

# SAOIRSE

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**An open letter to Charles, heir to the English throne, from the NZ H-Block/Armagh Committee:**

## Get Your Soldiers OUT Of Ireland

Dear Prince Charles,

Exactly 100 years before you were crowned Prince of Wales, your great grandfather's uncle, Prince Albert, cancelled a proposed visit to New Zealand. He was warned of the Taranaki Maoris taking up arms — like the dispossessed peasantry of Ireland — against the theft of their land. He was warned of Irish immigrants on the West Coast of the South Island rioting against British rule. And he was warned off the Pacific altogether by Irish sympathisers in Sydney who shot and wounded him on his Royal Visit to Australia.

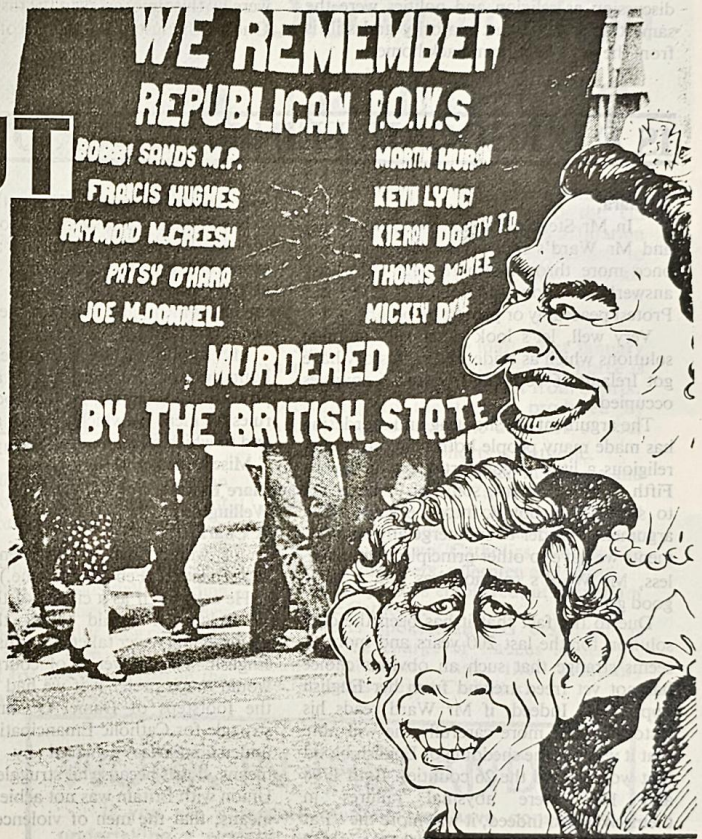
Those Irish immigrants and sympathisers of last century were trying to get the same message through to Prince Albert as we are to you: get your soldiers out of Ireland.

In the 14 years since your soldiers went back on to the streets of Northern Ireland,

- thousands of Irish nationalists have been interned without trial during the years 1971-75;
- 14 unarmed and defenceless Civil Rights marchers have been shot dead by British paratroopers one infamous Sunday in 1972;
- Britain has been condemned by Amnesty International in 1978 for the interrogation techniques used by state forces against Irish nationalists;
- 10 Irish republican prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh Gaol, Belfast, have died on hunger strike in 1981;
- Britain has been condemned by the European Parliament in 1982 for the use by state forces of the lethal plastic bullet as a crowd control weapon in Northern Ireland;
- the EEC has reported that Belfast and Derry (together with parts of southern Italy) are the most deprived areas of Europe and within these regions of Northern Ireland the Irish nationalist (mainly Catholic) population suffer by far the greatest deprivations.

Your soldiers are maintaining a repressive colony incapable of reform, a colony based upon and ruled by discrimination.

**They are not wanted, except by those who oppress and exploit. 14 years is 8 centuries too long.**



## MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN BELFAST

Born in the Falls Road area of Belfast I never met a protestant until I started work at the age of fifteen. So you could say the Falls Road was my "Bantustan". Apartheid was real for me and the rest of the people in the ghettos.

One of the few lucky ones, I got a job straight from school, whereas many of my friends did not. The only work for them was a week or month, or if lucky, a year on a building site or road gang. Most of their time was spent on the street corners. Day in, day out. It was a waste, a criminal waste.

At work, you could not get into a political discussion as religion and politics were the same thing to the vast majority and still is from the news I get from back home.

When I was seventeen I had my first experience of naked bigotry. I and two of my friends were out for a Sunday walk on the Logan Tow path when we met eight guys from the protestant central Belfast ghetto, Sandy Row. I knew one of them, I worked with him. They had three german shepherds with them and we passed them a few times on the Tow path. As we came around the last bend on the river, a small boy came towards us crying. It was the first time anyone had called me "mister". He, his twin brother and their friend, had been hit over the head with dog chains and their St Christopher medals taken and thrown into the river by those Sandy Row heroes, who were by this time, away in the distance.

