

# REPUBLICAN NEWS

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## SINN FEIN HAS NO SECRET CANDIDATES Victory at Gortooral Bridge

## IN BRITISH ELECTION FARCE

The United force of the people of the West pulled down the much publicised new border fortifications of the British Army Led by the Cavan Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Fein a force of 150 men used an electric cement cutter, tractors, sledges and picks to pull down three cement walls, re-inforced with steel girders, and to rebuild the bridge on the Swanlinbar Kinawley road that the English army had so wantonly destroyed.

In the dark of the 22/23 January night the English soldiers brought their guns and their helicopters and their machines and built their three five foot walls out of which the hideous steel girders grew. They vandalised the beautiful Fermanagh Cavan lakeland and brought wanton suffering to innocent peaceful-loving people as always follows their path. An old man of 86 years lived with his son in a house beside the bridge, the community-loving Brits left him a narrow passage through which one man could pass at a time to get out on the road. The car that called every Wednesday to take that man to Enniskillen to the hospital could no longer get to his door. To visit their neighbours or to get to church or the shops the local people had to make a detour of ten miles.

Local Republican leaders saw the hideous Iron Curtain that the English invaders were building in their province and their country and they determined that the foreigner would no longer lay down the law in their country. On the 27 January they led the people to attack the monstrous iron and cement 'border.' As they worked with the strength and speed that only rage can give to men they remembered the 13 Irishmen wantonly shot by the English paratroopers in Derry two years before. They had planned to go to Derry for the

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT was issued on Monday night after a meeting of the Belfast Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair:—

*"Belfast Comhairle Ceantair wishes to state its attitude to the British General Election. Sinn Fein will not be participating in any way in this election because it relates to English interests.*

*"This election will not deal with internment, it will not deal with the Winchester 8 hunger strikers, it will not deal with over 2,000 political prisoners, it will not deal with the R.U.C. political police, it will not deal with the continued armed occupation of nationalist areas. Instead, this British election will be concerned with the interests of English Imperialism.*

### Irrelevant Distraction

*"Sinn Fein considers the election an irrelevant distraction and has no wish to be involved in it. We have no interest in the election nor have we any secret candidates fighting on our behalf. With victory staring us in the face, we have no wish to support the shattered illusion of British democracy by participating in the rigged farce of 'democratic elections.'*

*"As always, we take our lead from the people whose continuing support for the rent and rates strike indicates their complete rejection of the British Imperialist system."*



Our picture shows a section of the large force of men and women armed with pick axes, sledge hammers, crow-bars and a gas-cutter, who turned up at Gortooral Bridge on the Swanlinbar/Kinawley border to open the road recently blocked by the English Army of Occupation. Scenes like this have now become common right along the Border as determined Irishmen and women resist the efforts of foreign mercenaries to block their right of way in their own country.

Continued on Page Two



# YOUR LETTERS PAGE

Irish News Association,  
9 Grosvenor Road,  
Handsworth,  
Birmingham 20.

Dear Sir,

For some considerable time now our organisation has been engaged in supplying news to the Irish community in Birmingham.

Due to the situation in Northern Ireland, the overwhelming majority of that news has been of a political nature. Our feedback has indicated that voters of Irish origin are keenly interested in the attitude of candidates in relation to the Northern Ireland situation.

In common with other organisations bringing news to the electorate, we intend to make a recommendation as to which party and/or candidate would be most likely to support the aspirations of voters of Irish origin. This recommendation will be widely circulated amongst voters of Irish and part Irish origin, who in certain areas amount to a substantial proportion of the electorate.

To ensure that the recommendation is based on accurate information, we would appreciate swift and unambiguous answers to the following:-

(1) If elected will you advocate both in and out of Parliament, that the forced-feeding of the Winchester Hunger Strikers (Price sisters etc.) should immediately cease, and that they should be returned to Northern Ireland to serve their life sentences.

(2) If elected, will you vote against the Northern Ireland Special Provisions Act, if it is brought before Parliament for renewal.

(3) If elected, will you, both in and out of Parliament, advocate and if appropriate, vote for the immediate commencement of a phased withdrawal of the Army from Northern Ireland.

We understand the pressures of an election campaign, but never-the-less, would appreciate an early reply as we intend to have our recommendation circulated well before polling day.

For and on behalf of the Association,  
**PETER BRANNAGAN,**  
Chairman.

(This is a copy of a letter sent to all candidates who are standing for election in the 12 Birmingham constituencies. Some county associations and Irish groups in other areas are sending similar letters to candidates.)

123 Princess Road,  
Balsall Heath,  
Birmingham 5.

A Chara,

The Ann Parker/Michael McVerry Cumann would like all G.A.A. players and supporters to know, especially those living in and around Birmingham, that the John Mitchell's G.A.A. Club, Spark-hill refuses to let our members sell 'Republican News' in the club. We find this very disturbing as players are interned in Occupied Ireland for mere possession of a G.A.A. Membership Card. We ask all members of the club to demand the sale of 'Republican News' inside the club again.

Mise le meas,  
P.R.O.,

Ann Parker/Michael McVerry.

3 St. Kevin's Terrace,  
Newry Road,  
Dundalk.

Dear Sir,

The whole world is in a state of shock when learning of the arrest in Moscow of the Soviet Author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, because the Soviet State was upset because of his criticism of conditions there.

Is it not true that an Irish journalist here has also been jailed and his book banned and printing press confiscated? What is the difference between the freedom allowed to journalists in Russia and here? Why was there no outcry at this Irish injustice. It appears to me that its "Widgery" dominance prevails here also.

Not astonishing therefore that this Russian Journalist did not seek asylum in this state because of this precedent.

Yours sincerely,

UNA TOAL

## TWELVE YEAR OLD SPEAKS OUT

Dear Editor,

I am writing to complain about the way speakers at public meetings get up and say: "We need new recruits for the Provos." But yet when I asked my elder sister if I could join she told me that I would have to wait until my 12th birthday which was 2 months away.

On the day of my 12th birthday arrived I again asked my sister how I would go about joining. She told me I would have to wait until someone came to see me about it and that she (my sister) could do no more about it.

After a long wait of about 3 months she came to my house half-an-hour later than she was expected and had a so called meeting (of about 2 minutes) in which she asked me and 3 others our names and ages and told me that I was too young to join. I was very disappointed about the way everything ended. I hope this does not happen to many others because if this is the way they go about getting new recruits Ireland will never be free.

