

REPUBLICAN NEWS

THE VOICE OF
REPUBLICAN ULSTER

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper



Vol. 5 No: 13

SATURDAY, 29th MARCH, 1975

(England, Scotland & Wales 10p).

PRICE 7p. (USA 40 cents).

TO IRELAND'S CAUSE THEY GAVE THEIR ALL



Ann Marie Petticrew



Ann Parker



Vivian Fitzsimmons



Eileen Macklin



Dorothy Maguire

THEY WERE THE 'SOLDIERS OF THE REARGUARD' CUMANN NA MBAN

IN EVERY GENERATION since foreign invaders first landed on Irish soil, Irishwomen and girls have always played an important part in the struggle for Irish Freedom and to help break the chain of slavery from England . . . the age old enemy.

In 1798, when the Society of United Irishmen rose against their English oppressors, they were loyally supported by valiant Irishwomen of the calibre of Betsy Gray. When Robert Emmett and his brave comrades took their stand, women like Ann Devlin shared their sufferings and risks. When Padraig Mac Piaras and his comrades entered the General Post Office in Dublin in 1916, they were joined by the soldiers of Cumann na mBan who proved to be in-

valuable in carrying out various duties such as first aid, cooking, carrying messages, etc., during that glorious week after Mac Piaras had read out the 1916 Proclamation in the name of the Provisional Government.

Countess Markievitz, Maud Gonne McBride, Mary McSweeney . . . these are only a few of the names of gallant Irishwomen who answered Ireland's call. In the years that followed the 1916 Rising, many young women joined the ranks of the Irish Republican Movement to help to forward the cause of Irish Freedom.

Members of Cumann na mBan were imprisoned in the 30s and 40s in Irish and English jails. One member was imprisoned in Armagh Jail in the 50s.

But perhaps, the greatest chapter in the history of Cumann na mBan started in early 1970, when the might of the English Army was sent to crush the Irish people into the ground. The soldiers of Cumann na mBan stood shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers of Oglagh na h-Eireann to resist the foreign army of occupation in an effort to drive the English garrison from Irish soil for all time.

Many Cumann na mBan Volunteers gave their lives in this war of independence . . . many others are "faoi ghlas ag gallaibh!" . . . imprisoned by the enemy.

DAUGHTERS OF ERIN . . . VALIENT IRISH-WOMEN . . . WE SALUTE YOU!

THESE
ARE THE
SOLDIERS
OF THE
REARGUARD



REPUBLICAN PRISONERS IN ARMAGH JAIL

To the People of Ireland!

"Our Freedom must be had at all hazards."—Wolfe Tone.

The time has come to practice the advice of Flann Léinn, namely: to train our hands and our souls; for the day will come when we and they will have to use them. (E)

The workers must be disciplined and alert if they are to enjoy the just proceeds of their labour. It has been well said:

"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance."

The methods of discipline and alertness and the means of power to train our hands, are provided by

THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY.

This organisation embraces the full principles of Republican Democracy; its aim is to sink the difference of Birth, Privilege and Creed under the common name of the Irish People. It stands for a Union of Progressive Nationalism with the Democratic forces of Ireland, and its policy is to achieve that, for which

Theobald Wolfe Tone died, and John Mitchell suffered—

AN INDEPENDENT IRELAND.

(Irishmen) Join the Citizen Army NOW and help us to build up an Irish Co-operative Commonwealth.

All inquiries to be addressed to:

HON. SEC., LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

Museail do Mhisneach, a Bhanba!

Alliance Crawl Out

On Tuesday last two cars, each containing four men, pulled to a halt in the Commedagh Drive area of Andersonstown and the occupants emerged. Republican observers cautiously watched the movements of the strangers as they came out of a huddle and approached houses in the street. The suspicious looking gang turned out to be the "Rent a Crowd" company of the Alliance Party, only Daniel McGuinness, who was shot several years ago for passing information to the British army, came from the estate. Party leaders Basil Glass and Bob Cooper, former Young Unionist, led the sortie into the battle for the minds and hearts of the people.

Cooper got off to a bad start when he asked a housewife at the corner of Shanlevy Road if she had any problems which he could help her with. "I certainly have," she replied, "My home has been raided by British soldiers on over thirty occasions, my husband has been arrested and taken to Fort Monagh over a dozen times. I owe £200 back rent and I do not intend to pay one penny of it until the last internnee in Long Kesh is back with his family, today my husband received a threatening and abusive letter from the Master of Enforcement in Bedford Road Jail within the month" Cooper was looking extremely hot under the collar as the lady went on. "Every person in this estate has problems of one sort or other; tell me Mr. Cooper, were the Hell have you been since 1969?"

Needless to say, Cooper made a hurried excuse and went on his search of someone with a problem more to his liking.

WEAR AN EASTER LILY

All or Nothing, Rees

Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin issued the following statement —

We protest not only against internment at the present time but against the alien government which has imposed internment in the past and will continue to impose it as long as it retains control of any part of Ireland.

Our protest is against the British's claim to a right to legislate, to hold courts, and to imprison people in Ireland.

Colonial government will always entail repression of the kind we are experiencing now. National repression will not end until there is a national government.

Rees promised to end internment if there was an end to "violence." Faulkner said the same. Everyone knows that internment will end if the Croppies lie down, but it will always be brought back if the Croppies rise up again. Nothing short of complete victory for the Croppies will eradicate this scourge from our country.

England's allies, now as always, are the Orange Loyalists. The men who introduced this round

of internment was the Loyalist Brian Faulkner. Internment was always one-sided. This round began with Republicans only, and now, after some internment of Loyalist to keep British control over their allies in counter-insurgency, the wheel is back full circle, with only three Loyalist internees, who will no doubt soon be released. It must be remembered that the crimes of the Loyalists were anti-people — against random targets, defenceless people in pubs and churches, and hitchhikers — not against economic targets or the British Army. Their methods of murder were particularly obscene and sadistic. Yet the Loyalist internees have almost all been released.

The British and their colonial-minded allies are Siamese twins who cannot be separated. Loyalist government of the six Counties will have to be ended before Ireland can be at peace, and crimes against the Irish people, such as internment, ended once and for all.

All or Nothing, Rees.

We demand the unconditional release of all political hostages, interned and sentenced.

We Say . . . Put These Houses in Order

Over 20 houses have been bricked up in the Lenadoon Estate since the British Army broke the truce in 1972. Many people in Andersonstown are asking why this should be at a time when so many families in the area urgently need to be housed.

Local Sinn Féin cumainn in Andersonstown have compiled a list of people who urgently need homes. Is it not time that something was done to make these houses available for families who urgently need them? We say it is!

We know that there are skilled tradesmen in Andersonstown who would be most willing to make their skills and labour available to put these houses in order, so why the hold up? Can any of our readers answer this one?

Families in urgent need can be housed and employment can be provided for local workers by making these houses habitable. Who will make the first move? Will somebody with ideas, ring us at Belfast 46841 to suggest what should be done?

SINN FEIN SAY "NO" TO CONVENTION ELECTION FARCE

The following statement was issued by the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin in Dublin on Tuesday, 25th March:-

"Sinn Féin have decided not to nominate any candidates in the forthcoming six counties convention elections. The proposed convention contradicts the basic right of the Irish people as a unit to govern themselves.

"In addition, the British Government has arrogantly appointed the Chairman of the convention before it is elected at all and retains the right of veto on any result of its deliberations.

"The Six Counties state was originally and still is, an artificial creation and the type of discussion proposed is unrealistic until Britain declares her intention of withdrawing from Ireland. Furthermore, there are almost 2,000 men and women in prison, north, south and in Britain and hundreds more have been uprooted from their homes because of the turmoil.