One of the lasting memories of home, is

the day I and a plumber went to repair a gas leak in a house just off York St. There was no paint or wall paper on the walls or furniture of any sort in the house. Inside we met two little children whose only clothing were one-time white shrunken singlets. The stench was appalling as we fixed that leak in record time.

The house had one piece of external decoration — a Unionist slogan on crossed Union Jacks which boasted "This We Will Maintain". I saw then that 'they' had their slums, and that they vote for the system which keeps them there. They were prepared to accept their lot, we weren't!

**John McCurdy  
Dunedin.**

## IS É D'FHOCAIL FEIN É / YOUR OWN WORDS

### A Chara,

In Mr Stewart's letter (Nov/Dec issue) and Mr Ward's reply (Feb/March) we are once more thrown into the age-old "easy answer" solution to Ireland's problems. Protest peaceably or protest by bomb.

Very well, let's look practically at these solutions which as evidenced by history have got Ireland 26 counties free and 6 counties occupied.

The argument for shooting and murdering has made many people both religious and a-religious a little uncomfortable. Due to the Fifth Commandment, some of us have had to stare fairly boldly into the Republican argument in order to submerge any commitments we have to other principles. Nevertheless, Mr Ward's solution has had a fairly good go.

Due to the fact that it has been the only solution for the last 200 years and more, it seems strange that such an obvious choice has not yet freed Ireland from her English oppressors. Indeed, if Mr Ward reads his history a little more carefully, he will note that it was not the shedding of English blood that won Ireland the 26 counties. Both 1798 and 1916 were abysmal failures in themselves. No indeed, it was more the "Pat hit Mick" period of the civil War that caused a political out — separation of the South from England.

I have also found it most disturbing over the years to read reports of valuable young men hungerstriking to their deaths in order to save Ireland. In certain cases, opportunities to take a seat in Parliament and bring the injustice of Ireland's North to the world's attention, were lost and now lie decaying in a box, useful to nobody.

My answer is this — think of the times we are in! 1916 was a time of World Empire building — one power takes over another, he

who is strongest gets all. The method — war.

Now things are different. Now is a time for politics, where trade and world economics matter, where world disapproval affects trade markets at a time when unemployment and national debt in every country is sky high.

My solution is to rid ourselves of the bouncers and the martyrs and aim for the power of the eighties. Political power, which rules all men, by which all men are affected and to which all men must yield.

Mise le meas,

**Clare Barrett  
Wellington  
A Chara,**

I would like to comment on Sean Ward's letter. (Feb-March issue.)

He asks me if as a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, I would rather that the 26 counties had never taken up arms against the English. The answer is of course "yes". I would much prefer it if we had followed in the footsteps of Daniel O'Connell in his struggle for Catholic Emancipation, which I understand was achieved by non-violent means. It was because his struggle against the Union with Britain was not achieved by such means, that the men of violence took over again.

Some years ago I read a book on Arthur Griffith and non-violent Sinn Fein. I can't recall the details now, but it was one of my grounds for believing that my approach to the struggle for liberation is not entirely out on a limb. I wish I had the courage to do the kind of things Francis Sheehy — Skeffington did during the 1916 Rising and for which he suffered horribly. He was in sympathy with the fundamental objectives of the volunteer movement, but strongly opposed to the methods used.

Sean Ward suggests that I have forgotten

that "the luxury of being a citizen of the Republic was not achieved by non-violent protest". I am not sure that I would use the word "luxury", but of course I haven't forgotten. I admire very much some of the men and women who use violent means and wish I had half their dedication.

The situation now is that if we persist in using old methods and refuse to think about alternatives, it is hardly likely that we shall survive the century. This becomes clearer when we think of weapons of mass destruction. It is bad enough that they are in the hands of an increasing number of governments; it may soon be a possibility for paramilitary groups to make use of them too.

As Ireland is at the moment, I don't think either violent or non-violent methods will work. Judging from a recent visit and regular reading, most people there are not interested in a united Ireland. Perhaps the more important tasks are the same as in New Zealand. We have our "Unionists" here too.

**Ted Stewart  
Auckland**

Editor's Comment: Rather than Stewart/Ward continuing this debate, how about comment from some others.

The following is a copy of the letter sent from the Auckland H-Block/Armagh Committee to the Consulate of the Republic of Ireland in Auckland. Ed.

Honorary Consul  
Consulate of the Republic of Ireland  
Auckland

Dear Sir,

We are most concerned to hear of your Government's decision to boycott New York City's Saint Patrick's Day parade — the biggest Saint Patrick's Day event anywhere in the world.