## 2 PROVO SUPPORTERS.

Dear Sir,

I was shocked to read in the Republican News, the three conditions which Sinn Fein required to be fulfilled, to secure their participation in the forthcoming election. Both Sinn Fein and the Republican News have repeatedly condemned the S.D.L.P. and the Republican Clubs for taking part in elections while internment is still in existence. These three demands make no mention of internment. Apparently Sinn Fein is prepared to contest the election if the Winchester eight are transferred to an Irish prison, and if Sinn Fein is recognised as a legal political organisation by the British. This might be good enough for Sinn Fein but it is not good enough for me. Before the assembly elections I campaigned for people to spoil their votes. Sinn Fein approved of this. What has changed since then. We still have internment, we still have British soldiers here, we still have political prisoners in Ireland and Scotland as well as England, so why this change of heart.

While we are all very concerned about the fate of the Winchester Eight, they are not the only political prisoners we have to worry about. It is justifiable to

make a major policy change to have eight people transferred to a different prison, and at the same time ignore the fate of hundreds of internees and political prisoners.

The second demand calls for the legislation of Sinn Fein. In other words the British Government should tell the Assembly to lift the ban on Sinn Fein. Arthur Griffiths must be turning in his grave. He, in founding the organisation called it Sinn Fein — ourselves along the epitome of separatist organisations. Separate from Britain and anything British. How then can any one desire, never mind ask for legality for Sinn Fein from the British Government.

The third demand is rather woolly. An end of harassment can mean so many different things. As long as I am liable to have a British soldier with a rifle at the bottom of my garden, I feel I am being harassed. Finally, I would ask each member of the Ard Comhairle to think about one thing. Imagine you are an internee or a political prisoner in Long Kesh. How would you have reacted if you had read the front page of the Republican News?

Yours fraternally,

ELIZABETH MCGORAN.

Dear Sir,

Once again we have witnessed the stupid and inane brutality, that stems from every British Army raid, carried out in the Internees compounds. On Thursday 7th February inst., at 5 a.m. approx. the men of Cage 7 had to suffer again from the immature and obscene thinking of these louts, whose whole demeanour, if you could have seen it, amply illustrated why their country is in the state it is.

The doors were thrown open, and what seemed like a full company of the British Army charged in, shouting and screaming their heads off. They told us not to move a muscle, and to put our arms at our sides, on top of the blankets. Those of us who were not able to get into this position fast enough, or who were unable to understand the guttural rumblings of some frenzied Scot, were batoned on the legs and arms. One man, George Gillen was beaten so severely, that the soldier concerned had to be restrained by two of his officers, and later when he again attempted to strike this man, he had to be removed from the hut. Others who complained of the cold were also batoned and insulted.

After being exposed to the cold conditions of this time of morning for over an hour, we were taken and photographed, which is not unusual, as every Internee has had his photograph taken umpteen times in the past. When this was over they then herded us into a freezing hut, despite the fact that the other hut in the compound has heaters and is used by us as a canteen. We were held here for over three hours, while the soldiers ransacked our huts. After eating in our canteen, they smeared the walls and tables with all kinds of foul-mouthed abuse, with the Pope and Irish womanhood coming for a large slice of their juvenile minds.

When we were being moved back to the huts again, we had to run the gauntlet of baton-swinging soldiers, and again men were hit and abused. When we reached our huts we were dismayed but not surprised to find them completely ransacked with the timbers shattered, lock-

ers and beds smashed, and clothes and bedding trampled to the floor and urinated upon. For our special edification they left several plastic plates with obscene expressions smeared on them.

We are not surprised at the harassment and brutality accompanying these raids, as they are designed to break us in spirit, but the sheer wanton destruction, on this latest occasion, is proof that Internment two and a half years on is still the same.

Yours sincerely,

P.R.O. INTERNEES, Cage 7.

## BRITISH ARMY REPRISALS

By the P.R.O., Cage 22,  
Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

The British forces of oppression, having again realised that they are unable to cope with the Irish Republican Army, are now conforming to type. This can be seen by the Black and Tan tactics which they are now employing.

They have become more sophisticated in their use of terrorism, through the further education they are now getting from one of the greatest perpetrators of evil "Kitson." Kitson's book has only to be read once and the tragedy which is becoming a daily occurrence in our country is easily understood.

He emphasises in his book, that to defeat a united and dedicated force, counter-insurgency methods must be adopted.

These methods are designed to dishonour, discredit and demoralise by imprisonment the soldiers and supporters of this force.

The first phase of Kitson's tactics was the torture and imprisonment of Republican-minded people. The second phase, the harassment of their families and the third phase, which we now witness almost daily in the so-called sectarian murders.

Most of these murders are claimed by a group calling themselves the U.F.F. This group has on several occasions been the subject of statements from the I.R.A. on the one hand and the U.V.F. on the other.

Both have claimed that the U.F.F. is a cover for a British Army Special Services group carrying out Kitson's blueprint. It is believed by the British Government that these tactics will bring the Irish people to heel and make them accept the British "solution."

The British are being ably assisted by some of our fellow-Irishmen who cannot resist the Queen's shilling. But the only settlement acceptable to the Irish people is one arrived at by Irishmen for Irishmen. All the Kitsons that ever was or ever will be cannot suppress our will and determination to be free.

# letters

Your letters, photographs and criticisms should be addressed to the Editor, the Eire Nua Bookshop, 170a Falls Road, Belfast.

If there is a function, a dance, a march or a rally then write and let us know so that we can use it in the paper . . . your paper.



# Victory at Gortooral Bridge

Continued from Page One

Commemoration speeches but they knew they could not travel until they had cleared the way.

They did not open the bridge that Sunday but they came back the next one and they opened the road. The wind of freedom blew from south to north and back again. On Wednesday the Brits sneaked back and this time they blew up the bridge, cutting off Fermanagh from Cavan and piled concrete boulders between their 'walls' one of which was actually on the border. Again a path was made but the Brits stood by with their loaded guns and would not let the people use the bit of opened road.

But on Sunday last the people came back with pipes and they made their own bridge and threw the boulders aside and walked and danced and drove their animals and cars and tractors over their own road and they pledged that they would come back every Sunday to watch the open road. The English Army got the message. They kept up in their helicopters polluting the sky.

## SPACE

WE APOLOGISE again, for the lack of space and some articles have been held over to next week . . . . .

## NEW LODGE EXPOSURE

On Friday, 8th February, 1974, two women from the New Lodge Road were subjected to the disgusting spectacle of a member of a foot patrol of the Queen's Own Regiment, indecently exposing himself in broad daylight. This was immediately reported to the Major or Keeper of these men who told the women that the female population of the New Lodge Road were of a level lower than streetwalkers.

After being subjected to the most vile abuse from this so called officer, the women then approached the R.U.C. and were advised to drop the matter as the regiment would soon be moving out. We would advise this exhibitionist to keep his antics for his won country where rape, prostitution, homosexuality and child murder are generally accepted. There he may find his own particular brand of English culture more appreciated.

