the majority in Fermanagh, his resolution that such a majority must be liquidated, etc., etc.

But we must move to another date—2nd July, 1973. Liam Cosgrave met Edward Heath in London to talk about Northern Ireland. As I write on 3rd July little is yet known of that meeting. But Mr. Heath and his ministers are pleased with Cosgrave's speech on the evening of their meeting. One British newspaper described the speech as "Music to the ears of hard-pressed ministers". How flattering to the Taoiseach for few ever thought his voice very euphoric. What Irish politician said: "When a British statesman speaks well of me I examine my conscience"?

Let us hope Mr. Cosgrave keeps his conscience under scrutiny. He must be very close to the files of that other Cosgrave who left us "the damn good bargain" of 1925, recommending it to the Irish people as the basis of a sure and lasting peace.

I could not end my "Thoughts on July" without reference to another July date of over 300 years ago when Blessed Oliver Plunkett, on 11th July, was hanged, drawn and quartered in Tyburn — his only crime being his ministration to the beleaguered, impoverished Catholic people of Ireland. I am sure if we turned to him in prayer he would lend an attentive ear for he had first hand knowledge of informers and cruel English rulers.

# COSGRAVE SELLS OUT TORTURED INTERNEES

THE Dublin Government, without any reference to the people involved, has agreed to a suggestion from Westminster that the Irish case before the European Court on Human Rights be postponed until the autumn.

Quickly the Government spokesmen were on the ball. This is not putting it on the long finger, they said, and it doesn't mean we are not going to push with the utmost vigour to get justice for the aggrieved. It's just that July is an emotional month for the Orange Order and the Unionists in general and we don't want to upset them.

Nice, isn't it, to be able to play with other people's blood and broken bones in this way. It wasn't Cosgrave, or Ritchie Ryan, or Garrett Fitzgerald, or Conor Cruise O'Brien who was a victim of British thugs at Hollywood Barracks or Long Kesh.

It was a few ordinary people, in the estimation of the Dublin politicians, and it has been proved fairly conclusively by events in the past couple of months that the Southern elected representatives think the ordinary people of the six-counties can be sacrificed ad lib.

What the Government spokesmen didn't say is that the Court of Human Rights is up to its neck in work and is unlikely to be able to take the Irish case in the autumn. This means it will be put back again and, more than likely, will never see the light of day. Events will have overtaken it.

## INTERNEES SACRIFICED FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

But what an excuse to sacrifice these brave Irishmen?—to appease the Orange Order and other Unionists. Those same people who screamed on television before world audiences in the David Frost Show and other programmes that torture and beatings weren't half good enough for Republicans. That there should be more, not less, repression and cruelty.

These are the people the Dublin politicians are sucking up to. These and their arch-conspirators, the British Government. And Jack Lynch is overjoyed. Up he jumped in the Dail to say he agreed wholeheartedly with everything Cosgrave was doing and saying in relation to the six-counties.

What a sorry spectacle these "Irishmen" make in comparison with the heroes who suffered in the British army and RUC torture chambers! Kitson must be chortling over his cornflakes every morning.

The Dublin politicians should remember, though, that another politician in recent history sacrificed peoples in a spirit of appeasement. We refer to Neville Chamberlain—and look what happened to him, and the world.

# RELEASE OF INTERNEES

Sir,  
I would like, if I may, to reply to "Curious Female" ("Irish News", 27/6/73) concerning the SDLP. As an ex-internee, I consider myself to be in a better position to know the facts.

The SDLP did not negotiate for our release last year (I was in Long Kesh at that time). If they did, then why was there not a single release during the truce? The negotiations were part of the demands made by the IRA in England. The releases did not start until after the truce was broken (by the British Army's provocation).

Could "Curious Female" please tell me why Mr. Gerry Fitt, the leader of the SDLP, stated on a TV Assembly platform (26th June) that he would not release the internees tomorrow, if he could?

He is now saying what he condemned Brian Faulkner for when he declares that the Provos are keeping the men inside.