Arna fhoilsiú ag Coiste An tSealainn Nua H-Bhloc/Ard Mhacha.  
Arna chlóbhualadh ag Foilseachain Tamais Tta,  
Clóchúradóireacht le "Suntasach."

It would seem the decision was taken after an 80-year-old Irish-American Mr Michael Flannery, was elected Honorary Grand Marshall of the parade by a parade committee vote of 299-5.

Mr Flannery, born in Tipperary, was a veteran of Ireland's struggle for independence in 1919-21. It was this commitment that brought him into a New York court last year charged with supplying arms to those Irish republicans still fighting — decades later — the remnants of British colonial rule in Ireland.

Mr Flannery admitted the charge but the jury sympathised with his views on Britain's presence in Ireland to the extent that they refused to find him guilty of any offence.

Consequently it is even more reprehensible that your Government, which would not be sitting in Leinster House but for the likes of Mr Flannery, should so insult him.

Yours faithfully,  
Dean Parker,  
Secretary Auckland H-Block/Armagh Committee

The opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the editorial committee or its publishers.

The editors welcome your letters. Because of space please limit them to no more than 250 words, if possible, typed and double spaced. If you find 250 words too limiting the editors are prepared to consider suitable articles for guest editorials. Limit 600 words. Write: Editor, P.O. Box 50466, Porirua.

## SINN FEIN TOPS THE POLLS

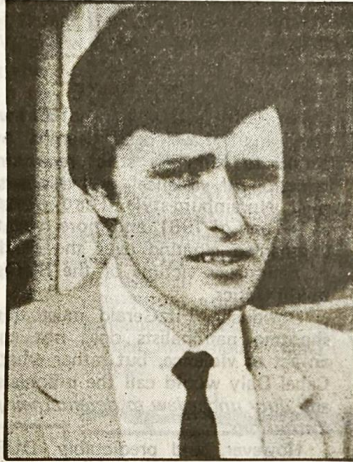
For the first time in 50 years Sinn Fein contested a Council election for a vacancy on the Omagh District Council in County Tyrone.

Sinn Fein's victory on March 22 1983 was total and devastating. Seamas Kerr romped home on the first count with 2,289 first preference votes out of a total valid pool of 4,093 cast, almost 1,400 ahead of his nearest rival, an Alliance Party Candidate who polled 907. The Social Democratic and Labour party (SDLP) whose total first preference votes in the 1981 local government election were 984, saw their vote drop to 654, and the Irish Independent Party (IIP) which topped the 1982 poll, this time received only 123 votes. The Workers party received 120.

### SDLP Have Problems

The SDLP face grave and long term problems as a result of this and the recent Northern Ireland Assembly election results. This election was fought amid the propaganda thrust of their proposed "Forum for a New Ireland", which excludes Sinn Fein and seems to be nothing more than an electoral life-line to the SDLP.

That has back-fired on them, however, and they would now seem incapable of launching a dynamic campaign for the Forum concept. The differences in approach and substance being described by an Irish Times journalist as "Youth versus middle-age, working-class versus middle-class, and enthusiasm versus weariness."



● SEAMAS KERR

Loyalists will now also have to make an immediate decision as they have in the past refused to partake in debates with Sinn Fein. Should loyalists now pull out of Omagh District Council when Seamas Kerr takes his seat, then they will be potentially handing control over to republicans wherever they win council elections. And if they choose to remain in the Council then they have no excuse or pretext for not taking part in the political debate with Sinn Fein on television or radio.

## Discrimination claim denied

The Irish National Caucus, the Washington-based lobby group, has sent to the US Congress statistics on the religious affiliation of employees at Short Bros. in Belfast, to support the charge that the aircraft manufacturers discriminate against Catholics.

Caucus first raised the matter last January when it discovered that the US Air Force is considering purchasing aircraft from Shorts.

According to the figures produced by Caucus, none of the nine directors or four general managers of Shorts is Catholic.

Of 216 unit managers, area managers and supervisors, only six are Catholic.

Of 100 quality control personnel and planners, only four are Catholics, while there are only two Catholics among the company's 26 buyers, salesmen and pilots.

Of 150 inspectors employed, at maximum twelve are Catholic.

A Shorts spokesman has described as nonsense the charge of Caucus leader Fr. Sean McManus that the company discriminates against Catholics.

## A Connemara romance

Two descendants of the O'Neills, chieftains of Tyrone who departed Ireland with the Flight of the Earls in 1603, will be back in Ireland on Friday of next week to marry.

Evan O'Neill from Bologne and Carol O'Neill from Paris will marry at St. James' Church, Cashel, Connemara.

They first visited Ireland last year for the O'Neill clan rally which was held in Shane O'Neill's castle in Co. Antrim. Afterwards, they toured the west of Ireland in the company of Dan O'Neill, the former Mayo and Louth all-Ireland footballer, who is now assistant manager of Ireland West Tourism. The young couple were much taken with Connemara and vowed to marry there.

