

An Phoblacht

BULLETIN

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BRITISH

TERROR IN IRELAND



At a street corner on the Lower Falls Road, Belfast, July 3, 1970. British occupation troops prepare to attack Irish people in their own city.

THE past week has seen a further escalation of events in the Six Counties starting with the arrest of Bernadette Devlin on her way to Derry and culminating in the tearing apart of the entire Lower Falls Road area of Belfast by 2,000 British troops supported by heavy armour.

Three days of street battles with British soldiers followed Bernadette's imprisonment. At the height of the fighting three heavily armoured Saracen cars followed by troops penetrated as far as Free Derry Corner but were beaten back out of the Bogside by stones and petrol bombs.

Meanwhile coat-trailing Orange processions on the Crumlin Road in Belfast were made the occasion of a mass invasion of Nationalist streets. Stones and firearms were used by the attackers, but the lessons so dearly bought last August resulted in their immediate repulse with casualties. British troops were unable to cope with the situation.

On Saturday night, June 27, mobs advanced on Ballymacarett in East Belfast. They used firearms and petrol bombs. The defenders of this Nationalist area grouped around St. Matthew's Church in Bryson Street, Newtownards Road, fought off successive waves of attackers. The fiercest fighting seen in Belfast since 1920-22 took place. By the time British troops arrived on the scene several hours later two attackers and one defender were mortally wounded.

On Wednesday, July 1, a three-way battle took place in the 90% Nationalist town of Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, where local people fought British troops and R.U.C. backed up by imported Orange processionists.

But Friday to Sunday, July 3-5, will go down as the two days when the entire 50,000 people of the mile-square Lower Falls Road of Belfast were beaten back street by street into their homes under 36-hour curfew. Advancing British troops shot two Irishmen and crushed a third to death under an armoured vehicle. Arrests totalled 334, but every inch of ground was contested and arms were used in defence as the ring of steel tightened and clouds of C.S. gas suffocated the area. Weapons were found and barbaric militarism had triumphed—but only for the moment—over a defiant people.

THE Civil Rights campaign was met with brute force in Derry, at Burnt-tollet Bridge, in Derry again, and then the conflagration of August last in Belfast and the defeat of the R.U.C. at Bogside brought British troops out in the open.

Jack Lynch said the troops were "unacceptable" as peace keepers. Dr. Hillery repeated it at the United Nations. Bernadette Devlin asked when they

arrived in Derry: "Do they come as peace-keepers or do they come to replace the R.U.C.?"

By October, 1969, Lynch had abdicated responsibility for the people of the Six Counties in favour of the British Government and Army. The "unacceptable" British Occupation troops were now to be the saviours of the people there and repeated requests by local Defence Committees for assistance were turned down.

Now with a Conservative-Unionist Government installed in Britain, with meddling Maudling come and gone, to be followed by Lord Balmiel, British Defence Chief, and the Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, General Sir Geoffrey Baker, the line was laid down: "Disarm the Falls; strip them of their few pitiful weapons."

And so with a monstrous show of force, the sacking of homes and the terrorisation of men, women and children, with curfew, brutality and the taking of three Irish lives, British military might crushed the Falls—but not in spirit. The courageous conduct of its womenfolk on Sunday, July 5, showed the world that the Falls lives and will prevail.

It is now patently obvious that British troops in Ireland are no peace-keepers—they never were and never will be. The sooner they get out of our country for all time, the sooner will Irishmen be able to compose their differences in freedom.

Mr. Lynch gave no leadership in this crisis. He did not open his mouth until it was all over—and then what he said was irrelevant. Cosgrave, Corish, Blaney and Boland—their silence damns them. They have sold out the people of the Six Counties.

