



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN IRELAND"

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RESIST

Operation Motorman, which began around three a.m. on Monday 31st July was the mightiest display of military strength ever seen in Ireland. Twenty-one thousand English troops, nine and a half thousand Anglo-Irish troops, U.D.R. naval craft and air support were all part of the British invasion of Republican areas in the Six Counties.

In Derry city alone, the British invading forces consisted of:— Three thousand infantry, six hundred tanks and armoured vehicles, two naval gunboats and at least twenty aircraft. Who says now that Whitelaw doesn't believe in a military solution? Shades of Budapest and Prague!

The decision by the I.R.A. not to oppose the invasion by forces was wise and realistic. It brought no joy to Ireland's enemies who would have gloated in the annihilation of our freedom fighters. The British military occupation of Republican areas is complete but the struggle must be intensified and where possible our publicity workers must make a special effort.

During the past few weeks, we have heard and read that the next phase of the struggle will be getting through to the people. We must make an all out effort to capture the minds of liberty-loving people throughout the world, but particularly, our own people. The truth of what is really happening in Ireland must be told and retold. The British and their satellites have already mounted a massive propaganda offensive in an attempt to justify their latest act of aggression against the Irish people. They have been ably supported by Union Jack Lynch

and the other paid party politicians, North and South.

After the Mid-Cork by-election result was announced, the Fianna Fail spokesman commenting on their victory said that it was a defeat for Republicanism. This from a member of a party which once claimed to be Republican and still hypocritically sends a party yearly to the grave of Wolfe Tone at Bodenstown. Surely this statement must give food for thought to members of the N.L.F. whose leaders are cajoling them to enter Leinster House.

Only in the context of a Free Ireland, can a just and lasting peace be achieved. Whitelaw and Irish quislings will use every trick, lie and half-lie in an attempt to drive a wedge between the Irish people and the only organisation that the British government fears — The Irish Republican Movement. It is therefore absolutely essential that the Irish people should close their ranks and present one, solid, united front to the enemy. The will to resist must and will be strengthened. We must vow to ourselves never to weaken in our determination to break the British connection and to become a free people. Resistance must become the everyday activity of the people spearheaded by the Republican Movement. We must use every means in our power to make British rule here unworkable. If our will to resist is earnest, we cannot be beaten. We must make the British government and Whitelaw, their instrument, realise that a risen people can never be defeated.

If our will to resist is on a par with our desire to be free — "We promise you VICTORY."

Statement from Martin Meehan

I wish to state that no member of the N.L.F. was involved in my capture by the forces of the British Crown. However, certain members of the N.L.F. made statements after my arrest which led to an investigation being carried out by the local unit of the I.R.A.

The results of this enquiry proved that the N.L.F. were not involved in my capture, but that they had definitely voiced opinions showing that they supported the actions of the enemy forces. This action has caused deep resentment among Republican-minded people of Ardoyne.

I would request that the I.R.A. take no action against these admirers of the British Army, but rather that the people of Ardoyne treat these lackeys with the contempt which they so richly deserve.

I also wish to state that I permitted the Crown Forces to arrest me without a struggle in order to divert attention from my comrades who were still sheltering in the vicinity and were in serious danger of discovery. I also wished to avoid any further injury to civilians in the area, and here I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Corrigan and Mr. Mullan for their bravery which will always be a shining example to me. The courage they showed in the face of the enemy as they attempted to thwart their pains, reflected great credit on the people of the area. I wish them to know that their action will never be forgotten by all Republican-minded people all over Ireland.

Even though I am now behind bars as a prisoner of war of Willie Outlaw, I hope that my determination and spirit will remain with the good people of Ardoyne, who I am sure, will continue to resist British coercion until the day of final victory, which is not too far away.

"Where is the man who does not love the land where he was born."
God bless you all. Martin Meehan, Ardoyne.



The women of Clonard showing their protest on the 9th August, 1972. The anniversary of Internment.

SINN FEIN

Over the next few weeks we shall be printing direct from our booklet "Sinn Fein," the Constitution and Rules.

CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS the people of Ireland never relinquished the claim to separate Nationhood, and

WHEREAS the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, Easter 1916, in the name of the Irish people, and continuing the fight made by previous generations, re-asserted the inalienable right of the Irish Nation to Sovereign Independence, and re-affirmed the determination of the Irish people to achieve it, and

WHEREAS the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, Easter 1916, and the supreme courage and glorious sacrifices of the men who gave their lives to maintain it, united the people of Ireland under the flag of the Irish Republic, and

WHEREAS on January 21st, 1919, following the General Election of December, 1918, the duly elected representatives of the Irish people assembled in National Parliament, proclaimed the Independence of Ireland and ratified the establishment of the Irish Republic proclaimed in 1916, thus founding the Republic on the democratic basis of the free votes of the people of Ireland with Dail Eireann as its Government; be it

RESOLVED "That we, the delegated representatives of the Organisation, in Convention assembled, hereby declare the following to be the Constitution of Sinn Fein":—

The name of the Organisation shall be Sinn Fein.