Among those who have been invited to the wedding is the chieftain of the O'Neill clan, Count Jorge O'Neill, the Portuguese industrialist who lives in Lisbon.

KEY:  
An Phoblacht/Republican News (AP/RN)  
Irish Post (I/P)  
Troops Out (T/O)

## WORK IN IRELAND

If you are a tertiary student and have considered undertaking a working holiday to Ireland, then Student Travel can help you achieve this. Student Travel, in co-operation with its Irish counterpart (USIT) operates a work exchange programme to Ireland each year. Under the programme, a tertiary student can travel to Ireland and take up temporary employment in that country for up to four months. The exchange operates on a year round basis, so you can enter Ireland anytime during the year.

Student Travel also operates in conjunction with USIT, the 'Encounter Ireland' Programme, which is a month long educational programme. Under this programme, students stay in Ireland on a home stay study and travel programme basis.

If you are interested in either 'Work in Ireland' or the 'Encounter Ireland' Programme, or any other travel arrangements, then contact Student Travel at telephone 399191 Auckland; or telephone 850561 Wellington; or write to us at PO Box 9744, Courtenay Place, Wellington.

# Loud no to forum ploy

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE HUME/FITZGERALD 'Forum for a New Ireland' is proving to be most unpopular. Invitations were issued by Free State premier Garret FitzGerald to all political parties, North and South — except, of course, Sinn Fein, the only major party to be excluded because of its principled stance on the armed struggle.

So far, all the invitations have been rejected. The only party which would have dearly loved to take part in the forum, the vanishing Irish Independence Party (123 votes in Carrickmore), was not invited.

The most recent rejection of the forum came from the Workers' Party, which at a Belfast press conference on Tuesday, March 29th, accused Garret FitzGerald of setting up the forum as a prop to the SDLP, and a diversion from the deepening economic crisis in the Free State. The Workers' Party, like all the other unionist parties, objected also to the forum's declared aim because it would alienate Northern unionist opinion. And to show their own brand of slavish compromise, billed their Leinster House deputy, Proinsias de Rossa, as plain, anglicised 'Frank Ross'.

Some days previously, on Thursday, March 24th, the Official Unionist Party leader, James Molyneux, had rejected FitzGerald's invitation to the forum which "seeks means of compelling the greater number in Northern Ireland to agree to a

united Ireland." The Alliance Party also rejected the forum stating that it favoured "a power-sharing society within Northern Ireland."

## VIOLENCE

Ian Paisley's DUP also got an invitation. They must have been deemed by FitzGerald to fulfil his strict requirement of 'rejection of violence', and this in spite of their Nuremberg-style Third Force rallies at the end of 1981, and more recently their unashamed gloating over the dead bodies of nationalist victims of the RUC's shoot-to-kill tactics.

Obviously, FitzGerald must think that shooting nationalists does not constitute an act of violence, but rather what Bishop Cahal Daly would call the unionists' "right and duty under law to defend their political institutions."

However, and predictably, DUP leader Ian Paisley rejected the invitation, and in an open letter to FitzGerald on Friday, March 25th, claimed the forum would only "give encouragement to the IRA," and the Free State should rather give up its "false claim to jurisdiction over Northern Ireland."

The publicity-hungry reverend concluded with a typical threat of "personally leading a campaign of resistance to any attempt made to use Northern Ireland as a venue" for the forum. Paisley, always looking for new opportunities to outshine his unionist rivals by staging spectaculars of the 1981 mountain-side firearm certificate waving variety, is visibly determined to use the forum for his own personal campaigning.

# "BOYCOTT THORN"

The management of Thorn Electrical Industries in West Auckland last month overheard an Irish worker discussing with a Maori mate the NZ flag which was raised every morning outside the firm's factory. The following morning a management representative strode over to the Irish employee with a folded flag and requested he take it to the flag-pole outside and raise it like a true patriot. He agreed to do so — provided the Union Jack was removed from the top corner.

"You're not going to get me raising a flag," he said, "that thousands of my countrymen have died trying to lower."

The management tried it on him again the

following day. Again he refused, at which stage they started demanding to know if he had entry visas and work permits — this despite the fact he had been taken on by Thorn almost a year before. The Auckland Trades Council was notified.

The worker concerned eventually took a job elsewhere but Thorn Industries must have been upset to find that news of their harassment was spreading. Over a recent weekend some person or persons unknown lowered the NZ flag outside their factory, removed the offending portion and hoisted it back into place to flutter in a rather peculiar manner.

## S. Yorkshire bans plastic bullets

Plastic bullets held by South Yorkshire police for the past nine months will not be put for and will be sent back to the London Metropolitan police depot from which they came.

