



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

Week Commencing Friday, 21st July, 1972

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8,000 INTIMIDATED FROM THEIR HOMES BY BRITISH ARMY

LENADOON which hit the world's headlines when the British Army broke the Truce by opening fire on defenceless citizens in the district on Sunday, 9th July, again became the focal point of the news when a mass evacuation by the people from the area, led by Father Jack Fitzsimmons, took place last Sunday.

Ever since the previous Thursday night when the area was taken over by 700 British troops, the people were subjected to intimidation of a kind that put even that used by the UDA into the shade.

Whole blocks of flats were occupied and the unfortunate residents were only given five minutes to get out. A reign of terror by the British Army commenced, resulting among many other horrors, in the death of Mr. Frank McKeown a respected businessman with six young children. The British Army at first claimed he was carrying a machine gun; they then changed this to say Mr. McKeown died in crossfire. His wife, Marie, in a statement issued through her solicitor on Tuesday, said that there was no gun battle in progress when her husband was hit by two single shots. She said that there was a group of British soldiers and their vehicle 50 yards away from where her husband was killed and in the direction from which the shots came. They were called upon to help her husband but did not do so.

Mrs. McKeown also stated that her solicitor had a number of statements from reliable witnesses to these facts, and also to the fact that there was no gun in or near her husband's van. She said that her husband worked each day from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. conducting a business involving three separate shops. "My children and I have suffered the terrible loss of a husband and father," she said. "We feel it wrong that he, whose life was so casually taken, should now lose his character and reputation in equally callous fashion."

The Irish Republican Army had suspended all operations in Lenadoon from Thursday, 14th in the interests of the civilian population. The people's growing frustration and anger at the conduct of the British Army caused many to arrive at the conclusion that, evacuation in mass from the estate was the only solution.

Father Fitzsimmons therefore called a meeting of the residents on Sunday when the decision was made shortly after 2 p.m. to leave the district completely. Grabbing only the bare essentials, the residents of Lenadoon, led by their priest, marched silently in justifiable anger, to Casement Park. At 7.30 p.m. Fr. Fitzsimmons reported that the British authorities had agreed to a meeting on Monday morning. He told the people that he could not ask them to suffer any more. The people shouted in unison "We are staying out." Operation Lenadoon was under way. The people not effected in the rest of Andersonstown, responded in a magnificent and moving manner. Many hundreds were taken into local homes — the rest were cared for in local schools and community centres.

Negotiations were re-opened on Monday morning but nothing was achieved. Whitelaw later issued a statement saying that the British Army's occupation of Lenadoon was caused by the IRA! He said that the British troops would be 'progressively' withdrawn if it was seen that the IRA had ceased their activities. Fr. Fitzsimmons in his reply to this statement said that he was informed that the IRA had

suspended actions in Lenadoon for the previous four days.

Another meeting was held with Whitelaw's office on Tuesday. On emerging from Stormont, Fr. Fitzsimmons summed up the result in one word — DEADLOCK. Later he warned of the urgency of the British Army withdrawing from their positions in the estate. He believed that if no solution is forthcoming that the IRA are in a position to launch an attack on the British.

His statement added, "Troops still occupy all the positions which brought about the evacuation from the area by local families. The only place that can be used as a social amenity — Blessed Oliver Plunkett School — is occupied by hundreds of troops. We continue to hope that concern and compassion for people will bring a speedy and satisfactory solution to this problem."

Later that night, the British Army opened up with a Browning machine gun from the Corrib Flats. Houses in Rosenareen were riddled with heavy calibre bullets — bullets capable of penetrating the thin walls.

Whitelaw discussed the situation with General Tuzo on Tuesday and General Ford, British Commander of Land Forces, visited the area that afternoon.

Meanwhile as Whitelaw and company wonder how they can get out of this mess created by their own appeasement of the UDA and yet save face, the unfortunate victims, young and old, still suffer and more good homes have been badly dam-

aged in the South side of Lenadoon estate by "Loyalist" families who have decided that it is now time to get out.

OUR CONCLUSIONS

- 1—This was a deliberate attempt to hold the residents of Lenadoon hostage to ensure the safety of British troops. This was done, knowing full well that the Irish Republican Army would not endanger the lives of civilians.
- 2—The British Army and their political overlords under-estimated the will of the people — as a result they have suffered a severe propaganda blow and the prestige of the Republican Freedom Fighters is at an all time high level.
- 3—The people of Lenadoon have shown in unmistakable terms, their contempt for the British Army's outlandish claim that they are there in the role of defenders.
- 4—This is another nail in the coffin for the now thoroughly discredited British Propaganda Machine. We are sorry, sorry? that we have no vacancies for future redundant British P.R. "Experts" (Rejects)!

10 PAGES
THIS
WEEK

- Bloody Sunday in Ballymurphy
- Lenadoon evacuation — pictures
- A Northerners's Jottings

Newry Comhairle
Ceanntain of Sinn Fein

EXPRESSES ITS
SOLIDARITY

with the Men on Hunger-Strike
in Free State Prisons and the
Curragh Camp

PAUL SMITH SINN FEIN
CUMANN
(NEWRY)

EXPRESSES ITS
SOLIDARITY

with the Men on
HUNGER-STRIKE
in the Free State Prisons
and at the
Curragh Camp

Obituary:

JULIE DOUGAN

The Editor and Staff of the Republican News sincerely regret the death of Mrs. Julia Dougan, Thomas Street, Portadown who died as a result of a recent road accident.

She was a dedicated worker for the Republican cause and her tragic death has caused great sorrow among her comrades, especially in the Portadown and Lurgan areas.

Hooded UDA men fired 15 shots into her home at 5 am on July 12, the day of her funeral — surely an all time low in callousness and disrespect for the dead.

Her comrades had intended to march in a full Republican funeral but decided against this in response to an appeal from Cardinal Conway who had received a report of a proposed UDA ambush if the funeral took place. Their decision was taken to avoid the risk of many deaths.

We tender our heartfelt sympathy to her husband, relatives and comrades.

