

republican NEWS



Volume 7, Number 16. Saturday 23rd April 1977.

England/Scotland/Wales 10p. (USA 45 cents) PRICE 7p.

THE VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER

SUPPORT HUNGER STRIKE



A section of the huge crowd which marched through Dublin last saturday in support of the Portlaoise Hunger Strikers. The march set off from St. Stephen's Green and concluded outside the GPO in O'Connell Street. The march was organised by the Irish Civil Rights Association and supported by other groups including Relatives Action Committee and Sinn Fein.

Latest

As we go to press messages of support for the hunger-strikers flow in to our office. Calls on the Free State Government to allow an inquiry came yesterday (Wednesday) from 42 members of the Society of African Missions at Maynooth. Conradh na Gaeilge, 30 Co. Meath farmers who had been imprisoned a decade ago during the NFA campaign, miners in Navan, 120 building workers in Clondalkin, Co. Dublin, and a group of people in Nenagh, Co Tipperary. Sinn Fein Cumann in Belfast have sent off hundreds of telegrams petitioning foreign heads of State to intervene on the mens' behalf. Irish workers, nationalists and socialists and international comrades have rallied to the cause of these 14 courageous men now into their 47th day without food. REPUBLICAN NEWS salutes them!!!

Support
Them Now

BRIT AGENTS BOMB ARDOYNE

In a statement supplied to Republican News the Belfast Brigade Oglaithe na hEireann has blamed British agents for Wednesday's car bomb attack on the Ardoyne funeral of Trevor McKibben.

The bomb killed 19-year-old Sean Campbell of Oldpark, Belfast and seriously injured five others, including a 16-year-old youth who remains critically ill.

The Belfast Brigade points out the similarity of the attack to that which occurred in Beechmount Avenue on Easter Sunday and says that both bombs were an attempt by the British War Machine to divert the Republican Army from its successful armed struggle against the forces of British imperialism and local capitalism. The Belfast Brigade warns that the tactics of counter-revolution will not succeed.

The statement reads as follows:

"At approximately 12.50 p.m. today, a bomb exploded in Etna Drive, four doors away from the home of Trevor McKibben, killed by British soldiers on Sunday, 17th April. The funeral of Trevor was to take place from his home at 1.00 p.m. today.

In the street at the time a crowd had gathered to pay their last respects to the dead man, and it is apparent that this bomb [in a silver Cortina Reg. YTE 297H] was planted to cause as many deaths as possible among the mourners.

Belfast Brigade firmly believe that this bomb like the bomb in Beechmount

GOING 12 PAGES!

Avenue on Easter Sunday was planted by loyalists working for the British Army, and it is clear they are attempting to: 1. Provoke a conflict within the Republican areas between the Irish Republican Army and other groups.

2. To divert the Republican Army into a sectarian war with Loyalists. This would take the pressure of the British Army which cannot stop the gains made by the Republican Army.

3. To terrorise people away from Republican marches.

The Belfast Brigade will continue to wage war on the British government and its military wing, and will not allow itself to be forced away from that goal."

Because of the soaring increases in the price of newsprint and transport costs the Editor has been forced to increase the price of the Republican News from 7p to 10p. This price increase will take effect from Saturday, May 7 (number 17, Vol. 7). It is the first increase in three years and the Editor hopes that the support of our readership will be forthcoming and that our sales will continue to rise as they have been doing in the past five months. So as to give value for money the News will also increase its size to 12 pages.

BENJY'S ANGELS

BY SOLON

Long Kesh

Monday morning has arrived, and as usual Long Kesh is on full alert. The lines of Brits tremble nervously behind the machine guns and sand-bag imitations, newly rebuilt since the release of Wilderbeast Rooney. Long-range binoculars peer into Cage II. Prison officer Nigel Flagstaff V.C. D.S.O., Silver Star, Croix De Guerre, (screw) makes his way to the gate, eyes closed, pulse racing, bicycle clips digging into his ankles. The PTI (another screw) from behind his cast-iron observation post signals. The bar on the gate creaks, giving the first hint to the Cage elevens, impatiently awaiting their inter-cage football match. Immediately LK resounds to the roars of a horde of yellow-shirted figures stampeding towards the gate. The screw on the gate, being less than nifty, found himself impaled beneath 448 football studs (14 per boot).

"Grunt, grunt, grunt," grunts the Joiner, to the PTI, who answers, "I know I'm late Joiner but one of the tanks lost a track on the pitch." "Grunt, grunt," grunts the joiner. "No I didn't say the PTI handing it to him. The joiner puts the lace of the whistle around his neck, and strangles him.

In the wake of their devastation troops manager Benjy, gallantly clad in a 3 piece leopard skin suit and white stetson, with the cigar dripping from his mouth. On his short leash strained Basher, the team mascot since his life suspension. The Waffen S.S. sports comm., had no hesitation in suspending him for his devotion to "brutality, inhumanity, dirty football boots, savagery and time wasting."

On the pitch the team limbers up as Benjy saunters towards his Monday morning post, at Cage 9's wire, to indulge in some light back-stabbing with big-nosed Bell (alias Andrew Gold, alias J.C., alias anon.). Cleaky does some exercises; he also does a bodge from Newry. Liam Stone slips his bicycle chain down his waterboots in preparation for the off. Amidst the jeers, cat-calls, boos and other insults from behind the wires of Cages 9 and 10 no-one notices Cage ?'s slither towards their positions on the other end of the pitch. Wee Cleaky (Doris Clarke) plants a pole-axed form on the middle of the pitch. The ropes tying his arms are released, he tosses the ball in the air and dives for the cover of his dug-out. 'IT' has begun!!!



Pheep!! Big Cleaky rises majestically as his opposite number lies agonisingly clutching his bloodied nose, sustained a second before when Cleaky's hurl caught him full in the face. "Ahh Cleaky it's Gaelic we're playing nor hurling?" says the ref., quizzically. "Aye I know replied Cleaky somewhat bemused. For his pains he got the red card.