P.R.O., An Cumann Fergal O'Hanlon,  
New Lodge Road.

## VANDALISM

During the past 4½ years, since the take-over of law and order by the people, through the Republican Movement, vandalism and petty theft have been at their ill time lowest, but has not, we regret, been stamped out completely. In fact, the biggest offenders have been the British Army. They have continually smashed street lamps, ripped car tyres, indulged in breaking and entering and have stolen money and wrecked furniture while in the process of a so-called raid. Still, this is to be expected from the British Army who have, after all, raped and plundered their way across every country they have forcibly occupied. This is the way the British Army acts, but this is the way no Irishman or boy should behave.

We understand that the example set by the British Army, and with our present conflict, it is a strain on young people to keep complete discipline, but, nevertheless it is necessary to do so. Our young people are definitely not of the same ilk as the British. They are, in fact, the up-and-coming adults who will take their place in the New Ireland for which

the present resistance campaign is being waged.

We call on all parents, and we realise how difficult this can be, to try and instill more discipline in their children. Let them know that they are Irish and that to use vandalism or commit crime is only bringing them down to the degrading level that the British have achieved.

### WAR CONTINUES IN BELFAST

*"Active service units of the Irish Republican Army attacked British Occupation Forces with bullets and blast bombs over a four day period. Although no casualties were claimed by the occupation forces or reported on the news media, the Irish Republican Army are claiming eight definite hits."*

*"C" Company, 3rd Battalion.*

(The above statement was received in our offices on Tuesday).

## Shorts contract and the SAS

It is deplorable that the prosperity of the people of this part of Ireland should depend on making weapons for the British Army to rise against people fighting for their freedom. The recent Short's contract for a million and a quarter pounds worth of Skyvan Military aircraft is an illustration.

The Skyvans are for the use of paratroopers in "the Sultan of Oman's Air Force." That is in fact the R.A.F. It is fighting a war against the people of Oman, a small oil state in the Arab Gulf where the people have risen against the British and their local puppet the Sultan Quabous.

The people were almost all destitute and illiterate in 1965 when the war against the Sultan and his backers the British oil interests and the British Army. Now a complete revolution has been carried out in self-education and self-liberation. Insurgents captured most of the country and many towns, only to be bombed out of them again by the R.A.F. Not only that, but S.A.S. units have been heavily committed in the area and at least eighteen of these counter-insurgency murderers have been killed by the Arab people. They were led by Brigadier Frank Kitson, who "served" Britain there as well as in Kenya, Aden, etc.

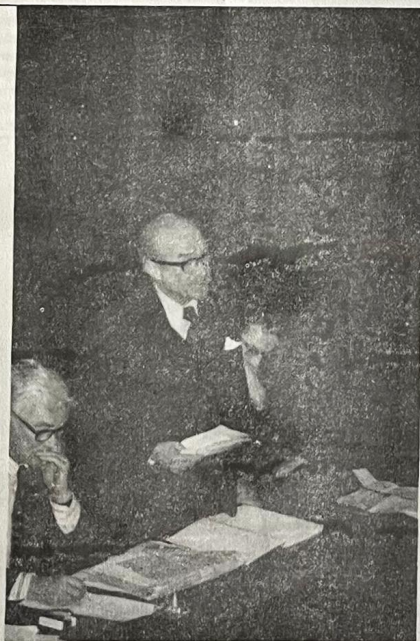
Unless we break the economic connection with Britain, Irish people will forever have to depend on British contracts for murder weapons to be used against freedom fighters elsewhere in the world. A Federal Solution remaining under British economic control will not change that brutal fact.

## Irish actor supports Winchester Eight

These photographs were taken at a recent meeting held in the Conway Hall, London, in protest against force-feeding of Irish political hunger strikers.

The speakers included Cyril Cusack, eminent Irish actor, Gerry Lawless, (T.O.M.) Eamon McCann, (Derry) Paddy O'Connor, (Labour Chief Whip, G.L.C.) and Dr. Domnic Costa (I.M.G.).

(Pics courtesy Wolfe Tone S.F. Cumann).





## ARTICLE WAS PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

*"The Belfast Brigade, Oglaiha na hEireann, would like to point out to your readers, that they nor anyone else in authority within the Republican Movement have ever made any comment or issued any policy statement with regard to Contraception, Divorce etc. It goes without saying that when the New Ireland, Eire Nua, which is our sole aim, is achieved then we would expect that all aspects of life would be discussed and an agreeable solution acceptable to ALL the Irish People would be reached. The article written for and contained in the Republican News was simply one person's point of view as was clearly stated in that issue and in no way reflects the views or the policies of the Movement."*

P.R.O. Belfast Brigade.

(The above statement has been for publication to the Belfast Newsletter and the Sunday News. We have also sent a letter to the Sunday News pointing out that the article "Contraceptive Bill" published in our issue dated 9th February had the following foreword: "This article is written by a member of Sinn Féin. While these are his own personal views and do not commit the Republican Movement, all good Irishmen and women should give them serious thought." Editor).

## EIRE NUA BOOKSHOP

170a FALLS ROAD, Belfast BT12 4PY  
Phone 46841.

If the book you want is not in stock, we will try and get it for you...

The following titles are worth reading: Internment 75p; Paisley Man of Wrath 70p; Freedom the Wolfe Tone Way 70p; Tone and His Times 50p; Holy War in Belfast 55p; Brian Faulkner 40p; The Great Fraud of Ulster 38p; The McGarrity Papers 70p; Sworn to be Free 50p; My Fight for Irish Freedom 50p; Michael Collins and the Invisible Army 35p; Guerilla Days in Ireland 40p; Thomas MacCurtain 60p

"The facts are these. The compound at Palace Barracks houses an interrogation centre set up by a unit of M112 - the section of Military Intelligence dealing with Ulster."

With these words the Sunday Times (London) of October 17th, 1971, began its detailed revelations about the horrific interrogation methods used on the hundreds of unfortunate men who had been dragged from their homes in dawn raids by British soldiers at the start of Internment without Trial in Northern Ireland some two months before. Previous to the publication of these disclosures the press in Britain had always associated methods of bending or breaking the mind with the Russians and the Chinese. But with the publication of the Times report it was shown that whatever the "Commies" were supposed to have done was unskilled and even amateurish in comparison with the highly sophisticated brainwashing and psychological torture techniques which were then being used on a large scale by Britain's Intelligence and Security Services.

And, what is more, these techniques have been used not alone against those whom Britain regarded as her enemies abroad but also against those who were considered to be enemies within her own ranks - even those who wore the uniform of the British Army. Here is one such story.