I like the unintended humour in the June issue of the "Unionist Review" (the newsletter issued by the Unionist Research Department) in the column giving 'Stormont Report' the heading states "Owing to circumstances beyond our control there is no Stormont Report."

FALSE PRESS REPORTS ABOUT REPUBLICAN LOSSES

There is no truth in the recent reports carried in the Sunday Press last Sunday to the effect that the Republican radio station in Belfast broadcast a message admitting ten Volunteers killed and almost 60 injured. We suspect that British black propaganda was involved but feel that there was a degree of carelessness on the part of the newspaper mentioned. The actual losses were — two Volunteers and two Auxiliaries killed and three Volunteers injured.

The Staff of Republican News sincerely regret the deaths of Vol. John Dougan (2nd Batt.); Vol. Louis Scullion (3rd Batt.); Aux. Reid (3rd Batt.) and Aux. John Mooney (3rd Batt.), all of Belfast Brigade.

We tender our heartfelt sympathy to their families and to their Comrades in Arms.

A SAD WALK By "TOBAR"

I walked up Whiterock Road. My purpose was to convey my sympathy to the widow of a former neighbour of mine when we lived in the Lower Falls.

I went through Ballymurphy, up to Springhill, past the dreaded Corrys timber yard. There were a few people moving about the place — a very few indeed. There seemed to be an atmosphere of doom along the road that tuns parallel to the factory, occupied by British troops to protect it.

It was there that my friend was shot dead by the same bullet that killed a second priest of Ballymurphy, Father Fitzpatrick. Bullets marks shattered the humble bungalows and flats around the area. I saw the

window of a humble home with the vicious mark of a bullet through its centre. Just opposite, not 30 yards away stood the long wall of Corrys yard. It is well known now that British troops are billeted in this yard.

Paddy Butler's widow is a benign, calm, young woman. She, a mother of six now faces life with the responsibility of rearing her young family alone. Yet there is in this gentle Irish Mother that firm determination, a strong belief that God will see her through. Paddy, she assured me in her quiet way, was not involved in anything. He went on an errand of mercy for the priest — "I do not grieve for Father Fitzpatrick or Paddy; they walk this day, side by side, in the high halls of Heaven," she said.

That same day, television presented in full detail, the damage caused to Derry's business centre. Businessmen spoke of the estimated damage caused; more than a million pounds of property lost. The Chamber of Commerce made representations to the British 'security' forces to ensure that property should be protected. The news media informed us that another 700 British troops had been sent to the Six Counties and that a tight guard of occupation troops now ring Shipquay Street and the business centre of Derry. We were also told that the famous gates of the old city — had been closed for the first time since the siege — a symbolic gesture?

I was not concerned about the business property around Shipquay Street, or for that matter about Corry's Timber Yard. My thoughts and my concern were for that quiet young widow, she was uppermost in my mind, that sweet, little mother of six, who faces alone, the life of a Madonna of Ireland.

The Law: Taking the Cake

"There is a growing awareness that something is rotten in the state of Northern Ireland's legal profession. To put it at its lowest, Barristers and solicitors are too busy chasing money to be had for the taking to bother about the state of the law as a social instrument for good or bad."

(HIBERNIA 14/7/72)

I am left wondering where this character has been this past few years, when one thinks of the amount of information handed out relating to the legal profession and who, with very few exceptions has allowed the establishment get away with railroading all who opposed it. We ourselves have pinpointed characters like Boal who made a fortune defending and prosecuting those unfortunate enough to find themselves in court — and doing so on their alleged political and religious affiliations.

I wonder if Lord Widgery will ever live down his whitewashing of the British Army in his report on Bloody Sunday? He has been invited by the American Bar Association to its Convention in San Francisco on August 16th and it looks as if our friends in the States intend to give him a warm welcome. A statement issued by Paul O'Dwyer reminds everyone that this is the character who gave official British approval to the slaughter of 13 unarmed, defenceless citizens and calls on Civil Rights organisations, the trade unions and Irish Americans to demand that the ABA withdraw its invitation.

PADRAIG O'CONNOR

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NORTHERNER'S JOTTINGS

GUSTY SPENCE

The recent kidnapping of Gusty Spence, has upset the leaders of the UDA, and when they inquired from certain sources who had done the deed, they were angry as they could see a danger to their own leadership with Gusty being on the loose.

The facts behind the kidnapping are these: Away back in May (see Republican News on the 21st May) the loyalist prisoners in Crumlin Road jail decided to take a stand and declared their membership of the UVF under the leadership of Spence, the declaration was signed by 35 prisoners. These men were very angry that their declaration was ignored by the leaders of the newly organised UDA and the other organisations under the Vanguard umbrella. Thus the UVF members on the outside (200) decided they needed some gesture or action by their members to get back into favour. The occasion occurred when Gusty was granted parole for his daughter's wedding. The UVF leaders decided that Gusty would be kidnapped, kept in hiding for a period, talk to the 'field' on the 12th with his lodge and then give himself up to the prison authorities. This gesture they believed would show that the UVF was still a force to be reckoned with and not to be forgotten.

Unfortunately for the UVF the UDA needing all the publicity they could get in order to prove to all loyalist people that they and they alone are the true leaders, helped the authorities to kill the embarrassing publicity, and poor Gusty is forgotten and nobody is interested in what he does. Even the change of heart of the UVF in publicly stating that they now intend to keep Gusty until he gets a new trial has not interested anyone. Poor Gusty, the folk hero has played his last act, the curtain is now down. The new play and the new actors are on the stage.

The Big Mouth ALLIANCE

"The North Tyrone Alliance Association in a statement said everyone must feel relieved at the IRA ceasefire, but suggests that the IRA should now take down the remaining barricades in the Creggan and Bogside. This would effectively remove any justification for the establishment of UDA no-go areas."

(Telegraph 6/7/72)

Instead of the Alliance groups always screaming for the Republican Movement and all the anti-Unionist groups to keep on making sacrifices, they should call on Whitelaw to get out of the mess by releasing the internees. It's not our problem what the UDA do—if they hadn't got the barricades of Free Derry to scream about then they would think up new excuses to put Whitelaw on the spot, so its between them—our struggle is still on.