"The Republican alternative is a 32 counties convention for all Ireland which would provide for a provincial Parliament for the nine counties of Ulster which would have every power except foreign affairs, defence and national finance.

"The proposed Six Counties convention elections is another irrelevancy and is regarded by Sinn Féin as a method to re-construct British rule in Ireland. Republicans will not assist Britain in doing this.

"Once again Britain will be forced to face the decision that she cannot govern any part of Ireland and that the best policy is to declare her intention of withdrawing forever."

RAITEAS O CHOISTE DUICHE NA MI DE CHONRADH NA GAELIGE: GAELIGE AR THEILIFIS

Ta baill uilig Choiste Duiche na Mi de Chonradh na Gaeilge fíormhíasta mar gheall ar easpa na gcláracha Gaeilge, droch-chlaigh-dán na gcláracha Beirle (go hairithe na cláracha o Shasana agus Stait Aontaithe Mheiricea), iontach imníoch faoi mholtai an Aire Phoist is Telegrafa le BBC a athchraoladh, agus imníoch freisin faoi chinnseiracht agus nuachtchlaracha claonta.

Socraíodh d'ionsghuth eileamh laidir a dheanamh le haghaidh seacht n-uair a choig de chlaracha Gaeilge teilifíse, ar a laghad, gach seachtain mar leanas: clár paisti 15 nóiméad gach oíche; clár nuacht 15 nóiméad ag am círuinach gach oíche; clár 30 nóiméad do dhaoine fosta gach oíche, agus clár creidimh amháin in aghaidh na seachtaine, le míreanna Gaeilge scaipthe trí na cláracha spóirt.

Iarrann Coiste Duiche na Mi ar an bpobal tacaíocht a thabhairt da gcuid moltaí. Braithneann se ar an duine fein conas a thabhairfadh se tacaíocht diinn ach ta se soiléir go mbeidh orainn feachtas laidir dana a reacht-aíl chun ar gcearta mar Chaeilge-eoiri a bhiait amach, agus chuige sin ta se beartaíthe ag Roinnt ball de Chonradh na Gaeilge sa Mhi gan cheadúnas teilifíse a ioc mar agoid in aghaidh na nithe thuas luaite."

Statement from Coiste Duiche na Mi de Chonradh na Gaeilge: Irish on TV.

"All the members of Coiste Duiche na Mi de Chonradh na Gaeilge are extremely dissatisfied with the continued lack of programmes in Irish on RTE, the poor quality of programme in English (particularly imported programmes from Britain and USA), are extremely concerned about the proposals of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs for rebroadcasting

BBC, the continuation of censorship and slanted presentation of many news items on RTE.

It was unanimously decided to demand a minimum of seven hours television programmes in Irish each week as follows: a daily childrens programme from 5.15 p.m. each evening; a daily 15 minutes news program at a more suitable time than the present Nuacht; a 30 minute adult programme each evening; one religious programme per week plus sections of sports programmes in Irish.

Coiste Duiche na Mi appeals for support for their proposals and strongly urges opposition to the rebroadcasting of BBC. The means that people use in supporting our proposals are of course a matter for each individual but it is obvious that a determined campaign must be waged to achieve justice for Irish speakers from RTE and all-round improvement of other programmes.

Accordingly some members of Conradh na Gaeilge in Co. Meath are refusing to renew television licences in protest against the above mentioned deficiencies in the national television service."

Sean MacStiofain, PRO/Coiste Duiche na Mi de Chonradh na Gaeilge.

The Republican Prisoners, Armagh Gael wish to extend their sympathy to the family of Mrs. Marie Doyle (who died as a result of an explosion) and especially to their comrade Mary Doyle, Mary Queen of Ireland, Pray for her.

Etternal rest grant onto her O Lord.

COURTESY AND THE IRISH TRADITION

The Irish are a courteous race. This is not a boast. It is a simple statement of fact; one which is testified not alone by thousands of visitors but by writers who were even hostile to Ireland.

Courtesy is an innate quality in the Irish. It is a social instinct which centuries of deprivation failed to destroy. And those least conscious of its existence are the Irish themselves.

A few writers have endeavoured to analyse this particular trait. Chesterton said that the Irish had charm and were very agreeable, not because they were so highly civilised. Shaw probably came nearer to the true explanation when he wrote: "The Irish have a great delicacy of feeling, which makes them capable at times of being a very course people."

Delicacy of feeling is at the root of the Irish temperament. It underlies their social customs and traditions, and gives meaning to so much that is complex and contradictory in the national character. It largely explains the reasons why Gaelic Society in structure, cultural outlook and general tone was aristocratic for over 2,000 years. 'Aristocratic' in this context is a quality of mind, and not a mere superficial social distinction. It is quality of mind Chesterton was thinking of when he wrote that 'but for softening influence of the Catholic Church the Irish would have remained too keen, to aristocratic.' Religious influence also introduced a certain mystical element.

This aristocratic temper of the Irish mind is still very much in evidence. Despite their long years of hardship, the Irish never became bourgeois: Their minds were too fine, too sensitive. They have an inordinate respect for good breeding, not in any class conscious sense but in their regard for the integrity and other personal qualities which they rightly associate with members of the Old Stock. This aristocratic stamp is very clearly exemplified in the average Irish countryman, than whom there is no truer gentleman to be found anywhere; and no shrewder judge of what constitutes a true gentleman.

In the old Gaelic Ireland the people set great store by courtesy, politeness, pose, grace, elegance of manner and speech, comeliness, courage and physical prowess. Old Gaelic manuscripts contain many references to their extraordinary standards in this regard. The following is typical; it is a description of Cuchulain taken from the great *Tain* as translated by Mary Hutton:—

"... No ye will not find
Over against you in this land ye enter
Another of Like Power or Youth
Who in illustrious noble qualities
In Trophy taking, in the feat of nine
O'er pointed weapons, in address, in valour
In voice, in sweet and skilful utterance
In charm, in courtesy, in all Distinction
Attains unto the third part or the fourth
Of what which is attained by that distinguished
and Noble Hound, Cuchulain."

In all countries the development of national modes

of courtesy and polite behaviour are influenced by a variety of factors — geography, climate, economy, politics, level of education and cultural and development, social conditions and others. Thus we find a very highly developed and excessively sophisticated mode in pre-revolutionary France — a country with great wealth and power, a strong tradition of Central Monarchy, a sumptuous Court and a lively national Capital city. Everybody in Europe copied the French. They were the trend setters of the time. To be truly 'with it' one had to adopt French fashions and styles, etiquette, cuisine and many other things. French was the language of diplomacy. But in some respects they went too far. Etiquette in Versailles was carried to absurd extremes.

The situation in Gaelic Ireland was vastly different. The country was small. It was not rich in the European sense; nor was it powerful. After the abandonment of Tara, the seat of the High King, there was no central royal court. The nearest later equivalent was Dublin Castle, the seat of the representatives of the English King and the centre of puppet government. By and large however the Irish Chieftains for centuries exercised full authority in day-to-day matters in their own territories. At that time there were few towns and fewer cities and consequently the 'smart set' that inevitably evolves in urban life and Court circles never developed in Gaelic Ireland. A Castle social coterie did emerge in the 18th century but its traditions, which by Gaelic standards were insufferably arrogant and vulgar, were rejected by the masses and made little or no impact.

Each Irish Chieftain maintained a fine establishment — the equivalent of a 'mini' court with certain important differences. It always included on its payroll certain traditional establishment 'officials' — the musician, poet, historian, genealogist, lawyer and medical doctor and others who were, so to speak, the status symbols of the era; but more than that, they reflected the great love of learning and culture that existed in Gaelic Ireland.