The Organisation is based on the following fundamental principles

- That the allegiance of Irishmen and Irishwomen is due to the Sovereign Irish Republic proclaimed in 1916.
- That the sovereignty and unity of the Republic are inalienable and non-judicable.

The objects of Sinn Fein are:—

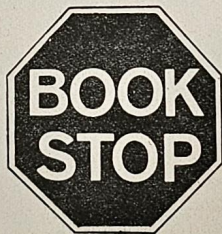
- The complete overthrow of English Rule in Ireland, and the establishment of a Democratic Socialist Republic based on the Proclamation of 1916.

Continued next week



I believe

I believe in a free, independent and sovereign Ireland.
I believe that the sovereignty of Ireland is a sacred trust, the principle of which was handed down to us from past generations to be handed over to the future generations of this Nation.
I believe that the sovereignty of Ireland is not the prerogative of this generation to be sold or diminished even by majority vote.
I believe in the democratic right of the people of Ireland to choose their own form of government through universal suffrage of all the electorate of the 32-Counties.
I believe in the liberty and equality of all our people without regard to race and religion.
I believe in peace and I believe in the right to achieve and enforce this peace by all possible means, even by force as a last resort.
I believe in the rights of the majority to be protected by laws consistent with the rights of the individual.
I believe in the principles of Christian morality and I believe that these are a matter of individual conscience and not a matter for a secular government.
I believe in the right of our country to join international organisations and enter into trade packs only insofar as it does not affect our sovereignty.
I believe in the obligation of Ireland to remain neutral in any conflicts and only to resort to arms if the integrity of our national territory is directly threatened.



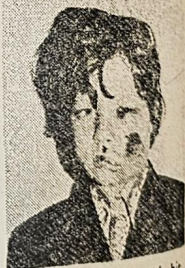
fast readings on selected books

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES LANGUAGE MAKE?

These books will help you answer the question . . .

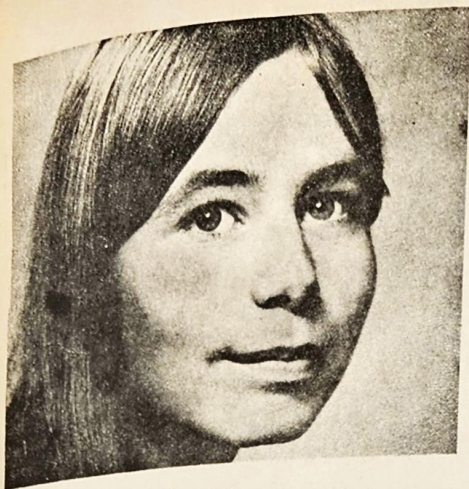
LANGUAGE, L. Bloomfield.
THE POWER OF WORDS, S. Chase; ASPECTS OF LANGU-

AGE, Wm. J. Entwistle; THE NECESSITY FOR DE-ANGLICISING IRELAND (in "The Revival of Irish Literature), Douglas Hyde; LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY, M. M. Lewis; A VIEW OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE, edited by Brian O Cuiv; GAELIC IN SCOTTISH EDUCATION AND LIFE, John Lorne Campbell (W. & A. K. Johnston Ltd. Edinburgh) 3-6 Stanley Rundle; LANGUAGE AS A SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL FACTOR IN EUROPE, Stanley Rundle; ISRAEL TODAY, REVIVAL OF HEBREW, Embassy of Israel 2 Palace Green, London W.8; THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE GAELIC LEAGUE, Donall O Corcora; LANGUAGE LOYALTY IN THE UNITED STATES, Joshua Fishman; THE STORY OF LANGUAGE, C. L. Barber (Pan paperback, 30p). 5 LANGUAGE STORIES, by Padraig O Fearail (Conradh na Gaeilge), 10p



Arthur M'Donnell, 14, hit in the face by a rubber bullet.

Extract from Sunday Times magazine, 9/4/72:
"Bullet should be fired from at least 30 yards range and aimed downwards to bound off the ground and strike at knee level. Should not cause open wound. Leaves gun at 50-60 mph, impact equivalent to a ball from a good fast bowler."



Irma Pohja, 18 years. Helsinki.

"WHEN THE LANGUAGE OF ITS
FOREFATHERS IS LOST,
A NATION, TOO, IS LOST AND PERISHES"

FINLAND

This is the first article in a series of five in which we tell the language stories of five countries: Finland, Switzerland, Israel, The Soviet Union and Canada.

Finland is a country of four and a half million people with one of the highest standards of living in Europe. Dominated by Sweden and Russia in turn, its survival as a distinct country and people has prompted many writers to use the phrase — "plucky little Finland."

Finland was joined politically to Sweden for about 300 years until the beginning of the last century when it became a subject state of Russia. Up to 1850 all Finns who had received any education spoke Swedish.