This is the result of a decision by the Labour-controlled County Council Police Committee which has slapped a ban on plastic bullets in its area.

The committee also decided not to pay the outstanding bill of £1,750 for the equipment which was already in store when the Chief Constable, Peter Wright, took office nine weeks ago.

The resolution banning plastic bullets was approved by 16 Labour votes to nine with Tory and magistrate members opposing the resolution.

## LOUD APPLAUSE

Members of the local branch of the Troops Out Movement, who had earlier lobbied councillors to get rid of the plastic bullets, loudly applauded from the gallery the committee's decision.

During the meeting, the Chief Constable appealed for the plastic bullets to be available for his officers needed. Some of the original consignment had already been fired in training, said.

But the chairman of the committee produced a discharged plastic bullet from Northern Ireland. Banging it on his desk, he declared: "This is the sort of thing that is fired at people". He then read out names and ages of the children who have been killed with plastic bullets in Northern Ireland.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

OVER a hundred delegates from various feminist organisations and Irish solidarity groups converged on Belfast at the weekend to take part in a series of activities organised by Sinn Fein's Department of Women's Affairs to celebrate International Women's Day and which culminated in a picket outside Armagh Jail on Sunday in an impressive display of support for the republican women prisoners there.

The delegation arrived on Friday night and Saturday morning from the thirty-two counties and England and included a six-woman delegation from the Greenham Common anti-nuclear peace camp.

Beechmount's Pass 'n' Grove Community Centre was the venue for Saturday afternoon's events which included a photographic exhibition focussing on areas affecting women in Ireland such as the current bill to amend the Free State constitution; education; housing; the welfare state; women in prison; women on protests; and individual character portraits of outstanding republican women such as Maire Comerford, who died recently after a lifetime of dedication to the republican struggle.



## DEMONSTRATION IN NZ

Women from the Auckland H-Block and Armagh Committee celebrated International Women's Day (March 8) by taking part in the IWD march and rally. A banner declaring "solidarity with our sisters in Armagh gaol" was carried on the march. At the rally Phyllis Mullane spoke of the hardships faced by the nationalist women of the North and of the role played by women throughout Ireland's long history of anti-colonial struggle.



## WE WELCOME ADVERTISEMENTS FOR SAOIRSE

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\$1.30 per column centimetre.

## IN MEMORIAM:

Sands, Bobby and his nine brave companions who died 5th May — 20th August 1981 while on hunger strike in the Maze (Long Kesh) Ireland.

*And Ireland is Ireland  
through joy and through tears,*

*And hope never dies*

*Through the long weary years.*

*Each age has seen countless*

*brave hearts pass away,*

*But their spirit lives on*

*In the men of today.*

Forever remembered by Phyl and Jim Mullane and Family.

### Hughes, Francis

In loving memory of our cousin who was murdered in the H-Block cells on 12th May at the hands of British intransigence and inhumanity.

*The dead who died for Ireland are  
beacons in our night,*

*For the halo around their sacred graves  
will catch the holy light*

*that will beam on mother Ireland when  
her sons no more are slaves.*

Always remembered, The McElwee family.

# O Bradaigh in Canada

SINN FEIN president Ruairi O Bradaigh is currently on an intensive tour of Canada where, in meetings with the many supporters of the Irish struggle there, he is engaged in organisational work as well as assessing the potential for future solidarity activity.

Beginning his tour in Newfoundland, Ruairi O Bradaigh met with Irish cultural activists and with members of the Newfoundland fishermen's union, discussing with them Sinn Fein's fisheries and off-shore policy.

In Nova Scotia, O Bradaigh attended lunch with Bishop Austin Burke of Yarmouth and with leaders of the Eastern Canadian Micmac Indians. Oxfam Canada held a reception for both Ruairi O Bradaigh

and Alberto Gallegas, representing the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

In Quebec city, as in all other centres, O Bradaigh met with a number of Toronto Irish leaders as well as members of the Canadian Labour Party, civil rights lawyers and representatives of the Grenadan and Iranian communities. At a showing of the film *The Patriot Game* he spoke to an audience of 300 people.

The tour continues. AP/RN March 31

# EASTER 1916 - THE A "TERRIBLE"



By Catherine Campbell

## Easter Monday, April 24th 1916:

**Noon:** into O'Connell St. steps an untidy band of Irish men and women armed with pikes, rifles, crowbars, pickaxes and shovels. They are members of James Connolly's socialist Citizens Army, members of the broader-based Irish Volunteers, and "exiles" from London and Glasgow. Some step lightly, buoyed by excitement and enthusiasm: this is their long-awaited chance to strike a blow for liberation; others tread with deliberate determination: deep within them they know they will not return. They are together today because of their love for their country and a belief in the right of that country to selfhood. At their head march the men who have prepared for years for this day:

— **Padraic Pearse** poet, scholar, appointed orator and newly-elected President of their infant Republic. His goal:

*"Ireland not free only but Gaelic as well, not Gaelic only but free as well."*

It is the Gaelic tradition, personified by the warrior Cuchulain — the tradition of dying for Ireland's sake — that has made of this Rising a necessary sacrifice, as of his own life.