Yours etc.,  
Ardoyne Non-Voter.

**OWEN CORRIGAN**  
GROCER · HARDWARE MERCHANT  
KINAWLEY  
Telephone Florence 285

## SOUTHERN DIARY

DUBLIN politicians were not surprised at the "good" showing of the SDLP in the Assembly election; in fact they would have been more than surprised if it had been otherwise in view of the amount of Southern money that had been put into the effort.

Southern big business backed the SDLP to the hilt with shekels galore and you can bet your bottom dollar there were tight strings attached. Anyone who thinks Messrs. Fitt, Hume and Currie, etc., are free agents is a political simpleton.

From now on the Social, Democratic and Labour Party will jump to the bidding of Dublin ultra-conservatives whose sole aim is the preservation of what they've got and the acquisition of more. If these boys say "liaise with the devil" Fitt, Currie, Hume and Co. will rush off to buy their pitchforks.

And which road will the SDLP be forced to travel?—no secret about that, Dublin big business, for purely commercial reasons, wants the Brits to remain in the six-counties and the SDLP will have to support that line. What price now civil rights and the internees?—tell us, please, Mr. Fitt, Mr. Hume or Mr. Currie. And while you're at it, Mr. Currie, tell the good people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone who have hoodwinked exactly who they were voting for when they gave you number one. Tell them who lined the Party's pockets and who pulls the strings. Tell all, Mr. Currie.

MANY people in the six-counties, says RTE, either can't get or don't watch Southern television. In consequence you might have missed the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, blandly announce last week that the Southern Government wants the British army to stay in the six-counties.

You're staggered—but there's more to come. Tackled about how the six-county minority might react to that in view of the killing, torture and harassment which is the hallmark of that force, the benign Dr. Fitzgerald retorted that the British army should stay EVEN IF THEY MAKE AN OCCASIONAL MISTAKE.

The British army, added the Fine Gael Dr., are the only force who can stop a bloody civil war in the North and, for that reason, should be forgiven for the odd death or two. Isn't it nice to know you are Garrett's sacrificial lambs?

The Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave, compounded the insult and injury by repeating Dr. Fitzgerald's remarks almost in toto. The British army, it seems, are your Guardian Angels, but you are too simple to see it. Perhaps Long Kesh, too, is a myth—or just another piece of Provo propaganda. And this Southern Government is called the "Cabinet of intellectuals"? God help us!

OUR new "President for all the people", Erskine Childers, was in Galway at the weekend opening "Leisureland" in that city. In the course of his speech he repeated a number of times that he hoped "Irish people will use it". Erskine spoke as if he were an outsider, a foreigner—perhaps, under the circumstances, a pardonable lapse.

CANY anyone write a hit song? One that will lay emphasis on Sinn Fein (Kevin Street) and "Eire Nua" and is catchy enough to make the charts? If you feel you've got something, send words and music to Sean O Bradeigh, Director of Publicity, 2a Kevin Street, Dublin, and you may, later, hear something to your advantage.

I HEAR there is no truth in the rumour that Conor Cruise O'Brien has turned down a mention in the next British honours list on the grounds that Sir Conor would place him lower down the scale than his buddy, Lord Iveagh. Pity about that.

## CASEMENT 'DIARIES' FAKED BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Sir,

The new book on Roger Casement by Brian Inglis has served to renew interest in the alleged "diaries" of Casement.

In 1967 I spent two days examining the "diaries" in the Public Record Office in London. I could only conclude that they are forgeries and crude ones at that. I can understand why the British Government has hidden these documents from public view for so long.

Even today, the "diaries" can be seen only with government permission, and permission is rarely granted.

The British Government claims that the "diaries" must be kept secret under the "Public Records Act" but a reading of this law reveals that it does not make the Casement "diaries" secret and it is improper for the government to ban public inspection.

Moreover, the government admits the "diaries" were made public to dozens of people in Britain and America in 1916, and thereafter, and so there is no valid reason to maintain secrecy at this late date.