When the Chieftains were not engaged upon occasional forays into a neighbour's territory — something they were inclined to do just for the fun of it — they spent their leisure hours in hunting and sporting activities of various sorts. They loved entertaining as much as young people love parties today. It was a point of honour that the hospitality should be of a high order; this tradition survives even among the less well-to-do in rural Ireland to-

day. Their tastes in food and wine were excellent. They loved fine clothes, and men and women were very much given to using jewellery and ornamentation for personal adornment. The work of the goldsmiths showed exceptional artistic merit and skill. Ceremonial was used to lend dignity or to give symbolic meaning to certain occasions, notably the election of a new Chieftain.

Ceremonial, however, and the code of polite behaviour were always kept within bounds. Etiquette remained simple and, in general, informal. It never developed into a fetish or a cult — the people were much too sensible for that. Ceremonial was never employed to overawe or impress. There was no need for it. The people always had an immense love and respect for their chieftain; and he for them. When he greeted his humble followers he did so with warmth and friendliness and without the slightest hauteur.

This grand relationship between aristocracy and peasantry was probably unique in Europe. The basis of it was mutual respect. Snobbery was utterly foreign to the Gaelic temperament. The Irish have always believed, and still do, that a human being is a human being and must be treated as such. The Normans, at first, and later the Elizabethans tried for a while to 'high hat' the 'natives' but in time they succumbed to the better Irish traditions. The Cromwellians, of course, were never absorbed. The Irish had no wish to do so. In their eyes, the Cromwellians were 'mechanic bagmen.' The Carpet Beggars of their era, devoid of breeding and good manners, they were never regarded as gentlemen and were held in contempt both by the Irish peasantry and what was left of the Gaelic aristocracy.

Apart from a few pieces of protocol which were de rigueur such as the paramount obligation of showing courtesy and hospitality to all strangers and visitors; or the observance of seating precedence at formal banquets; and the arranging of entertainment to accompany the banquet — music, singing, reciting of poems etc., there was no constricting and oppressive code of formal etiquette. There was a reason for this, and it is still with us — the Irish Temperament.

Despite their faults — and they have a few — the Irish have a warmhearted, friendly, relaxed, gay and a laughter-loving disposition. Counter-balancing this lighter side of their temperament, which foreigners so often mistake for flippancy or irresponsibility, they have a degree of sound common sense and down-to-earth quality which makes them in many ways a very sane, level-headed, practical people. One quality they possess to an extraordinary high degree is empathy — the ability to divine how the other person is feeling and thinking. It is a sort of sixth sense which gives the Irish a positive genius for getting on with people wherever they go throughout the world. To such a sensitive temperament, solid, rigid, and formal politeness is repugnant. It is a barrier to social intercourse. The warm Irish nature recoils from the cold. Their sensitive feelings are discomforted by rigid formality; it causes tensions and imposes strain. Elaborate continental-type courtesies therefore, such as heel-clicking, bowing and hand kissing and the like were neither favoured nor practised among the Irish. True courtesy, to their mind should put people at their ease, and cause neither embarrassment nor strain.





The burnt-out
GPO and
wreckage of
Henry Street,
Dublin, 1916

TO THE WARRIORS OF CUCHULAINN - YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Night falls and Death's shadow
Is seeming cast o'er Ireland
As round their fading fires
Her soldiers try at last,
With cold and eyes and weary hearts
To forget the Dead —
Absent from their graves.

Tho' the flames are blown
Across the mist —
Like crushed shrouds of dust,
As Heaven's eyes are tightly shut
And God's ministers
Below the thorned sky
Sigh silently at unjust wounds,
The absent Dead appear from out
The moon's silver mists
And stand again —
Warriors of Cuchulainn.

Along the corridors of the eye
they travel
Proclaiming loud as ever they did
The land for which they lived.

Relentless spirits calling Ireland free!

They will not be forgotten
These Hounds of Ulster.
They will not be denied
these Warriors of Cuchulainn.

Their leader, the Mighty, speaks —
"Remember us 'til Ireland stands
Cloaked in her freedom mantle.
For only then will we rest
In our sweet freedom graves.
Remember us, Warriors of another day,
Still Irelands,
Marching with our face upon you
Who mark the way,
In our same spirit and tranquility,
the hour,
At every step,
When we draw down our Victory."

The night sleeps unaware.
Clouds caress the moon
As fading, the soldiers of yesterday
March into the growing dawn.

Now the night retreats.
The enemy soon
Into the ashes of fire is scattered
Beneath a marching nation,
Whose soldiers stand
Warriors of Cuchulainn —
Yesterday and today.

MISS EIRE
Easter 1975.

BRITISH ARMY DISGRACES THE QUEEN By Fred Burns O'Brien

The taking of human life is detestable in any given circumstances and these very simple words must preface any discussion of a possible justification of the killing of another human being in any form of belligerency. Reference to the War in Northern Ireland is placed in the context of a domestic belligerency since the British are deplorably vain in their omission to admit that their war with the Irish is in fact a war, not just a haphazard affair of the moment. However, the British have on occasion impliedly acceded that the Irish Republican Army is an army representing a belligerent faction.

The IRA is in fact an army of the Irish people in pursuit of their Nationalistic aims. The nation of which we speak is presently in exile, pursuing self-determination, a right-recognised by the world community and enshrined in international law. The IRA and the British Army are engaged in a struggle for the possession of stated territory and within the confines of this conflict have the right to engage one another in mortal combat under accepted impositions of the rules of international law.

This is not a conflict where standing armies take positions opposite one another and commence firing. It is by modern definition 'urban guerilla warfare.' This means, of course, that belligerents might be on rooftops or in alleys, rather than on a defined battlefield. However, this does not change the primary con-

sideration that this is, in fact a war of recognised combatants:

The Irish Republican Army has been the object of British propaganda bars thrown incessantly at the vacuum of world opinion that observes through the media the situation in the North on a daily basis. It is generally conceded that the superior British propaganda effort has many people believing distorted facts about incidents that occur where IRA scapegoats can be easily held accountable, but in fact, British infiltrators have actually staged the incident to be utilized for propaganda purposes

AT A SERIOUS LOW

A series of court cases recently have proven the credibility of the British to be at a serious low. The case of Auld and Clarke, whose torture the British denied have won their case. The families of the Derry Thirteen who were murdered by British soldiers have won actions for wrongful deaths in an incident where the British denied any responsibility and the commander of the British forces involved was decorated by the Queen. Her Majesty deserves an apology and a resignation by those involved for making a royal fool out of her. Another case involved the usual British denial of killing innocent civilians. In this case it was a "sectarian" assassination conveniently blamed upon a para-military group but perpetrated by the British Army, as were the great majority of such homicides.

The Queen of England has been



the greatest dupe in the entire "Ulster Crisis." She has been used by her trusted officers. At Derry the British Army used Her Majesty to be their cover for premeditated murder. She certainly deserves better than that. The British Army is capable of any act, but to use their sovereign is a vile act of treason, and the British Attorney General might consider legal action.

LETTERS

Mr. O' O'Hare's Crocodile Tears

STATEMENT FROM P.R.O. LONG KESH INTERNEES, ISSUED ON 24th MARCH, 1975.

"Again as election time approaches, there is a sudden 'awakening' of concern and interest on the part of some very strange people with the plight of us internees here in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, in this the fourth year of internment. These sudden conversions to the internment crusade have ceased to surprise us. What never ceases to surprise us though, is how these aspiring politicians can maintain such a thick skin in view of their past records on the internment issue.

"The attitude of us internees to the S.D.L.P. generally, is well known, since we have publicly expressed it on numerous occasions. It is they, so far as we are concerned, who have by their double-dealing political gymnastics, contributed greatly to the continuation of such an abominable system and even went so far as to actively discourage popular anti-internment protest by inflicting economic hardship upon the Rents and Strata strikers.

