

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

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SEÁN SABHAT COMMEMORATION

Limerick
Sunday Jan. 7th
ASSEMBLE: BEDFORD ROW
12.45pm



• British Crown Forces defending Britain's Border at Lackey Bridge, near Clones, Co. Monaghan during November.

'IRON CURTAIN' RAISED IN EUROPE BUT — IRELAND'S 'WALL' REMAINS

THE 'DAZZLING NOVEMBER DAYS' of 1989 that have seen the process of self-determination renewed among the peoples of Eastern Europe after over 40 years of Soviet domination must give the Irish people hope and determination in their struggle against the undemocratic British presence in the Six Counties. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall in particular on the weekend of November 10-12 under the glare of the world's media was immediately relevant to all the local people along the hundreds of miles of Ireland's 'Wall' — the British-imposed Border that has artificially divided our people for almost 70 years.

The people who have been engaged in a series of re-openings of Border crossings in the last two months have not had anything like the media attention which the people of Berlin received. In many cases they have undertaken the task of re-opening Border crossings after 18 or more years under the threatening guns of the British Crown Forces and have been assaulted and arrested while engaged in this work.

PEOPLE POWER

In the spring of 1972 there was similar activity all along the Border which was also met with British terror, firing rubber bullets and tear gas into crowds attempting to fill in the cratered Border roads. Its resurgence in 1989 is a remarkable example of people power, exposing as it does the colonial nature of Britain's rule in Ireland. Needless to say the 'peace-trainers' are deafeningly silent about the closed Border roads: they are made up of Unionists and neo-Unionists who support the partition of Ireland.

As well as the similarities between the

struggle for self-determination in Eastern Europe and in Ireland however, there are also some important differences.

For one thing none of the momentous changes in Poland, East Germany, Hungary or Czechoslovakia would be happening if the Soviets under Gorbachev had not decided, for their own reasons, to voluntarily withdraw its power from the centre of Europe and renounce what was known as the 'Brezhnev Doctrine'. This called for intervention if Soviet domination was threatened and resulted in the tanks rolling into Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 to crush the moves towards democracy.

NO INTERVENTION THIS TIME

The people of Warsaw, Berlin, Budapest and Prague knew that there would be no such intervention this time and they grasped the opportunity with both hands. This is why there was no repeat of the Tianenmen Square, Peking massacre in these cities.

It is facile and shallow therefore for

John Hume and others to argue that the peaceful nature of the revolution in the East this year has lessons for British-occupied Ireland. Change there has come peacefully because the Russians allowed it and the people knew they could get away with it when the iron fist was removed.

The British have had no such change of heart.

Secondly there is the massive collaboration in Ireland by the 26-county administration propping up the British-imposed Border. Dublin's minister Burke announced on November 24 last that an extra £180 million has been spent this year on securing the Border, and that £2.5 billion has been spent on this over the last 20 years.

Can we imagine West Berlin's rulers spending such vast sums on guarding the hated Wall for the 28 years of its existence? Or the government of West Germany spending more money per head of population in securing the frontier with the East than East Germany itself?

Those people who have witnessed the hundreds of thousands of people pouring into Wenceslas Square in the centre of Prague would do well to remember that the Nationalist population have NEVER been allowed to march into the centre of Belfast, or Derry or any other town in the Occupied Six Counties since that statelet was set up in 1920 and were beaten off the streets any time they attempted it and were shot down in cold blood in Derry on Bloody Sunday on January 30, 1972.

This is what happened to the Civil Rights Campaign in 1969 and to the Anti-Partition Campaign in the 1950s. There is no *Glasnost* in Whitehall or Downing Street but the struggle against the last remnant of the British Empire in Ireland will not be daunted. That Empire will, with the efforts of the Irish people themselves, inevitably go the way of all tyrannies. It is up to us to hasten the day.

Ó FIAICH'S COMMENTS TIMELY, WELCOME

AS WE GO to press we wish to comment on the statement by Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich (Mater Hospital Radio, November 26) that 'what would be a good move would be if the British said 'look, we are not going to stay here for all time'. This is heartily welcomed by SAOIRSE.

Such a statement, the Cardinal said, "would do more good at the moment than anything else". He continued that such a declaration "would put it up to the Ulster Unionists to work out a relationship with the rest of the people in this island. If I were a Northern Protestant and the British said to me 'as long as you want us, we will stay' I would have no motivation for ever trying to build a relationship with the rest of the country."

Following his appointment to the See of Armagh in 1977 the Cardinal visited the H-Blocks of Long Kesh where the blanket protest and "diet strike" were taking place and condemned prison conditions roundly in a public statement saying they were to be compared to the worst degradation of Calcutta.

That famous statement in 1978 was followed by another a year or two later in which he called for a British withdrawal from the Six Counties and hinted at an "independent" state there. Republicans would not agree with the latter observation, of course.

In 1981 he spoke feelingly of the death of South Armagh Volunteer Raymond McCreesh on hunger strike in Long Kesh and later in March 1985 he said on Radio in Boston, USA that a "British withdrawal was about the only thing which would succeed."

Now he has been attacked by Margaret Thatcher and her Six County Supremo Peter Brooke, the OUP, the DUP, the Alliance Party, the Workers Party the SDLP etc. (John Hume, of course, refused to comment himself).

Cardinal Ó Fiaich was President of Maynooth College and Professor of Modern Irish History there before going to Armagh. He is a native of Crossmaglen and is an enthusiast for the Irish language and games.

SAOIRSE welcomes his courageous plain-speaking at this time. It may not be "fashionable" in Establishment circles on both sides of the Irish Sea, but then neither is the Easter Week Rising of 1916 these days!

THE PARADE OF INNOCENCE

Dublin, Saturday, December 9

3.30pm, Parnell Square. Candle-lit march and pageant for the release of the Birmingham Six.

PRISONERS MONTH



Cabhair



• Scene at the 1988 Christmas Day Sponsored Swim at the Grand Canal, Inchicore, BAC.

TRADITIONALLY, Republicans set aside the month of December for collections, functions, raffles etc. to assist Republican prisoners and their dependants. **CABHAIR**, Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund, would like to appeal to all Sinn Féin cumainn throughout the country to make a special effort this year for this very worthy cause.

All monies collected should be returned to **CABHAIR** at 21, Shaw Street, Dublin 2 as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS SWIM
In Dublin plans for the Annual Christmas Swim

are already underway. Members of the Frank Carroll/Denis O'Donovan Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach from Inchicore on the southside are once again running the annual sponsored swim in the Grand Canal in aid of **CABHAIR**.

This year the swim will be held opposite the Marble Arch Pub in Inchicore, at 12 noon sharp (very sharp, frostbitten even!) on Christmas morning. Sponsorship cards are available from paper sellers in Dublin or through the Carroll/O'Donovan Cumann, 21 Shaw Street, Dublin 2.

CERTIFICATE

A good number of swimmers have already volunteered, but if any brave souls out there would like to participate, please send

your name to 21, Shaw Street. All swimmers will be presented with a certificate in appreciation of their courage.

Please return the sponsorship cards and monies as quickly as possible and for proof of the Inchicore Spartans efforts see next month's SAOIRSE.