### ADEN

Soon after the people of Aden rebelled against British rule in the mid 1960's the British military authorities built the Ras Morbut interrogation centre there. Almost immediately Ras Morbut became the Palace Barracks of Aden. It was a place of torture and terror where brutalised British Army interrogators were given free licence to practice every form of sadistic cruelty on helpless detainees, many of whom were no more than trade unionists.

But it was not long before the cries and shrieks and calls for help from Ras Morbut began to be heard by people of conscience in the wider world. Amongst these was Dr. Rastgeldi of Swedish Amnesty International who came to Aden and in spite of opposition from the British authorities he was able to gather sufficient evidence to prove that allegations about torture and brutality were substantially true.

When Rastgeldi's findings were published by Amnesty International in the Autumn of 1966 the report was received with much criticism in Britain. The Sunday Times commented very unfavourably on it and cast doubt on its findings - very much the opposite to the way it was to treat the allegations about the ill-treatment of detainees much nearer home in Northern Ireland some five years later. Even the British section of Amnesty was cool towards the report and not a little indignant at Britain being shown in such a bad light. Neither did the British Labour Government of the day look with favour on it. In fact, the cabinet was so enraged that one of its ministers, George Brown, immediately took the traditional British step in such an embarrassing situation and set up a commission under a Mr. Roderic Bowen, a prominent O.C. to make an "official" study of Adeni allegations.

The Bowen Report was rushed through in a couple of months and published in December 1966. As expected, it was no more than a classic attempt to get the British Government off the hook and at covering up the crimes against humanity committed in Aden. But so great were these crimes that it was impossible to push them entirely under officialdom's carpet of words; and Bowen found it necessary to refer to three interrogators at Ras Morbut, and without naming them said that their actions required further investigation. However, nothing happened; for by this time the British Security and Intelligence Services were doing their best to smother the scandal. The Sunday Times of February 12th 1967, stated that an Army S.I.B. (Special Investigation Branch) report on the three interrogators should be completed in a fortnight. Then at the end of March the same paper reported that a dossier on the matter was being studied by the Directorate of Army Legal Services in London. But no more was heard about the interrogators mentioned by Bowen. The whole cover-up operation had been a complete success. And, since Britain was being forced to withdraw from Aden anyway, there seemed every likelihood that everything could be quietly buried and forgotten.

But there was one flaw in the whole cover-up operation, one loose end which would lead to the unravelling of the heavy shroud woven by the security services and cause the world to have a second look at the terrible things done by the British Army to their prisoners in Aden - and that was Corporal George Sneddon Lennox, number 23704872, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

### RAS MORBUT TORTURE CENTRE

When the Adeni rebellion broke out Corporal Lennox was one of a small group of clerks working at the Joint

# THE GEORGE

Message Centre in the offices of the H.Q. Middle East Command at Fort Morbut in Aden town. His job was mostly concerned with sorting out the different signals received and deciding which department they had to go to.

Next door to the H.Q. was the Ras Morbut compound, which included a guardroom and a clubhouse for corporals as well as the notorious Initial Interrogation Centre, a building some thirty metres long and about half that in width. Part of Lennox's job as a soldier was to do guard duties at the guardroom, which was sited only fifteen metres from the interrogation centre. And while he was on guard duty he learned much about what went on in the interrogation building, of which but for a wire fence he had a clear view. On one occasion while looking out through the guardroom window he saw three soldiers drag an Adeni out of the building and repeatedly beat him unconscious and revive him with a fire hose.

Over a period of many months George gradually built up a picture of the horrors being perpetrated next door, though he admits that as a young soldier he was not very much affected by what went on there. In his own words: "Nearly every night after the state of emergency was declared and after a lot of suspects were taken in we used to hear, sitting from our Corporal's Club a lot of screaming and shouting, really disturbed screaming as if it was associated with someone being hurt - This would be supported in the morning. I can remember one particular guy who was a boxer. And he used to come and say, 'Yeah, we thumped this wog last night and he's really screaming.' On a number of occasions when I was on guard duty Aden intelligence officers would come into the guardroom and telephone the H.Q. From the contents of these conversations we could get a very accurate picture of what was happening inside." Not alone this but what George has never revealed is that he sometimes actually handled reports of interrogations while doing his job at the Joint Message Centre.

Early in the Spring of 1966 George was posted to Germany. He pushed both the good and bad memories of Aden into the back of his mind and carried on with his career as a soldier - doing his job as a clerk and playing rugby at which he was one of the Army's top players. Then in the Autumn of that same year he read an article in the Sunday Times criticising the Rastgeldi Amnesty Report and going so far as to say that Amnesty's reputation for fair investigation had been prejudiced.

At this time George was a naive young soldier in his early twenties and was generally indifferent to the wider problems of the world. But through having been brought up in a Scottish children's home with a marked puritanical atmosphere he had a well-developed sense of right and wrong, of truth and falsehood; and, to use his own words: "When I saw the two sides, what Amnesty said and what the Sunday Times tried to project, I thought I would only be right in supplying information which I thought the Sunday Times wouldn't have."

So George wrote to the Sunday Times on the 25th October, 1966 and told the editor something of what he had

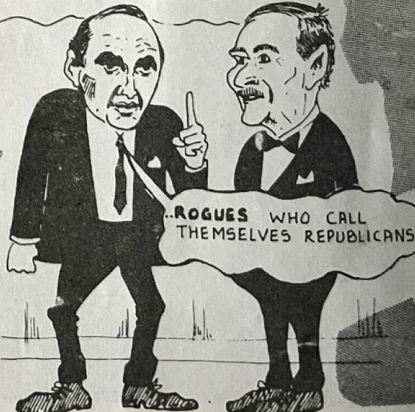
witnessed in Aden: to keep a careful eye deliberately gave than he actually did the letter; but it was for it to get its Borneo contact George, Mu George's story about near Munchen-Glad sitting cramped in a Terry and a woman most of what he knew meted out to Adeni.

For a little while no rang George up to going to publish his evidence to the fact that this was actually did definitely do was Office (now the Min Lennox's claim and this they felt unable had revealed.

The months rolled on January 1967 and v the S.I.B. George w Munchen-Gladbach player he often sust with him a pile of d which he laid out on treatment room. He a statement from his sion. This was a bla been completed and George was unaware major's story began had told Anthony T in silence. Then he s of Lennox who saw guardroom window which he had witness by the three soldiers and felt astonished, which completely hi Stunned he began to recently or else that

At this point the ser had another engagem leave George alone f all the documents ar filled with curiosity, pictures. To use his statements from vari No, they never saw a screams, no such thi evidence. Photograph knew several of these months later he met "Traitor!"