"A statement from a prospective S.D.L.P. candidate, in West Belfast, for the forthcoming Convention elections, adequately demonstrates the ambivalent and opportunistic nature of S.D.L.P. policy on internment. Mr. O'Hare quite blatantly states that: 'If the spokesmen for the party (i.e. S.D.L.P.) had been headed Long Kesh would have been long since closed and much unnecessary suffering avoided.' One wonders as to which spokesmen precisely Mr. O'Hare is referring - Austin Currie perhaps?"

Gerry Flitt, Paddy Devlin, John Hume, perhaps?

"Surely he is not suggesting that any of these people did anything to eliminate the unnecessary suffering of us here in Long Kesh? Did not each of these people participate in an executive, not only before Long Kesh was closed, but whilst young men were being unceremoniously thrown behind the wire, whilst they sat in their plush, well-paid jobs? Maybe Mr. O'Hare does not realise it yet, but such glib comments as his no longer hood-wink our people.

"The S.D.L.P. has amply demonstrated by its actions, which still speak louder than words, what its 'concern' for internment is based upon - vote-catching. Perhaps we are being unkind to Mr. O'Hare, maybe he is referring obliquely to his own efforts? If such is the case, however, then we are more than surprised.

"To our knowledge, Mr. O'Hare has not openly identified or issued any public statement against internment. He is, though, known to us internees, but only as one of those lawyers, who wholeheartedly and unashamedly, participated in the 'Money Factory' Tribunals here and thus contrived equally to cloud the injustice of internment, as well as help to prolong it. We do not recollect Mr. O'Hare calling for an end to the 'Star Chamber' Tribunals that operated here never mind call for an end to internment itself.

"Thus we can only assume that Mr. O'Hare's interest in Long Kesh is personal and expedient. We can do without his 'crocodile tears' at this late stage. Surely the candidate for West Belfast is naive when he talks of a Radical Social and economic programme being implemented by the S.D.L.P. How could any such radical programme, if it existed, be implemented whilst Long Kesh remained open.

To the S.D.L.P. and Mr. O'Hare we say: Get off our backs! You have profited enough for our people."

We welcome your comments and criticisms, so please keep your letters coming. If you have any historical documents, like photographs or manuscripts and you would like other readers to see them, send them to us at 170 Falls Road, Belfast, we will return any items sent.

IT IS YOUR BUSINESS

It is your business - and very much mine to know - Brutality is still being carried out against Republican Prisoners - In Long Kesh Concentration Camp by Rees' armed thugs. In spite of the ceasefire.

This week I visited Long Kesh Concentration Camp to see conditions and to get information direct from the prisoners about their treatment there now.

I was very much annoyed to hear that even now - during the ceasefire - several times a month prisoners are dragged from their beds as early as 5 a.m. in the morning taken outside in the cold and lined up outside the tin huts - and beaten with brutal force by well fed soldiers - for absolutely no reason whatever. The prisoners are defenceless, the allegations which accompany these sons of Black and Tans see to it, that it is a very one sided affair as they inflict blows of unmerciful strength. These thugs are masters of savagery - having been trained to inflict brutality.

When the beatings end the prisoners return to their cages they find their few belongings broken and scattered around.

It appears to me that the ceasefire is a very much one-sided affair. How is it that the prison governor has done nothing to put a stop to this cruelty. Merlyn Rees is in charge of this reckless army and surely he is not unaware of what is happening in that con-

centration camp! It must be with his authority such savage acts are carried out.

Rees appears on the TV screens and with suave tones and sanctimonious expressions makes it appear that he is abundantly distributing goodwill towards the prisoners - and for which we are made to appear ungrateful for not crawling before him in appreciation, yet Heaven and the world knows how our pleadings on behalf of these Republican prisoners have been ignored and scorned.

These men have endured more than four years of injustice, harassment and brutality for having loved their country - yet were not even tried or convicted of any crime. Suspicion and trumped up charges were sufficient to pacify Englishmen's consciences, as long as the victims were Irishmen. The prisoners are not in a position to do anything to draw attention to their plight this is what gives ME THE RIGHT TO TAKE UP PROTEST IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN. The prisoners are very much my concern. They are my fellow Irishmen and today I make it my business to inform the whole world to LAY LOW THE BUTCHERS APRON. Meaning the Union Jack. I call upon our friends in America, Canada, Belgium, Germany and France to remember that they contribute to the English econ-

omy each time they buy their manufactured goods. I remind the English people also that they contributed to the excessive sufferings which their taxes paid for and so prolonged the duration of Irishmen's stay in Her Majesty's concentration camps in our country.

I beg every nation to let Britain know how very much they frown upon the continued torture of Irishmen especially during the ceasefire and let us keep on reminding Britain of HER SHAME in IGNORING that before the United Nations she signed the Convention on Human Rights which forbids the ill-treatment of prisoners in jail, Greece, Portugal, Iran, Rhodesia and other countries celebrated the 25th Anniversary of respect for Human rights by liberating convicted prisoners from their jails.

Is it any wonder therefore that now "BRITISH JUSTICE" has lost meaning?

(Mrs.) J. UNA TOAL,
3 St. Kevin's Terrace, Newry Road, Dundalk.

WEAR AN
EASTER LILY

IRISH REBELLION, 1916.

FAREWELL LETTER OF P. H. PEARSE

(President of the Irish Republic)

TO HIS MOTHER,

Written on the Morning of his Execution, May 3rd, 1916.

Kilmainham Prison, Dublin,
3rd May, 1916.

My Dearest Mother -

I have been hoping up till now that it would be possible to see you again, but it does not seem possible. Good-bye, Dear Mother. Through you I say good-bye to Maggie, Mary, Michael, Willie, Miss Byrne, Michael, Cousin Maggie, everyone at St. Enda's. I love and believe that Willie and the St. Enda's Boys will be safe.

I have written two papers about Financial Affairs and one about my books, which I want you to get. With them are a few poems which I added to the poems of my MS. in the large bookcase. You asked me to write a little poem which would seem to be said by you about me.

I have written it, and one copy is at Arbour Hill Barracks with other papers, and Father Aloysius is taking charge of another copy of it. I have just received Holy Communion. I am happy except for the great grief of parting from you. This is the death I should have asked for, if God had given me the choice of all deaths - to die a Soldier's Death for IRELAND'S FREEDOM. We have done right. People will say hard things of us now. Later on they will praise us.

Do not grieve for all this, but think of it as a sacrifice which God has asked of me and you. Good-bye, again, Dear Mother. May God Bless you for your great love of me and your great Faith, and may He remember all you have so bravely suffered.

I hope soon again to see Papa, and in a little while we shall all be together again - Maggie, Willie, Mary Bridget, and Mother. Good-bye. I have no words to tell you my love for you and how my heart yearns to you all.

I will call to you in my heart at the last moment

Your fond son,

PAT.

A MOTHER SPEAKS :

Dear Mary, who didst see thy first born Son,
Go forth to die, amid the scorn of men
For whom He died, receive my first born Son
Into thy arms, who also had gone forth to die for men.
O keep him by thee till I come to him!
Dear Mary, I have shared thy sorrow and soon shall share thy joy!

Kilmainham Prison, Dublin

May 3rd, 1916.

LISBURN HALF TRUTHS

Sir,

British Government statements have long ago lost any shred of credibility they may have once possessed.

People have, over the years, grown accustomed to the Whitehall lies, the Lisburn half truths, and the mumbled, half apologetic utterances of a taffy in Stormont. In fact, according to an award winning journalist - Robert Flak of the English 'Times' - all their clarifying statements must be thoroughly vetted for discrepancies. And at always, recognising the futility of hoping their statements will be believed, the British Government has resorted to the use of her legal personnel in an attempt to give credence to their horrifying and blundering record in Ireland. The latest in their 'impartial inquiries' was, of course, recognised by all 'blah! blah! blah!