Only Swedish was taught in the schools. Swedish was the language of Government offices, the courts, local councils and business. Even in the great Finnish University of Turku only Swedish was used.

One of the earliest accounts we have of the language is from the year 1642 when a Bible was printed in Finnish. The next reference to it is in 1700 when Israel Nesselius, a Swedish-born professor in the University of Turku advocated the abandonment of the Finnish language so that the people could become more closely bound to Sweden.

Little was written in Finnish, apart from religious tracts until the movement for its revival started in 1800. The movement was led by Adolf Ivar Arwidsson. He said: "Only so long as our mother tongue survives can we feel ourselves to be a nation. When the language of its forefathers is lost a nation, too, is the same tongue naturally form an indivisible whole. They are and soul, mightier and firmer than every external bond. For language forms the spiritual and material boundaries of mankind; for the former is the stronger, because the spirit means more than the material." From the very beginning of the revival movement there was tremendous opposition to the idea of giving Finnish any official

recognition. Because of his writings Arwidsson was dismissed from his post as professor in the University of Turku in 1823.

It was asked whether Finnish could serve as a language of culture. One opponent of the language said, "Finnish, as a language of education and culture, cannot spawn anything but ABC books." High officials in the Government, all Swedish speakers, had contempt for the Finnish language.

It was from among the educated Swedish speakers that the Finnish revival got the greatest support. There were no educated Finnish speakers. One of these was Johan Wilhelm Snellman, who lived from 1806 to 1881, and who started as a leader of the students. He told them the language struggle was a struggle for national survival. In 1844 he began to publish two newspapers, the Swedish language "Saima" and the Finnish language "Maamiehen Ystave." At this time very few could write in Finnish. The records of the Finnish Literature Society, of which Snellman was a member, were all in Swedish up to 1870.

About the year 1850 societies were founded which were "bound to use Finnish at every opportunity, those with a knowledge of their mother tongue immediately, and the others as soon as they had learned enough."

Eino Jutikkala, in his "History of Finland," says: "An unparalleled willingness to make sacrifices for the cause was demonstrated when whole families began to speak a different language from the one they had spoken since childhood."

The study of Finnish led many members of the Swedish-speaking upper classes to seek the company of the peasants. But those in favour of Finnish fought many battles to have it accepted, particularly in the schools and Government offices. In 1894, almost 100 years after the revival movement started

the use of Finnish in the House of Nobles (parliament) was denounced as an impertinence by a Swedish speaker. And it was not until that same year that Finnish was spoken for the first time at a session of the consistory of the University.

In the 1850's those who opposed the revival of Finnish began to organise. They were people who spoke Swedish at home and they were known as Suecomen. The people in favour of Finnish were called Fennomen. The philosophy of the Suecomen was provided by August Sohlman (1824-74), a Swedish journalist, whose career included the editorship in 1857-74 of the Stockholm daily, the Aftonbladet. The essence of his philosophy was that the Finns were a primitive and undeveloped people and that the Finnish nation needed the Swedish speakers to give them backbone. Needless to say the Fennomen did not agree with this.

The Swede-Finn movement grew and resulted in the formation of the Swedish People's Party in May, 1906 and the main accent of its programme up to the present day has been on the cultural and language interests of the Swede-Finn group.

One of the biggest language battles took place in connection with the schools. The Fennomen wanted part of the curriculum of all schools taught through Finnish and part through Swedish, and some were arranged like this. But when the majority of the educated people adopted the Swedish nationalistic point of view the programme could no longer be maintained.

In 1869 the State, with a "National Board of Education" took over the Church schools and decreed that Swedish should be the language of instruction. At heavy expense the Fennomen founded their own schools in which Finnish was the language of instruction. Eventually the Fennomen forced the Government to change its policy and by 1889 the enrollment in the Finnish language secondary schools was as large as in Swedish ones.

In 1922 after Finnish independence from Russia had been achieved the use of languages between the citizen and the State was laid down by law. Where the minority group in a commune or local government district exceeded ten per cent. of the population the authorities must use the language of the citizen. Out of 554 communes 459 were listed as unilingual Finnish communes and 32 as unilingual Swedish-language communes. The Aland islands off south-west Finland pop. 22,000 are almost 95 per cent. Swedish speaking. In 1919, in a plebiscite they voted to join Sweden, but a League of Nations committee held the islands were under Finnish sovereignty. However, they were later given extensive rights of self-rule.

Over the past 100 years young people have been changing over from Swedish as their first language to Finnish. In 1905 10,000 families who had changed over also officially changed their names from the Swedish form to the Finnish form. They were all published on one day, filling page after page in the newspapers.

It was only in 1937 that parliament passed a law making Finnish the language of Helsinki University, except that in some cases parallel instruction also had to be given in Swedish.

Commenting on this Eino Jutikkala says, "The Swedes were dissatisfied but there can be no doubt that this solution — by removing a grievance generally felt in Finnish-speaking quarters — hastened the end of the language conflict, which was inflicting one defeat after another on the Swedes."