50 YEARS AGO:

BARNES & McCORMACK SENTENCED TO DEATH

DECEMBER 1939 was by any reckoning a month filled with dramatic incident. At the beginning of the month all the internees in Arbour Hill military prison, Dublin, were released unconditionally; Paddy McGrath escaped from custody in a Dublin hospital; two Irish Republicans were sentenced to be hanged in Birmingham, England; and the Free State army's major ammunition store in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, was cleared of more than a million rounds without a shot being fired; the IRA radio and staff were seized in a Dublin suburb at the end of the month.

On December 1, Justice Gavan Duffy (one of the signatories of the Treaty of Surrender in 1921) in the Dublin High Court granted the Habeas Corpus application of Séamus Burke of Ballinrobe that his internment in Arbour Hill was contrary to the 1937 Constitution.

Gavan Duffy ruled that part VI of the Offences Against the State Act 1937 was unconstitutional because it gave judicial powers to a minister of state who was part of the executive branch of the Free State administration.

The order served on a person interned without trial said that a particular minister was "satisfied" that the internee was "engaged in activities, etc., etc." Séamus Burke was ordered to be released. The State immediately entered an appeal to the Supreme Court.

INTERNEES RELEASED

Next day, December 2, Con Lehane arrived at Arbour Hill and drew up six more sworn affidavits applying to the High Court for release. That evening, the Free State administration released all 53 internees; and other prisoners were freed on expiration of sentence and not interned.

Many returned to their homes next day but a few of the wiser ones realised that when the Free State got its breath back there would be another internment. Richard Goss of Dundalk, who had been active on the English Campaign, Tommy McDermott of Roscommon, a veteran who had marched in Terence Mac Swiney's funeral through the streets of London, and Máirtín Ó Cadhain of Cnocán Glas, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, the well-known writer in Irish, and others, went back to their areas but stay-

ed "on the run". Their action was well-warranted.

Then came another boost when Paddy McGrath was moved from Mountjoy Jail to Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin. He was not released, however, but had to escape from custody on December 5 to make good his promise never to come before the Special Criminal Court.

'SHOT IN THE ARM'

He had endured 43 days on hunger strike but the freeing of such a valuable man was a great shot in the arm to the IRA. On December 7 the State entered a *nolle prosequi* in his case. Paddy McGrath recovered and lived to fight another day.

Following on these startling victories it was down hill all the way in a series of events for the Republican Movement. On Monday, December 11 at Birmingham Assizes the trial opened of Peter Barnes of Banagher, Co. Offaly and James McCormack of Mullingar on a capital charge arising out of the Coventry explosion in August. When Jim O'Regan, ex-International Brigade, of Cork and others were held with Peter Barnes in London in late August, members of the New Scotland Yard Bomb Squad had said to the group in custody: "One of you will swing for Coventry!"

INNOCENT IRISHMAN

After a four day trial both men were found guilty by a jury which took 31 minutes exactly to consider the evidence. Asked if they had anything to say Peter Barnes, an innocent Irishman declared:

"I would like to say that as I am going before my God, as I am condemned to death, I am innocent, and later I am sure it will all come out that I had neither hand, act or part in it. That is all I have to say."

James McCormack, or "Richards" to give him his *nom-de-guerre* had been present when the fatal bomb was assembled but said in court that it was contrary to the policy of the IRA to endanger life. He asserted his membership of the IRA.

Facing his accusers he made what an English source (Letitia Fairfield) called a "last brief speech from the dock which was in the ancient tradition of Irish patriotism":

"I wish to state, my lord, before you pass sentence of death on me, I wish to thank sincerely the gentlemen who defended me during my trial and I wish to state that the part I took in these explosions since I came to England I have done for a just cause.



• Comdt. Seán McNeela, Ballycroy, Co. Mayo, Director of Publicity, GHQ Staff, IRA, 1939

"As a soldier of the Irish Republican Army I am not afraid to die, as I am doing it for a just cause. I say in conclusion God bless Ireland and God bless the men who have fought and died for her. Thank you, my lord."

Irish people think of the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six, Judith Ward and the others, including the Fenians Allen, Larkin and O'Brien in 1867 and Michael Barrett from Fermanagh — their lives sworn away when the bloodlust of the English Ruling Class is aroused.

INCENDIARIES

Meanwhile, the comrades of Barnes and McCormack outside of prison carried on the campaign — now reduced mainly to incendiary bombs. On December 12 there were seven cases of this in Birmingham, while in London on the same day two incendiary devices were placed but did not explode in Oxford Street stores. At Rickmansworth also on the same day three railway sleepers were placed across Metropolitan Railway lines.

On the fourteenth, the day Barnes and McCormack were condemned to death in Birmingham, incendiary packages exploded in two cinemas in the same city and one in London.

Four days later six postal incendiary units were found in the Royal Mail at Andover Post Office, Hampshire, while in Birmingham next day there was an explosion at a business premises. On December 21 fires blazed in the mail at Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Crewe. In London three GPO district offices were similarly hit. One package in a pillar-box outside another post office did not ignite.

During this time three more Irish Republicans were sentenced at Birmingham. William Bradley received ten years penal servitude for "conspiracy" and possession of explosives, Patrick McBride 15 years for "conspiracy" only and Stanley Joseph Rice ten years also on a "conspiracy" charge.

All this while the IRA radio — brought in from the US — was broadcasting. Jack McNeela, as Director of Publicity on GHQ Staff was in charge of this as well as of the underground *War News*.

By mid-December feeling was running very high in Ireland and the death sentences in Birmingham had, according to Tim Pat Coogan, "a powerful emotional effect" on Irish opinion. Bowyer Bell describes the effect graphically: "What particularly enraged not only the IRA but a great many apolitical Irishmen was that neither Peter Barnes nor James McCormack had been directly responsible for the explosion.

He continues: "As Volunteers of the IRA engaged in what they considered a military campaign, they had indeed been involved in the early stages of an operation against a legitimate target, a power station. The premature explosion had horrified them as well.

POUND OF FLESH

"Through Irish eyes the British seemed determined to extract their pound of flesh from the unwitting accomplices when they could not find the man responsible. Whatever the subtle distinctions of British law might be, too many Irishmen had been exposed in the past to British justice to be overly impressed.

"They were impressed with the calm courage and dignity of Barnes and McCormack hopelessly trapped in a situation not of their own making. When the two men were sentenced to death on December 14, no one in Ireland was surprised at perfidious Albion. *There were to be two more martyrs for Ireland.*

"In response the IRA English units launched a broad series of attacks on the British mail service over the next several days. The IRA "problem" had not, as hoped, tapered off."

But then other events began to take place with far-reaching consequences . . .

(More next month: The Magazine Fort Raid and its aftermath. Refs. "The Secret Army" by J. Bowyer Bell, "The IRA" by Tim Pat Coogan, "The Trial of Peter Barnes" by Letitia Fairfield).

GRADAM AN PHIARSAIGH

GHNÓTHAIGH Bríd Nic Dhomhnaill, Príomh-Oide, Scoil Sraith Salach, Bun na gCnoc, Contae na Gaillimhe, Gradam an Phiarsaigh i mbliana ag ócáid bliantúil na Fondúireachta sa Chultúrlann, Baile na Manach, Contae Átha Cliath ar an 10ú Samhain seo caite (cothrom an lae a rugadh Pádraig Mac Piarais i 1879).