ADOLF HITLER

'Impartiality', if Adolf Hitler had attached the same importance to propaganda as does Merlyn Rees, he too could have set up an impartial inquiry into the work of the S.E. or the treatment of the Jews in his prison camps, and I'm sure he could have relied on a favourable outcome similar to the one obtained from Gardiner by Rees. How can you expect British legal experts to be impartial when they are investigating complaints made against their own Government. Surely their 'verdict' is bound to be influenced by the fact that an unfavourable (in other words truthful) account of the Northern Ireland system will cast a shadow on themselves, not alone as upholders of the British Government but as members of the same

REPUBLICAN EASTER COMMEMORATION. Downpatrick, Co. Down.

Parade assembles St. Patrick's Avenue at 2.30 p.m.
March to Killough Road Cemetery, Republican Graves.
3 p.m.

Honour Ireland's Dead. Wear an Easter Lily.

British legal system. Developing Merlyn Rees' limited line of thought further - the advantages of having such an investigating system are innumerable. For instance there need not be a third party involved in football matches i.e. the referee, the referee could also be one of the players!

British based inquiries must be seen in their proper light and for what they are - pure and simple exercises in propaganda and whitewash. Look what Gardiner wrote about Long Kesh and particularly the Sentenced Prisoners held there;

UNDISCIPLINED BUNCH OF TERRORISTS

'Wasters', living about all day twiddling their thumbs and devising schemes for the establishment of the third Reich. An undisciplined bunch of terrorists who won't do what the Prison Officers tell them. The poor Governor, only trying to do his best for Queen and country, unlistened to.

Ever I met this 'impartial Lord Gardiner' the dialogue might run thus; I would first ask of Gardiner 'How long or how many days did you spend within the confines of Long Kesh? How many of these 'criminals and terrorists' did you speak with, eat with, live with? And if Lord Gardiner were to answer truthfully - and it is a big if - his answer could only be; 'I have NEVER spent any time in Long Kesh, nor did I speak, eat with or live with any of these people I have labelled as wasters and layabouts.'

And I would reply; 'Oh so that is the reason you were unable to write about the Education Programme we ourselves have devised and are pursuing. That was why you didn't state that now the people in Long Kesh have a wider understanding, will be better able to help the people with the problems facing the Irish people when they are finally liberated. You probably wouldn't have understood the language we spoke anyway - now that so many of us have learned our Native Language. No wonder you were unable to mention the various handicrafts made in Long Kesh - necessary to support our families existence on the outside. I suppose that was why you also didn't mention about the leaking huts, the inedible food, the lack of medical, dental, and recreational facilities. Maybe that was why you omitted to mention that SEVEN men, both Protestants and Catholic, have died within the confines of Long Kesh.'

Yes Lord Gardiner, I can now understand how you came to open such despicable lies. Yes, now that the damage is done, it is painfully obvious and clear where you went wrong."

But, Lord Gardiner, in a distorted way your description of us as wasters was right. Men did waste and they did lie on their beds all day long that was in June 1972 before our trial was granted as Political Prisoners was 'granted' after 30 days of Hunger Strike.

And there, my friends, our conversation would end. Judgement would be up to you.

Is Miss le mas,
SEAMUS O'MAOLMHAION,
Cage 9, Long Kesh.

Cathal O'Shannon writes of Easter Week in Belfast, 1916

Na Fianna Eireann was founded and extended in Belfast by members of our own I.R.B. circle, and very soon they outnumbered all the I.R.B. and Sinn Feinners ever on our books in Belfast. We had also a girl-corps of Na Fianna, long before Cumann na mBan was thought of. Those in charge were Albert Cotton, Sean O'Sullivan, and Joseph Robinson—Ina Connolly daughter of James Connolly was Secretary of the girls.

The I.R.B. and the Fianna in Belfast were also responsible for organising the first companies of the Irish Volunteers and they used to meet in the Willowbank Huts, Falls Road, which was then the Headquarters of Na Fianna in Belfast.

Early in 1914, Dinny McCullough became Supreme-Head of the I.R.B. Peter Burns became Military Chief and had trusted aides in Sean Cusack, Sean O'Neill and Rory Haskins. Mick Carolan was Secretary.

Redmond's recruiting speech for England at Woodenbridge in 1914, started a split in the Volunteer movement. The outbreak of the war stirred the foundation members of the I.R.B. and these men worked hard in their own small way towards preparation for a Rising.

Thomas Ashe on his way home from America called on James Connolly and myself in the I.T. and G.W.U. Rooms in Corporation Street, Belfast and stressed the evil effects of Redmond's pro-British attitude upon the finances of the Volunteers funds in America. Two hundred men remained loyal to the aims of the Irish Volunteers in Belfast under D. McCullough. When we met in St. Mary's Minor Hall, Belfast, James Connolly came to the meeting. Several of the men like Alf Monaghan, lost their employment through their Volunteer activities and McCullough and Herbert Moore Pim were jailed for refusing to obey deportation orders.

Seamus Maguire made an efficient purchaser of arms and even introduced some of Carson's men to part with their arms for cash.

We helped Dublin in many ways. When no Dublin printer could be found to print Arthur Griffith's paper, "Nationality" which was financed by the I.R.B. Sean T. O'Kelly came to Belfast and we found a man who risked and later lost his business because of work done for us.

I had the privilege at Tom Clarke's desire of bringing to Belfast from James Connolly the plan of operations in which our Ulster companies were to take part. These plans were dictated to me by Connolly in the Historic Room 7 of Liberty Hall, Dublin. Sometime in Holy Week the final plans were made.

Our companies were to go to Coalisland, Co. Tyrone for the general mobilisation on Easter Sunday. On Good Friday, Rory Haskins, Seamus Dempsey (Fianna), Pat McCormick and Thomas White were sent to Tyrone. At 1-50 p.m., 3-40 p.m. and 9-50 p.m. on Holy Saturday by G.N.R. and at 9-30 a.m. on Easter Sunday our forces proceeded to Tyrone. All were under the general command of Peter Burns. Archie Heron, Sean Kelly, Charlie McDowell and Sean McGauran were in charge of the separate contingents. The first two were old Fianna Officers and the last mentioned, a Dundalk man who, Dan Braniff thinks died from wounds in the Civil War. Burns, Haskins, and Kelly had taken charge of our three companies after the split in 1914.

We bivouacked in Coalisland on Saturday night. I was posted for sentry duty. On Sunday morning the men were ready for church parade. I remember in the spare moments, Eamonn Rooney went through Ambrose Bierce's stories, "In the Midst of Life," the latest and final issues of "Nationality" and "Irish Volunteer" and P. H. Pearse's last pamphlet just hot from the press in Belfast.

The Belfastmen were disappointed they did not meet the Tyrone Volunteers in strength. We numbered no more than 120 men and I am told our rifles were about 60. Fifteen or twenty Tyrone cyclists found us and I am not sure our numbers were increased by more than that. Dinny McCullough, Pat McCartan, Tyrone and P. de Burea (or Frank Bourke, Carrickmacross) had a meeting in McCartan's home and they came to the conclusion that no effective action was possible.

Recalling events of that day a number of Belfastmen speak of the arrival of a dispatch from Volunteer H.Q. in Dublin by motor cycle. This was an order for de-mobilisation. It was decided that the Volunteers return home. I objected; afterwards I learned from Seamus Dempsey that he was against the idea of dispersing. We broke camp and marched 10 miles to Cookstown, where we entrained for Belfast. When we arrived home a few of us made our way to "AN CHRAOBH RUADH" and AN ARD-SCOIL (then in King Street). Albert Cotton told us then, of MacNeill's order calling off the Rising.

Tommy Wardlaw and I tried to phone Dublin but we were unable to get through. We got no news until Easter Monday evening when we heard that the Rising had begun in Dublin. On Easter Tuesday we assembled the vols. in the Convent Fields, Falls Road, but unfortunately our effective arms were left behind in Tyrone.