"What the hell did he send you off for?" bellowed Bell from behind his wire. "I think he got me on a technicality" reported Cleaky. Benjy, ever vigilant took the opportunity of this diversion to slip his fingers through the wire and into Big-noses' pocket in search of cigar butts.

Play resumed with a jump-ball retrieved by plate-head McCarron who left in his wake trail of mangled bodies wondering what hit them. It's a goal "Uhh! what's de baww (ball) for?" says Bloggs intellectually.

The kick from the keeper sails through the air diverting a Robin from it's line of flight. Crunchhh! The Joiner's tackle is decisive. In one sweet movement both the ball and Cage ?'s centre's head are careering up field towards it's target snuggled in the warmth of the Joiner's vice-like grip.

"Give it to me Joiner?" implores Bloggs, so the Joiner gives him the head and continues on his chosen path. "Uhh! What's de baww for?" pleads Bloggs in his endless search for knowledge. "He's a luvverly mover" says Honky, as he himself gracfully dodges the on-coming Joiner, indiscriminate such is the character of the man

"Goal! No 'problem'!" screams Harry Maynes as he pins a full-back to the ground always conscious of the fact that a man with his face held in a puddle of water could drown. He raises the head gently by the hair, "are you O.K.?" "Gurgle, gurgle", came the reply.

The game continues. 20 minutes into the first half, the score 7-0, it is held up for 5 minutes as 3 Man Utd supporters are treated for shock. The referee's head emerges out of a strategically placed dug-out in the middle of the pitch to restart the game. The 3Bs Joe, Noel and Tommy? have the mid-field sewn up (i.e. handing out stitches). Meanwhile Bloggs is standing in Cage ?'s square punching desperately, kicking and lunging for the ball which is in the meantime at the other end of the pitch. Pheep!!

"What's wrong Huh?" says Honky relaxing his grip on the keeper's ear. "What did I do ref?" pleads Honky. "It's not you. It's Bloggs," comes the reply from within the 20 ft thick walls.

G.B.H. and being in the square? Bloggs, understandably, somewhat perturbed at this, claws at the iron door with his teeth. McCarron and McCann grabs Bloggs' legs while the rest of the team grabs his parcel, cigarettes shirts and L.P.s. After a stoppage of 10 minutes Bloggs is safely nailed to a railway sleeper (which happened to be handy).

Cage II played on with 13 men and Doris Clarke. Half-time comes and goes in the usual fashion. The second half is now in full swing, a cross from the

right, an uppercut from below and a boot in the rib-cage (Sean and Anthony haven't forgotten the ref's poor handling of the Bloggs affair.)

A new ref. is found. He screams horribly as he is dragged by the hair to the middle of the park. Toby removes the blindfold and takes back the cigar. The game restarts. We're on the attack and needless to say the tackles are hard but according to section 2, para., B. Geneva Convention "not very barbarous."

The game is stopped again because the ball which was burst in the closing stages of the first half has at last been repaired. This leads Swede and Noko to wonder how they are going to play the game and kick a ball at the same time. Chris Black shares their scepticism, their apple crumble and he also has 7 fingers on his right foot.

Pheeeeeeeeep! The final whistle! Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh! The final scream for mercy. We take the opposition's jerseys for souvenirs, also their watches rings, medallions, gold-rimmed glasses and gold teeth. And in a final gesture of magnanimity we help load the remains onto a cart.

Reports of the match filtered around the Camp. The focal point of the reports was the lack of face-collecting on the part of II, which has now become part of their tradition. The only other talking point was the failure of yet another Cage's attempt to dent Cage II's unbeaten record. As Joe Barnes sums it up, "Hurling has (cough, cough! sorry) Gaelic has triumphed."

Long Kesh resumes nor-

mality for another week. In Cage II the huts strain to the joyous sound of voices singing the refrain, "WE ARE THE BARBARIANS! WE HATE THE CHRISTIANS!"

Face-collecting means face-collecting!!!

SOLON.
LONG KESH ASYLUM!

P.S. If at times our humour seems weird or outlandish we hope the readers understand that here in Long Kesh has developed a unique sense of the ridiculous. Mel Brooks rules!!! Gene Wilder forever!

ST. JAMES' PROTEST

Last Tuesday night a public meeting was held in the lower St James area. Militant youths patrolled the streets as the meeting proceeded, to stop the Brits from intimidating the people in attendance. An Action Committee was set-up with local people, including representation from the Rock streets, organising themselves into "bin-lid & whistle" units.

Another public meeting has been organised for next week and women from Turf Lodge have been invited as guest speakers, to give accounts of how best to organise local resistance. Meantime the Brits can't patrol St

James and the area is No-Go. With Brits Out, Peace HAS come in!!!

HOUSING EXECUTIVE SLAMMED

In an internal "discussion document" on "organisational structure" the "Northern Ireland Housing Executive" has been slammed as a "top heavy bureaucratic organisation". Among other criticisms were:-

1. "Communications are poor and coordination of effort to achieve common objective in less effective than it should be".

2. "The resources (especially those of manpower) needed to complete the various housing programmes (greenfield, redevelopment, rehabilitation especially in Belfast, and improvement) within projected time-scales have not been defined."

3. "Too many ad hoc arrangements and structures which were initially necessary and set up to deal with specific problems have continued in existence and are now a normal feature of the organisational structure."

4. "Considerable emphasis is placed on staff being responsible for many aspects of the work of the Executive but there is almost a complete absence of accountability and delegation of authority to enable staff to decide day-to-day issues especially at a local level".