"Sé an duine is mó a chúireann aidhmeanna an Phiarsaigh chun cinn" a bhfaigheann an Gradam gach bliain dar le Coiste na Fondúireachta.

Ba iad baill an Choiste Roghnaithe neamhspleách ná Pádraig Ó Muircheartaigh, Príomh-fheidh meannach, Bórd Soláthair an Leictreachais; Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, Iriséoir agus Uachtarán Conradh na Gaeilge; Máiread Uí Dhomhnaill, craoltóir RTE agus Labhrás Ó Murchú, Ard-Stiúrthóir Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.



• Bríd Nic Dhomhnaill Ghaeltacht Conamara.

Tar éis bronnadh an ghradam uirthi dúirt Bríd "glacaim é ní amháin ar son mé féin ach ar son na ndaoine a thug m'oidhreacht Éireannach dom agus ar son na ndaoine a d'fhan dílis dom agus a thug tacaíocht dom. Muraigh an tacaíocht seo a fuairas ó Muintir Bun na gCnoc agus mo chairde dílse ní bheinn in ann an baghcat a sheasamh ag mo scoil sa Sraith Salach".

AN CHLÉIR

Ó Dheireadh Fómhair 1986 tá baghcat ar siúl i gcoinnne Bhríd Ní Dhomhnaill ag an scoil ina bhfuil sí ina Príomh-Oide ann. Thosaigh an chléir áit-iúil é de bharr feachtas a bhí ar siúl ag Bríd chun Aifreann lán-Gaeilge a chur ar bun arís i bparóiste Bun na gCnoc sa

Mar dhíoltas ar a seasamh cróga prionsabailta scaipeadh a daltai scoile tríd na ranganna eile sa scoil agus anois tá Bríd ina aonair ina seomra scoile féin lá i ndiaidh lae níos mó ná trí bliain anuas. Is uafásach an seéal é mar ní hé inniúlacht Bhríd mar múinteoir atá i gceist anseo ach fíoch pearsanta cléiríúil in aghaidh duine nach ndearna faic ach labhairt amach ar son na Gaeilge.

Tar éis Gradam an Phiarsaigh a bhronnadh uirthi nach bhfuil sé níos mó ná soiléir anois go seasann tromlach muintir na tíre leí agus gur rinneadh fíor éagóir uirthi. Tá sé thar a bheith am an baghcat danartha seo a stopadh láithreach.



• The Arigna Mountains, Co. Roscommon - power station closure threatens livelihoods.

ARIGNA CLOSURE BATTLE

WORKERS and the smaller mining companies around Arigna, Co. Roscommon are uniting to fight the ESB's decision to close the local electricity generating station in two-and-a-half years, a move which will also threaten the jobs of the miners who supply the coal-fired plant.

A total of 55 ESB workers and 215 miners are due to lose their jobs, and Arigna Collieries who employ 140 and have the contract to supply the power station, is to close down in six months, because the owners claim that the ESB already has enough coal stockpiled for two years.

In a statement, issued on the day of the announced closure (October 31 last), Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin

Poblachtach said that it "could have been avoided if the station was adapted to burn the huge supply of "crow" coal present in the local mines. The existing supply of semi-bituminous coal has been known to be running out for years but no action was taken which could have ensured the continuation of work in the mines for many years.

SOCIAL DAMAGE

"Closure will seriously

affect the nearby towns of Drumshanbo, Carrick-on-Shannon and Boyle and the resulting social damage in the name of 'overall economic planning' was not unavoidable.

"This is the same attitude at work that refused to take the social costs on the surrounding counties into account of building the Moneypoint station in Co. Clare without 'baffles' on the chimneys."

The statement was signed by Farrell Conry (Elphin), chairman, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh (Roscommon) secretary, and Dermot Mullooly (Strokestown) treasurer, Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair.

Local sources have in-

dicated that the largest mine owners, Leydens of Arigna Collieries are going ahead with the closure because they have been compensated by the ESB for the loss of their contract.

20 YEARS SUPPLY

The other mining companies, Flynn and Lehany (45 workers) and Wynne's (30 workers) have joined with the ESB workers and all the miners in supporting the call for keeping the station open by adapting it to burn crow coal. It is estimated that there is enough coal for another 20 years in the surrounding mines, which lie to the west of Lough Allen.

The Arigna power station was opened in 1958 but the coal mines in the area have been worked as far back as the 1790s and they have nourished many local people in an area that has always been badly hit by emigration.

Cabhair

GREETING CARD DESIGN COMPETITION

A competition will be held in the New Year to produce a design for a Greeting Card for Prisoners and others. Look out for January's issue of SAOIRSE for details.

Cumann AGM

AT its recent AGM the Cathal Brughá Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dún Laoghaire elected the following officers: Cathaoirleach Seán Ó Sé, Rúnaí Colm O'Donnell, Cisteoir Cathleen Knowles, Oid-eachas Joe Egan.

FRANK DRIVER COMMEMORATION

REPUBLICANS gathered in Ballymore-Eustace, Co. Kildare on Sunday last November 12, for a commemoration to honour the late Frank Driver, a Honorary Vice-President of Sinn Féin, who died on November 4, 1981.

Frank Driver heard Pádraig Mac Piarais read the 1916 Proclamation from the steps of the GPO as a boy of 10. He later went on to give a lifetime of service to the Republican Movement.

One hundred people from Kildare and surrounding counties formed up at the Square, Ballymore-Eustace for the ceremony and, led by a piper and drummer and a colour party of Fianna Éireann members, marched the short distance to the Celtic Cross headstone in St. John's Cemetery.

Matt Conway, Kilcullen, chaired the proceedings and Ivor Hawkins recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish. Paddy Lennon laid a wreath on behalf of the Kildare Branch of the National Graves Association.

INTERNEED

Emmett Walsh, Offaly, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, gave the orat-

ion in which he paid tribute to Frank Driver for his Republican



• The parade marches to St. John's Cemetery, Ballymore on November 12.

beliefs. As a Republican he was interned by the 26-county state in the 1940s and 1950s and jailed again in the 1960s and 1970s.

Referring to the 15-year imprisonment of the Guildford Four and the continuing suffering of the Birmingham Six, Winchester Three and Judith Ward, he said that British injustice towards Ireland reaches to the high-



• The late Frank Driver at Bodenstown, 1981.

est levels of the establishment.

"Lord Donaldson, the judge who convicted the Guildford Four in 1975, is now Master of the Rolls, one of the leading legal positions in Britain. Sir Peter Imbert who was head of the Bomb Squad that interrogated them is now the Metropolitan Police Commissioner in London. The British DPP's office had the incriminating police documents which finally forced the freeing of the Guildford Four as far back as 1975 but suppressed them."

HAUGHEY'S REFUSAL

He criticised Charles Haughey

for refusing to support the case of the Birmingham Six to the European Court of Human Rights last March while he continues to extradite political prisoners to the British.

