

PRESS RELEASE

from ~~.....~~ **SINN FÉIN**

Just a short note to let you know that I am alright. I suppose you heard about the riot in the camp. It all started over the tea, it was a disgrace to give anybody it to eat. Well, the men threw it back at the cookhouse. The canteen was burned and the gates were barricaded. The soldiers lined up outside and fired tear gas in on top of us. It was terrible, every man in the place collapsed. Then the soldiers came in with pick handles and started to beat the men. Some of the men got very bad beatings, broken arms, broken noses and a mass of split heads. Twenty-five had to be taken to hospital. The men from Armagh who got it hard were Joe McGinley - a busted hand and split head. Moss Gribben - split head and badly kicked about the body. Joe Heaney - a split head. Jim Fields - badly kicked in the ribs. Frank Hughes - a split head. Many others hurt less seriously.

After the fighting was over the soldiers went into our huts and tossed all our beds on the floor and they they emptied out lockers of food and clothes. Then they poured our lemonade on top of them and trampled all over them with their boots. They stole our fags and handkerchiefs. They broke our record player, two accordions and two guitars.

This morning they took us out again, lined us up outside and went in and did the same again, clothes and everything destroyed. They stole everything they could get their hands on - watches and everything of value was stolen.

They told us if ever we kick up again they would beat us to death and let the dogs finish us off.

THIS LETTER WAS SMUGGLED OUT OF LONG KESH INTERNMENT CAMP AND BROUGHT BY SPECIAL MESSENGER TO 2a, LOWER KEVIN ST.

27th.Oct. 1971.