.... AND THE SPECIAL BRANCH HAVE GIVEN ME THE ADDRESS OF A BUILDING WHICH IS INFESTED WITH CROOKS AND.....





# GEORGE LENNOX STORY

witnessed in Aden; but at the same time, because he had to keep a careful eye on the Official Secrets Act, he deliberately gave the impression that he knew much less than he actually did. The Sunday Times did not publish the letter; but it was sufficiently interested in its contents for it to get its Bonn correspondent, Anthony Terry, to contact George. Much later Terry was to corroborate George's story about their meeting secretly in a wood near Munchen-Gladbach — at Terry's request. It was there sitting cramped in a small Volkswagen in the company of Terry and a woman taking shorthand notes that revealed most of what he knew about the torture and brutality meted out to Adeni detainees.

For a little while nothing happened. Then one day Terry rang George up to say that the Sunday Times was not going to publish his letter but that they were presenting his evidence to the Bowen Commission. There is no proof that this was actually done; but what the Sunday Times did definitely do was to pass on his story to the War Office (now the Ministry of Defence) which denied Lennox's claims and, according to Terry, as a result of this they felt unable to publish anything of what George had revealed.

The months rolled by, November, December, then came January 1967 and with it a visit from a sergeant major in the S.I.B. George was in a hospital near his camp at Munchen-Gladbach at the time; for as a very keen rugby player he often sustained injuries. The sergeant major had with him a pile of documents and photos and a huge map which he laid out on top of a big table in the hospital's treatment room. He told George that he had come to take a statement from him to present to the Bowen Commission. This was a blatant lie since the latter's report had been completed and published a month previously. But George was unaware of this and, accepting the sergeant major's story began telling him much the same what he had told Anthony Terry. For a while his visitor listened in silence. Then he suddenly thrust a big photo in front of Lennox who saw that it had been taken from the guardroom window in the Ras Morbut compound from which he had witnessed the brutal beating of the Adeni by the three soldiers. George looked at the photograph and felt astonished. Because what it showed was a wall which completely hid the interrogation centre compound. Stunned he began to realise that this wall had been built recently or else that it had been faked on the photo.

At this point the sergeant major "remembered" that he had another engagement and said that he would have to leave George alone for a couple of hours — together with all the documents and photos. Almost immediately George, filled with curiosity, began examining the literature and pictures. To use his own words: "There were about fifty statements from various soldiers all saying the same thing. No, they never saw any evidence of maltreatment, no screams, no such thing. A very substantial amount of evidence. Photographs of the compound . . . " George knew several of these soldiers personally and about two months later he met one of them and was greeted by "Traitor!"

## IT WON'T TAKE A MINUTE

Had George Lennox not got a strong character he probably would have been persuaded to change his mind or he would have been brought off in some way. But George was no ordinary soldier, and as he grew older he became more and more governed by the prickings of conscience. And it was purely because of his conscience that he had stood up for Amnesty International by writing to the Sunday Times and after that continued to maintain his original stand — though it put him into greater disfavour with his soldier colleagues and the Army authorities. This was not an easy thing for a man who had been in the Army since he was fifteen and who intended making it a career. And there were no tangible compensations for listening only to what his conscience told him; for he had refused even the "expenses" offered by Anthony Terry.

If George had been a more thorough reader of the Sunday Times he would have read with interest the pieces published in February and March about the S.I.B. investigation of the three interrogators referred to by Bowen. Not alone would he have found out that the Bowen Report had been published some time previously but he also might have become suspicious of why the S.I.B. sergeant major had deceived him over such an important matter and tried so hard to make him change his mind. But George hadn't read the Times reports and so remained blissfully ignorant of much of what was going on in the background — until a day in April 1967 when he played more than usually well at an inter-corps rugby match at Paderborn.

At the end of the game he was walking off the field — full of confidence and supremely fit physically and mentally — when he was told by an officer he had not seen before to go with him. He did as ordered and a few moments later he was handed over to three strangers in civilian clothes standing not far from the dressing room. They asked George to go with them and he did so reluctantly after being told: "It won't take a minute." Completely mystified the young corporal soon found himself being driven in a car to the military airfield at Gutersloh where, still in his rugby clothes and covered in sweat and dirt, he was put on board a small twin-engined plane. Then in the company of the three men he was flown to Northolt Airport in southern England. Here there was a car waiting and this took them immediately to a house in north London.

By this time George was feeling cold and more bewildered than ever by the speed of events and the strangeness of it all. And his three shepherds were no help because as well as being the silent type their demeanour would put off anyone who might want to ask them questions. He did not like what was happening and became very suspicious. Just what was it all about, he kept wondering? Had this something to do with his statement to the Sunday Times? Was he going to appear before the Bowen Commission? There seemed to be endless possibilities — but no answers appeared that could ease his growing anxieties.

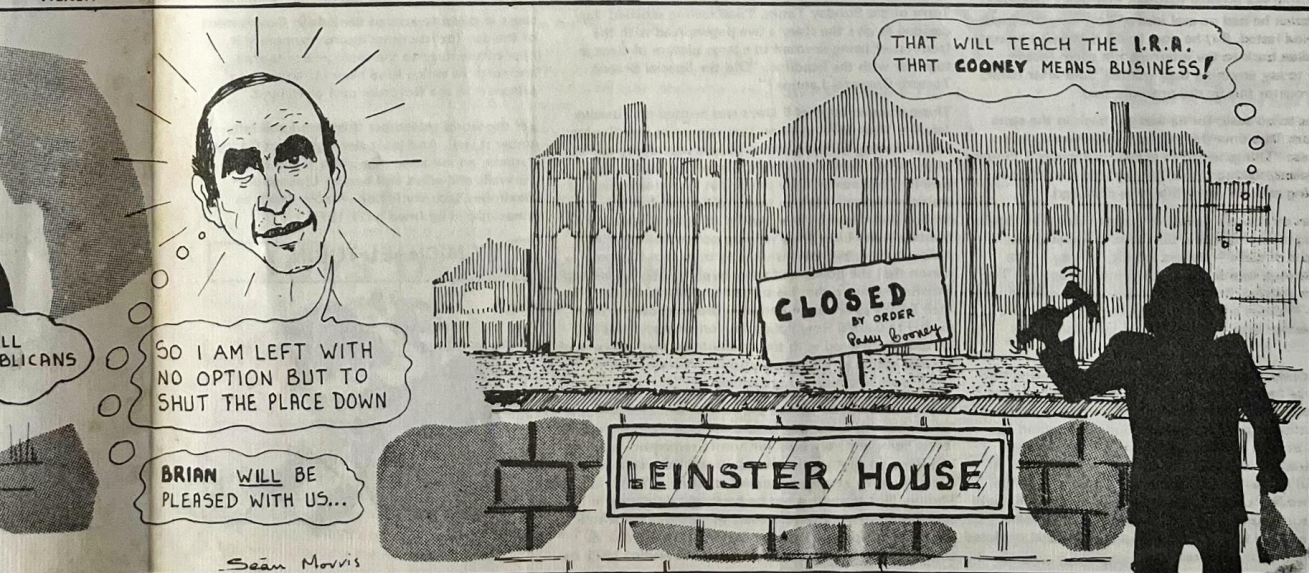
At the London house he was allowed to clean up and was given a meal in a small quite well furnished room with a tiny window. By this time the initial shock was wearing off. From the window he could only see a sloping roof and a tree. Feeling more or less himself again he wanted to go out and have a look at the place but, strangely enough, the door of the room was kept locked. And it was only opened when a very uncommunicative man brought him something to eat. His room began to look very much like a cell and soon his anxieties of a few hours earlier were multiplied. As he gazed about the room he asked himself, just what is going on? He had been brought here on Friday evening and had expected that he be immediately meeting some people working with the Bowen Commission, perhaps even Bowen himself. But nothing happened — neither on Saturday nor on Sunday.