Sinn Féin Poblachtach's proposal for an Éire Nua/New Ireland which calls for a new beginning, after a British withdrawal, based on a federation of the four provinces under the co-ordination of a national parliament was described by Emmett Walsh as "a means to peace and justice on this island by which the people can govern themselves freely and democratically."

EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

“NO SHORT CUT VIA LEINSTER HOUSE”

SEVERAL HUNDRED people attended the annual Edentubber Martyrs Commemoration, organised by Sinn Féin Poblachtach near the Border in Co. Louth on Sunday, November 5 last. They marched from the Border Inn to the Celtic Cross monument on the hillside a mile away.

The monument there marks the spot where Michael Watters' cottage stood before the premature explosion on November 11, 1957 which killed Mr. Watters and four IRA Volunteers, Paul Smith, Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, Oliver Craven, Newry, Co. Down, and two Wexford men, George Keegan, Enniscorthy and Patrick Parle from James Connolly Street, Wexford.

Seamas Mac Suain, who gave the oration, grew up with Patrick Parle in the same street in Wexford town. He spoke of the circumstances that led to the tragic event at Edentubber and reminded those present that in the 1950s the forerunners of the UDR, the B-Specials were operating a shoot-to-kill policy in the Six Counties. Their victims included 18-year-old Arthur Leonard from Co. Armagh, and even members of their

own force shot by mistake. He continues:

“We honour the Edentubber Martyrs and we remember that they had not drifted into Republicanism. They thought their way into it and they fought and died for it.

“They realised that all the British understood is force of arms. They knew that there was only one straight, narrow road to the Republic and that there were no short cuts via Leinster house which was set up to overthrow the Republic.”

DELUING THEMSELVES

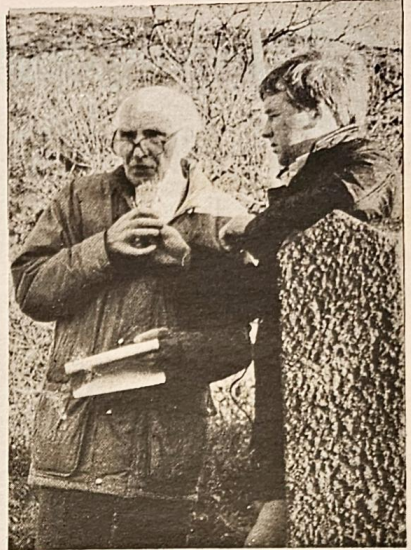
He referred to former

comrades who have recognised Leinster House and who identify it as a shortcut to a 32-county Republic, as “deluding themselves”.

“Even if by some miracle they did get some people elected to the 26-county assembly can anyone seriously imagine that Messrs. Haughey, Dukes, Spring, O'Malley and de Rossa would not unite against them and ‘move the goalposts’ as often as necessary until they convert themselves into a Free State political party, renounce force of arms against British Occupation Forces and swear allegiance to the Southern statelet?”

“Those people who deny this reality of Free State politics are fooling themselves and attempting to fool others. Honourable causes can only be served by honourable people. Nelson Mandela has refused to secure his freedom for the last 13 years by repudiating force. There is no ‘working the system’ there!”

Among the attendance was Sinn Féin Poblachtach



● Seamus Mac Suain, Wexford, delivering the oration at Edentubber.

vice-president Eamon Larkin from South Armagh and cumainn members from counties Louth, Armagh and South Down. After the ceremony the

parade formed up again and marched back to Carrickarnon, where Amhrán na bhFiann was played to conclude the commemoration.

BIRMINGHAM SIX IN PRISON'

belief in our innocence and King our case (that of the Six) to the European Court of Rights. That is the very least it believes in justice.

number of influential America have set up Guildford Birmingham Six support people are in constant contact. They have been asking us. They have been asking us. They have been asking us. They want to know government has not come in support of us. I have seen people informing them government's refusal. I have seen them that, because of the government's continued refusal I have seen them to the Russian government if it, as co-signatories of the Helsinki Agree-

ments, will take the case of the Birmingham Six to the European Court.

“I have also written to Christine Crowley, MEP, to ask if she will present a European Parliamentary petition on our behalf. I have also written to President Bush, asking him if he will send an official Republican Party observer to the Guildford Four hearing and I am also writing to the Democratic Party asking if it will send the human rights activist Jesse Jackson as an official observer to the Guildford Four hearing.

“I will continue to fight to prove my innocence without the help of the Irish government.”

PADDY JOE HILL
509196 HM Prison
Gartree
Leicester, Le16 7RP
England



spa hotel,
lucan

wolfe tones

christmas concert

Monday Dec.18

Admission £5 **Doors open at 8pm**

Tickets available at West County and Spa Hotels,
also at 21 Shaw Street, Dublin 2.

and wrangled pensions. Not that all the freedom fighters proper of that period sought material recompense. Far from it! One of West Cork's bravest men, hero of Crossbarry and Rossbarbery told this writer how he looked down a New York soup-line in the Thirties' Depression and wondered what the hell the fight for independence was really for! At fifteen years, such honesty leaves a deep impression.

Thus it was that the major chapter of Free-Statery was forged, not by men who proved themselves as worthy successors of Tone, Rossa, Clarke, Pearse, Mellows, Lynch and Brugha, to mention but a few of Ireland's dead (these men could no longer interpret their heroic deeds) but by later-day grafters who were not slow to sense the winds of change and join the new-lucre tide. Risk and dangers apart, these ‘gentlemen’ might be fairly compared with Klondikers — no holds barred.

Perhaps it was the defeat of Cosgrave in 1932 which unmasked their “mercenaries” more than anything else. Minus their much vaunted “mandate” they turned Blueshirt and Fascist, epitomising the very essence of Free-Statery, a naked lust for power, a petite bourgeoisie mentality blind to nobler vistas, viperishly alive to nepotism, stock-piling and possessiveness. Now the fateful words of Mellows rang loud and clear: “It is a fallacy to believe that a Republic of any kind can be won through the shackled Free State. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. The Free State is British-created, British-controlled and serves British imperial interests. It is the buffer erected between British capit-

alism and the Irish Republic”. How true those words are to this very day!

Save for a very thin veneer of ‘Broy Harrier Republicanism’ like fought like when De Valera opposed and crushed O'Duffy's gang in the Bohereen War of the Thirties. Now Mr. De Valera had become the centre of the broken circle, backed this time by a peasant-infused Pale. The umbrella-brigade had learned the Viceregal mores and mannerisms rather easily, not to mention the vacillations of the London fiscal system. It speaks volumes for the sagacity of De Valera himself that he stuck to the peasant image though others of similar rural origin had forgotten their feet of clay and had begun to live the bright city lights. There is a story worthy of De Maupassant or O'Conaire concerning a petit-Rothschild of that period who in his halcyon field (sic) days graced his home with priceless pictures ‘on loan’ from the National Gallery. (Quite obviously Lane took the right turn!).

It would appear that in every country-born Irishman, there is a city call, suppress it as he may. Whether this is due to some atavistic trait, some unfulfilled desire in the Gaelic Celt to Normanise or equal the town-building feats of the Ostmen, it is difficult to say. This peculiarity may well be a post-Famine genetic graft, immigration sublimating in this case for emigration. What is important to establish however is the definite if gradual gravitation towards our towns and cities. This is especially true, of course, of Dublin' or rather suburbia and satellite zones, i.e.,

the old Pale. Euphemistically, we referred to “The Capital”.