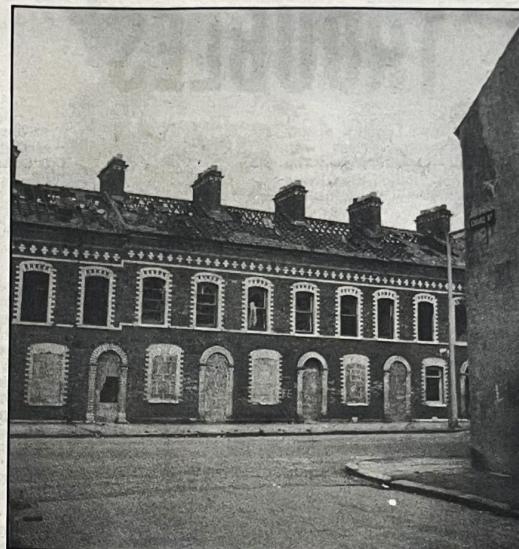
5. "Too many staff and sections of the organisation are too much concerned with their own roles and status and too little concerned with the objectives of the Executive and the need to provide the best possible comprehensive housing service to existing tenants and meet satisfactorily the requirements of would-be tenants."

6. "The Board and the Directorate make too many day-to-day administrative decisions which should be made by line management". (Section 1.1)

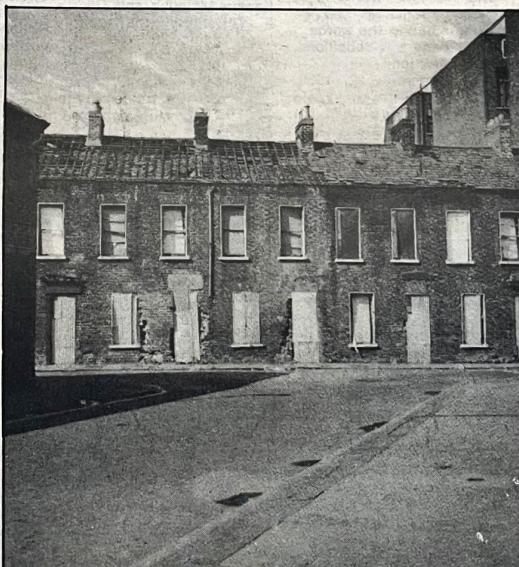
The "discussion document" was compiled by the Management Service Division of the Department of the Civil Service for Northern Ireland.

One of the most controversial recommendations made by the investigation team however, is the setting up of "Executive Units", (or what the report calls "devolving functions to the local level") "based on distinct geographical regions of Northern Ireland" (sic). Section 4.4. These "geographical regions", says the report, "should be based upon groupings of District Councils", (Section 4.6). It should be remembered that loyalist dominated "District Councils" have been arguing for some time that they should be given some "teeth" on issues such as local housing, which was previously one of their main platforms in patronizing their supporters. (Such a recommendation would no doubt find agreement with individual members of the Housing Executive Board of Directors, such as "Alderman" Tommy Seymour from Larne in Co. Antrim. Seymour earned a certain amount of notoriety after he led an attack by U.V.F. supporters and members on Catholic enclaves in the town, although since his elevation to 'Mayor' he has had to cultivate a more 'respectable' image). The report argues defensively that this "major proposal...may seem to be a departure from the concept of one single Executive". "This is not so and our recommended structural re-organisation is simply a means of streamlining a now top heavy bureaucratic organisation and making it more efficient." (Section 5.2):

The report's continued argument, however that the proposals are designed to place authority, responsibility and accountability where they should be, at point of delivery of the service" (Section 5.2), will have to be monitored very carefully, since the report also argues that "the Housing Management District Office should be at the centre of activity" (Section 4.17). Housing Management (particularly in Belfast) is already 'influenced' to some extent by certain loyalist politicians (e.g. former Shankill M.P. John McQuaid and Shankill councillor Sammy Millar)



GOne of the most controversial recommendations made by the investigation team however, is the setting up of "Executive Units" (or what the report calls "devolving functions to the local level"), "based on distinct geographical regions of Northern Ireland" (Section 4.4). These "geographical regions", says the report, "should be based upon groupings of District Councils".



who find willing sympathisers amongst the Orange 'Brethren' in its ranks. (Recently the Housing Executive office in Ann St. housed vanguard leader William Craig's secretary who was known to have supplied false information regarding her place of residence).

In view of such happenings, and with the Housing Executive's present drift towards the pre-Executive, Housing Trust philosophy of internal and external discrimination, the reaction of the Housing Executive's Board of Directors, prior to the May "local government" elections and the subsequent rise in local loyalist 'influence' to this "discussion document" will be well worth observing.



BY VINDICATOR

SOUTH DOWN STATEMENT

In a supplied statement delivered to the Republican Press Centre the Second Battalion, South Down Command, Oglalaigh na hEireann have accepted responsibility for the mortar attack on UDR centre in Newry last week-end. The Command deny that any threats were made to families in the area on the night of the attack and reiterate their warnings to civilians to keep clear of British military personnel.

The statement from the South Down Command reveals that warnings issued recently to certain business premises, where collaboration with the British occupation forces is apparent, have been ignored. Some of these premises are openly serving British soldiers and members of the Orange militias. The statement warns that no further warnings will be issued and that action is imminent against the premises in question.

"Let there be no doubt as to our intentions. In the last twelve months there has been a concerted and protracted effort by the British and Free State elements to distort, misrepresent and confuse the Republican position. For our part we are clear in our objectives and united in our determination. All resources at the disposal of Oglalaigh na hEireann are geared to the attainment of these objectives. The war which it forces upon us will continue in pursuit of the true peace and prosperity which our people deserve."

DUNDALK R.I.C.

The Goss & Gaughan Cumann have received numerous complaints from people concerning muggings, robberies, etc. People have said that they reported various matters to the Gardai, but with no response. Old people in built-up housing estates have also become victims of these young hooligans. The most recent case of a mugging was in the Castletown Road area, where an elderly man was beaten up by youths who took his watch and some money from him. When one complains to the Gardai, they are told that they have more serious matters to attend to. It is the general view of the members that people should be protected. As Ratepayers and Tax payers they deserve better treatment. People are fed up with the lack of action by the authorities.