Then on Monday morning after eating his breakfast and what seemed to be the beginning of yet another boring day he found himself in the centre of great activity once more — taken from his room to a car and then driven to the neighbourhood of Chessington, a small town to the south of London. For much of his journey he felt in a daze and later he was to come to the conclusion that his breakfast had been drugged. But he was sufficiently aware to recognise the roundabout at Chessington where he had been before. Then in his own words: "About two minutes later we got to a house, a largish house, set in its own fairly small grounds, entirely detached, with a little orchard or something."

Once inside this house he was taken into what looked like a reception room at a police station where he was confronted by a short smartly dressed man of about forty eight years old. "Have you ever heard of Special Branch?" was one of the questions he flung at George by way of a greeting. "I've heard fairy tales might come true," and then the short man added: "You are going to tell us what we want to know, won't you?" This led to a hardening of the rest of the dialogue in which George said: "Look I don't know if you're planning to beat me up or torture me or something but you can carry on, because I'm just not interested." A point which made the short man remark: "Oh we've got much better methods than that. You'll find out."

George was soon to find out what the man meant. For the first two days he was kept locked in a very small room on the first floor. It had a bed and a sink but no toilet. And high up was a small window. He was given food but no one would talk to him; and his kidnappers ignored his repeated bangings on the door and his appeals to be let use a toilet. So he urinated into the sink — but refrained from defecating.

After some two days of this his door was opened and he was taken into another room on the same landing. This was nicely furnished and it had a desk behind which sat the short man he had met downstairs. A few words passed between them; and George made it clear that he wanted to use a toilet and not talk. Then suddenly the man





Continued from centre pages

# THE GEORGE LENNOX STORY

blurted out: "Look, we're very interested in your association with Amnesty International. We know you're associated with them. Why?" This line of questioning lasted for more than an hour, at the end of which George was returned to his room, a little bewildered by the pace of the interrogation.

On the following day his food started getting cut down. There was no breakfast and for dinner he was given only a couple of potatoes. Up to this time he had managed to prevent his bowels from moving. Now, suddenly, he was afflicted with diarrhoea, which got worse. And he had no toilet. So it was a case of the sink — if he could get to it on time. By the time another day had passed his room was in a dreadful state and as he looked at the stinking mess which his waste matter had made he felt ill and humiliated and in a moment of self remorse muttered: "Christ, what have I done to get into all this?"

Sometimes during the course of the day after this he was taken once again to the interrogation room. This time there was a different man behind the desk, and straightaway he began firing questions about his association with Amnesty International. It was much like the first bout of interrogation, except that this new man kept insisting "We know this" and "We know that" and so forth. Then when it was all over George was taken out again, but this time he was locked in another room, which was fairly large, with a bed, sink, table and chair — and a small window high up.

Almost the first thing he noticed was a mug of coffee on the table. He was suspicious; but when he found that there was no water in the taps at the sink he drank the coffee down. This marked the beginning of a long nightmare period; and George now believes that the coffee was laced with a huge dose of hallucinogenic drugs and that the room was equipped with a sound and visual projection system of some kind together with other apparatus capable of rapid temperature regulation. In more or less his own words, he would be sleeping and would wake up feeling very cold. A moment later it would be very hot and he would be sweating and then the next minute shivering with cold, while outside it would start raining and with thunder and lightning. Then it would get dark and light again.

He lost all idea of time and began to lose touch with reality. And not alone was he asking himself where he was but he also started to wonder who he himself was. He found himself talking to the furniture, talking to the beds and talking to the walls. On one occasion he thought he saw a man walking out of a wall and talk to him.

Though he made some attempt to keep a check on the time by using the interval between successive urinations as a yardstick he had no real idea of how long this nightmare period lasted. But he does know that when he was finally taken back to the interrogation room he was prepared to say anything they wanted. And after telling the interrogator this he did precisely that.

But it was to no avail; for he was put back in the same room again. This time the nightmare was worse. In his own words: "Things began to appear in corners. I thought I heard voices, talking to me, getting into me. The bed was floating around; everything was distorted."

From then on it was a period of great confusion — Spells of interrogation — Spells in his room — Apparitions walking out of walls — Voices talking, talking — The world sideways, upside down, back upright again — Then contorted, twisted, flowing by — Questions, questions, questions — about anarchists, communists, subversive this, subversive that — And to every question — Yes — Yes — Yes . . . .

Then suddenly the nightmare ended. Without being told why George found himself in another room, which was like paradise. It had even a toilet and a shower. And he started getting regular food again. But he remained confused and broken and was far removed from the man who had walked off that football field at Paderborn on that fateful Friday which now seemed such an age ago. George Sneddon Lennox, the only loose end which could lead to the unshrinking of the cover-up of the Aden scandal, had now been turned into a cabbage and rendered harmless — or so it appeared.

## CAMBRIDGE MILITARY HOSPITAL

George estimates that he spent about six weeks at that Special Branch house. At the end of that time he was given a uniform again and removed by car to the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot where he was put in a ward for emotionally disturbed people kept under heavy sedation. While there about three psychiatrists came to see him; but they never asked anything about what happened prior to his arrival. At this time he also became unable to see anything out of his right eye but a medical specialist could find nothing wrong with it.

Eventually in the last Summer of 1967 George was sent on home leave to his mother's place in Scotland and two months later, in October, he was discharged from the Army on grounds of being medically unfit. Strangely

enough his personal belongings which had been left behind in Germany were not returned until February 1971.