I should add that the Home Office refused me permission to have the "diaries" examined by a handwriting and other experts. This refusal speaks for itself.

Alfred Noyes in his "Accusing Ghost of Roger Casement" pointed out the numerous contradictions contained in the British Government's explanation of how, when and where they got possession of the "diaries".

These inconsistencies constitute additional proof that the "diaries" were forged. My own personal inspection of the "diaries", and my own trial experiences as an attorney in criminal and civil courts over a 23-year period, makes it obvious to me that the so-called Casement diaries were faked by the British Government.

Roger Casement was given a political trial in 1916. The outcome was certain from the start. The Government's forgery of the "diaries" was a political device employed to guarantee conviction outside the London court, in the court of world public opinion, and particularly in America.

Yours etc.

James C. Heaney

(Attorney at Law)

S14 Ellicott Square Building,

Buffalo, New York,

14203.

## WHITELAW'S TRIUMVIRATE

IN passing! Gerry Fitt is now known in Dublin as "the man behind the wire".

Seeing Paddy Devlin in O'Connell Street, a colleague commented: "Isn't he walking proof that the British hand-outs in the North are bigger than ours!"

Austin Currie's name was spelt "Curry" on BBC television recently—obviously the Brits think him hot stuff.

A suggestion that the Dail follow Westminster's lead and publish the outside commercial interests of members could not get a sponsor—are they afraid how many would be shown to receive dividends from British-based industries?

### JAMES CAREY

Select Grocers and General Hardware Merchants  
Crown Paint and Wallpaper Specialist  
PHONE: LISNASKEA 337

## LET THE CLERGY STAND UP

I AM concerned with the recent statement by British soldiers that they intend to shoot young boys of 13 or 14 years if they are seen with guns. Are we now to see children shot on suspicion by badly disciplined soldiers who have cleared themselves in advance by stating that they have already shown great restraint by not returning fire on such youths?

How many children have been left with one parent since that first "shoot on suspicion" order was released?

Surely now would be an appropriate time for our clergy to stand side by side with us in the streets in dignified protest as the Dean of Johannesburg has done. He did not support the status quo when it was responsible for immorality. Surely the brutality which some of the internees have undergone is immoral, as is internment without trial?

Many priests have already made a stand. All we ask is their support to show the people how to make peaceful resistance work. So often history has shown the church supporting wars: "Fight for the rights of small nations," said the bishops in regard to the first world war and the Spanish civil war has been spoken of as "a holy war" by churchmen.

Even the freedom of the Republic of Ireland was bought by the blood of violent men. Surely, then, it is logical that people will take to violence to fight violence as history, taken at its surface value, seems to prove it victorious.

### THE CLERGY'S DUTY

Surely clergy then have a duty to set the example, to be on the spot in demonstrations to curtail those who would give way to violence (to replace the ear of the soldier, if you like).

I hope the day never comes when I see a priest or a bishop on a platform identifying himself with a particular political party, but what is at stake today is the establishment of a society where the dignity of men is revered.

The mark of a good shepherd is that he always leads his sheep into the fold. He never, but never, drives them.

Have we a good shepherd in Fermanagh?

Ederney Housewife

## WHAT THEY SAY

Norman St. John Stevas (Tory MP)—He feels ("our boys") British soldiers of 1971 are good "chaps" really compared with the "Black and Tans" (British soldiers of 1921).

Lord Carrington—His Lordship doesn't feel the tying of a sack round an Irishman's head by a Crown terrorist and leaving it there for up to six days is brutal.

His Lordship also implied that 14 men tortured at Palace Barracks were murderers.

"Faulkner"—Have you noticed that the two centre letters of the name are the initials for LONG KESH, or could it be LONGSTONE RD. KID?

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .

### FRANK'S BAR

Home of Traditional Song and Music

MAIN STREET

LISNASKEA

## ASSEMBLY TOP TWENTY

- 1 "The Two of Us"—Ian and Eileen Paisley.
- 2 "I'm Lonely Because"—Fergus McQuillan.
- 3 "We'll Drop the Charges"—Liam C. Gravae.
- 4 "Give Us this Day"—Tom Daly and the Daly-breads.
- 5 "Beautiful Dreamer"—John Hume.
- 6 "Three Times the Quota"—Jim K. Kfedder and the Kildedderites.
- 7 "Stranger in their Sights"—John Brooke.
- 8 "Dear Ould Bannside"—Wm. C. ig and the Bannguards.
- 9 "I'm the One"—Brian Faulkner and the Power Sharers.
- 10 "Those Big Eyes"—Willie and the Orangelaws.
- 11 "Insurance but no Endurance"—Edward Sayers and the Midulcerites.
- 12 "There are a Lot of Us"—John Citizen and the Spoilers.
- 13 "The Men behind the Wire"—G. rry and the Missfits.
- 14 Hand me down my Bible"—Rev. William Beattie.
- 15 "Half Standin, Derry on the Banks of the Foyle"—. . . tic and the Macateers.
- 16 "Fare Thee Well, Enniskillen"—The Donnelly/Lunney Big Band.
- 17 "Silence is Golden"—Faceless Currie and the Austinmen.
- 18 "The Big Slander"—Senseless Erne and the O'Hareites.
- 19 "We're Coming Home"—Sir Frank King and the Limeys.
- 20 "We see it all so clearly now"—Joe Cahill and the Belfast Brigade.

The above records and singers are expected to change places many times in the coming weeks. Do not be surprised if there are a number sharing No. 1 position. They call this type of thing power-sharing, or making the system workable.

### FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE SOCIETY

## WON £5 EACH

#### LAST WEEK'S WINNERS:

JAMES DRUMM,  
Trustan, Macken,  
Enniskillen

BRIAN COLLINS,  
Main Street,  
Maguiresbridge

#### THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

FRANCIS McAULEY,  
Shankill, Garvary,  
Enniskillen

MARGARET QUIGLEY,  
Drumguiff,  
Roslea

## INTERNEES SCORned

Dear Sir,

I attended Mass at Whitehill on Sunday last. Outside two youths were selling CONCERNED. As you know the front page was given over to a statement signed by ten priests on the horrible conditions existing in Long Kesh.

As I approached one of the sellers for my copy my attention was taken by the two people in front of me. One lifted a copy, looked at the front and said: "Long Kesh—all propaganda." The second looked at it and said: "Bah, lies—sick of it." The first man was the Alliance candidate in the Assembly Election. The second was a hard worker for the SDLP in L.G. and Assembly Elections.

Believe me, their behaviour did not annoy me; it made me very sad.

Le gach beannacht,

Still behind the men behind the wire

## HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES

### IN JULY

- 1 Blessed Oliver Plunkett hanged at Tyburn, 1681. Thomas Francis Meagher drowned, 1867.
- 2 Rev. J. Porter executed, 1798.
- 3 Connaught Rangers mutiny in India, 1921, against British atrocities in Ireland.
- 5 Cathal Brugha killed by Free State troops, 1922. Death of Red Hugh O'Donnell, 1605.
- 6 Eoghan Rua O'Neill landed in Ireland, 1642. First appearance of Black and Tans in Dublin, 1920.
- 9 RIC mutiny in Cork, 1920, against orders to arrest fellow Irishmen.
- 10 John O'Donovan born, 1809. Kevin Izod O'Doherty arrested, 1798.
- 12 Dr. McNaven, 1798 leader, died, 1841. Battle of Aughrim, 1691. Trial of the brothers Spears, 1798.
- 13 The brothers John and Henry Spears hanged, 1798.
- 16 Henry Joy McCracken hanged, 1798.
- 17 Death of O'Sullivan Béara, 1618.
- 18 Battle of Bridge of Athlone, 1690.
- 19 Billy Byrne of Ballymanus hanged by British, 1799. Belfast Pogram commenced, 1920: 61 killed, 50 wounded, hundreds homeless.
- 20 Hugh O'Neill died in Rome, 1616.
- 22 Massacre of Rathlin Islanders by British, 1575.
- 23 Patrick Sarsfield killed, 1693. Robert Emmet's rising, 1803.
- 24 English beaten at Athlone, 1690. Trial of Oliver Bond, 1798.
- 25 Siege of Limerick began, 1690.
- 26 Mary McCracken (sister of Henry Joy, sweetheart of Thomas Russell) died, 1866
- 28 William Byrne hanged by the British, 1798.
- 29 Smith, O'Brien, Meagher, McManus, O'Donoghue transported, 1849. Escape of 100 IRA prisoners from Dundalk Jail, 1922. Most Rev. Dr. Mannix banned from landing in Ireland by the British, 1920.
- 30 Owen O Comhraidhe died, 1862.
- 31 Founding of Chonradh na Gaeilge, 1893.