Is Mise
P. De Brun P.R.O.

BY SCOPOLI (DERRY)

DERRY BEFORE THE 'TROUBLES'

"NO MORE REBELLIONS, ONE REVOLUTION"

In Parts I & II of this trilogy, various aspects of social discontent and economic neglect were detailed, so as to provide the reader with an objective background to the violent social upheavals prior to October 5th, 1968, which are often forgotten, particularly by those who would have us not remember. As well as those factors outlined, one must bear in mind the legislative aspects of Orange Tory misrule, e.g. the Special Powers Act, the Flags and Emblems Act, the Public Order Act and other repressive statutes designed and enforced to keep one section of the community 'in its place', and generally maintain the division within the working-class. All these factors led to a growing wave of agitation for democratic rights and social equality.

By the mid 1960's, the ripples on the political pool were clearly visible. People were beginning to question their political 'leaders', usually from Castle Catholic stock, who were never associated with the unemployed or homeless, who were endeavouring to highlight their condition around this period. The first wave of educated youth reached

the political pool, as a result of the Education Act, of 1944, which like the National Health Service and other progressive measures, was opposed strongly by the Orange Tories. Young people began to question the right of anyone to discriminate in employment along religious lines,

and others began to openly identify themselves with working-class issues. The Catholic middle-class were for the first time having to compete on an intellectual level with their "lesser mortals" from the slums.

The republican movement attracted a number of these young radicals during the 1960's, and the college-educated together with the working class militants and those of the 1956-62 period, soon became natural allies.

Small printed and duplicated news-sheets appeared in the working-class ghettos, and public meetings, pickets and leafletting were becoming more and more frequent.

The post 1962 I.R.A. were fully conscious of the reason for their defeat and were determined to forge closer links with the people in struggle. Many republicans became prominent in these agitational groupings, and in the Derry area their experiences can be summed up in the words, "No more rebellions, one revolution".

On January 22 1965, Quigley's Hotel in Foyle Street became the birth place of the Derry Unemployed Action Committee, which gradually expanded with each successful protest.

...A study in Social & Economic Apartheid.

This article is in 3 parts. It is an attempt to analyse the social & economic factors which led to the formation of agitational groupings, and forms the background to the social unrest of the late 1960's. The emphasis is on the area west of the River Bann, and in particular, Derry City.

PART 3

Public buildings were picketed, council meetings disrupted, teach-ins held in the Labour Exchange at Bishop Street, an unemployed workers club opened in the Diamond, and the Late Brian Faulkner, then Minister of Commerce received many a stormy 'welcome'. On one occasion he was besieged in the Derry Guildhall by 600 demonstrators demanding that he meet a deputation. The main officials of the D.U.A.C. in those days were Messrs. Bobby Campbell, James Gallagher, Eamon Melaugh and Geo. F. O'Doherty, the latter later going to London to establish a branch which did much to highlight the plight of the workless in the west. The 'Ulster Office' was picketed, Westminster was lobbied and regular Sunday afternoon meeting were held at Speakers' Corner, the most notable

speakers being Eamonn McCann, Paddy Lynch, O'Doherty, and Gerry Lawless, who were the main figures in a branch which grew to 150 members at one time.

In early 1967 the Young Republican Association was founded, and became the backbone of many protests in the city. Evictions were opposed by barricading homes, roads were blocked, and public buildings occupied. The Y.R.A. in February 1968 established the Derry Housing Action Committee with the help of radicals from other political groups, and this organisation remained very active right up until late 1969. It would be impossible to give a detailed history of these movements, as space would not permit, but these working-class bodies became the backbone of the civil rights movement, and certainly laid the foundation for such a creation. The slogan, "One Man One Job" and "One family-one house" are a reflection of the actual composition of the early civil rights movement, before it was exploited by middle-class elements following the October 5th March.

I will conclude by quoting from the homeless paper, REALITY, published in March 1969; "In the month of August the call

was made by the D.H.A.C. to the six-county Civil Rights Association to hold the first ever civil rights march in Derry. In a matter of weeks plans were being made with the executive of the N.I.C.R.A. for a march on October 5th.

The first meeting was held in the upstairs room of a bar in William Street, and others in local hotels. At one meeting of 57 attended and the funds for organising the march came out of our own pockets, in the first weeks of organising. Some organisations who promised financial support failed to keep their promise and so the bulk of the finance which was required to defray expenses were collected chiefly in the Creggan Estate and from local shop keepers. Placards were made by a sub committee in a house in the Long Tower, sometimes into the early hours of the morning. Little did the organisers and those who were making preparations for the march realise that October 5th, would be entered in the pages of history and at long last the local people of Derry would arise from fifty years of slumber".

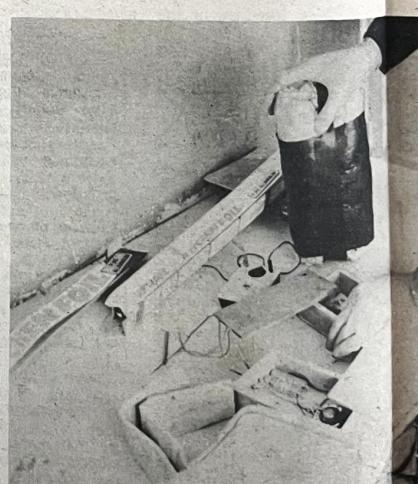
(Concluded).

NEXT WEEK: Scopoli reviews 'The Technology of Political Control'! A new Book issued by Penguin.



Pictures recently released by an American Magazine show Republican Army Engineers preparing bombs for use against the British occupation forces and local economic targets.