The Big Mouth FAULKNER

Mr. Faulkner and his former ministerial colleagues are behaving like a Government in exile in their own country, with some of their speeches

showing a vindictiveness which British Ministers will need a long time to forgive and forget, and outside that tiny minority of Orangemen in Scotland and Liverpool, they have done almost as much as the thugs of the UDA to alienate most of their natural allies in this country."

(The Economist 8/7/72)

The Big Mouth McKEAGUE

Poor John McKeague is in trouble again, he has been officially disowned by the UDA in their news sheet (1/7/72) and their readers have been told that he does not speak in their name. John on the other hand in his reply (Loyalist News 8/7/72), tells the UDA whether they like it or not he has connections in their organisation by the fact of belonging to organisations within the UDA umbrella and although he gets the message of not speaking in their name that won't stop him from believing in freedom of speech.

Newtownabbey RUC

I like the story of the barricade building the other week at the Castlemara Estate in Carrickfergus. It seems the local Tartans decided to hijack cars and lorries and they created a hell of a lot of noise and chaos until the local police Inspector came and gave instructions to pull the barricades down. He was shocked when he found that members of the Defence Regiment were helping the Tartan gangsters to train behind the barricades. Anyway in the confusion the Inspector was hit over the head by a weapon and stayed in hospital for 24 hours, but the Tartan gangs had by this time gone with the wind.

In the Loyalist News (8/7/72) it is stated very bluntly that it was the RUC who was to blame for all the trouble — and if the police had come from the Newtownabbey Police Station then there would have been no trouble.

I agree with McKeague seeing that the Newtownabbey police have closed their eyes for a long time to all the intimidation that is going on in the estate. They still deny that there is any — and in a joint statement issued last week with the blessing of the local UDA they stated that Catholics when they do leave are smashing up their homes. Yes I know they contradict themselves but when a police force like Newtownabbey is controlled by the loyalist groups in the area, then they do get themselves into difficulties. Maybe more than they have bargained for!!!

Reaction

"And if he (John Haire, playwright) does this and commits the unnatural act of making himself intellectually a Catholic, he will find himself a very isolated man.

"For all practical purposes the Catholics have become intellectually Protestant. The Reformation has triumphed in the whole practical side

of life. The Protestant Reformation was the vehicle of intellectual advancement for a number of centuries after the Catholic Church had become the stronghold of intellectual stagnation and reaction. Protestant superiority in this matter is a simple, indisputable historical fact."

The above, although could have been printed in any of the ultra 'loyalist' news sheets was actually in the 'Workers Weekly,' the news sheet of the British and Irish Communist Organisation . . . but don't be surprised that they could print such tripe, you remember O'Neill and his stupid remark, that if you give Catholics a good job and a good home they may then live like good Protestants, so the B.C.O. being a good true blue Unionist group finds themselves in sympathy with such a philosophy — I am left wondering how the intellectual Catholic members such as schoolteacher Eamonn O'Kane — must feel: very odd to be told by his mates that he is merely a Catholic through emotion but intellectually he is a true blue Protestant . . . because he no longer believes in Irish nationalism. This organisation which loves to call itself Marxist has never ever said or done one criticism about the establishment of the Six Counties, is it possible the reason is, that if it had slipped and shown sympathy for the people struggle for Civil Rights and the right of the Irish people to rule themselves they would have had to take part in the bloody struggle, being political cowards they had to find an excuse for not taking part they found it in the two nations theory — the theory invented and developed by the northern capitalist class to keep the link with Britain.

UDA-National Front

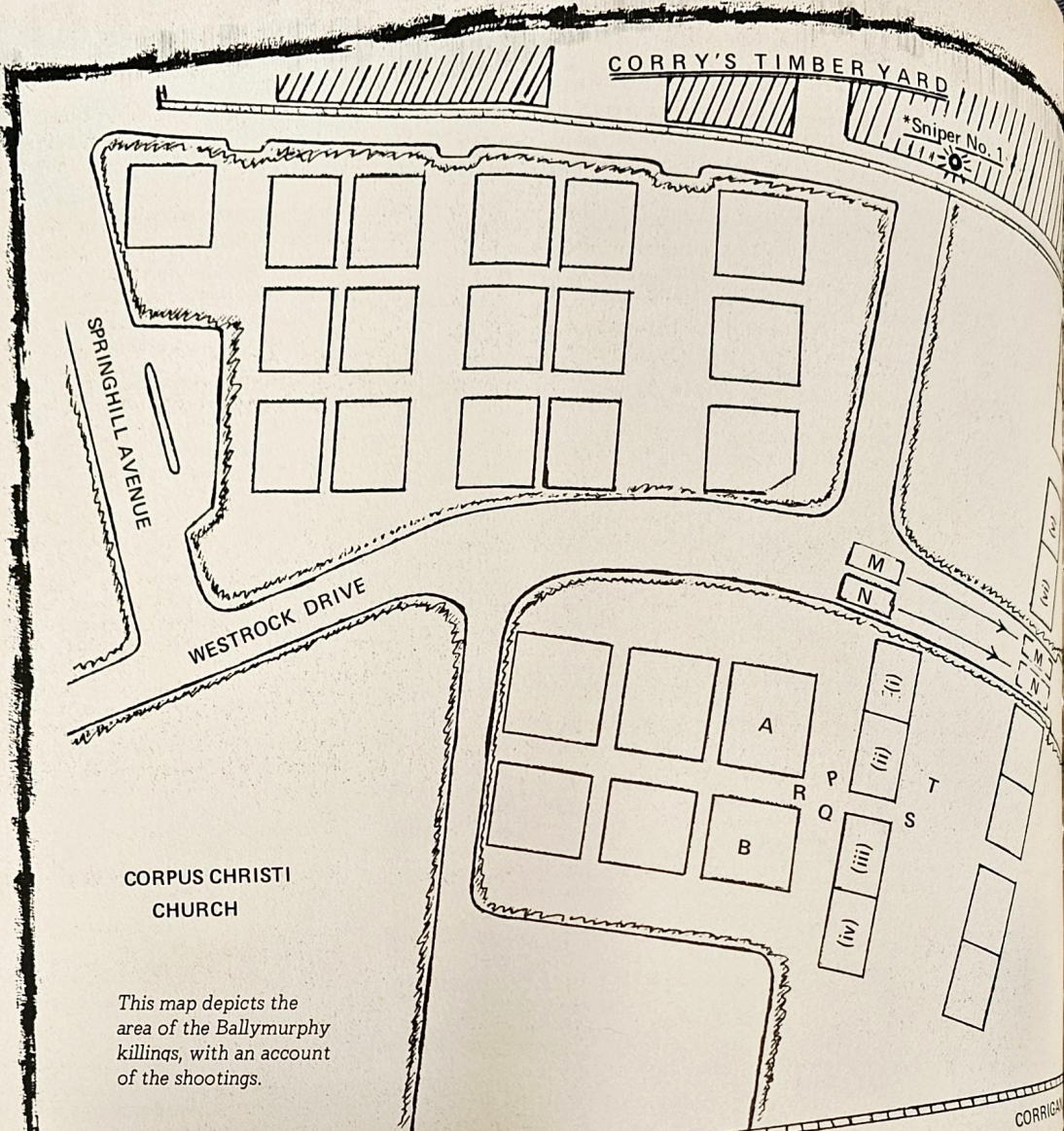
"It has already been noted by observant citizen that when the masked UDA stormtroopers come out on the trot not an Orangeman is to be seen anywhere. The awful secret is out that the UDA is only the LOL in disguise.