For the four years after his discharge from the Army George feeling utterly lost and with little sense of personal identity led a very unsettled kind of life. He worked as a farm labourer, hitched-hiked around Europe, worked as a barman in London, and served a nine months prison sentence for larceny after a pub brawl. Then towards the end of 1971 he went to a meeting organised by the anti-Internment League in London; and, on hearing the accounts of torture and brutality in Northern Ireland he told the audience about his own experiences in Aden.

Everyone present was deeply impressed, and immediately after the meeting one of the organisers contacted him. This quickly led to his introduction to the editorial staff of the radical weekly '7 Days'. They were astonished by his story. But they were not prepared to publish it until they had thoroughly investigated all that he had to say. They repeatedly tape recorded his story to try and find gaps and inconsistencies. They brought him down to the Chessington area and saw two possible houses where he could have been held. And they contacted Anthony Terry of the Sunday Times. Then feeling satisfied they decided to give the story a five page spread with the front cover being devoted to a large picture of George together with the headline: "Did the Special Branch Torture Corporal Lennox?"

This particular issue of 7 Days was printed on Tuesday January 18th 1972. And on that very same day George was picked up by the police while he was selling copies of the magazine on the street. The actual reason they gave him was some vague one about "non-restitution of stolen property." He was taken to Kensington Police Station and detained there while his friends searched frantically for him. They rang up police station after police station, but were unable to trace him for the reason that the police had put a hyphen after his second christian name so that his surname appeared under S in their books as Sneddon-Lennox. The next day he was moved to Gerald Row Police Station where he was eventually charged with the attempted armed robbery of a travel agents at Victoria Station on November 4th, 1971, over two months previously.

George vehemently denied the charge; and because November 4th is the day before the Guy Fawkes festival it was comparatively easy for him to remember what he had done on that particular day — and this certainly did not include an attempted armed robbery at Victoria Station. Not alone this but he had eight witnesses to back his story up. So ridiculous, in fact, did the whole police case appear in his eyes that he did not think he could be convicted and at his trial at the end of 1972 he

brought along only four of his witnesses. But he was wrong, very wrong. Once again his disingenuous self was to take a heavy jolt. For he was found guilty, solely on police evidence, and given a three and a half year sentence in jail.

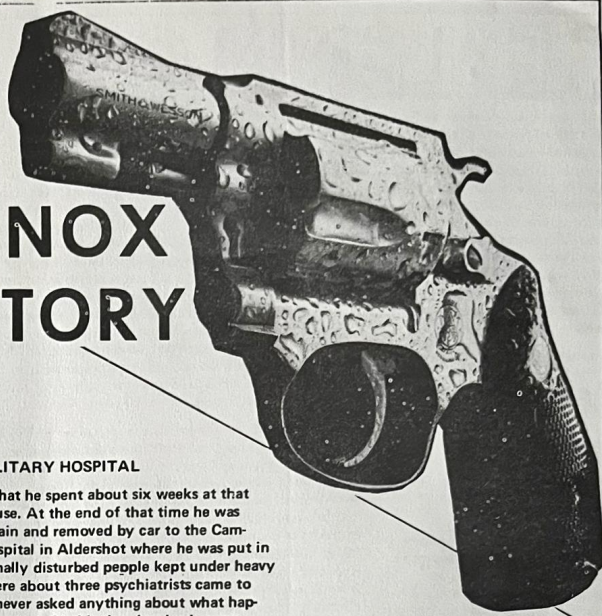
## LET THE WORLD REMEMBER

Some seven months before George's trial I myself was imprisoned for two years for possessing leaflets calling on British soldiers stationed in Ireland to desert. Most of my sentence was served in Chelmsford Prison in Essex and, as luck would have it, George was sent there early in 1973. We soon became firm friends, and over a period of six months I developed a very high respect for him. I found him a person of character and great humanity a man of conscience who was moved deeply by the sufferings and tribulations of his fellows. And he never showed a trace of bitterness over what happened to him. Indeed all the while I knew him I found he was always more concerned about the fates of others than about his own.

Had the world listened to Dr. Rastgeldi and to the young soldier who supported his report back in 1966 and acted to ensure that the horrors of Ras Morbut could not be repeated much good would have come of it. But the world did not listen and did not act. And because it failed to arraign the British Government of the day for its crimes against humanity it opened the door to the even greater terrors and tortures which have been inflicted upon prisoners in the Northern part of Ireland.

Let the world remember this lesson and remember it well. And let it also not forget George Lennox, an innocent man, who is still behind the walls and wires and bars of Chelmsford Maximum Security Prison — from which he is not due to be freed until 1975.

BY MICHAEL TOBIN





# LET US STEP TOGETHER

By the P.R.O., Cage 2, Long Kesh Concentration Camp

I feel obliged to make some comments on the forthcoming General Election (28th February). I feel that I would be shirking my obligation if I did not express the views of the men in this cage in regards to the election. We all realise (i.e. both internees and people of the Six Counties), that the 12 seats from the Six Counties shall not be fought on such matters as prices and incomes policy, inflation etc. AT the moment of course, we don't know all the candidates for the 12 constituencies, but I think it would be safe to assume that each constituency will have pro and anti-coalition candidates fighting for the seat. This then is the broad issue on which the election will be fought in the Six Counties, do you or do you not support the Coalition Government, a result of yet another "British Solution" to the "Irish Problem," the Sunningdale Pact.

For the next few weeks the general public will be bombarded with propaganda from all sides. Mr. G. Fitt and his party will no doubt explain to the people yet again just how much the S.D.L.P. have done for the Catholic population of our strife torn country. He will tell us how much he and his party have done for the internees and their families. As a "result" of this party's negotiations, the ground total of 65 internees were given their freedom before Christmas. Surely no one would like to see more than that great number being released every 6 months or so? You say that Mr. Fitt does not really care that a number of men have been detained since Christmas? Oh, come come, please he does care, he does! He did after all, say it, didn't he? Perhaps Mr. Pym will condescend to release a token number of internees before the election to put Mr. Fitt in a better position. Oh how could I forget it? He will of course also continue to "condemn" the British Government for their treatment of the Winchester Hunger Strikers and demand their repatriation. Some people will say that the S.D.L.P.'s silence on this point is deafening, but I'm sure that Mr. Fitt or Brian Faulkner M.K. 11 as he is better known to some, will clear the air on this matter. He has an answer, (not necessarily a good one) to every question, otherwise how could he have reached the position he is in? I can see it in my mind's eye, Mr. Fitt appealing, no, that couldn't be right, conning the people by saying something like, "Have me elected and I promise you, (Note at this point the tongue in the cheek), that I will DEMAND the repatriation of all Irish Prisoners in England. I will fight tooth and nail for the unconditional release of ALL internees. My friends, (i.e. Brian Faulkner M.K. 1 etc.) and I will give you more houses, more work, better education for your children, better social services," etc. ad

nauseous. The people will listen to all this and perhaps even re-elect Mr. Fitt and elect other Pro-Sunningdale candidates. How can anyone say just what will happen? I would like to say though that we were heartened to read during the week of a lady from Andersonstown who said that she now realises just how much Mr. Fitt etc. fooled her. It is there fore possible that a majority of people now realise how the S.D.L.P. have gone back on their most important promises, how I sincerely hope that this is the case.