REPUBLICAN ARMY ENGINEER



TURF LODGE —

AN EXAMPLE IN PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

"TURF LODGE women call on troops to leave their district" so ran the headlines on the Monday morning after the death of young Brian Stewart. Surprisingly it took the death of a 13 year old child to really bring to boiling point the issue of the unwanted presence of British soldiers on the streets of Turf Lodge. I say surprisingly, because the people of Turf Lodge have suffered heavily from Brit oppression this last seven years. Throw together in 1,500 houses in a hastily built ghetto the people have had to put up with more than enough. A large housing estate without any sort of amenity, until the people themselves took it into their own hands and built their own clubs, youth centres, community centres, shops etc. Unemployment has always been a hazard for the people of the area, with the figure being registered continuously at 34%.

When resistance to Brit misrule was resumed in the early seventies, the people of the Turf Lodge ghetto rallied behind the "Republican Army" and in due course felt the full thrust of Brit Army suppression. Nightly house raids, arrests and internment of the men and womenfolk and continuous street harassment was (and still is) the norm in Turf Lodge during the whole course of the war. In

September 1975, the Black Watch murdered a young postman from the area Leo Norney, as he walked home from a dance. The ease with which the Brit propaganda machine covered this fact up, annoyed and frustrated the people of the area. Never again they vowed, would a state murder of one of their people be allowed. During the autumn of 1976 another Scottish Regiment-the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (Kosbless) cut down an innocent youth from the area while he was driving home in his car. Then within weeks a young boy, Brian Stewart was hit point blank, on the head by a rubber bullet and died within the week. This was the last straw, and as the liars in Thiepval Barracks squirmed to cover up the latest murder, the people of Turf Lodge acted.

There came a spontaneous reaction from the people which rocked the N.I.O., Mason and all. The peoples' anger, horror and frustration manifested itself in their organising together to show their complete abhorrence of the Brit Army presence in their streets. The latest murder brought to a climax all their grievances. The time for full scale united action had arrived and under the banner of "Turf Lodge mothers want troops out-leave our district"-the people took to the streets and remained

there, to resist Brit incursions.

In the initial period after the death of young Brian, the ghetto was comparatively quiet! For a whole month, except for a few isolated incidents, the Brit soldiers did not enter the area. Whether it was through fear of the reaction from the people or on explicit orders from higher up the echelons of the colonial establishment is not known-but the area was virtually free, with no interference from enemy forces. The brave women had mobilised, with their bin-lids, whistles and sirens, vowed to move the moment they witnessed a soldier on the streets. For one whole month, the people of Turf Lodge experienced a period of peace which they had never known previously since the appearance of Brit troops on the streets of the district. As day by day passed, a certain amount of satisfaction came to the people. They had created a unique situation, in that they had forced Brit troops to stay out of their area by just using the simple, peaceful, method of uniting together on the streets and creating as much noise as possible. Indeed they are the real people in search of peace. Unlike the Williams/Mc Keown/Corrigan clique, who felt the frustration/anger of the people of Turf Lodge when they refused to condemn the Brits for murdering Brian.



Brian Stewart - murdered by the British Army, October 1976

The whole area was in a joyous mood, a mood of defiance. The light of resistance had brightened once again. It poses the question-what if all the people in the different ghetto areas reacted in a similar fashion? Is this the answer to our problems? Today-almost six months after the death of Brian, the Turf Lodge area is still virtually a "free" area. Just one daily incursion from Brit forces-entering the area in approx 6 A.P.C.'s, accompanied by the observing "chopper", remaining for about 15 minutes and then withdrawing to the Fort Monagh stronghold, to the ever increasing sound of the brave bin-lid bashers. Although maybe while the initial enthusiasm has gone, the tactics remain the same and

the end results remain definitely positive. The sight of a four year old child with a bin-lid sums it all up. To the child there isn't any politics involved; all the realises is that there are strange men in strange clothes on her streets, strange men in uniform who took her Daddy away in the middle of the night and wrecked her Mammy's house. She just wants those strange men in uniform to go away.

The continued resistance by the ordinary people of the area will be a significant factor.

The united and positive action by the people is as significant a part in the revolution as the part played by the revolutionary army. They complement each other. The results from Turf Lodge are a shining example of that. Long may that spirit of resistance flourish.

"The revolution has in women today a true army, an impressive political force, and that is why we say that the revolution is simply invincible. Because when women acquire that level of political, cultural and revolutionary militancy, it means that the country has made a very great political leap, that the people have grown extraordinarily, that the country's march toward the future can't be stopped by anyone. That things will only be better all the time, that things will only be superior each time. And that is why the revolution is so strong... This quote from a soldier of the People can be interpreted as summing up and praising the sterling work done by women. The strong work and resistance by the brave women of Turf Lodge enter into that category. Venceremos:

"An Fuascalteoir" (Turf Lodge):

NEERS IN ACTION

R.A.C.

THANKS

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE Relatives Action Committee congratulates those people from Belfast, who travelled to Dublin with the Relatives Action Committee and the Republican Ex-Prisoners Association to support the demonstration in favour of the demand of the Portlaoise Hunger Strikers for basic human rights.

The Relatives Action Committee intends in the future to campaign on a 32 Cos basis for the Political Status of Republican and Socialist Prisoners of War. We are conscious that the political prisoners in the 26 Cos are as much victims of imperialism as the prisoners in the 6 Cos.

AUSTRIAN COMRADES

SUPPORT HUNGERSTRIKERS

Military action will be taken against Blueshirt premises in Vienna.

The Anti Fascist Movement, based in Vienna, have sent a message of solidarity to the Republican hunger strikers in Port Laoise Prison. The AFM have been active in support of the Irish struggle and recently carried out a series of incendiary attacks against British owned premises in Vienna.

In their message of solidarity the AFM say: "We do not merely express our admiration for the Irish prisoners of war through words, too many people are prone to do this. We will take up military action against Irish capitalist property and premises

of the Blueshirt Government in Vienna. If any one of the hunger-strikers die we will hit Blueshirt property as hard as is possible. The Irish people can rest assured that there are people throughout the world who will take up arms to smash the oppressors of the people. Tell them that since March 29th there are five members of the RAF (Red Army Faction) on hunger strike in German Jails for the same reasons as the Port Laoise POW's. That is, for humane prison conditions and an end to brutalities.