They have a choice this 'Twelfth.' They can either wear their bowlers or their forage caps. Meanwhile Stormont Castle is vastly intrigued about the infiltration of men with English accents into the ranks of the hooded men. They have been inquiring into the antecedents of the boys who have been coyly trying to cloak their identities and scare the innocents by this new version of the Ku-Klux — Klan. They are particularly interested in the 'Commander' with the Old Kent Road accent."

(James Kelly 9/7/72)

Away back in June we pointed out in the Republican News the number of National Front leaders coming from England to lead the UDA and they are now in all important positions. But when it is necessary to speak to reporters or television they use Jimmy Anderson or Davy Fogel the local leaders as spokesmen.

It is also interesting to note the news only printed in the Newsletter (7/7/72) of the arrival of 250 reservists from England, fully trained men with their own Commander.



This map depicts the area of the Ballymurphy killings, with an account of the shootings.

BALLYMURPHY'S BLOODY SUMMER

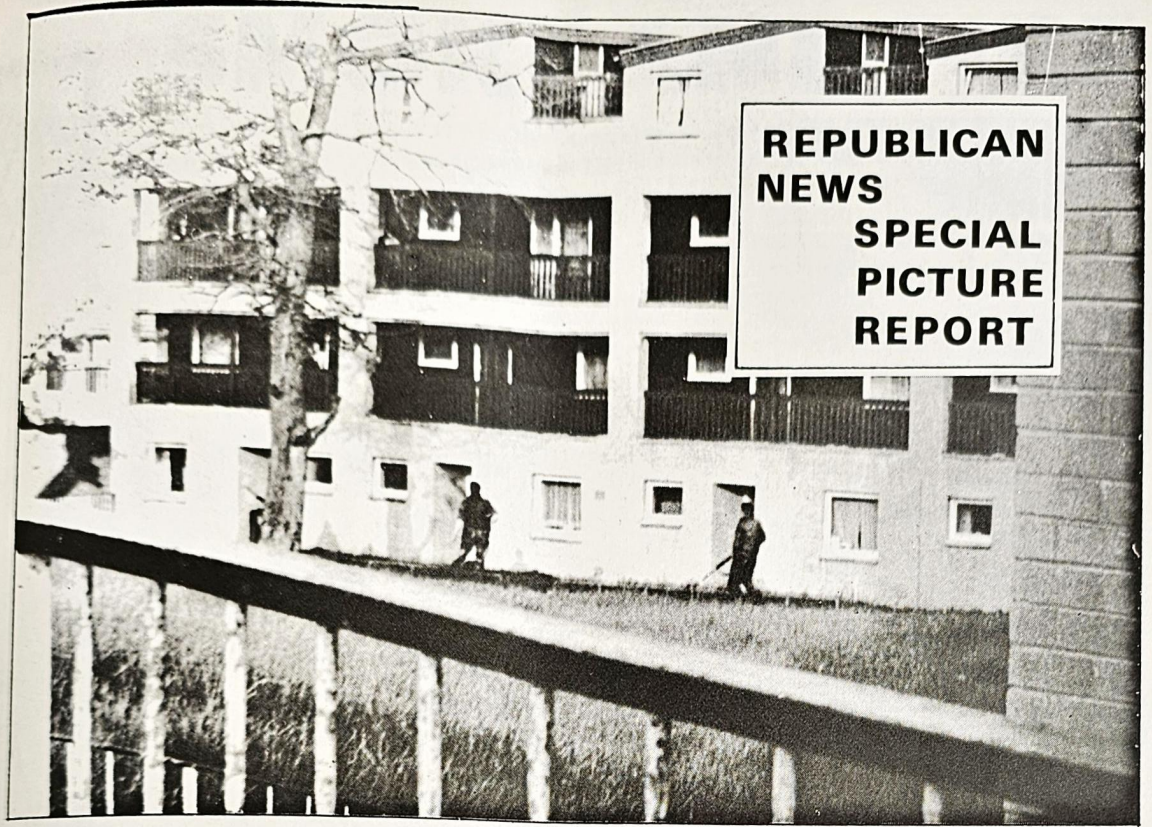
- *Sniper Positions**
- M. N. Cars
 - A. B. Houses
 - (i)–(vi) Bungalows
 - P: Father Fitzpatrick shot dead
 - Q: Paddy Butler (38) shot dead
 - R: David McCaffrey (14), shot dead
 - T: John Dougal (17), shot dead
 - S: Brian Pettigrew (17), wounded in chest
- Margaret Gargan was shot dead by a third sniper further along Corry's wall.