Swedish-speakers numbered 14 per cent. of the 2½ million population in 1900. Today, in 1968 they number 7 per cent. of the 4½ million population.



Fianna Eireann — Newry funeral



Funeral on Friday 11th August

The Editor and Staff of Republican News deeply regret the tragic death of Vol. Colm Murtagh, killed in Active Service on Wednesday 9th August, 1972. Deepest sympathy is extended to the bereaved family.



Remains being carried from home.



Lone Piper leading funeral

VOL. COLM MURTAGH

Drumalane Park, Newry (Killed in Active Service)

Died on Wednesday 9th August 1972



ORATION AT THE GRAVESIDE OF COLM MURTAGH
(given by SEAN McKENNA of NEWRY)

"Today we are assembled on this hallowed spot of Irish soil, assembled on a very sad occasion of laying to rest a volunteer of the Irish Republican Army. I am sure it is a very long time since a volunteer of the IRA killed in action was laid to rest in this cemetery. But no greater or more gallant volunteer was ever buried in any part of Ireland than Colm Murtagh. Colm joined the IRA when internment was introduced 12 months ago. I myself was not in Newry when he joined bridging the gap left by internment. He was foremost in the fight against the British Forces of Occupation during the last 12 months. I personally, never knew him, but I have listened to the many tales of his gallantry and I am sure I'm giving an oration at the grave of one of Ireland's greatest sons. Colm Murtagh went to his death like a true Irish soldier, and his name will live on in Newry when myself and many others are gone and forgotten. I'm sure there was rejoicing in the RUC station and the UDR centre when it was known that a volunteer of the IRA was killed. But again I am sure there would have been more joy in the hearts of the British Forces of Occupation had it been two or three innocent civilians who had been killed, particularly if it had been women then they could have cried that they got no warning as they did in Belfast when they deliberately ignored the warnings given by the Irish Republican Army, and created a situation in this country that was unparalleled in the history of the fight for Irish freedom. Britain played this same game in many countries throughout the world. In the mid-fifties in Kenya, the British Government paid her troops a bounty for every dead Kenyan Nationalist, 12/6d for a male head, 10/-d. for a female and 5/0d. for the head of a child or baby. They would do the same in Ireland, but we will not let them or those who collaborate with them ever win a victory over the Irish people. Today as we stand at the graveside of our dead comrade Vol. Colm Murtagh let us pledge our support for the only people capable of giving to our great country the dear wish of many great Irishmen buried in this cemetery and indeed in all the cemeteries throughout Ireland, that Ireland may be free from the centre to the sea. No British overlord or no Englishman has any right to any part of Ireland. Ireland belongs to the Irish, and the fools, the fools, they have left us our fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace".

Go ndeanaidh Dia trocaire ar a anam

Association for Legal Justice

CASE ONE

(Name withheld on request)

ON WEDNESDAY, 19th July, at 3.30 a.m., I was thumbing a lift on the Bangor Road, the reason being that my friend and myself had been at Millisle the night previous.

We met two girls and we split up agreeing to meet them again at the Beach Wall, when I arrived back my friend who had the car had not returned, so I decided to thumb a lift to Belfast.

I got a lift into Bangor, then I walked for a little and I heard another car which stopped and was occupied by two men about 18 or 19, they told me that they would give me a lift to Helens Bay. When I was in the car they asked me where I was from in Belfast and I told them I was from the Falls Road, the passenger then produced a gun, and he told me he would have to check me up with his officer, who would probably contact Springfield Road Barracks, they drove back into an Estate in Bangor and they collected another man and asked me what Cumann of the Republican Club I was in and was there anyone on the Springfield Road who would vouch for me. On our way back to Belfast they instructed me that should any Army patrol stop us, I was to say they were friends of mine. May I point out during all this time they were trying to impress me that they were Republicans, calling each other Seamus and Michael. When reaching Belfast they turned into a street which I believe was in the Dee Street area and I passed a number of UDA barricades, at one barricade they stopped and a number of men came forward and put a hood over my head, they dragged me to the car but we passed it and went about fifty yards to a house, they brought me up the first flight of stairs. I was hunched and then tied to a chair, they cut my jumper off me and pulled my shirt up above my head, they burned my back and neck and when I was punched on the face I lost consciousness, when I came to, a barrel of a shot-gun was put in my mouth and they asked me for the names of Republicans I know, which I was unable to give them.

They then asked me to count from ten to one, backwards, when I reached one someone struck a heavy sound and I thought then that I had been shot.

They took off my right shoe and sock and started jaggng my foot with a knife and began to strike me again with a truncheon on my arms and legs, then they clipped electric wires to my ears and one man kept poking a straw into my ear which was very painful. They read names to me whom they said were Republicans from all areas in Belfast, they began beating me and I again blacked out, one then opened my trousers and stubbed his cigarette on my privates, then they told me that I had been tried by their Court and I was to die at 2 o'clock, I heard one remark that the execution squad had arrived, one man came forward and started cutting at my thumb, saying he was going to cut it off.