Victory to the people of Ireland,
Victory to the Provisional IRA."

NEWS FROM BRITAIN

Shane Paul O'Doherty

ISOLATION CONTINUES

I am serving sentences of life and twenty years imprisonment in an English prison. At present I am detained in the segregation unit of HMP Wormwood Scrubs. In every prisoner's cell there is a copy of a booklet entitled "Information for convicted prisoners (male)" and among the contents are "General notes for the guidance of convicted prisoners".

Of the many discipline rules, Rule 43(1) affects me most. "Where it appears desirable for the maintenance of good order and discipline or in his own interests, that a prisoner should not associate with other prisoners, either generally or for particular purposes, the Governor may arrange for the prisoner's removal from association accordingly"-a euphemism which translates thus—"Depending upon the prisoner's race, class, creed or convictions or a combination of these things, the Governor (ie the Home Office) may arrange for the prisoner's confinement in a regime of total segregation in the segregation unit."

The segregation unit is commonly known as the "seg" or the "block" and prisoners who are located in the unit under Rule 43(1) are known as "G.O.D.R.S."-Good Order and Discipline prisoners. They are isolated in solitary confinement, although most of them get the statutory daily hour of outside exercise and regular social visits from relatives or friends. The "seg" also houses sexual offenders, who volunteer for it to avoid attacks by other prisoners. Sexual offenders are officially known as "O.R.S." (segregated at Own Request), and they work together in special workshops during the day, take daily exercise together and enjoy periods of free association and TV together at weekends in a special room. Also, they mostly have the use of radios in their cells. They get regular social visits.

Lastly, the "seg" houses temporarily prisoners from normal wings in the prison who are undergoing periods of punishment for an offence against discipline. These prisoners get regular exercise and visits. The "G.O.D.R." prisoners, however, are neither volunteers for sol-

itary nor undergoing punishment. They are simply prisoners whom the Governor or Home Office has decided should be placed in absolute total solitary confinement. Such prisoners have no right of appeal against their arbitrary placement. I am a "G.O.D.R." prisoner and have been since September 10th 1976 when I arrived here from the Old Bailey. Unlike other such prisoners, I am not allowed the hour daily exercise nor social visits.

On arrival here I refused to wear criminal garb in protest at not being granted special category status and a transfer to a prison in Ireland. I was born and brought up in the Six-Counties my family and contemporaries live there and I was arrested

creation of the authorities. I am not permitted to receive more than two letters a week. In-coming letters are also censored and must come from persons "approved" by the authorities. I am not informed of the criteria that distinguish "approved" and "Unapproved" persons.

I'm not allowed to read books other than those "approved" by the authorities. I am not permitted to attend Mass even though I am a practising Roman Catholic-an R.C. priest is allowed to administer the sacraments to me in my cell. I have this cell only to use the toilet area nearby for the purpose of emptying a chamber pot, disposing of dishes and getting vessels of fresh washing

near my home which happens to be Ireland. The reply to my 550 word petition ran as follows: "No reasons were given because there could be no reasons for refusing to grant me a normal transfer beyond political reasons of course."

SHANE PAUL O'DOHERTY.

WORMWOOD SCRUBS, LONDON.



and removed from Ireland in order that I could be tried at the Old Bailey. I was immediately located in the segregation and awarded a fortnight of punishment for refusing to obey an order that I don criminal garb. The punishment ceased after fourteen days, yet I remain a "G.O.D.R. prisoner.

Come ran, hall, or breakdown in the heating system I am naked except for a small towel about the waist. I am not allowed to take the statutory hour's outside exercise. I am not permitted to have visits from family or friends. I am not allowed to have my radio. I am not allowed to have social intercourse with any other prisoners. I am only allowed to write two letters a week which are censored and photocopied and may be stopped at the dis-

and drinking water. This only takes a couple of minutes and I do this four times per day.

My meals are brought to me in my cell. The cell contains a high-up, grimy window beyond which are three layers of thick bars and, beyond them, an opaque screen and wire mesh affair is attached to the wall outside in such a way that I am unable to see anything but a patch of sky and I must peer through the wiremesh to see even that. The window exists only to let in air. So I exist in the ultimate form of twenty four hour solitary confinement. After arrival in HMP Wormwood Scrubs, and in accordance with Sections 26/27 of the '67 Criminal Justice Act I petitioned the British Home Secretary, on vast personal grounds, for a transfer to a prison



Wormwood Scrubs prison. London Members of Sinn Fein from London and Home Counties are picketing Wormwood Scrubs prison every Sunday afternoon, starting at 2.30, in protest against the inhuman treatment meted out to Derryman Shane O'Doherty, who is now 7 months in solitary confinement, and clothed only in a towel and blanket, and without shoes and socks.

Sinn Fein in England invites all members and supporters to picket Wormwood Scrubs prison every Sunday afternoon in an endeavour to highlight the ill-treatment of Political prisoner Shane O'Doherty. Come and join our picket, we assemble at the prison gates at 2.30.

Sinn Fein (Britain) are also picketing the Irish Embassy in London in protest against the callous lack of concern being displayed by Leinster House politicians to the plight of the Portlaoise hunger-strikers, now seriously ill from lack of nourishment and bad prison conditions.

Is mise le meas.
Michael Holden.
National Organiser.



SINN FEIN PROTEST OVER CONTINUING TORTURE

On Sunday evening 17.4.77 a crowd of 400 people who had gathered at St. James, Crescent in response to a call from the Robert Emmet/Francis Liggett Sinn Fein Cumann heard in graphic and horrifying detail of the tortures inflicted on teenagers by the RUC in the Castle-reach torture centre.

Introducing the speakers the chairman of the meeting explained to the people that the three young people who would speak to them were suffering under two handicaps. The first was that they were inexperienced speakers and the second was they had not yet recovered from their ordeal.