The following is an account of what happened between 9.50 p.m.–10.05 p.m. last Sunday in the Westrock Drive in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast:

- 9.50 p.m. Two shots were fired from Sniper No. 1 in Corry's Timber Yard at two cars (M, N). The cars moved forward to the cover of Bungalow (vi). As the occupants got out of the cars, Sniper No. 1 fired with approximately 14 shots. Martin Dudley (19) was hit in the head and seriously wounded. He was pinned down for approximately 90 minutes.
- 9.53 p.m. Mr. Paddy Butler (38), ran to get a priest for Martin Dudley.
- 9.54 p.m. On hearing the shooting and seeing Dudley's body lying in the street, John Dougal and Brian Pettigrew ran from Bungalow (iii) towards the wounded man. At this point Sniper No. 2 opened fire on them. Brian Pettigrew in the chest.
- 9.57 p.m. Father Fitzpatrick and Paddy Butler arrived on the scene. They were accompanied by John Dougal. She then shouted that a young girl had just been shot and that she needed a priest. She was then shot dead by a third sniper further along Corry's wall. Father Fitzpatrick was also shot dead by the same sniper. He was hit several times in the chest. Young McCaffrey attempted to drag the bodies to safety but he was hit several times in the chest. He was killed. Sniper No. 1 as he bent over Father Fitzpatrick. The time was now approximately 10.05 p.m.

In conclusion, the British Army opened fire on innocent civilians killing five and wounding many more. It was fired without any provocation whatsoever. Up until the time of these murderous shootings the British Military post in Corry's Timber Yard.

(We thank the Liam McParland S.F. Cumann for permission to reproduce the sketch.)



**REPUBLICAN
NEWS
SPECIAL
PICTURE
REPORT**

LENADOON — EVACUATION DAY

British troops prevent homeless from new homes





LENADOON — The day when Truce was broken.

BRITISH GUNMEN CONFRONT PEOPLE IN LENADOON



SMOKE AND FIRE

MUCH DRAMATIC PUBLICITY has been directed towards the "revelation" that former Long Kesh internees have been playing an active part in guerrilla activities. By the same token, little, if any, publicity has been given to the members of the R.U.C., U.D.R. members, British soldiers, party politicians who have been engaged in murder gangs, gun-running etc.

Of late one R.U.C. man has been charged with murder. Two members of the U.D.R. (one a former Para), have been charged with attempted murder. Numerous British soldiers have been charged; some sentenced on varying counts of robbery with violence. A City Councillor has appeared in court on several occasions on an arms charge, and let us not forget our mysterious Northern Ireland politician who languishes in a Glasgow jail on a gun-running charge. Indeed, let us not forget the R.U.C. Inspector Lusty, just recently discharged by a London Court on the same charge (smoke and fire).

With all the ranting and ravings about internees partaking in guerrilla activities, Mr. Whitelaw would be better disposed investigating the activities of so-called "loyal" people in the Six Counties.

DIALANN DEACAIR

AN LA MOR

Sraith indiadh sratha de Fhir oga agus de Fhir aosta, de Fhir reamhra agus de Fhir thanai agus an coisceim ceanna ag achaon Fhear acu, an coisceim sin a bios ag na Fir Bhui agus iad ag siuil, ta se idir a bheith ina shiuil agus ina dhamhsa, na guailneacha ag luascadh o thaoibh go taoibh agus tromlach mheachan an choirp ar na barraicini. Ta me ag ceapadh go mbionn se cruaidh go leor ar mheall na coise ach nach cuma, ni bhionn ann ach la amhain sa bhlian agus go dti an diabhail le piantai cnamha. Na meirgeacha mora mifara ag luascadh sa ghaoith gur deacair agat ainm agus ceann aghaidh an tsean Diulaigh ata greannta air a dheanamh amach. Ainm nar chuala tu iomra ariamh air agus nach mbeadh cuimhne ag aon duine air achabe an loiste ata ainmnithe as.

Fir cheann tarnochna agus Fir eile faoi hatai ura cruaidhe. Corr dhuine thall as i'bhús agus rian an oil air. Fuigheall na hoiche areir no bouta go luath ar maidín. Bionn an oiread sin Buionnta Ceoil ann go gcluín tu dha no trí "Tuín" ag an am amháin. Bionn an Buionnta Ceoil measuil ann idir phrais agus airgid agus phiobal. Iad ag siuil go statuil, stuama ceim ar cheim gan streachfheachaint deas no cle, culaith gleoite agus broga snasta "go direacht" ar aghaidh linn, ta daoine ar goimhead. "Ach ní hiad amháin ata i'lathair ta Raise mor de Bhuionnta "Kick the Pope" Ann agus iad is mo callain agus gleo, Feadogai agus Drumai is mo ata ann agus gach thaoibh an bhothair le Fear agus Drumai mhoir, ag casadh, ag luasadh, agus ag imeacht ar lorg a chuil. Ta an fhuil le lamha síos da mhead an fhuinniamh in achaon bhuille ach nach cuma, Ta Fear a sciste ag siuil taoibh le seal faoisimh a thabhairt do. Sin agat e radharc coiteanta an darna la deag leis na cianta ach chonachas domh imbliana nach raibh an brigh siad brigh ceanna ann. Bhi dreach gruama ar aghaidheanna na bhfear agus cuma orthu go raibh siad ag tabhairt dubhsán an tsaoil in ait. a bheith ag

comoradh Buaidh Mhor Na Boinne. Ach ca bhfuil mar a bheadh a mhalairt amhlaidh agus gach ar tharla le blian anuas.