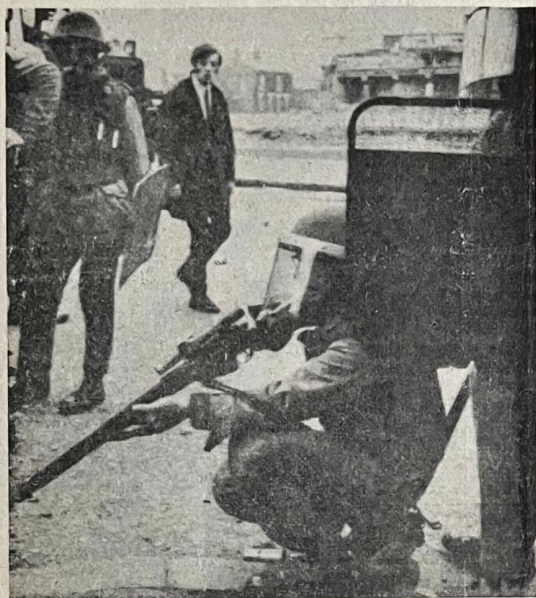
In fact Mr. Lynch has actively prevented aid from reaching them. The phone-tapping, the letter-opening, the Special Branch surveillance of men from the North, and all in the 26 Counties who would help them, goes on. The flow of information to Britain continues.

Let not this blood and sacrifice go to cement a new betrayal of the Irish people—a "Federal" solution, or a paper and paint freedom while England dominates economically, socially and culturally. Britain's answer is to re-arm the R.U.C. and bring in even more troops.

The Democratic Socialist Republic of all Ireland based on the Proclamation of 1916 and uniting Protestant and Catholic workers and farmers against their exploiters is the only real answer.

"An Phoblacht" is the official organ of the Republican Movement (Provisional Army Council of the I.R.A. and Caretaker Executive of Sinn Féin). Read it every month. Price 9d.

'ANOTHER MURDER FOR THE CROWN . . .



A British Army marksman checks his sniper's rifle before firing on Irish people in Belfast. Note the telescopic sights.

How You Can Help

At this time of National Crisis the help of every Irish person is needed. Those who look to Leinster House for dynamic leadership will look in vain. We have heard from both Lynch and Hillery that they will do nothing effective to help, except a meaningless exercise in propaganda. They merely wish to be seen to be doing something. They are in England's pocket, especially since the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement of 1965.

We know also that neither Cosgrave nor Corish will take any positive action; they have neither the will nor the courage.

We must beware of political adventurers like Blaney and Boland who would use the people's struggle in the Six Counties to advance their own positions in Fianna Fáil. These are the political allies of Big Business both foreign and native. A right-wing dictatorship like the Greek Colonels

is not the end we see to Ireland's struggle.

You can best help in these ways:

★ Propose and publicise resolutions at meetings of trade unions, local bodies, etc., calling for the release of Bernadette Devlin, an end to British repression in Ireland, and calling on Jack Lynch to face up to his responsibilities and adopt a positive policy in the face of British military terror.

★ Write or phone your local T.D.s or M.P. and tell them you expect them as public servants to do their duty as Irishmen at the present time.

★ Subscribe to the Irish Northern Aid Fund, c/o "An Phoblacht." (See details on page 6 of July issue.)

★ Support any demonstrations of protest and solidarity with the Irish people of the Six Counties.

★ Join the Republican Movement.

On The Spot Reports

Our correspondent on the spot in Belfast on Sunday, July 5, reported:

The behaviour of the British troops in the Falls Road area was described by residents as brutal and sadistic. Innocent bystanders were knocked to the ground and beaten with rifle butts.

Homes were entered at gunpoint, doors broken down, floors ripped up, fireplaces torn out, money stolen,

religious objects broken, and 50,000 people confined to their houses for 36 hours by curfew, enforced by 2,000 troops using armoured cars and the most modern weapons.

Searches were also carried out in other areas of Belfast, including Ballymurphy, Ardoyne and Kashmir Road. Nothing was found. In Ballymacarret, telephonic communications were cut off before the British troops moved in to isolate and search the area.

Units of the new Ulster Defence Regiment set up road blocks all over the occupied area. They were at the same points previously used by the B Specials and they used exactly the same methods. This force is, of course, the Special Constabulary under a new name and is an integral part of the British Army of Occupation.