In Tyrone, Sean Cusack sent Rory Haskins to McCartan's house but he was arrested there. Heron and Dempsey tried to get to Tyrone.

After the mobilisation at the Convent Fields we were ordered home to await further orders. However Dan Braniff, Frank Booth and myself cycled to Portadown and found the Belfast men on their way home. Next day Braniff and I went to Newcastle where we stayed and from there we went to Louth. Our next stop was Finglas and from there we got to Phibsboro. We had heard of the surrender of the Dublin Volunteers at Dunboyne and so we made our way to Drumcondra to a convent gate house occupied by Mr. Byrne. Later we made our way back to Belfast and to arrest and detention in Belfast Jail and then back to Dublin by train accompanied by a military escort. We marched from Amiens Street to Richmond Barracks where some of us got a fleeting glimpse of Sean McDiarmada. From there we were sent to Frongoch.

ROGER CASEMENT

Roger Casement was hanging in Pentonville Prison on 3rd August, 1916 had many happy ties and associations with Belfast and at "Ardigh" the home of Francis Joseph Biggar on the Antrim Road, Belfast, he spent many joyful hours. To the Irish-Ireland atmosphere of this hospitable home of Biggars, came all that was noblest of the Gael — of Free and Gaelic Ireland — and there within the portals of that kindly Protestant home, would gather many who would willingly give their service to Ireland and who would make the Supreme Sacrifice for her Cause of Freedom — Casement among them.

The kindly housekeeper of "Ardigh," beloved by all who met her, was Bridget Matthews and from his cell in Pentonville, Casement penned the following letter to her.

My Dear Bridget,
Your letter came to me yesterday in this prison cell, and it was like a glimpse of the garden, with the wall-flowers and the Japanese Cherry to get your message.

First I want to tell you that the crucifix, the medals, and the scapular came to me three weeks ago, but your letter only yesterday. They are always with me and please God, will be as long as I am here.

"Remember me to many and thank those friends who pray for me. Do you remember the 'Cradle Song'." I liked so much? Get Cathal (Cathal O'Byrne) to sing it for me and give him my love and thanks from my heart, also to Colm if he is near to you and Dinny and Seaghan Dubh whenever they come back to you and the old room again.

I dreamt last night I was lying before the fire in it, and the boys were telling stories and you standing at the door with the pipes.

And so farewell — and may God's Blessing rest on you and yours and be with you in your work, and may the heartfelt thanks of one in much sorrow and affliction of soul be part of your reward for your affection.

Always your friend,
Roger Casement.

Of his coming death on the scaffold, Casement on the eve of his execution said:

"Think of the long succession of the dead who died for Ireland — and it is a great death — a glorious death for Ireland's sake with Allen, Larkin and O'Brien, with Robert Emmet and the men of '98 and William Orr — all for the same cause, all the same way. Surely it is the most glorious cause in history — 'Ever defeated, yet undefeated.'"

In Memory

No more their eyes shall mirror
Spring's glad smile,
No more their feet,
The jewelled medals shall tread,
No more the willing hands for
Erin toll;

For they are Dead.

No more shall kiss their brows
The soft sweet rain;
No more for them the
thorn her fragrance shed;
The lark at noon shall
call to them in vain:

For they are Dead.

They raised the flag
In dark and evil days,
Nor feared to follow
Honour where it led,
They fann'd the fire of
Freedom to a blaze.

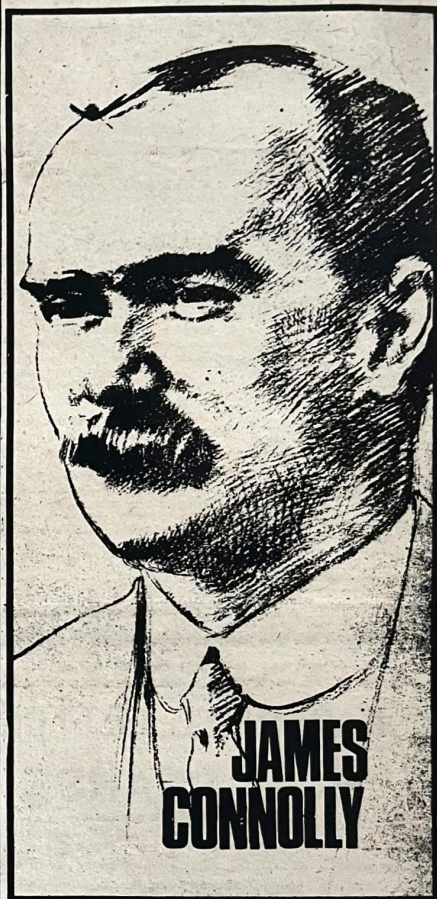
It is not Dead.

Francis O'Grady.

James Connolly's connection with Belfast

By Constance De Markievicz

My friendship with James Connolly came through the Fianna in Belfast, after his return from America in 1910. In 1911 he took up the post of Ulster organiser, and Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. He and his family settled into a nice little house, high up on the Falls Road, with clear, open spaces around it, the mountains in front and a green field sloping down behind it.



Connolly was the inspiration, friend and helper of every little group struggling towards Freedom in Belfast, the Fianna among them. His daughters Nora, and Ina, were two of the Pioneers of Fianna Girl Scouts who, in spite of endless opposition, organised and held together a great group of young girls, training them on the same lines as the boys, in separate branches, but absolutely equal and having equal rights and privileges in the organisation with the boys.

And so it happened that when I was up in Belfast to lecture to the Fianna, the girls brought me to the Connolly house and we all became great friends. Afterwards I came to look upon their house as my Belfast home. Mrs. Connolly was a charming hostess. I remember pleasant and interesting evenings passed there, listening to James Connolly and his friends talking and I trying to learn all I could.

The conversation covered a very wide ground—history, politics, economics, social systems, class distinctions, culture revolutions and everything discussed led back to the same question—How can we work out Ireland's Freedom? Where can we find guidance in the past? What is at the back of the tyranny and suffering of the present day? And where lies the inspiration to guide us as the future unrolls itself?

On Easter Monday morning 1916 Connolly and I parted on the steps of Liberty Hall, Dublin for the last time. I never saw him happier, he was absolutely radiant like a man who had seen a vision. The comrade of Tone and Emmet, he stood on the heights with them, his spirit one with theirs. The rapture that comes only when the supreme sacrifice is made intentionally and willingly in a man's heart was his. The life of the flesh was over for him: the spirit life had begun—and so I like to think of him, radiant and smiling, still "fighting and hoping" OURS TO FOLLOW.

"But yesterday you stood with us against the crowd
We were not then a host, O dead; dispraise was loud;
Ah, not loud, as deep, as pure as now your praise
Who died and brought us back the dream of purer days."

Na Fianna



P. H. PEARSE'S MANIFESTO

To the Boys of Ireland.

WE of Na Fianna Eireann, at the beginning of this year 1914, a year which is likely to be momentous in the history of our country, address ourselves to the boys of Ireland and invite them to band themselves with us in a knightly service. We believe that the highest thing anyone can do is to SERVE well and truly, and we purpose to serve Ireland with all our fealty and with all our strength. Two occasions are spoken of in ancient Irish story upon which Irish boys marched to the rescue of their country when it was sore beset—once when Cuchulainn and the boy-troop of Ulster held the frontier until the Ulster heroes rose, and again when the boys of Ireland kept the foreign invaders in check on the shores of Ventry until Fionn had rallied the Fianna; it may be that a similar tale shall be told of us, and that when men come to write the history of the freeing of Ireland they shall have to record that the boys of Na Fianna Eireann stood in the battle-gap until the Volunteers armed.