While I was being struck by blades etc., I shouted out to them to hold on and I would tell them everything I know, the man in front of me stood aside saying "hurry up and talk." Though I was tied to a chair I jumped through the window, but the chair stuck inside the window which meant I was hanging outside the window. One of my ropes slackened I was able to edge the hood over my nose, a crowd of women gathered and started screaming and I was also screaming for help, asking the people to get help for me. (May I point out that the window in which I was hanging was in the back of the house).

Masked men entered and began cutting me down. I then fell into the roof of an out-house. Someone reached up and pulled me off the roof, breaking my fall in doing so, the mask was put back on me and I was taken back into the house where I was put on a chair downstairs and again struck on the face and body. One man who seemed to be the leader started shouting at the other men for allowing me to jump from the window and then turned to me and said I would definitely go now.

The person whom I believed to be an officer, then started writing on a piece of Cardboard with crayon, that I was a burglar, and then instructed one of the men present to put on my shirt and pullover and they tied him to a lamp in the presence of him being me.

When they went away they came back a short time afterwards laughing to each other about the way they deceived the people outside. I was again struck across the nose with a stick and they then started to put salt and pepper into my wounds, they made me say that I loved the UDA.

I was left for a considerable long time with out being beaten. Because I was unable to breathe they took the mask off me and replaced it with a blanket and then asked me what way I wanted to die, either by shooting, hanging or the drinking of acid. One person who said it was for him to decide as to whether I would live or die started playing Russian Roulette with the gun and every time he asked me if I knew a certain name and I said no, he pressed the trigger.

He then turned to what he termed the jury, calling each other by their initials and asked them for their verdict, they seemed to disagree I did hear a few say that they believed I was not a Republican but I now knew too much.

They asked me if I was to be released what would I do and I said I would go to England and forget the troubles. They took me up three flights of stairs where I sat for a couple of hours and one of them told me my life was spared through Heaven.

I was then instructed as follows — That I would be given clothing and taken to the boat and on my arrival in England I was to go to the Welfare and tell them I was beaten up by the IRA and that I do not wish to return to Ireland again. I was then taken out of the house and walked through the streets to a waiting car, I was given a shirt (working man?) a blue pullover and a green

combat jacket, I was made to lie down in the back seat of the car and was then taken to the Liverpool boat and the hood taken from over my head and was then told not to look around and £4 was put into my pockets. I bought a ticket and I was going up the gang-plank when I was stopped by the Security, who told me I would not be allowed on the boat for at least 15 minutes. So I went into the toilets to give myself a wash to pass the time. I then went on to the boat, I was approached by two Stewardesses who asked me if I needed help as they saw blood on my trousers and I asked to see a doctor, a male steward came along and then went and got two Special Branch men. I told them that I was put on the boat by force and they took me off it. I gave them a false name because I was scared that someone would be on the boat waiting to kill me. They made me follow them into an office and interrogated me. I told them I was arrested by hooded men on the Sydenham By-Pass and after seeing my injuries they asked me if I wished to make a complaint and I said no, that all I wanted was to get to a hospital and then home.

They contacted Mountpottinger Barracks where two other detectives arrived, I believe one was called McGonigle and I repeated the same false statement to them. I asked them to take me to either the Royal or Mater Hospital but they took me to Dundonald Hospital instead. I was x-rayed and patched up, the two detectives were still there and they said they would drive on to the nearest area to where I lived they dropped me off opposite the City Hall and I walked to Castle Street, where I got a taxi.

May I add that I was warned that should I ever appear in Ireland again I would be shot and my family dealt with in the same manner, they said also that they have taken my photograph which would be circulated.

CASE TWO

AGNES BOSWELL (Housewife), of 3 Ardmonagh Gardens, Belfast 1— (Dated 26th July, 1972):

In the early hours of Tuesday morning 25/7/72, there were bin lids and whistles going, so I went outside my door to see what was happening. I was trying to find out what was going on. Suddenly there was three soldiers there and they started to shout at me to get inside my door. I said I was not going in as I wanted to see what was happening. My son Francis was coming down the stairs just then and he shouted to me — "What is happening?" I shouted back to my son "I don't know what is happening." I came in then and closed my door. Within minutes there was a great noise for the soldiers had kicked in my front door and the back door as well. I rushed to the back door for I did not know what had happened and there were two soldiers in my back hall. They never even gave me time to say a word for they just threw me against the wall. Then they started to hit me about the arms with their batons. My son rushed over and said: "leave my mother alone." The soldier lifted his baton and hit my son across the head and split his head open. When