As the young people described their experiences it soon became obvious to even the most casual observer that as they relived their spells of interrogation that these teenagers had gone through hell at the hands of the RUC.

The first youth described how he was punched and made to perform the notorious exercises until he collapsed. He then told how he was placed on his back while one of his tormentors forced a finger up his nostrils and then after spitting into the youths mouth forced him by working his jaws to eat this mess.

His companion then described how he was punched and knocked around until he lost all track of time until he had reached the stage where he thought he had been imprisoned for weeks instead of from Thursday morning until Saturday afternoon.

He also stated that what the first speaker had not mentioned that so brutal were his tormentors that he had attempted to end it all by hanging himself. He had tried to do the same thing by chewing on a drinking cup. The listeners then heard how the RUC threatened to shoot him and had produced a gun. He was then thrown against the wall and the beating started all over again.

In the course of his account this lad 17 years of age, told how the RUC thugs made him expose his midriff with the comment that they "did not like to punch woollers" as they hit him on the stomach. Another comment made by the tormentors of these young people was that they were aware of how

"Rooney was thrown from the window of Springfield Rd. Barracks and that they could easily arrange the

same type of accident".

Some of these torturers were blind drunk and spat Vodka on the boys. Before the boys were released they were told that they were of no use and would be handed over to "assassination squads" to be taken care of".

A young girl then told how while in custody she was not physically tortured. She could hear the screams of agony from the boys. She then said that she was asked if she would like a shower. On entering the shower she was surrounded by a crowd of Female RUC and taunted and humiliated by them. When speaking she was overcome by the memories of her suffering and that of her companions and she burst into tears and left the chair.

In his concluding remarks the main speaker of the evening congratulated the people who when a Brit patrol entered the area that afternoon rushed from their homes and by the use of Bin lds and whistles forced the Brits out of the area.

"We are all being given the same message" He declared, "By the politicians and, God forgive them, many of the clergy. That message is 'Croppies Lie Down' but the Croppies are on their feet and will never again lie down. We are winning this war, we will win it. In the meantime the Brits and the R.U.C. must be shown our complete rejection of them. I left Turf Lodge an hour ago and the women there were forcing the Brits out. This must be done in all areas."

On asking for a show of hands for this action every hand in the crowd was raised in agreement. It was agreed that not only would raids be resisted but that Brit patrols would be resisted as would the stopping of people in the streets by the Brits.

It was significant that although gasps of horror and murmurs of anger could be heard from their listeners even the children were silent while the three victims recalled their ordeals and it was obvious that their sympathies lay with the young people.

As a footnote to this report we can say that each and every patrol of Brit Scum has been greeted with Binlid and whistle in the area.

P.R.O.

Sinn Fein,
St. James.
Belfast.

Since the formation of the E.E.C., not only "common" economic policies have evolved, but also "common" "security" policies, as illustrated by the meeting of big-level European government representatives in the latter part of 1976 in Brussels. This statement, from our German comrades, highlights the similarity of the treatment of political prisoners in both Germany and Ireland, including 'doctored' judicial procedures, psychological warfare, black propaganda and the systematic torture of political prisoners. The counter-insurgency theories of Frank Kitson appear to be gaining credibility through Europe.

International Solidarity

KITSON'S THEORIES ARE SPREADING

and Ulrike Meinhof by an International investigation commission. The supporting of this commission's work and the publication of the results within the Federal Republic of Germany.

3. That the government makes publicly clear, that the following reports - the R.A.F. had planned to explode 3 bombs in Stuttgart's city centre (June 1972)

- the R.A.F. had planned, during the World Football Championship to attack with rockets occupied football stadiums (summer 74)

- the R.A.F. had planned to poison the drinking water of a city (summer 74)

- the R.A.F. had stolen mustard gas and intended to use it (summer 75)

- that the Commando Holger Meins had blown up the embassy on Stockholm (April 75)

- the R.A.F. had planned to pollute the Bodensee with atomic waste (September 75)

- the R.A.F. had planned to attack Nuclear Reactors and to use nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons (since January 75)

- the R.A.F. planned an assault on a children's playground intending to take children hostage (March 77)

are products of psychological warfare and are circulated to prevent solidarity with the resistance groups, to be able

to isolate and destroy them. That all these reports are false and that the police, secret service, and judicial investigations have proved nothing that can substantiate them.

The hungerstrike is an expression of solidarity - with the prisoners of the Palestinian resistance who are on hungerstrike for P.O.W. status - with the hungerstrike and protests of IRA prisoners in Irish and British prisons for political status of which they have been deprived as a consequence of the anti-terrorist laws initiated and carried through on the European level by the Federal Republic of Germany - with the demands of the prisoners from the ETA and other anti-fascist groups for an amnesty in Spain - with all taken prisoners in the fight for social revolution and natural self-determination - and with all who have begun to defend themselves against the violations of human rights, misery, and brutal exploitation in the prisons of the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Arm the Resistance
Organise the Underground
Conduct the anti-imperialistic struggle offensively".
Stammbheim 29 March
77
for the prisoners from the
R.A.F.



Those who have recognised their situation - how are they to be stopped?

Due to the fact that the state, using a permanent state of emergency, carries on the conflict outside the law, and that 6 years of state security the judiciary has shown that the human and constitutional rights are but a bit of paper, as seen in the searches, in the trials against us, and in the prisons, we demand that the prisoners from the anti-imperialist resistance groups fighting in the Federal Republic of Germany are treated in accordance with the minimum guarantees of the Geneva Convention of 1949, especially Articles 3, 4, 13, 17, and 130,

which for the political prisoners in Hamburg, Kaiserslautern, Köln (Cologne), Essen, Berlin, Straubing, and Stammheim at the least means concentrating prisoners into capable interaction groups of 15 people, in accordance with the demands of the experts, ordered to court, by the Red Army Faction. We further demand:

1. The abolition of the isolation and group isolation in the prisons of the Federal Republic of Germany and the closing of the special "isolation corridors" in which prisoners are brought together to have their communication electronically spied out and evaluated.