FIR BHUI AN DEISCIRT

Bionn complacht de Fhir bhui i lathair as na 26-Co., achaon bhlian agus ba mhor an gair molta a thog an lucht feachana nuair a thainig "County

Monaghan True Blues" a fhad leo. Ta fir bhui go foill sna trí conda scartha de chuige Uladh agus Baicle comh fada o dheas le Co. Bhaile Ath Cliath agus Co. Cill Mhantain fein. Chuir se seo me ag meabhru ar "Dail Uladh" agus an ceill ata leis. Nar mhor an gar, Protastunai thri gcondea "Caillte" Uladh a bheith ibhfathach le "Dail Uladh". Nach mithid dhul a ghníomhu ina measc, feachaint le iad a thabhairt ar thaoibh an smaioimimh seo?

Nar mhor an T-aimhealtas bheadh ar "Jack Lynch" da mbeadh Protastunai Chabhain, Mhionachain, agus Dhun na nGall amuigh ar na sraideanna ag eilimh dhul isteach le Rialtas nua Uladh. Ba mhor an bhuille e igcoinne "Status Quo" na 26-Co. Is e an tasc is mo ata ag Poblachtoir, dan liom anois, na Status Quo na 26 Co. a lagadh an oiread sin is gombeidh atheagraidh iomlan le deanamh agus Is i Dail Uladh an taon Reiteach sasuil a dtiocfadh leis a bheith ann. Ni me Fein ata a dubairt ach an Turrnach Mac Crea, Duine de lucht leanuna Paisley, nach raibh muintir na 6-Co. ag iarraidh dhul isteach leis na 26-Co. ach go raibh siad ag iarraidh athghabhail a dheanamh ar thri condae caillte Uladh. Cad mar gheall air, a mhuintir Comhairle Uladh, Mas fíor go mairir beo, An bhfuil fonn oraibh dhul ar misuin imeasc na gCoimhiteach?

"The Chairman who appeared on TV news as a Lieutenant Colonel on Monday night, now thinks he'll promote himself to the rank of general, because as he sees it, he beat a real one - General Ford. (Observer 9/7/72)

Sniper No. 2

AY

July, 1972, in

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opened fire again
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ran from the
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LIBERTY EQUALITY FRATERNITY

IT IS OPPORTUNE at this time when the ideals of Wolfe Tone and his associates of the Society of United Irishmen seem on the eve of realisation, that the young men of this generation are determined to make a reality of the United Irishmen's Proclamation on the Cave Hill, outside Belfast, to break the connection with England, the never failing source of all our political and economic ills, to write at long last Emmett's epitaph, that we look back to the men and the Movement, who 174 years ago accepted and made clean to each succeeding generation the faith of true Republicanism — Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.

LIBERTY to choose and elect their own form of Government free from foreign domination; to think, speak, and act without fear or intimidation; to own the soil and enjoy its fruits, paying tribute to no man.

EQUALITY of all citizens, as opposed to the privileges of Class and Station in a corrupt society, and equality of rights and opportunities guaranteed and recognised as a fundamental by the Constitution.

FRATERNITY, embracing all Creeds within the Nation divorced from the poison of religious bigotry and strife so insidiously fostered by an alien and partisan government; a fraternity of all people rejecting and abhorring injustice, tyranny and oppression.

These then, were the aims for which the United Irishmen fought and died. These are the aims for which Irishmen in each succeeding generation have sought by sacrifice and example to attain. That the United Irishmen did not succeed in their endeavour takes nothing from the valour of their deed or the high principles which actuated them. They had courage and their cause was just, but the elements conspired against them; and the Castle, that bastion of oppression, used every despicable means which centuries of mis-government had taught to defeat and defame the greatest revolutionary organisation Ireland ever possessed.

The story of the foundation of the United Irish Society has been told often, but it is right that at this stage, when the scene has made a full cycle, and the action is taking place chiefly in the North and principally in the city in which it was founded, Belfast. It was in this golden period of our chequered annals that the hand of the less dominant Protestant was freely extended to the then as now down-trodden and dragged Catholic, who under the Law of that period were presumed not to exist.

The Presbyterians had been from the gory days of Cromwell, a sect loathed on account of their religion, and they came under the lash of the Episcopal ascendancy. As a peasantry they were referred to, like their Catholic fellow countrymen, as clods, a rabble dirty beggars and the scum of the earth and Black-mouths.

It was these sturdy Presbyterians who first formed themselves into an insurrectionary organisation called the Oakboys and revolted against the proposed increase of Tithes and a system

of compulsory and unpaid road repairing. They later became the Steelboys, and in 1772 marched in thousands to Belfast and released six of their comrades who were confined there.

The Volunteers of '82 a defence force which became the spearhead of Reform, bridged the chasm of religious partition and paved the way to the founding of the United Irishmen. The first meeting of the United Irish Society took place in Peggy Barclay's Inn in Sugarhouse Entry, Belfast, on April 1st, 1791. In a written statement issued after the first meeting stated, it has been resolved that we, the undersigned, do solemnly declare ourselves in favour of the proposal by Sam Neilson, a merchant of this town, and whose name is firstly subscribed hereto, to form ourselves into an association to unite all Irishmen, to pledge themselves to our country, and by that cordial union maintain that balance of Patriotism so essential for the restoration and preservation of our liberty. Signed, Sam Neilson, John Robb, Alexander Lowry, Tomas McCabe, and Henry Joy McCracken.

This historic document was penned by John Robb from Ballynahinch and who was at that time engaged in the linen business in Belfast. Sam Neilson was the son of a Presbyterian minister and came from Ballyrone, County Down. Alexander Lowry lived at Linen Hill near Kate's Bridge and was also in the linen business. Thomas McCabe was a watchmaker in North Street, Belfast, and Henry Joy McCracken, is too well known for further comment.

The ideas and principles of this embryo association met with general approbation in Presbyterian circles, and as the records of the time suggests the concurrence of Wolfe Tone and Thomas Russell. Why only two of the patriots who signed this declaration were present at the October meeting of that year is not quite clear. Of the three foundation members who were absent from the October meeting, Robb, as the history of the period relates, led the insurgent advance on the Monaghan Militia at Lord Moira's Gates in Ballynahinch. Robb later died in exile in Norway. Lowry was a particular friend of Tone, and spent much time in France fostering the cause of the United Irishmen. He also escaped to Norway after the Rebellion and then to America, but later returned home on being granted a pardon.