I seen my son's head was cut and the bleeding

the blood running out of it I wanted to take him to hospital but the army refused to let me take him. Then one of the soldiers who had been the boss for he did most of the talking put a gun to my temple. He said to me if I did not get up the stairs right away he would blow my brains out. After this he told my husband, who had come down the stairs by then and also my son to get up the stairs inside five minutes as there were a lot of trigger happy soldiers inside just waiting to get him I would have to wuh my son's wound as it was bleeding very bad. He just grabbed the hold of me and started kicking me about the legs. He just went out of the front door after this but he came straight in the back door and pulled the electric light in the scullery out. I went limping out to the front door and a sergeant came over to me. He started asking me what happened and I started telling him the whole story. He left and went to one of the army jeeps and called a medical man. This man came over to me and dressed my leg and advised me to go to the hospital. I went inside the house then and we waited for a while and I was feeling pretty sick. We decided to go to bed. We mat have been a couple of hours in bed. I was feeling a bit sick so I got out of bed. I said to my husband you have to go to your work for you have to go to your work. I was making my way out to the bread-server to get some bread for the breakfast but the army refused to let us out of the door. I was standing inside my door looking out when some of my friends came over to see how I was. The army refused to let them into my house. My son was moving out to some of my friends when a saracen just pulled up in front of my door. About six soldiers rushed up my path. My husband was ready to go to work and three soldiers just grabbed him and my son and started beating and kicking them. A sergeant came over and told the rest of the soldiers to get back into the saracen.

On that morning I went to the Royal Victoria and I had my leg x-rayed and dressed. They told me my leg was badly shattered and my veins were badly swollen. I have been under my own doctor's care for six months.

Signed: Agnes Boswell
Witness: P. Kelly.

AUGUST 1971 -
AUGUST 1972

ARD COMHAIRLE,
SINN FEIN
(2a Lower Kevin Street)

pledges their solidarity
with the internees in
Long Kesh, and all
other Irish prisoners.

LIAM MAC

POLITICAL PAWNS

The SDLP finally agrees to talk with Whitelaw, so he releases 47 innocent men from Long Kesh. Is it safe to release them? Oh yes - otherwise they would not, could not, be released. Well then, if it is safe to release them this week, what were they doing in Long Kesh last week? If Gerry Fitt or John Hume for good reasons or bad, decide to talk no more with Whitelaw, then why should James or Grady or Felix O'Rafferty (making up names) be held prisoners of the state? Is it their fault that the British and the SDLP cannot get together? Who will ever compensate men who have been used for a whole year, and continue to be used, as political pawns in an international power game? 9 (John D. Stewart, SUNDAY NEWS, 13.8.72)

I sincerely hope that the SDLP leaders are thinking along the same lines and tell Whitelaw that the game of using the internees as a means of getting them to talk at the conference table is finished, that their minimum demands is that Long Kesh is closed as a concentration camp before they will even nod to him let alone talk.

★ ★

MORALITY (ONE)

When one contrasts the policy of the generally IRA fighters with that of Winston Churchill and his War Cabinet, when quite without warning they sent 750 RAF bomber planes over the undefended German City of Dresden with the deliberate intent to cause maximum slaughter of the civilian population of that city (the victims numbered 100,000), the complete dishonesty of most of the present-day peace protesters becomes starkly apparent. Who amongst the moralists who today loudly expound the moral law in condemnation of the IRA deemed that there was no crime at all to be condemned when Churchill decided to kill without mercy the men, women and children of the civilian population of the German City? Cardinal Conway himself, if I mistake not, was a Professor of Morality at the time and Mr. Summs no doubt and the Presbyterian divines, also knew something about the moral law. Is there one game and another, stiffer law for the small fry?

(Letter in the IRISH TIMES 9.8.72)

MORALITY (TWO)

One might have hoped that by this hour the very sight of Catholic families being driven from their homes would be so intolerable a sight for the Protestant people of NI and so unbearable a memory, that they would themselves spontaneously rise up and strike the oppressors with their bare hands. But no, they appear to measure their own safety in programs and corpses. The burnt-out family and the driven-out family looks exceedingly alone, as alone as the Jewish family in the box-car headed for Dachau. The 'moderate' Protestant ought to realise that silence is not only criminal, but suicidal.

(Letter in the Irish Times 8/8/72).

MARTIN MEEHAN

'Provisional IRA leader Martin Meehan is back in Prison on remand, charged with escaping from lawful custody. I was amused by the statement issued by the authorities, within hours of his capture. 'Meehan is helping the police with their inquiries' it said. To inform the public that Martin Meehan is HELPING police, strikes me as being disrespectful to the average individual's intelligent. (OBSERVER, SUNDAY NEWS 13.8.72)

Yes I agree but it also makes me laugh to think of the frustration of the police in trying to get Martin to talk. Remember they have tried it before and failed, at present they must be at their wits end. Plus having to watch him day and night incase he makes fools of them again and does a disappearing act once more. If that would happen then it would be salt mines for them.