Nobody seemed to ask: “The Capital of What?” Therein lied the classic example of Free State myopia. This short-sightedness or blindness was not quite accidental. Far from being an encumbrance, it proved for some a ‘bountiful blessing’. Soon the gombeen man prospered at the crossroads because he successfully ‘negotiated’ the democratic No. 1's at grassroots level, the electoral list being in the main ‘in the books’; very often the gentleman who received the local mandate was a ‘hang-fire volunteer’ or worse still a band-wagon trullier. Once the Chief gave imprimatur, the faithful followed.

Even a superficial study of the Cosgrave and De Valera governments will show that the real ‘fighting’ men of an earlier decade were in a minority. In many ways, this is the quintessence of Free-Statery — other men's wounds. Nor did these men chaff at not being selected. Very simply, they had fought the common oppressor, England, had followed the felon's track and did not seek either public acclaim or office by franchise. Ideologically, it was as simple as that — far too simple even for London's comprehension. And yet, it was a clear case of would-be politicians using the freedom-fighter's boots, a sequence being repeated at present by the SDLP in the “Ulster” of today. Needless to say, these political boots had in almost every case the full benediction of the Church. Bells, books and candles are as ephemeral as the rains and mists of Ireland!

Women in Ireland's Fight for Freedom

● INGHINIDHE NA h-ÉIREANN

THE GAA was founded in 1884 and the Gaelic League in 1893. However, although both organisations had members of the IRB in their ranks, they were avowedly non-political. The Gaelic League accepted women and men into their classes and even organised mixed céilís. But nationalist groups did not allow women to participate at any organisational level.

Many women were not happy with this situation. In 1900 Queen Victoria visited Ireland and the authorities organised a Children's Treat for 5,000 children, to be held in the Phoenix Park. A number of women, including Maud Gonne and Helena Moloney, came together and formed a committee, which was called the Patriotic Children's Treat Committee, and organised a counter treat.

This was a resounding success. 30,000 children were entertained in Clontarf Park and when the committee met afterwards to settle up accounts they realised that they were not just going to pack up and go home. They had proven themselves capable of organisation on a big scale and were full of ideas for

the future. They decided to form a National Women's Committee and in October 1900 the inaugural meeting of Inghinidhe na h-Éireann took place. Twenty-nine women attended and Maud Gonne was elected President.

Inghinidhe's main objective was the re-establishment of the complete independence of Ireland. Other objectives were the furtherance of the Irish language and culture, the teaching of Irish history, the support of Irish manufacturing goods, the combatting of English culture and fund raising for national purposes.

COMMITMENT

All members were expected to make a strict commitment, membership was not easily attained and all women had to be

of Irish birth or descent. From the beginning Inghinidhe was totally committed to breaking the connection with England.

Inghinidhe was an exciting, vibrant organisation which proceeded to get involved in a number of ventures — the holding of education classes for children in Irish language, history and music for example. Monthly céilís were held and members of other nationalist groups invited. A member of Inghinidhe would read a lecture on Celtic heroines during the céilís. Inghinidhe was instrumental in setting up the Irish National Theatre Group in 1902.

In the next few years several other branches were set up, including Cork and Belfast. Inghinidhe took a more radical stand than most nationalist organisations of the time and had very little patience with what Helena Moloney called the "fan go fóill" attitude of some of the men.

Inghinidhe was involved in protests against the king's visit in 1903 and in 1905 became active in the newly formed Sinn Féin.



● Helena Moloney

From its earliest days women were voted on to the executive of Sinn Féin and most of these came from Inghinidhe na h-Éireann. However, as Sinn Féin did not become an unequivocally Republican organisation until 1917 some members refused to have anything to do with it.

JOURNAL

In 1908 Helena Moloney launched the journal of Inghinidhe — *Bean na h-Éireann*. Constance Markievicz attended the inaugural meeting. Helena as editor, wrote in it "The United Irishman, starting as a physical force, separatist journal, had gradually changed its policy to one of reactionary social and dual kingdom ideas . . . we want to counteract this. We want it to be a women's paper, advocating militancy, separation and feminism . . ."

Bean na h-Éireann, mainly due to Helena's involvement in the Labour movement, was fully in sympathy with socialist ideas. It called for "freedom for our nation and the complete removal of disabilities for our sex".

Inghinidhe was in the physical force tradition of Irish Republicanism. They despised the Irish Parliamentary Party, some had reservations about Sinn Féin and they criticised the suffrage movement because of its tacit recognition of British rule. The organisation was opposed to constitutionalism of any kind and this is proved by their opposition to enfranchisement by a hostile parliament, a position that not all Republican women of the time agreed with.

SKEFFINGTON

The Irish Women's Franchise League had been formed in 1901 and women like Hanna Sheehy Skeffington were very active in the campaign for votes for women. The IWFL were critical of the position taken by nationalist women such as Inghinidhe, but Inghinidhe believed that it was not possible to have equality for women without national freedom from Britain. These differing opinions caused dissensions which resulted in the decline of Inghinidhe.

In February 1912, *Bean na h-Éireann* ceased publication. Many of the mem-

bers of Inghinidhe were absorbed in working for Sinn Féin. Some, like Constance Markievicz, were members of Inghinidhe, Sinn Féin and the IWFL and were involved in work for all these organisations.

In 1909, Countess Markievicz founded Na Fianna Éireann, a Republican boys scouts organisation. At the inaugural meeting, which was attended by the Countess and Helena Moloney, one of the boys present objected to their presence on the grounds that there "was no place for women in a physical force organisation". Bulmer Hobson had to explain whose idea it was to set up Na Fianna and also who was paying for the premises in which they were meeting, before the women were allowed to stay.

HOTLY DEBATED

At the 1912 Ard-Fheis of Na Fianna a resolution calling for the admission of girls was passed by one vote after being hotly debated. However, Countess Markievicz's influence on Na Fianna was considerable and two daughters of James Connolly, Nora and Ina, were also members. During the Asgard gun running, when members of the Fianna assisted in bringing in guns to the Volunteers, the women were deliberately excluded by Bulmer Hobson.

Eimear Ní Bhriain (Refs. Unmanageable Revolutionaries by Margaret Ward.)

Right-Wing Targets Basque Leaders

THE ASSASSINATION of one Basque elected representative and the wounding of another by a right-wing Spanish death squad on Monday, November 20 last in Madrid has been condemned by Sinn Féin Poblachtach President, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.

Josu Muguruza was killed in the attack, which occurred in a hotel restaurant frequented by Basques in Madrid when a group of hooded gunmen burst in and opened fire. Inaki Esnaola, also recently elected, was seriously wounded.

The attack was claimed by GAL, a right-wing death squad which has killed many Basques in recent years and whose ranks are known to include high-ranking members of the police force in the Basque country which is controlled by the Spanish state.

In a message of condolence, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh expressed sympathy to the family and com-

rades of Josu Muguruza and wished Inaki Esnaola a full and speedy recovery. He wished continuing success to the National Liberation struggle of the Basque people.