McCracken, brave patriot and noble soul, the Insurgent Chief at the Battle of Antrim, perished on the gallows in High Street, Belfast.

The United Society had now taken formal shape as a live institution and we find that in the November following the first Dublin Society of United Irishmen was founded on the 9th of that month in the Eagle Tavern in Eustace Street; the Hon. Simon Butler being in the Chair and James Napper Tandy acted as Secretary.

The first foundation of the United Society in Ballynahinch, the scene of the immortal Battle, was inaugurated on Monday, 3rd December, 1791. John Robb was in the Chair, and the resolution of the Belfast meeting was adopted. A special tribute was paid to Lord Moira, the owner of the town. He will be long remembered as the friend of the United Irishmen and one of the most liberal minded men of his time.

Andrew Clokey of Ballycreen, was secretary of this club:

In the years that followed the United Irishmen all over the country met in secret conclave. They agitated for reform, but the Government was not moved. It became evident that force must be resorted to and they drilled and armed. Dublin Castle began to quake at their name. All the military garrisons were manned and reinforcements were drafted in; the Society was proclaimed. Then began an epoch of savage martial ferocity, thrashing on the triangle, cropping off the ears of suspects and the terrible pin-point. The United Irishmen remained determined to be as one man behind their worthy cause. They still armed and carried out their military exercises in secluded spots, and in some cases under the very noses of the Redcoats. When came the Rising of '98 they proved themselves worthy of their steel. Who can deny that their onslaught at Antrim was not a well fought action against Regular Troops? Who can forget their stand at Saintfield and their well ordered action at Ballynahinch when the British Forces were actually in complete disorder before the Pike-men and had it not been for the mistaken interpretation of the bugle sound they were victors of the field. Other battlefields in the South of Vinegar Hill, Newtownbarry, Carrickhyne, and the fateful Battle of New Ross, all bear witness to the word "Bravery" and can be read with the words "Well Done" United Irishmen.

DONEGAL REPUBLICANS ON MARCH

Eight hundred marched through Bundoran, Co. Donegal, last Sunday as a demonstration of solidarity with the Republicans on Hunger-Strike in the Curragh Concentration Camp. The parade was watched by thousands of holiday makers, many of whom later attended a large open air meeting at the sea front. The demonstration was organised by Sinn Fein local cumainn.

Michael McManus presided at the meeting. He said that the Republicans of Co. Donegal fully support the freedom fighters and nationally minded people of Belfast in their struggle for freedom and justice.

Anthony Daly (Ballyshannon) said that he was gratified at the great turn out. He knew that the men on hunger-strike would be pleased when they heard about it. These men were not criminals—they were patriots men of action. He demanded that the Republican prisoners in different jails and camps in the 26-Coun-

ties be brought to Mountjoy, be given political status like their comrades in Belfast Prison, as a preliminary to their early unconditional release. We demand, he continued, a plebescite for all Ireland—a Six County Plebescite is just not on. He said that Ogligh na hEireann had no option but to take up arms again to defend the oppressed people of Lenadon when the British Army broke the truce. Mr. Daly concluded "As a Donegal man, I feel very proud to be associated with the concept of a Parliament for Ulster owing its allegiance only to the Irish Republic."

Joe O'Neill got a rousing welcome. He is to appear in Ballyshannon Court in September, arising out of recent incidents in this part of Donegal. He made it clear that he was not intimidated and intended to carry on with his activities in support of support of the freedom struggle in the Six Counties. It was clear from the demonstration that the campaign of freedom will not be let down by Donegal and North Leitrim. Aidan Corrigan also spoke.

TELL TRUTH

To those who seek justice and truth the attitude of the Press is important and indeed, vital, if their claims are to receive at the very least a fair hearing. The fact that most people today expect a certain slant from certain papers, if slant is the right word to use, is in itself condemnation. What people should expect and indeed get is factual reporting rather than reporting tailored to the taste of a certain readership. Reporting which is not factual is bad reporting, and by virtue of this fact the paper that either accepts it or doctors good reporting to suit policy is turning its back on its responsibility to the community. Not only is it turning its back, but it is freely allowing itself to be used as an integral part of the machinery of oppression and injustice so long the curse of this unfortunate part of Ireland.

We have often heard the expression, "The Truth Hurts" and whilst we are not asking the Press to flog its readers we think that a little "Truth medicine," although bitter, would be better than providing hate drugs to a section of the community, who alas are addicted to hate and in order to survive require their daily "fix." The addict has long ago forgot the initial kick experienced by inflicting pain and feeling superior to those tortured individuals at his mercy, he now does it because without it, life has no meaning, and the prospect of drying out is too horrible. Horrible as this prospect might seem to him, the Press has an obligation to provide him with a chance; STOP THIS DRUG PUSHING NOW; provide this community with a chance to dry out, PRINT THE TRUTH.

We would take this opportunity to point out to the many City Editors that the reports they are receiving at present from their staff are second hand, for they have already been submitted to a more powerful and no doubt better paying boss, "British Intelligence." One of these part-time Press men was in Lenadon. If he wants a story we will give him one, but this time it won't go through British Intelligence, and his hard pressed Editor will have first option of printing it, in the OBITUARY Column.

Reporters are in constant contact with all shades of opinion, including British Army, RUC, Republicans and Loyalists and some are tempted under pressure of work to EARN a story. When facts are hard to get and time short, the RUC and British Army will feed a line to certain privileged reporters; reporters who do them little favours. This type of report reads like a government hand-out in all but one obvious detail, it is not shared by other reporters. It bears the unmistakable brand of a tout.

Britain would boast of having a free Press, we challenge that boast. We say they do not. We say, that Press is the victim of government hand-outs. We say they are no doubt used in a subtle manner, but to the same effect as "Tass." Are we wrong? Then prove it. Print the truth about the Six Counties, print the articles that honest reporters have submitted, only to be pushed aside because it is not policy, because it would hurt the British people to know that their boys, are not the goodies that their boys are on drugs, that their boys are on the rampage. The American Press took a leap forward towards freedom when they exposed Vietnam. The American people took a greater leap when they called for the return of American troops.