— **James Connolly**, for whom Ireland is the people-exploited, under-paid, poorly housed and under-nourished. For these people he has joined with Pearse in the writing of the Proclamation declaring their Republic.

— **Joseph Plunkett**, Eamonn Ceannt, Thomas MacDonagh, Sean MacDiarmada, Thomas Clarke: co-signators of the Proclamation.

They are marching, all of them, towards a battle of which James Connolly has said "The chances against us are one thousand to one". But this is 1916; elsewhere soldiers are willingly throwing away their lives for an ideal; and the Irish ideal has long, deep roots. They will go out, they will fight, and they will die.

**12:45** Pearse reads the Proclamation announcing the establishment of the Republic of Ireland from the steps of the GPO where the insurgents have made their headquarters. Above him fly the Tricolour — flag of the Sinn Fein — and a green flag with a gold harp and in gold and white letters the words: IRISH REPUBLIC.

Inside the GPO James Connolly struggles with tactical decisions made more difficult by a last minute catastrophe which has left his forces virtually unarmed. Original plans had been for a guerilla-type war, but the interception and sinking of a shipment of German guns around which the Rising had been planned, has meant that now energy must be concentrated on the taking of key city positions.

**Tuesday 25th.** Martial law is proclaimed in Dublin City and County. British reinforcements arrive.

**Wednesday 26th.** Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, pacifist, is murdered by British soldiers after being taken prisoner. Insurgent resistance prevents troops from England from reaching Dublin via Kingstown. Dublin has become a battlefield: the British use armoured cars, heavy artillery and naval gunfire against Irish strongholds. Dublin begins to burn and civilians begin to die.

Connolly watches as his people "of no property", the urban poor — workless, unskilled — pour into the streets, taking from gutted shops and houses what has always been beyond them.

**Thursday 27th.** Insurgents hold Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. O'Connell St. is cordoned off by British forces, thus isolating the rebels at the GPO James Connolly is crippled by a bullet which smashes his ankle bone; under heavy doses of morphine he conducts the battle from his bed.

**Friday 28th.** Battle of insurgents and Crown forces at Ashbourne Co. Meath. The GPO is now cut off and fiercely burning. Connolly issues a statement to his forces,

*"Let us remind you what you have done. For the first time in seven hundred years the flag of a free Ireland floats triumphantly in Dublin City. Never had a man or woman a grander cause; never was a cause more grandly served."*

Pearse, Connolly and the few survivors leave what is now nothing but a red-hot shell. Though they now number less than two hundred, and though they have been fighting virtually without sleep for five days, they concede only 150 yards to 5000 British soldiers equipped with armoured cars and heavy artillery in a battle that stretches over the next 28 hours.



"Ireland not free well, not Gaelic only"

**Saturday 29th.** Pearse orders a general surrender.

Britain's answer to what had been a country's armed declaration of its refusal to lie still any longer in the face of blatant and violent repression was bloody continuance of that same cruel tyranny. Fourteen of the leaders of the Rising were executed; James Connolly, dying from the now gangrenous ankle wound, was carried from hospital by stretcher, propped in a chair, and then shot. But this time Britain's show of brutality was to gradually recoil with a sting that is still being felt today, 67 years later. The halo of martyrdom placed by the British upon the rebels they condemned was to waken generations of oppressed Irish to the dream that had inspired Pearse, Connolly and the others.

**"Not Free Only But Gaelic as Well"**

Its leaders shot, its followers incarcerated, much of Dublin in ruin, it seemed at first that the Easter Rising had been a failure, and the question was echoed: Why? Yet Easter 1916 was a matter of deliberate timing — England's difficulty was seen as Ireland's opportunity. In spring of that year it was



Sackville Street after the Rising, May 1916.

# FLOWERING OF BEAUTY"

widely felt that Germany might well win the war. The rebels' hope was to establish Ireland's independence as a Republic with allies in Europe, and to do so before the war ended. An alliance with Germany would, for Pearse and many of the others, be simply an extension of a sympathy that already existed — that had sprung from the contribution made by many German scholars towards the revival of Ireland's Celtic past. For it was in the rediscovery of their Gaelic tradition that the Easter leaders had nurtured their Republican ideals. Here Pearse had found Cathleen ni Hoolihan, the beautiful Ireland for whom he had become Cuchulain. From a remote Gaelic past had sprung the spirit that flowed through the Republican Proclamation: "the right of the people of Ireland to

to the erection of a national political state, caused the rebels to hope that if sufficient German arms could be disseminated throughout the country to keep the Rising going six months, then England would have to face Ireland as well as Germany, at the Peace Table.