★ ★

FRINGE BENEFITS

"The broad and inclusive Unionist movement has at all times had its lunatic fringe, and this fringe has been rather evident in recent times. What we have in mind is those extremist schools of thought which, while professing to support the Union, have nevertheless been prepared to denigrate nearly everything that has been achieved by Unionist Governments over half a century. Of various extremist movements of this kind, the New Ulster Movement has been fairly prominent."

(ULSTER TIMES, August 1972)

When George Allport of Vanguard starts calling Brian Walker and Brian McGuigan of the New Ulster Movement the lunatic fringe of the Unionist Movement, I fully agree with him as these two oddities have been trying to sell the unionist philosophy to the middle class Catholic by showing them that they are better off economically and therefore they should support the existence of the six county state and through the efforts of such movements as the NUM and Alliance Party help to give unionism a soul. They should realise that it is an easier job to fight and win a New Ireland than to give unionism a soul.

★ ★

A WARNING

Mr. Merlyn Rees, Labour's spokesman on NI, and others have been looking again at the White Paper published by Mr. Faulkner's Government on the day direct rule was announced. This it may be remembered is the set of proposals put by Faulkner and his colleagues to Mr. Heath. It was a package deal that could not save Stormont, but if and when the talking starts seriously it has proposals which Mr. Rees, for one believes must certainly come into the reckoning'.

IN BELFAST TELEGRAPH

★ ★

WRONG ENVIRONMENT

When the Rev. Ian Paisley makes an occasional BBC appearance he seems awkward, oafish and provincial. He seems to lose all his rhetorical teeth when he is speaking to an English audience. He needs the roll and rattle of the Orange kettle-drums to accompany his impassioned and oracular calls to duty. He needs to have his fanatical congregation and King Billy of the Boyne, and the Lord behind him. To see him on the BBC who could believe that he could be idolised in Ulster. (Memories of Ulster, Caroline Blackwood, THE LISTENER 10.8.72)

★ ★ THE VITAL QUESTION

The critics (of the army of occupation) speak of the Bogside and Creggan having become in effect, an internment camp for 30,000 people." (LISTENER 10.8.72).

EAMONN LAFFERTY SINN FEIN CUMANN LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP, CAGE 5.



On this the first anniversary of Eamonn Lafferty, the Sinn Fein Cumann, proudly bearing this young patriot's name, hope that all the people of Ireland will remember him, and how he gave his life for his country. Eamonn was shot dead by British soldiers on the 18th August, 1971, defending the hardpressed people of Creggan against the enemy who tried to penetrate the area. Eamonn's bravery was told to a priest by a British officer when he said... 'the fearlessness and bravery of Eamonn on that fateful morning made his blood run cold'. Eamonn was a tireless worker for the Republican Movement in Derry. His good example is an inspiration to us all who are carrying on the fight for a free Ireland. Remember him in your prayers, for he died for a people he loved.

We in Long Kesh Concentration Camp are proud and privileged to belong to this Cumann dedicated to his memory.

SIGNED by all the Members

★ ★

THE VITAL QUESTION

"There are times when things seem to be getting better, and times when they seem to be getting worse. And the present time is both of these at once.

In August 1969 when the troops were first assigned to their peace-keeping task, there 6,000 of them altogether in N.I. In August 1970 the figure had gone up to 11,000. In August 1971 it was a little over 11,000. To-day it stands at 21,000. It seems that nothing short of a political solution could stop their numbers rising indefinitely. *The vital question is: who is winning the war? And it is simply too early to know. So far the signs, characteristically, point both ways.*

The critics (of the army occupation) speak of the Bogside and Creggan having become, in effect, an internment camp for 30,000 people. (Martin Bell in the Listener 10/8/72).

★ ★ THE MORON PRESS

"Is it true that half the soldiers stationed in the Grand Central Hotel in Royal Ave., Belfast are deployed in guarding the hotel? (Protestant Telegraph 12/8/72).

Who dares to say forget

With the proposed 'big' talks with William Whitelaw only 5 weeks away one is at a loss to know what the SDLP have to say to El Supremo William Whitelaw.

Will Gerry Fitt and Paddy Devlin tell him how heartsore the people of the Falls and West Belfast are at the disgraceful conduct of the British Army? Will they tell him how sick and tired we are of being searched, beaten and murdered; how we detest the very presence of the hated RUC on our roads; that we want them removed from our midst. That we want our men and women released, whether they be in Long Kesh, Armagh or Crumlin Road; that we want Ireland free now, once and for all.

Will John Hume and Ivan Cooper tell Willie W. how they and their followers were aghast at the British invasion of Free Derry? Will they let Whitelaw know that THEY knew his intention on that fateful July morning was the slaughter of the innocents. Will John Hume tell Whitelaw what he told the Irish people on a Black Wednesday last February -- 'that only the reunification of Ireland would now be enough or does he find it easy to forget BLOODY SUNDAY?'