Letters

FREE BELFAST

A Chara — The barricaded and silently-guarded streets of Belfast (Free Belfast), are an ever present reminder of the "Loyalist" murder squads.

The increasing toll of murdered Catholics bear witness to the ability of the Murder squads to roam the streets of this city. When we remember the high security operations to protect the Orangemen on their annual sectarian jaunt on the 12th of July, it is hard to understand why a few thousand British troops could not be deployed in the checking of vehicles entering and leaving "Loyalist" areas.

The practical results in terms of capped murder squads might be small, but its effect as a deterrent would be enormous. How in all honesty can Mr. Whitelaw expect the barricades to be removed in Free Belfast while the murder squads are still free to operate? Are nationally minded citizens in

Belfast to take down their barricades when they are denied the most basic of all human rights—the right of life itself?

Mr. Whitelaw has come out in his true colours at last. His permission to the UDA to engage in a provocative march through the tunnel area of Portadown; the continuance of UDA no-go areas; the intimidation of Catholics, and the most blatant, in the Lenadon area, when Whitelaw acted against the very law he is supposed to uphold. Even the so-called "Loyalists" now see him for what he is. Many people in the North have woken up to the fact that Whitelaw is the greatest confidence trickster the British have ever produced!

It is time that Mr. Whitelaw realised this and went home. We have declared for a Republic and we do not want Whitelaw or any other law.

Wise le meas,
PADRAIG BAN

All letters, poems, songs and pictures that you wish to appear in Republican News to T. Lyons, 54 Edenmore Ave., Raheny, Dublin.

THEY HAVE BEEN WARNED (RVH)

WAR NEWS

(The actions given here have been confirmed by the 3rd Battalion O.C.'s in the Belfast area).

1st Battalion

One of our snipers fired on British Army jeep on Motorway. A kill is claimed. 14th An active Service Unit engaged British Army units on Finaghy Road North 11 times. Four hits claimed. Fire returned. Republican sniper fired on B.A. at Finaghy Bridge. 2 hits claimed. Fire returned. Republican scouts threw 5 nail bombs, 2 blast bombs and 10 s/i. petrol bombs. Republican sniper hit British helicopter with one burst. A.S.U. fired 5 rounds into U.D.A. mini-bus in Ladybrook Park; 1 hit claimed. Republican sniper fired on B.A. foot patrol in Willowvale; 1 hit; ambulance was sent for. Saturday 15th - Republican sniper hit helicopter with 3 rounds. Fire was returned. Sniper hit helicopter with 2 rounds, fire was returned. A.S.U. engaged B.A. on Finaghy Road North 4 times; 1 hit claimed; fire returned; our scouts threw 1 blast bomb and 1 pin grenade. Sniper claims hit on B.A. foot patrol at Ardmore; fire returned. Sniper claims kill on B.A. at Finaghy; verified by our scouts. 11th - An A.S.U. spotted gunmen in Springmartin firing into Springhill and Ballymurphy. The A.S.U. opened fire. Shortly afterwards, 2 ambulances were observed going to the spot fired at by the A.S.U. The A.S.U. are claiming 2 hits.

2nd Battalion

Tuesday 2nd July:- One British soldier was seriously wounded when his patrol was attacked outside the B.A. post at junction of Springfield Road and Cupar Street. About the same time, a member of a B.A. foot patrol was wounded in Mayo Street and a sentry was hit in the hand at the Falls Road end of Cupar Street.

Wednesday 12th July - B.A. "pigs" patrolling the Falls Road, were met with concentrated attacks from Linden Street and Clonard Street, 2 British soldiers were killed and 3 others wounded.

Monday 17th July - B.A. patrol was attacked by A.S.U. near Panton Street. One British soldier wounded twice. Later in the day a sentry on duty at Vere Foster School was shot and seriously wounded by I.R.A. sniper.

Tuesday 18th July - B.A. patrols were attacked several times in the Ballymurphy and Lower Falls area. One British soldier was wounded on the Whiterock Road, another at Vere Foster post, and a third at the corner of Quadrant Street. A British soldier was wounded at 6p.m. at Cullintree Road. Shortly after 8p.m. an A.S.U. in the New Barnsley area fired a single shot at a sentry on duty at Vere Foster B.A. post. He was hit in the head and died instantly.

The 2nd Battalion Staff, Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army, have found it necessary to issue the following warning:-

On several occasions since the resumption of offensive operations by the Irish Republican Army, several streets in the Lower Falls area have come under heavy attack from British Army snipers operating from the roof of the School of Dentistry in the Royal Victoria Hospital. Until now we have been loath to take retaliatory action because of the proximity of the hospital. If this sniping by the B.A. continues however, and the hospital authorities fail to make representations to have it stopped, action will have to be taken in the interests of the local people.

3rd Battalion

Following actions occurred within period from Friday, 14th July until Tuesday 18th July:-

Our A.S.U. in Ardoyne claim 4 hits on members of Prince of Wales Regiment. B.A. with 1 kill. Kill confirmed. One soldier (45th Marine Commando) seriously wounded in throat, in Unity Flats. Two RUC men hit by A.S.U. in New Lodge; 1 very critically ill, the other very ill. One RUC killed. 5 hits claimed by A.S.U. in New Lodge confirmed. 2 soldiers (45th Marine Commando) hit; 1 dying, the other serious. One soldier (RPWR) hit; condition not serious. One soldier (RPWR) hit and kill claimed; kill confirmed. One soldier (RPWR) hit by ASU in Ardoyne. Kill claimed and confirmed.

B.A. mobile patrol attacked by ASU in Ardoyne. Six hits and one kill claimed. Not confirmed

2nd BATTALION (LATE NEWS)
Wednesday, 19th July - Petrol bomb attack launched on Corry's Timber Yard in early hours. Considerable damage claimed. B.A. snipers had used this yard last Sunday to kill defenceless citizens in Ballymurphy.



Volunteer John Dougal 2nd Battalion lying in state. Shot by British Occupied Forces in Ballymurphy.