2. The investigation of the deaths of Holger Meins, Siegfried Hausner,

Miriam Daly addresses the huge crowd outside the GPO in O'Connell Street, on Saturday last.

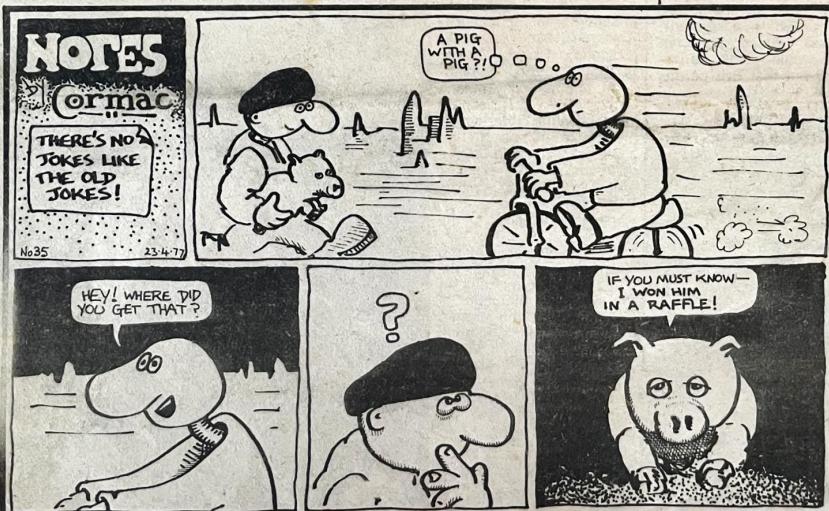
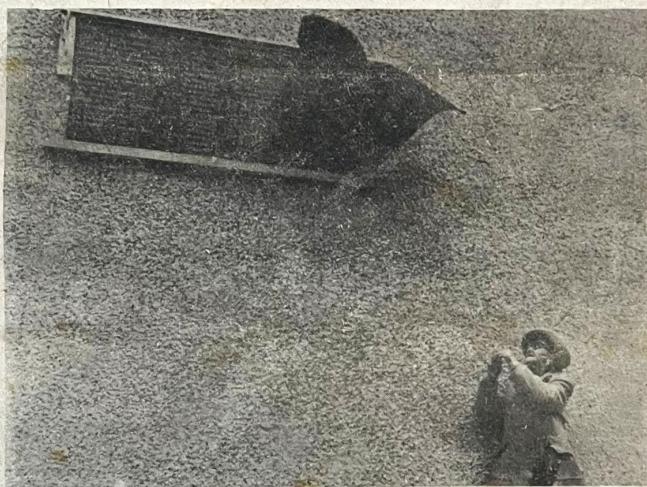


ARDOYNE COMMEMORATION



Pictured above the Joe Mc.Kelvey Pipe band leads the Colour Party on the pre-ceremony parade around the Ardoine.

Below, Nora Connolly O'Brien (daughter of James Connolly) unveils the memorial to the local people from Ardoine who have died during the present war.



DERRY BRIGADE STATEMENT

Re. Execution of British Spy Sgt. Edgar in Derry. Statement from Derry Brigade.

Contrary to claims by the British that this soldier was shot merely because he happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and to subtlety suggest that there was any sectarian motive involved, Derry Brigade wish to make it clear that this man was a British Agent involved in a spying mission.

The British are well aware of our policy re. British Troops but are trying to turn a military setback into a propaganda victory by playing up the "local boy" story since they are loathe to admit that the IRA have dealt a considerable blow to British attempts to gather information in Republican areas.

They know Sgt. Edgar would have been shot regardless of purpose - he was a member of the crown forces - however it is much better for their morale and propaganda if the true story is played down.

Edgar had not been in Derry for 14 years. Most of his family live in England. He was arrested after close surveillance in an area where he had no connections, where he would be aware of the danger, but where information re. Republican activity might be available. He was far from the innocent dupe the British would have us believe. Those who remember the Four Square laundry debacle will understand why the British are so determined to keep the true facts hidden.

Manchester Sinn Fein Attacked

On Sunday the 10th April 1977 the members of Provisional Sinn Fein visited the graves of the Republicans in Moston Cemetery, Manchester to pay homage to our dead during the 61st Anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1916.

When the members entered the cemetery they found that the tombstones laid by Eamonn De Valera in 1949 was knocked over and covered with paint and tiles were ripped off and a great deal of destruction was done to the graves. In fact since the Birmingham bombings these graves have been the subject of abuse.

The members set about to clear the mess up and re-erect the tombstone and it was then they noticed three men, two women and two policemen in the vicinity of the cemetery and as they approached the men they ran off shouting "They are here, they are here."

Immediately between 40-50 men entered the cemetery via the walls and cemetery gates waving their flags and shouting "You'll never get out alive. We will put you against the wall and shoot you." They then surrounded the members of Provisional Sinn Fein and attacked them. At this time four more of our members arrived and this helped to take the pressure off, and these were joined a few minutes later by four more of our members.

The police who were standing by watching called for reinforcements and 20 minutes later 2 van loads arrived. They too stood by and watched "The National Front Fascists" do still more damage to the graves and destroy the wreaths.

Two leaders of the "National Front" and four of their members ran amok, under the gaze of the police, and it was then that the only assistance our members got was from the two English women who were present in the cemetery. One member of the National Front who was dressed in black threw a device which exploded with a terrific force among the P.S.F. members and still the police did nothing to stop the violence.

We now intend to hold a rally in October, on the Anniversary of "The Manchester Martyrs" and call on every member of Provisional Sinn Fein to attend. Details of the rally will be forwarded to all Cumann at a later date.

P.S.

The graves visited where at Moston Cemetery and are not to be confused with the graves of the "Manchester Martyrs" which is in another part of the city.