Both men were elected for Herri Batasuna (HB) the political organisation associated with the Basque separatist organisation ETA.

Herri Batasuna were unable to attend this year's 85th Ard Fheis on October 21-22 due to the election campaign but in their message of solidarity they expressed their solidarity "with the Irish people's struggle for withdrawal of British colonialism from Ireland and with the Irish patriotic and anti-imperialist struggle".



Swiss Fighters Over Sweden

By a Special Correspondent

AT VIDSEL, in Sweden, just below the Arctic Circle, the air has buzzed in recent weeks with the sound of Swiss fighter and reconnaissance planes of the elite surveillance squadron as they carried out intensive manoeuvres.

Neutral Switzerland has long claimed that her army was purely for defence and would never serve outside their own country. Why the mission to Sweden then?

Switzerland is a mountainous country and her air force pilots are completely at ease in their mountains, where they have many surprises in

store for an invader. But there is also a Swiss plateau where an enemy might attack. Here the air force would have to carry out "hedge-hopping" attacks

at an altitude of 50 metres above the ground where the enemy's radar systems would not be operational.

The Swiss plateau is small in area and densely populated and their Hunter craft make a lot of noise. Moreover, flying and engaging an enemy at low altitude involves enormous concentration at speeds of over 500 m.p.h.

TRAINING FACILITIES

Neutral Sweden has provided training facilities

over an area which is larger than Switzerland itself and which has only 1.5 persons per square kilometer, compared with 2.70 in Switzerland. Thirteen Mirage and Hunter aircraft have been engaged in the training, code-named Operation Tikas 89. It has cost the Swiss about £1,250,000 which they consider good value for money.

This is an interesting example of how one neutral European country can assist another.

BEANNACHTAÍ na HOLLAG

BEANNACHTAÍ na Nollag do na Címí i bPort Laoise, Magilligan, Magherry, Campa na Ceise Fada agus i Sasana, Eorpa agus Stáit Aontaithe Meiriceá. O Chumann Aine Ní Dhoibhlín, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Ráth Fearnáin, BAC.

BEARNA Uladh Sinn Féin Poblachtach, South Armagh sends its Christmas Greetings to all Irish Political prisoners in British and Irish gaols.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Martin Corey POW, Long Kesh. From your family and friends in Lurgan.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Martin Corey POW (Lurgan) and Micky Lawlor POW (Dungannon), Long Kesh. Republicans in Armagh and Tyrone salute you in your staunch stand against the on-going policy of criminalisation of POWs. "This contest on our side is not one of rivalry or vengeance but of endurance" - Terence Mac Swiney.

CHRISTMAS greetings to John Hayes and comrades, Albany Jail, Isle of Wight and to all Republican prisoners. From Lita and all at Shaw Street.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican prisoners at home and abroad, especially John Hayes, Albany Jail, Isle of Wight. From Cumann Wolfe Tone, Tallaght, Dublin.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican prisoners, at home and abroad. From the Executive and Volunteers of Cumann na mBan.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican prisoners, at home and abroad. From Josephine Hayden and family, Tallaght, Dublin.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican prisoners. From Peter Cunningham and family, Tallaght, Dublin.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican prisoners, at home and abroad. From CABHAIR, Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Dermot Feeley, Long Kesh from the Raymond McCreesh/Liam Cumann, Ravensdale, Co. Louth.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican POWs in Ireland and abroad from the William Stewart Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all Republican POWs in Irish, British, American and French prisons. May the spirit of the men of 1916 today see them through. From the Highstead Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, London.

CHRISTMAS greetings (and a few hot whiskeys on the house!) to Ted and Jimmy (GAA Club), Seán, Noel, Michael and (especially!) Susan and the rest of the staff in the Central Bar, Tom and Ann, Fran and Phyllis, Patsy and 'Tom Postie' and the dozens of other 'raffle regulars' in the Central. "Next raffle we'll give you your money back!!" From John Horan, BAC.

CHRISTMAS Greetings to Tom McGrory and the rest of the bunch of Republican rebels in Mingswie, Glasgow. From John, Mary, Carl (and Dan) in Clondalkin, Dublin. When are you coming over Tom?; the 'wee girl' from Newcastle (ex-GAA club) says she wants to finish teaching you the dance steps!! (Get out of that one McGrory, if you can...)

CHRISTMAS Greetings and solidarity to all Republican Prisoners incarcerated in British and Irish jails in the cause of Irish Freedom. From Thomas Kelly and family, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.

CHRISTMAS and New Year Greetings to all Irish Republican POWs in Portlaoise, Long Kesh, Magherry, Magilligan and Crumlin Road prisons in Ireland and to those incarcerated abroad in England, the USA and France.

Happy Christmas to John Hayes, POW, Albany, Isle of Wight, England. Our thoughts are with you all this Christmas. From the staff of SAOIRSE, 21, Shaw Street, Dublin 2.

COMHAIRLE Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach sends Christmas Greetings to Republican prisoners everywhere.

McKEARNEY, Tommy, Magherry prison. The Donegan Family, South Armagh sends greetings to Tommy and his comrades in Long Kesh and Magherry.

McILKENNY, Siobhán (and baby Sinéad), Birmingham - it won't be long now before your father is home and pleading with you to keep "the little angel" under control! In the meantime, Siobhán, stay away from the home-cooking!! From John, Mary and Carl, Clondalkin, Dublin.

McILKENNY, Richard, **POWER**, Billy, **WALKER**, John, **CALLAGHAN**, Hugh, **HILL**, Paddy, **JOE**, HUNTER, Gerry - The Officer Board, membership and supporters of the Máire Drumm Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Clondalkin, Dublin, take this opportunity to assure the Birmingham Six and their families of our continued support. Next year we'll be sending greetings direct to your homes.

SEASONS Greetings and good wishes for Christmas to all Irish Republican Prisoners of War in England, Ireland and abroad from the Sinn Féin Poblachtach Committee, England.

SOLIDARITY greetings at Christmastime to all Irish Republican political prisoners incarcerated in jails in Ireland, England and throughout the world. "Our thoughts are with you always. Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daobh uilig." O Chumann Cathal Brugha, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dún Laoire, BAC.

TO ALL political prisoners who suffer for Irish freedom. By your sacrifices you redeem our honour. At this traditional season of peace I send you greetings from Joe Egan and family, The Barricades, Church Avenue, Dublin 4. "My peace I give you, my peace I leave you" is the same Christ that said 'I bring not peace but a sword'. There can be no peace between right and wrong, between truth and falsehood, between justice and oppression, between freedom and tyranny. Between them it is eternal war until the wrong is righted, until the true thing is established, until justice is established, until freedom is won."

Pádraig Pearse.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mary and Micky Lavelle, Fernanagh on the birth of their baby daughter, Maria Bernarde, on October 20 last. From the staff of Sinn Féin Poblachtach and SAOIRSE in Shaw Street, Dublin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andy and Rose Connolly on their recent wedding. Wishing all the best for the future. From Comhairle Ceantair, BAC.

COMHBHRÓN

FLOYD, Deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Pat Floyd and children Ronan and Sinéad of Capry, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal on the death of their loving husband and father Joe Floyd on November 18 last. From Donegal Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Leaba i measc laochra Éireann go raibh aige.