We would ask these men one thing. Are they prepared to sit at a conference table with men who are 'war criminals', men who will be tried and judged at a later date, by the people for their crimes against the Irish nation? Are the SDLP prepared to enter into negotiations with the guttersnipe of the Longstone Road, whose every mouthing reeks of bigotry? Brian Faulkner, whether passively or actively, knowingly sanctioned the barbaric torture of Irish men held prisoner at Hollywood Torture Compound, and now the British Government faces the Courts of Human Rights on Brian's behalf. We will not forget him. Can the SDLP ever hope to hold their credibility with the Nationalist community by 'doing a deal' with Whitelaw and his lackeys.

We ask these politicians to STOP and THINK. THINK before you sell us out, STOP before you lead us once more up the garden path. We all should know now that the English only play at politics like they play at cricket; just a game, each player to be used.

A further point to which we would draw the attention of the SDLP. You have once again bargained without the Republican Movement. Remember we will also be heard, at this late hour we do not intend to be sold out, or allow our people to be sold out. Stormont has gone, we intend that it (or anything resembling it) stays gone. Fitt, Devlin, Hume, Cooper or Currie will not be allowed to raise that

ugly ghost of Ireland's tortured past.

'Great is my shame, my children have sold their mother....'

Just another accident

The British Forces of Occupation of recent days have had a number of unfortunate accidents. These accidents resulted in considerable damage to Nationalist property. The home of an old woman was crashed to the ground in the Lower Falls, where she had lived all the days of her life. A Saladin armoured tank was responsible. A spokesman for the British had the usual bland statement ready: 'If this was an accident, we very much regret it'. What if it was not an accident?

In Clonard Gardens on Sunday morning the British Army drove a Saracen into an empty shop, crumpling the front wall in the process. Residents of the Street protested about the wanton destruction that had been done, but the soldiers' answer was that it was an accident. The British should take fair warning that damage to Nationalist property will be paid in full. The Republican Movement in the past has demonstrated its ability to make its own restitution for the destruction of Irish homes.

LETTER

Dublin
16th August, 1972.

My Dearest Aunty,

Living in Dublin is entirely different from living in Belfast, Derry, or any other big town in the North. This is a big city and the folk here are really sophisticated.

Nobody cares whether you are a Catholic or a Protestant: no one asks "to what school did you go when you were a bairn?" So long as you can state with definite assurance that 2 + 2 makes 4 you will be accepted on most factory floors. There is of course the rare employer to whom popish idolatry or protestant heresy are anathema, (that's a nice big word that I learned since I came to Dublin, meaning "out the window.")

To get off the factory floor and into one of the plushier offices drawing £3,000 and more per year, plus coffee at 10 a.m. with your feet on the desk, a Trinity, Cambridge or Oxford accent is a decided advantage.

Words too are peculiar. They sometimes have a different meaning here from the usage in the North. For instance, the words 'patriotism' and 'nationalism' are dirty words and are never used in "good" society.

International and European are the words in vogue: but you have to be careful: Pakistanis and West Indians may be good cricketers but they don't mix very well in the best society. Spaniards and Italians are tolerated if their bank balances and wallets have an appropriate bulge.

WAR NEWS

Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na h-Eireann.

2nd Battalion

Wednesday, 2nd August:— A jeep full of British soldiers was engaged by an A.S.U. in Raglan Street. 2 Brits were wounded, 1 seriously

Wednesday, 9th August:— On the 1st anniversary of internment, A.S.U.'s hit the Brits hard throughout Belfast. At 6p. m. an A.S.U. engaged a British patrol in the Lower Falls. Three enemy were wounded and the A.S.U. withdrew unscathed. That afternoon, a jeep was attacked on the Falls Road near Beechmount. One soldier was wounded. About 6p.m. the same day, a Republican sniper engaged a foot patrol of the Parachute

To be really in you've got to be British, French, German or American. To be really out, you only have to be a Provo or a U.D.A. man or a supporter of mine. "Haven't they destroyed our tourist industry?" is often heard here,

It's strange how the people here have been brainwashed about the Northern people. Even though at times of severe stress, refugees are welcomed and cared for with Christian charity, almost everyone believes that -- "one side is as bad as the other." -- that hatred is a natural ingredient in the Northern make-up -- forgetting that hatred is fostered and fomented by evil men for the easier manipulation and exploitation of the two communities.

The tragedy is that with a few exceptions, no serious attempt has been made by either public representatives or by the media in the 26-Counties to expose how community relations have been poisoned in the Six Counties in order to maintain corrupt and unjust political and economic structures in Ireland.

Belfast and Derry would be a lovely place to live in if the people had the tolerance without the sophistication that Dublin has.

Your fond nephew,
Mac Airt.

P.S. More next week.

Regiment in Ballymurphy. One para was hit 3 times in the arm, shoulder and chest. He was seriously wounded.

Tuesday, 15th August:— An A.S.U. engaged a British Army patrol at 5.30p.m. in the Cullintree Road. One soldier was wounded.



Making herself heard