## THE PERIMETER OF HELL

A Chara,

I would like to express my thanks to you for your thought-provoking article, The Perimeter of Hell. It made me think of how much we can learn about our personal dim awareness of such horror at our very doorstep. I asked myself reproachfully if I had any right to meet myself face to face since it has taken me so long, and taken your article, to make me reject a heart of stone and acquire a heart of flesh.

Your moving article brought me near enough to enable me to look at the victims of British terrorism and to see those who were strangers to me before, as my brothers. This change of heart, or of mind, or of attitude, has made it now possible for me to look the victims of this barbarism straight in the eyes, beyond the eyes, into the depths of living hearts. Also to draw from this freshly acquired insight thoughtful conclusions as to the greatness of what must be intended and willed by men prepared to endure, to suffer so greatly.

In your article I caught a glimpse of the truth of a heart striving to make me aware of its own agony. No doubt I am speaking for all who will have read your article. Neither I nor they must make the all too frequent mistake of merely addressing our reply to the words of your article, even though they are words patently heavy with anguish. We must do much more, indeed we must feel duty-bound, to respond to that anguish by a display of compassion and commitment. I must not permit myself to move away from your picture, your disturbing pen-picture, of the perimeter of hell, Long Kesh. I must remain spiritually near enough to it to make me feel related, responsible and committed.

I wish that the people in our government, who too often see righteousness and their own person coincide exactly, would read your article and address their reply not merely to its words. Perhaps they, too, would then feel duty-bound to a much more effective display of Christian compassion and commitment than mine. Their exalted display of compassion and commitment could so easily empty that horrible place, whatever the stresses, the exigencies, the risks, the cost. Refraining from risk and counting cost, in this instance, is a renunciation of sovereignty because it is a renunciation of man. To stand for man is an assertion of sovereignty.

Finally, as none of us must ever allow ourselves again to see our brothers who spoke to us from your article as strangers, and so undo ALL their hope, may I ask you to offer your article for publication in our daily, or perhaps provincial, newspapers?

Mise, le fíor-mheas,

C. Ni Mhuiri,

## THE COURAGE OF THE BRITISH

GREAT publicity was given to the British Army some time ago in Belfast when they forced a young Volunteer of the Irish Republican Army at gun-point to defuse a bomb he was planting. As an extra precaution they tied a rope around his legs just in case he might escape.

A few days ago we had a similar incident here in Fermanagh. Two young soldiers of Ogligha na hEireann were captured by a heavily armed patrol of the British occupation army and forced to defuse a bomb on a road-side. From the publicity the British Press Office gives these incidents it appears they feel their soldiers are performing some noble act.

But there is nothing noble or courageous in 20 or 30 heavily armed men forcing two unarmed men to defuse a bomb. Soldiers taken prisoners ought to be treated as prisoners of war. After all, did Mauding not declare war on the Irish Republican Army? But then when and where did Britain behave with honour? Her murderous villains here today are no different from the criminal scum which made up the Black and Tans.