FLOYD, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Joe Floyd, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal, who died during November. From Comhairle Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

McGILLYCUDDY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Gene McGillycuddy on the death of his brother Denis on October 31. Sincere condolences to his relatives and friends from Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. I measc Laochra na h-Éireann go raibh sé.

I gCUIMHNE

FAGAN, Liam - 1st Anniversary. Bearna Uladh Sinn Féin Poblachtach, South Armagh and Newry remembers with pride its faithful comrade and friend Liam Fagan, Ravensdale, Dundalk, Honorary Vice-President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach whose first anniversary occurs on November 30. A leading Republican in Louth and surrounding counties for forty years and with his passing goes one of the greatest stalwarts of Republican principles.

Who - or rather how many - will take his place in Louth, in South Armagh, South Monaghan and South Down? - Ruairi O'Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, graveside oration at Ravensdale, December 2, 1988.

NOLAN, Sincere sympathy is extended to Pearse and Joan, Emmet and Mary Nolan, Dún Laoghaire on the sudden death of their mother Margaret (Queenie) on November 8 last. From Cathleen Knowles and family. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

QUINN, Comhairle Uladh Sinn Féin Poblachtach deeply regret the death of their comrade Joe Quinn, West Belfast and tender to his family their deepest sympathy. Solas na bhFlaitheas dá anam.

SAVAGE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Jimmy Savage on the death of his sister. From the William Stewart Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dundalk. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

SMULLEN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Teresa Smullen and family on the death of her aunt, Mrs. O'Neill. From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Leaba i measc na naomh go raibh aici.

FLEMING, Vol. Kieran - 5th Anniversary. In proud and everlasting memory of Volunteer Kieran Fleming, Derry, Irish Republican Army, who died on active service on December 2, 1984. Also his comrade Anthony MacBride, Derry, killed in the same action by the SAS. Let no-one desecrate their name or the cause for which they died. Always remembered by the Curneen Family, Glenade, Co. Leitrim.

FLEMING, MacBRIDE - 5th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vols. Kieran Fleming and Anthony MacBride, Derry, killed on active service on December 2, 1984. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for them. Always remembered by the Fleming/MacBride Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Bundoran, Co. Donegal.

JOE QUINN

IT WAS with deep regret that Republicans learned of the untimely death of Joe Quinn in Belfast on November 7.

A lifelong Republican Joe spent many years in jail for his Republican activities. In 1969 during the pogroms in Belfast Joe and his family were burnt out of their home in Percy Street and shortly afterwards when the Republican Movement split Joe knew exactly where he stood and made his house available to those who were on the run - no-one was turned away.

From there he went on to help form the McKelvey/Steele Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach in Belfast and was the regular seller of SAOIRSE in the Beechmount area.

His funeral took place on Friday, November 10 from St. Paul's Church in the Falls Road to Milltown cemetery. His National Flag-draped coffin was accompanied throughout by a Sinn Féin Poblachtach Guard of Honour.

In November of 1986 when once again Free Statism split the Republican Movement Joe took the same stand he took in 1969. He contacted the leadership of Sinn Féin Poblachtach and simply asked "what can I do to help".

A decade of the Rosary in Irish was recited by Liam Burke, an old comrade of Joe's. Bob Murray delivered a short oration and wreaths were laid on behalf of the family and the Republican Movement. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí dá anam.

ther uncle Séamas Taylor was similarly murdered by the Free State army near Ballyseedy Wood in March 1923.

Members of Kerry Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin Poblachtach formed a Guard of Honour at his funeral in Glencar on November 1. The funeral cor-

tege was led by a lone piper and the coffin was draped in the National flag.

On behalf of SAOIRSE, sympathy is extended to his brother Gene and relatives and friends. Leaba i measc Laochra Éireann go raibh aige.

PROF. JOHN BRENDAN FLANNERY

SINN FÉIN Poblachtach was grieved to learn of the death, after a long illness, of John Brendan Flannery of San Antonio, Texas, USA. We mourn his passing.

Professor Flannery, who died on October 20 last was a sincere and dedicated Republican who gave active assistance to the Republican Movement over the years. An author of note, he will be long

remembered by those of us who had the privilege of knowing him.

To his wife Gloria and large family we extend our deepest sympathy. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

JOE FLOYD

REPUBLICANS in the North-West were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Joe Floyd of Capry, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal on Saturday, November 18 last. He was 41.

Joe, originally from Spamount, Castlederg, Co. Tyrone, is survived by his wife, the former Pat Hughes from Ballybofey and two young children Ronan (7) and Sinéad (6). His funeral took place to Sessiah O'Neill cemetery, Ballybofey on Monday, November 20.

A dedicated Republican, Joe Floyd spent eight years in Long Kesh and

Magilligan jails in the 1970s. He married Pat Hughes shortly after his release in October 1980.

He will be sorely missed by Republicans in his native Tyrone and Donegal and by everyone who knew him. Sympathy is extended to Pat, Ronan, Sinéad and all his relatives and friends from Donegal Comhairle Ceantair.

Brón ar an mBás

MARGARET NOLAN

IT WAS with deep sadness that Sinn Féin Poblachtach learned of the sudden death of Mrs. Margaret (Queenie) Nolan of Dún Laoghaire, on November 8.

Mrs. Nolan was the widow of the late Joe Nolan who was one of the few Republicans in Dún Laoghaire who were prominent in the Cause when it was not easy to be a Republican. Unrepentant to the end, his untimely death in 1971 was a severe blow to his wife and family. When Sinn Féin first became active in Dún Laoghaire the Cumann was known as the Roger Casement/Joe Nolan Cumann.

There was always a welcome in the Nolan's house and Mrs. Nolan will be remembered always for her kindnesses to all during the 70s.

Her funeral from the Church of the Holy Family, Kill Avenue, was attended by Ard Rúnaí Cathleen Knowles. Deepest sympathy is extended to her sons Pearse and Emmet, daughter Mary and family circle. Suaimhneas síoraí dá hanam.

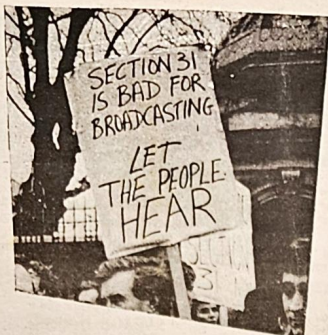
DENIS MCGILLYCUDDY

REPUBLICANS in Kerry were saddened to hear of the death on October 31 last of Denis McGillycuddy of Glencar in the county.

A veteran Republican, Denis was involved in the bombing campaign in England which began on January 16, 1939. In May of the same year he was sentenced to 10 years

along with his brother Paul McGillycuddy at the Old Bailey.

Their uncle Joe Taylor of Glencar was murdered by the Black-and-Tans in February, 1921 and ano-



SINN FÉIN Poblachtach members in Galway maintained a daily picket at the city's post office during November while Séamas Ó Náraigh of **An Carn Mór** was imprisoned for 15 days in a protest over Section 31 censorship.

Séamas, an outgoing member of the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, was taken from his home on Saturday, November 4 last and brought to Mountjoy jail in Dublin.