## The Dream Passed On

The wave of awareness and horror that woke the Irish people was felt also in America, and in February 1919 when the newly formed Irish Republic did appoint delegates to the Paris Peace Conference, the US Congress showed its support by pressing for Irish claims to self-determination to be considered favourably. Those hopes ended in ashes, yet the Rising continued to show itself as a failure that would triumph. In Yeats' poem 'The Rose Tree', Pearse and Connolly foresee that in dying their dream would rpevail;

*'There's nothing but our own red blood  
Can make a right rose tree.'*

*The blood shed by the rebels of 1916 gave*

The blood shed by the rebels of 1916 gave birth to a flowering of pride that had long been withering under the effects of long-borne humiliation and suffering. For the years following the 1867 rising, injustice had been fought by conventional methods, i.e. agitation and electoral pressure. Sinn Fein, founded in 1907, was a non-violent separatist group whose policy was to elect members for Parliament who would then, as a protest, decline to take their seats. The Easter Rising marked a frustrated and desperate departure into the only means that remained; the use of physical force.

Sinn Fein policy has remained the same; through the polls they have sought out the will of the Irish people on whose behalf they seek to build a Republic. Time and again the answer of the people has shown their support for the party that represents, for them, a free Ireland: in 1918 they won 73 Irish seats in the British General Elections and refused to take them. Similarly, in elections last year in the North, Sinn Fein had five members elected to the Northern Assembly.

This month Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey announced that a proposed all-Ireland forum will be open to "all democratic parties which reject violence and which have members elected or appointed to the Northern Ireland Assembly." Sinn Fein is thus automatically excluded. Again the voice of the people has been stifled, their wishes ignored — and where political avenues are blocked, physical force will continue to be the only available outlet for that exasperation.

In 1971 Britain's answer to a developing Irish Civil Rights Movement was the same bloody answer given in Easter 1916: thirteen people were shot dead during a peaceful demonstration on what became known as Bloody Sunday. The result was a resurgent people with its own army — the IRA.



a tattered Republican flag found by British troops in the house of a sympathizer, Countess Markievicz, during Easter week

In 1916 James Connolly wrote;

*"Generations, like individuals, will find their ultimate justification or condemnation not in what they accomplished but rather in what they aspired and dared to attempt to accomplish ... By aspiring to reach a height the generation or individual places its soul unassailably upon that height, even should its body be trampled in the mud".*

The sacrifice made by Pearse, Connolly and others in the Easter Rising — the inspiration of their dream — has roused a down-trodden people into a united people, united against their oppression, united in their struggle for selfhood. The "fight of the people for the ownership of Ireland", continues as the Irish rebels today fight unemployment, ghetto housing conditions and inadequate health and education facilities. It is the struggle of Ireland's people "of no property", a people who ask:

*"Too long a sacrifice  
Can make a stone of the heart.*

*O when may it suffice?" (W.B. Yeats)*



James Connolly

*"Generations, like individuals, will find their ultimate justification or condemnation not in what they accomplished but rather in what they aspired and dared to attempt to accomplish ..."*



free Gaelic as free as well."

the ownership of Ireland" was understood in the Gaelic Revivalist sense of a common ownership, and the declaration that the Provisional Government would administer the "civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people" echoed the function of the Gaelic kings who only held property and office in trust for the 'tribes'.

To Connolly a socialist revolution in Ireland would be a return to the early Gaelic system — a system that had been destroyed by the imposition of capitalism, the division of land into private property, and the subsequent growth of an English aristocracy. His belief was that the spread of knowledge about early Irish society would lead to an appreciation of "the social system under which the Gael reached the highest point of civilisation and culture in Europe".

The Gaelic revival also gave rise to hopes for a place at the Conference Table after the war, for central to it was the conviction that ancient Ireland, while never a political nation, had more importantly been a cultural nation — with one common language, literature, and legal system. This view, at a time when it was held all over Europe that the existence of a cultural nation gave a right

# BERNADETTE McALISKE



## PART 2

Continued from Feb/March issue

Ireland became an unparalleled laboratory for studying the dynamics of mass movements. We saw the price that had to be paid for political mistakes. We learned. A new Irish revolutionary generation came of age. And the components of a new mass revolutionary movement began to come together for the first time since the 1913-1922 period, a movement that can achieve the freedom of Ireland.

The new upsurge of the national liberation struggle since 1969 has in fact borne the imprint of the changes in Ireland that we saw, of the consciousness of my generation, and of the forms of mass action that we promoted. In this generation, the activists in the struggle have been led rapidly to an understanding that a social revolution is necessary for liberation and that it must be based primarily on the working class and must be part of a world movement against capitalism and imperialism. The pressures impelling activists to this understanding have been extremely powerful. Even those who started from the narrowest and most conservative point of view have been rapidly obliged to accept this outlook if they wanted to stay in the struggle.