We believe, as every Irish boy whose heart has not been corrupted by foreign influence must believe, that our country ought to be free. We do not see why Ireland should allow England to govern her, either through Englishmen, as at present, or through Irishmen under an appearance of self-government. We believe that England has no business in this country at all—that Ireland, from the centre to the zenith, belongs to the Irish. Our forefathers believed this and fought for it: Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Moore and Owen Roe O'Neill; Tone and Emmet and Davis and Mitchel. What was true in their time is still true. Nothing that has happened or that can ever happen can alter the truth of it. Ireland belongs to the Irish. We believe, then, that it is the duty of Irishmen to struggle always, never giving in or growing weary, until they have won back their country again.

The object of Na Fianna Eireann is to train the boys of Ireland to fight Ireland's battle when they are men. In the past the Irish, heroically though they have struggled, have always lost, for want of discipline, for want of military knowledge, for want of plans, for want of leaders. The brave Irish who rose in '98, in '48, and in '67, went down because they were not SOLDIERS; we hope to train Irish boys from their earliest years to be soldiers, not only to know the trade of a soldier—drilling, marching, camping, signalling, scouting, and (when they are old enough) shooting—but also, what is far more important, to understand and prize military discipline and to have a MILITARY SPIRIT. Centuries of oppression and of unsuccessful effort have almost extinguished the military spirit of Ireland: if that were once gone—if Ireland were to become a land of contented slaves—it would be very hard, perhaps impossible, ever to arouse her again. We believe that Na Fianna Eireann have kept the military spirit alive in Ireland during the past four years, and that if the Fianna had not been founded in 1909, the Volunteers of 1913 would never have arisen. In a sense, then, the Fianna have been the pioneers of the Volunteers; and it is from the ranks of the Fianna that the Volunteers must be recruited. This is a special reason why we should be active during 1914. The Fianna will constitute what the old Irish called the MACRAITH, or boy-troop, of the Volunteers, and will correspond to what is called in France the Ecole Polytechnique or Military School. As the man who was to lead the armies of France to such glorious victories came forth from the Military School of Brienne, so may the man who shall lead the Irish Volunteers to victory come forth from Na Fianna Eireann.

Our programme includes every element of a military training. We are not mere "Boy Scouts", although we teach and practice the art of scouting. Physical culture, infantry drill, marching, the routine of camp life, semaphore and Morse signalling, scouting in all its branches, elementary tactics, ambulance and first aid, swimming, hurling, and football, are all included in our scheme of training; and opportunity is given to the older boys for bayonet and rifle practice. This does not exhaust our programme, for we believe that mental culture should be hand in hand with physical culture, and we provide instruction in Irish and in Irish history, lectures on historical and literary subjects, and musical and social entertainments as opportunities permit.

Finally, we believe with Thomas Davis that "RIGHTEOUS men" must "make our land a Nation Once Again". Hence we endeavour to train our boys to be pure, truthful, honest, sober, kindly; clean hearted as well as in body; generous in their service to their parents and companions now as we would have them generous in their service to their country hereafter. We bear a very noble name and therewith very noble traditions, for we are called after the Fianna of old, that heroic companionship which, according to legend, flourished in Ireland in the second and third centuries of the Christian era.

"We, the Fianna, never told a lie.
Falseness was never imputed to us".

said Oisín to Saint Patrick; and again when Patrick asked Caoilte Mac Rónaigh how it came that the Fianna won all their battles, Caoilte replied: "Strength that was in our hands, truth that was on our lips, and purity that was in our hearts."

It is too much to hope that after so many centuries the old ideals are still quick in the hearts of Irish youth, and that this year we shall get many hundred Irish boys to come forward and help us to build up a brotherhood of young Irishmen strong of limb, true and pure in tongue and heart, chivalrous, cultured in a really Irish sense, and ready to spend themselves in the service of their country?

Sinne.

NA FIANNA EIREANN.



The last stand of the heroes of Easter Week, 1916, in the G.P.O., Dublin. James Connolly lies on a stretcher, while near him are Pádraig Pearse, Tom Clarke, Joseph Plunkett, other leaders, and Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell. The windows are manned by Volunteers, while others are fighting the flames bursting in through the roof of the doomed building.

GREETINGS

O'HARE Jimmy, Compound "F 11," Magilligan, Easter Greetings. Wishing you a very pleasant Easter. Too bad such a good big Irish lad should spend a glorious Easter time behind the wire of a British P.O.W. Camp. From your sisters, brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces, uncle, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law and nephews, U.T.P.

BRANNIGAN Compound "F 11," Magilligan, Easter Greetings. Pat F. Ireland still belongs to us. We have not lost her yet. We will win her fight for freedom. From the O'Hare family circle, U.T.P.

TERRY, Easter Greetings to our beloved son David and to his friends, Sean, Joe, Pat and Kieran and all the men in Campound F, Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. You will be remembered this Easter and always as will be all of Ireland's patriots. Also we are proud and join you at this season in remembering all Ireland's glorious dead. Greetings from Mammy, Daddy, brother and sister.

Deaths

FIAN ROBERT ALLSOPP
The Staff and Volunteers, Belfast Brigade Oglaiha náb-Eireann. Na Fianna Eireann, Cumann na mBan, Cumann na gCailín, Auxiliaries, Sinn Féin, National Graves Assoc., Republican Prisoners, Sentenced, Interned, Remand. Deeply regret the death (accidental) of Fian Robert Allsopp (A. Company, 3rd Battalion), Fianna Eireann and extend their deepest sympathy to his mother and family.

THE STAFF of Republican News were very sorry to learn of the death of Robert Allsopp, Na Fianna Eireann.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his family, Relatives and Comrades.
A Thiarna, dean trócaire ar a anam.

Acknowledgments

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks cheques received from the Minn Chapter of Irish Northern Aid for \$50.00 and \$28.00

We have passed the first amount to Green Cross "73 and the second amount to the Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Committee.

We thank most sincerely on behalf of the two bodies mentioned, the Minn Chapter for their generosity and solidarity. (Editor).

THE NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION ARMAGH
Wish to remind the people of Armagh that their Traditional Annual Commemoration Parade on Easter Sunday will commence at 12 o'clock sharp, leaving the junction of Moy Road, Banbrook Hill via Lower English Street, Shambles Cathedral Road to the City Cemetery.

To all our Republican prisoners in Irish and English jails:

Hoping that you are all able to wear your Easter Lily this Easter.

We stand behind you in solidarity in anything you do. Victory to the Irish Republican Movement.

K. Barret, London.

EASTER GREETINGS to David Sean, Joe, Mick, Kieran, Pat, Jimmy, Pat and all the men in Cage "F," Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. You will be remembered this Easter and always as will be all of Ireland's patriots. Also we are proud and join you at this season in remembering all Ireland's glorious dead. Greetings from G.L.E.F.N.

CLASSIFIED

INTERNMENT: A grave breach of International Law by a depraved dying empire assisted by the 26 counties satellite, incapable of true nationalist policies for the Irish people.

Inserted by Liam O'Clairigh, (Tailor to the Intelligent Man), 82 Falls Road, Belfast. Phone 26178.

TOP PRICES PAID FOR BRASS, COPPER AND LEAD — At 138 Cullinstree Road (Facing Marchioness Street). If you wish to replace a part of your car, visit us first. If we have it, you could pay less.

SCOTTISH REPUBLICAN CLUB

On Sunday, 6th April, a public meeting will be held in the McLellan Galleries at 3 p.m.

The subject under discussion will be Ireland Today! Scotland Tomorrow?

THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

You are invited to attend and bring as many persons as you wish from your organisation.

We feel that the discussion can be widened to embrace information from any of the world liberation movements at present engaged in armed struggle or who have done so.

It is intended to invite as wide an audience as possible from both the Labour and Nationalist movements.