He had refused to purchase a television licence, in line with long-standing Sinn Féin policy, and fines of £50 and £75 were imposed on him at Galway District Court in May and July of this year. He

clearly stated on both occasions that he had no intention of paying these fines.

"Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act in RTE and other broadcasting stations in the 26 Counties is nothing but censorship which not alone denies Sinn Féin Poblachtach members the right of freedom of expression of opinion but also denies the Irish people their right to receive information."

CENSORSHIP BATTLE CONTINUES

Daily Picket For Galwayman

Séamas Ó Náraigh told SAOIRSE.

IMITATION BAN

In his court appearances he said that Section 31 and the recent imitation Broadcasting Ban introduced by Mrs. Thatcher in Britain and the Occupied Six Counties, was in breach of Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

An Carn Mór, where Séamas Ó Náraigh lives, is a Gaeltacht area and he also made his protest at the desperate lack of Irish language programming on RTE 1 and Network 2, estimated by him to be as low as 1.5% of broadcast-time.

Dúirt sé gur mór an scannal é i gcás na bpaistí a bhíonn ag féachaint go minic ar an teilifís agus gan ach an beagán i nGaeilge le clois air. Comhairle Ceantair na Gaillimhe, Sinn Féin Poblachtach quickly called for the release of the Galwayman and the ending of Section 31 as well as the provision of a proper Irish language television service.

When he was transferred after a few days to Loughan House prison outside Blacklion, Co. Cavan a picket was placed at the entrance by Leitrim Comhairle Ceantair members.

ATTITUDE CHANGE

On his release on Satur-

day, November 18, Séamas reported that the prison officers attitude to him improved significantly after the picket was put on by his comrades.

There was a good turnout at Galway station when he arrived home, including Bríd Ní Dhomhnaill, the teacher enduring a clergy-inspired boycott in Recess for the last three years because of her Irish language work and Stiofán Ó Comhraí of Conradh na Gaeilge. A Basque piper was also there to welcome him as was Alan Heussaff of an Conradh Ceilteach/ the Celtic League, and Margaretta D'Arcy and John Arden, the Galway-based playwrights.

Imeachtaí

FREE THE BIRMINGHAM SIX
WEEKLY VIGIL
British Embassy
31 Merrion Road (Near RDS), Dublin 4, 11.30 to 2pm. Contact Booters-town Support Group, tel. 887299.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24
from 6 - 7 pm
at British Embassy

CABHAIR -
Republican Prisoners
Dependants Fund
ANNUAL SOCIAL
Sunday, December 10
Strokestown Arms Hotel,
Strokestown, Co. Ros-
common. Supper and bar
extension. Music by Mattie
Rice and the Emeralds.
Táille £3

LIAM MELLOWS
COMMEMORATION
ATHENRY
CO. GALWAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
Assemble after last Mass.
Parade to Memorial at
national school.

'25' CARD DRIVE
O'NEILL'S BAR
BUNDORAN
CO. DONEGAL
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16, 8pm
Prizes include Charolais
calf, 1/2 ton of coal, and
two Christmas hampers.
Proceeds to CABHAIR,
Irish Republican Prisoners'
Dependants Fund.

PETER McNULTY
COMMEMORATION
BRYANSFORD
NEWCASTLE
CO. DOWN
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
Assemble:
After 10am Mass
Bryansford

DRAW RESULTS
NOVEMBER winners in
the Sinn Féin Poblachtach
Dublin Draw were: £100,
no. 173; £50, no. 302;
£30, no. 187; £20, no. 18;
five prizes of £10, nos.
359, 367, 85, 153, 009.
Next draw for CABHAIR,
Irish Republican Prisoners
Dependants' Fund, on
Sunday, December 10.

Fr. Michael Griffin

NOVEMBER 14 was the 69th anniversary of the murder of Fr. Michael Griffin in Galway by Crown Forces. His martyrdom and memory were honoured by Sinn Féin Poblachtach in Bearn, Co. Galway on Sunday, November 26 last, at the memorial which marks the spot where his body was found on November 20, 1920. This memorial was erected by his classmates of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

A parade, led by the Tricolour and Starry Plough flags and a lone piper marched from the village of Bearn to the memorial one and a half miles North East of the village.

Caoimhín Mac Cathmhaoil presided at the ceremonies, which were attended by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Seán Mac an Iomaire, and wreaths were laid by Séamas Ó Náraigh and Micheál Ó Conghaile, on behalf of the National Graves Association. Séamas Ó Náraigh also read the 1916 Proclamation.

The guest speaker was Seán Ó Brádaigh, Dublin, who outlined Fr. Griffin's short career from his ordination in 1917 until his murder by the Auxiliaries in 1920.

"Ó Mheitheamh 1918 bhí sé i mbun coda seo den pharóiste. Bhí sé gníomhach i gConradh na Gaeilge, ghríosáigh sé an pobal leis an bhFáinne a chaitheamh, d'oibrigh sé do Shinn Féin i dtoghchán 1918. Fear na muintire a bhí ann i ndáiríre. Mar gheall ar a dhílse agus a shaothar feall-mharafodh é ag Fórsaí na Corónach agus cuireadh a thaisí i bhfolach faoin bhfód seo."

He said that both the states imposed on Ireland in 1921 were a failure, British occupation and injustice in the North and unemployment, poverty and emigration in the 26 Counties proved that.

"Ní mór do Phoblachtaigh na deiseanna a thapú, ar bhonn náisiúnta agus áitiúil, le labhairt leis an bpobal, an teip seo a mhíniú dóibh, oideachas a chur orthu agus treoir a thabhairt dóibh."

THE Brugh/Sabhat Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach in Limerick city held their annual Manchester Martyrs Commemoration on Sunday, November 19 last. The ceremony took place at the memorial at Mount St. Lawrence's

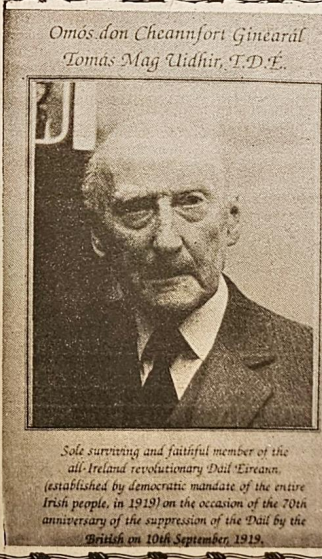
Manchester Martyrs

cemetery to commemorate the Fenians William Allen, Michael Larkin and Michael O'Brien who were ex-

ecuted in Manchester, England on November 23, 1867. John Carroll laid a wreath on behalf of the National Graves Association, Limerick and Des Long of the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin Poblachtach gave a short oration.

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Cló na Saoirse has produced a 55 minute video presentation and interview with Comdt.-General Tomás Maguire of Cross, Cong, Co. Mayo, marking the 70th anniversary of the formal suppression of the first and only All-Ireland National Parliament by the British on September 10, 1919. Comdt.-General Maguire was presented with a copy of Nollaig Ó Gadhra's recent award-winning book 'An Chéad Dáil Éireann 1919-21' by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Copies available from Siopa na Poblachta, 21, Shaw Street, Dublin 2 for £10.



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