The People of Ireland Must Speak

—SINN FEIN EXECUTIVE

Following two days of rioting in Belfast and Derry, the Caretaker Executive of Sinn Féin issued this statement on June 28:

The events of the last two days in Belfast and Derry and the highly dangerous situation which has resulted, constitute a national crisis comparable to that of last August. The Caretaker Executive of Sinn Féin wishes to bring the following points to the attention of the Irish people:

1. The immediate cause of the disturbances has been twofold: the arrest of Bernadette Devlin, M.P., and the provocative Orange parade in Belfast yesterday. It is significant that both of these events have occurred within ten days of the installation of the new Conservative Government in Westminster. Miss Devlin's arrest was totally unwarranted, especially at the present time, and was intended to mollify, the extreme Unionist element. As for Orange parades, the Six-County Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that 1,342 of them were held last year, not counting the U.V.F. and other Paisley and Bunting groups. These parades have become more and more provocative and an unruly element was attached to yesterday's parade and attacked Catholic streets.

2. It is surely obvious by now that the British Army is incapable of controlling the situation. This has been stressed many times by Republicans and by representatives of the various Defence Committees who appealed

for help to the Government and people of the 26 Counties.

3. Mr. Jack Lynch's so-called "peace policy" is now in shreds. He has gambled on the situation not erupting again, and said that the British Army would protect the people. In this way he refused help to the Defence Committees and made it clear that if anybody wanted to protect Irish lives in the North he would first have to join the British Army.

4. We appeal to all the Irish people to give all the support they can, moral and material, to defend the minority in the North. Though some may have been lulled into a false sense of security by Mr. Lynch's wishful thinking, they must now realise that Mr. Lynch is completely out of touch with the reality of the situation. They must realise that those who live there must be helped to defend themselves from the attacks of Crown Forces and Orange bigots. There must never again be a holocaust such as happened last August when nine people were killed and 500 homes destroyed by Orange and U.V.F. mobs.

5. Finally, the Irish people must make clear to the British Conservative Government that it is folly for them to continue to tinker with what they call the Irish problem. They must immediately take steps to prepare for a complete withdrawal of their administration from Ireland, leaving the Irish people to organise the 32-County Republic which 80% of them have many times demanded. Such a Re-

public would be based on the Proclamation of 1916 and would cherish all the people equally, irrespective of class or creed.

Unfortunately, it is obvious from the attitude of the London police in dealing with demonstrators on Friday, Saturday and to-day, from Mr. Chichester-Clarke's "law and order" speech, and the declared attitude of the troops in Derry, that we are in for a harsh period of tough Unionist-Conservative repression of the Irish people in true British Imperialist style. In such a situation Mr. Lynch's shilly-shallying is just not good enough. The people of Ireland must speak and demand their country, the Republic of Tone, with a place for Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter.

TO PROTECT OURSELVES

A spokesman for the Republican Press Office in Belfast said on Saturday, July 4:

"We are doing this to protect ourselves from the troops. We are not going to permit any more arms raids at this stage. We cannot afford to be left defenceless against extremist mob attacks."

Women and children placed basins of vinegar and water on the pavements outside the houses in the Falls Road so that defenders could dip their handkerchiefs in it and ease the severe effects of the CS gas which was being pumped continuously into the area.

Arms Captured

British military H.Q. in Belfast claimed 45 pistols and 13 shotguns seized. Only two automatic weapons and one carbine were taken. Of the 37 rifles claimed, the majority are believed to be .22 sporting weapons and much of the 15,000 rounds of ammunition mentioned is of the same calibre. Small quantities of explosives (56 lb) and grenades (ten) were also taken.

This comprised the "lorry loads" of a British officer's imagination.

Refugee Centre

The Mullingar Refugee Reception Committee, which was the first set up during the reign of terror in August last, has been re-activated.

All in the Midlands who wish to help should contact Cáit Bean Uí Mhuimhneacháin, 28 Oliver Plunkett St., Mullingar. Phone: Mullingar 8537.

Falls Casualty List

Three Irishmen dead, 57 wounded was the toll in the Lower Falls. Seventeen British soldiers were wounded, ten by gunshot and seven by grenade shrapnel.

Note: British troops wear ultra-modern fibre-glass bullet-proof vests. Irishmen have their shirts.