For more information on the public meeting or the Scottish Republican Club, contact —

John Carlyle, 36 Albert Road, Glasgow S.2.

REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT — Belfast.

Oglaiha na h-Eireann, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Eireann, Cumann na gCailín, Sinn Féin, Auxiliaries, National Graves Association. Republican Prisoners, sentenced, interned and remanded, in Crullin Road jail, Long Kesh, Armagh, Magilligan, Portlaoise and in England — Salute the sacrifice of the Soldiers of 1916 and pay tribute to all who died for Ireland's Freedom.

"The Dead who died for Ireland, let not their memory die."

PATRICK MCDADOREY CUMANN LUTON SINN FEIN (England).

Easter Greetings and good wishes to all Republican prisoners in Ireland, England, Scotland and America.
"They can jail a revolutionary — but not a revolution."

LUTON SINN FEIN DANCE GREAT SUCCESS

A very successful St. Patrick's Eve dance was held in Luton on March 15th. The dance, which was well attended by the Irish communities from Luton, St. Albans, Bletchley, and Hemel Hempstead, was in aid of the Political Prisoners Dependents at home and abroad, and was a tremendous success, financially and socially. All the tickets printed were sold, and late-comers were unable to gain admittance after 10.30.

Music was provided with great enthusiasm by a local Irish group — "The Ohios Irish Showband", who played to everybody's taste a mixture of Irish traditional and modern dance music several guest singers also entertained the gathering, which was held in a Luton Community Hall.

Cumann Committee and members wish to thank all those who supported their dance, especially Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Connor, who travelled out from distant Harrow (Middlesex) with their supporters.

Thanks also to the wives of Cumann members who made such a success of the buffet during the evening.

Particular thanks goes to Kathleen Barret of Finchley (North London) who personally contributed £40, and presented the cumann with a tape recorder to aid the Political Education Classes now in progress.



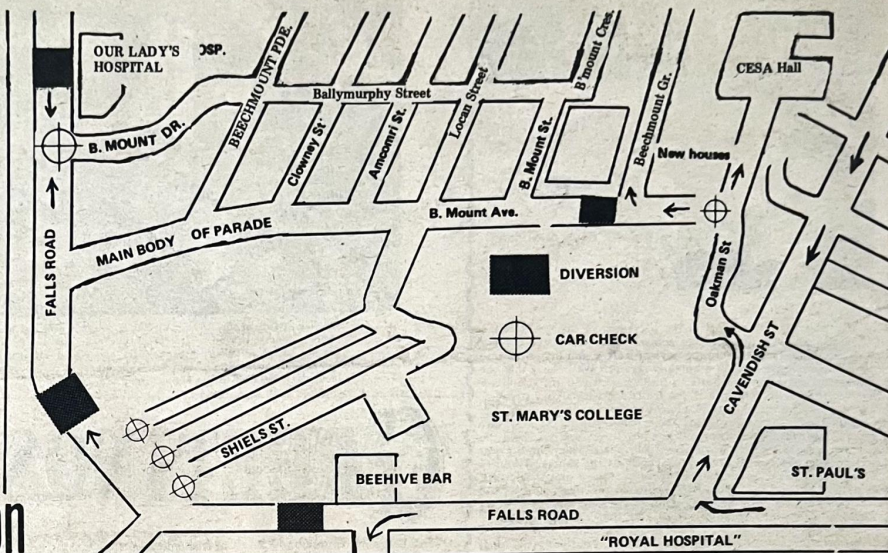
National Graves Association

The usual Easter Commemoration ceremonies will be held in Belfast, on Sunday, 30th March, 1975.

All taking part in the parade, are asked to assemble at Beechmount at 1.30 p.m., sharp. Photographers authorised to photograph the ceremonies will wear official identification issued by us. This will be issued at Beechmount between 1 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. on Easter Sunday. Prior application is necessary.

BOYCOTT

The boycott by Republican internees of the Long Kesh Concentration Camp Commission has led to a complete close-down of the hearings there. The boycott which was implemented by Republican prisoners some months ago has meant that the twenty-man Commission which had to be imported from England and Scotland (at enormous expense) has now gone home. However, an optimistic Northern Ireland Office spokesman stressed that it would return immediately if anyone wished to appear before it. In view of the long sustained solidarity of the Republican internees' boycott, it is unlikely that they will ever again be needed. Republican internees have no intention of giving a semblance of legality to this quasi-judicial body by consenting to appear before them. During its existence this Commission had achieved the same notoriety as the infamous Special Powers Act which spawned it.



CEMETERY

Members of the general public are asked to co-operate with the stewards within the cemetery and to stay out side the area, which will be roped off, in the immediate vicinity of the County Antrim Memorial.

Members of the public are further asked to refrain from walking on the graves in and around the Memorial.

We call on all to join with us in conducting this particular Easter Parade, with the honour and dignity that the occasion deserves.

TRAFFIC

All traffic to be diverted via Cavendish Street and Oakman Street, into Beechmount Grove and Beechmount Pass, subject to identification check and search. Car parking allowed only in this area.

All other entrances into the "Old Beechmount" area shall be sealed to traffic from 12.00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, except for residents of the area. They may gain entrance through Beechmount Drive upon identification and search.

No traffic shall be allowed past the De La Salle Brothers Home towards Beechmount or upwards Beechmount from the "Beehive" subject to I.D. and search from 12.00 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

CO-OPERATION AND SECURITY

The general public are asked to bear with us, and to co-operate in everything that they are asked to do by the organisers, in the interests of security. The utmost courtesy will be shown by our stewards at all our checkpoints.

There shall be car checks in the vicinity of the assembly area.

All members of the General Public wishing to participate in the parade are asked to form up in Locan Street, Beechmount Street, Beechmount Crescent and Beechmount Grove, and not to congregate at the entrance of Beechmount Avenue, or along Beechmount Grove.

Spectators are asked to line the route on both sides of the Falls Road, and not to congregate at bottlenecks such as: Corner of Beechmount Avenue, Donegall Road, Whitelock Road, St. James Road and the entrance to Milltown Cemetery.

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past. Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

THOMAS J. CLARKE.
SEAN MAC DIARMADA. THOMAS MACDONAGH.
P. H. FRASER. EAMONN CEANNITT.
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

HONOUR IRELANDS DEAD

By
Tomas O'Dalaigh

Fifty nine years have passed since the pulses of young Irishmen and women beat fast with secret hope and urgent preparation for a rendezvous with honour. Ireland's intellectual elite insisted again that our country is an independent nation and not a province of England; that

every true Irishman must assert this and prepare himself for the noble encounter to establish the nation's independence.

Young Ireland; the Irish Volunteers; the Citizens Army, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Eireann drilled, marched, planned and equipped themselves for action and proudly challenged in arms a mighty empire. What wonderful young men and women they must have been!

Only those who lived when they lived; only those who heard them talk; only those who knew their thoughts, could understand their sense of idealism and strength of loyalty to the Irish Nation. Words cannot appraise fully the rare make-up of their individual personalities. All for one — one for all — every noble sentiment was fostered, every mean trait shunned; each one strove to become a true man, rich in noble virtues. Many patriotic Irishmen,

All this was far removed from sanctimoniousness. They were religious in outlook and tried to the best of their ability to serve both God and Country.

As Easter 1975 dawns, we still find young Irishmen and women with the same idealism and sense of loyalty to the nation and to our people. Young men and women prepared to continue the age old struggle to assert our country's independence. Many patriotic Irishmen,

women, boys and girls have died, but unlike the Cosgraves the Lynches, O'Briens and Cooney's they will be honoured and remembered with pride.

The relatives, comrades and friends of our martyred dead can hold their heads with pride. They have left us an honourable legacy that will inspire us to continue the struggle to the bitter end. There can be no turning back.