This is a very frustrating time for every member of both communities. We have so many conflicting policies and promises before us that we just become dazed. The Catholic people have a traditional distrust of Unionist politicians which is of course justified and they think that it is better to have a Catholic representative in Government considering this point, how can one say, don't vote pro-coalition, which is in effect, don't vote S.D.L.P. I realise that it is hard for Catholic people to understand the reasoning behind this, but I would like to put this point to your readers. Do we want recurring violence every decade or so or do we want a lasting peace? The answer is obvious. Protestant working class people are now beginning to realise that some of the traditional Unionist policies are not for them. A lot of Protestants have given their support to the policies of Mr. Desmond Boal. This "Federal Ireland" policy of Mr. Boal is a part of the solution to our problem but at the moment it is just beyond reach. Let us strive towards this goal as a united people, achieve it and begin the task of constructing a New Ireland, for all the people of our country.

Speaking at the Assembly on Thursday last (7th February), Mr. Fitt said, "At this moment of time we have a lost generation of young people who have seen sights and things happening which they should never have seen." This of course is true and everyone must agree with it. The problem is that there is nothing which Mr. Fitt, or the so called "Northern Ireland Assembly" or the British Government can do about it. The power to save these young peoples futures lies in our hands. We may or may not realise how enormous the potential power we have is. Let us not abuse it, nor let anyone else (i.e. Fitt, Faulkner etc.) abuse it. It may take some time yet but the road, though long and tiring, is almost clear, it is the road to an Eire Nua. Let us "Step Together" Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter until we reach the end. Many people have suffered, let it not be in vain.

## WATCH FOR U.F.F. IN ANDERSONSTOWN

Dozens of cars and vans were stopped by armed Volunteers from the First Battalion, Belfast Brigade, during the week. A statement from the P.R.O. of the First Battalion explains that the massive security check was mounted following intelligence reports that "U.F.F." Killer squads would strike in the Andersonstown/Upper Falls area in the weeks leading up to the Westminster elections.

It is thought that up to five Flying Columns were used to throw up lightening road blocks in various parts of the Andersonstown estate. Buses coming from the Ladybrook direction were boarded by Volunteers carrying short-arms who were on the lookout for known "Loyalist"/S.A.S. gunmen.

Photographs issued along with the First Battalion statement show one Flying Column in action, Volunteers with deadly Armalite rifles and Sten guns give cover to the search party.

The statement issued by the Ogiagh na hEireann spokesman apologises for the inconvenience caused to the motorists, but explains that even(s) of the past two weeks have made such operations necessary.

## BOYS OF WEXFORD

Members of the Padraigh O Pearail Sinn Fein Cumann, Wexford have been holding pickets outside the home of Brendan Corish, a member of the collaborating Dublin Government, for the past seven weeks.

The pickets have lasted for two hours every Sunday morning. The aims of the pickets are to protest against the force-feeding of the Irish political hunger strikers in English jails and for their transfer to prisons in Ireland. The picketeers handed a letter in for Mr. Corish demanding the return of the

Winchester 8 as he is now in a position, they said, to do something.

At the last meeting of the Cumann, votes of sympathy were passed for the families of volunteers who gave their lives in the cause of Irish freedom over the last few years.

The Cumann also pledged their solidarity with the men and women who are carrying on the fight against such odds also to the men, women, girls and children held in concentration camps and jails.

## DIFFERENT JUSTICE AT YORK

By P.R.O. Cage 6, Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

I would like to make the public aware of an incident that took place at York Crown Court recently. It concerned a private in the British Army who "confessed" to certain crimes in statements he made to B.A., S.I.B. agents during interrogation.

This is the same much lauded investigation branch which came to the Six Counties to assist the R.U.C. secret police in their "enquiries" into activities of people caught up in incidents since August, 1969.

After submission made by the soldier's defence counsel that his interrogators used threats of violence, etc., the judge Mr. Booth, ruled that such statements were inadmissible and ordered the man to be released.

Almost daily, people are being convicted and given harse sentences in British courts in the Six Counties for admissions

made by them under duress during interrogations by the same type of interrogators mentioned at York. Many of these unfortunate victims produced evidence to show how they were beaten and ill-treated but in most cases their claims were rejected. Who wants British "justice" in Ireland!

Now a member of the R.U.C. Special Branch, McKinney, has been charged with assault during his interrogation of an unfortunate suspect. "Confessions" obtained by this man have resulted in many victims receiving long jail sentences, not counting those interned in Long Kesh.

Those put away or those on remand will not receive in the Six Counties the same type of justice as the British soldier at York. All are equal before the law! Those with eyes to see and ears to hear know that this is not the case in British-occupied Ireland.

No doubt the charges made against McKinney will receive in due course the usual coat of British whitewash.





## **CAMPAIGN FOR ENGLISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IRELAND**

### *Open Air Rally in Lurgan*

ON SUNDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, at Edward Street/Francis Street at 2.30 p.m.

Speakers: FRANK McMANUS, BRENDAN MAGILL, MIRIAM DALY, MIKE FARRELL and MICHAEL MORRISSY

Bus from Eire Nua Bookshop, 170 Falls Road, at 1.30 p.m. : Tickets now on sale. Fare 50p

### *Indoor Rally in Glasgow*

ON MARCH 7th, TO DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF ENGLISH GARRISON FROM IRISH SOIL

Speakers: SEAN MAC EOCHADH (Director CEWI), MATT MONTGOMERY (IMG), and other prominent Republican and Democrats

### *Mass March and Rally in Newry*

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 17th MARCH

Prominent speakers include: FRANK McMANUS, AIDAN CORRIGAN, JAMES O'KANE and other Democrats and Republicans

Music by the SEAMUS STEELE BAND and others : Light Refreshments : Sports : Races

BUSES from EIRE NUA BOOKSHOP, 170 Falls Road, Get your ticket early: Fare 75p Departing 1.00 p.m. sharp

All who believe in the Cause of Irish Freedom are urged to give these demonstrations your support where possible.

## **WE WANT OUR COUNTRY**