### THE TRAINING OF A REVOLUTIONIST

I was a very hard working student

## "Why I became a revolutionist"

through grammar school. I did not think about politics in a conscious way. My idea was to get through, get to university, and get into a position where I could support the rest of the family. My first three years in the university I concentrated exclusively on getting a first-class honours degree in psychology.

Most of the students I knew ran out of their grant by midyear and sent home for money. I not only lived on my grant, I actually sent money home from it. That meant that I basically lived to work. In those first three years, I did not attend one single political meeting.

In January 1967, my mother died, leaving me responsible for the rest of the family. So, in the summers of 1967 and 1968, in return for their material assistance, I worked for my mother's brothers, who kept a public house. But I wasn't prepared to ask them for money without working for it. Actually, this experience furthered my political education, taking me out of the close, protective atmosphere of the university. I learned more about the society in which I lived.

Working in the bar, I could see the restrictions that there were on people. It became obvious that it was possible for Catholics and Protestants to maintain friendships only by blocking off parts of their lives. That was most noticeable around the Twelfth of July, the time of the big Orange marches. The Catholic patrons quietly endured the insult of their Protestant friends, however unintentional or unconscious. Apparently, they believed that after the Twelfth, it would all go away again.

I remembered that as a child living on a mixed housing estate, our Protestant friends were not allowed to play with us during the month of July. All friendships were temporarily suspended. This was accepted. The month would pass, and they would all come sneaking back, and be welcomed again as freinds.

The first civil rights march was in August 1968. It started in Coalisland, near Cookstown, and went to Dungannon, about five miles away. I was never very clear about why I went. I was at home, away from the university, and so I did not go as a student. I did not go either because I was involved in political activity in the university. I was not. But I was aware of the issue that sparked the demonstration.

The issue was discrimination against Catholics in the allocation of council houses, specifically what was known as the Caledon incident. A house had been given to an unmarried Protestant woman and denied to a Catholic family that had been waiting for years. The march was organized by the Social Justice Campaign.

Austin Curry was involved. He was a young Catholic politician, a school teacher. He was regarded at the time as an outsider and a radical by most of the clergy and the established Catholic politicians. He later became one of the main figures in remodeling the bourgeois Catholic party so that it could survive in changing times.

There were probably some people who went to that march and never went on another, but these must have been very few. I was determined at the end of that first march that I was going to be on the second and the third and all the rest of them, even though I was still not very clear about what I wanted.

The speakers were Gerry Fitt, a member of the British parliament for the main Belfast Catholic ghetto, Betty Sinclair of the Communist Party, and Eoghan Holmes of the Liberal Party. I remember nothing that any of them said, except that Gerry Fitt promised that he would lead us through the police, who refused to allow us to enter the tower, and that of course he did not.

What I remember is the solidarity of the people who were there and the feeling of pride and determination that they communicated. I remember the confrontation with the police and the sort of reaction it produced in me. The realization hit that you could not even walk on your own street and state your mind, that the police would stop you. That made me feel determined that whatever else I might be prepared to put up with, I was not going to let the police keep me from saying my piece. I thought that all my life I had let people walk over me and then once I went onto the street to say my bit, the whole apparatus of the state came down on me to try to shut me up. I could not put it in words. But I realized then once and for all what my place was in this society and that I was not going to accept it.

The bulk of those who marched that day were from the immediate area. Most of them were probably unemployed young people. There were also a lot of people in their forties, fifties, and sixties. In later years when I came back to live in this area, I found out that they were the people who were maintaining the resistance here. They were the fighters of the 1940s. They were the layer who became involved in the struggle at the age of seventeen and eighteen in the 1930s and 1940s. Some of them had become active on the question of unemployment. But most of them became involved as republicans.

(to be continued)

# IN REMEMBRANCE

In May 1981 four men died at the hands of British Intransigence in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh prison. They were the first of ten who died on hungerstrike demanding the restoration of political status for Irish prisoners of war. Their struggle, the struggle for a united Ireland, continues.



● **BOBBY SANDS**  
aged 27, Belfast  
commenced fast March 1st  
died May 5th  
after 66 days



● **FRANCIS HUGHES**  
aged 25, South Derry  
commenced fast March 15th  
died May 12th  
after 59 days



● **RAYMOND McCREESH**  
aged 24, South Armagh  
commenced fast March 22nd  
died May 21st  
after 61 days



● **PATSY O'HARA**  
aged 24, Derry city  
commenced fast March 22nd  
died May 21st  
after 61 days

"IT IS NOT THOSE WHO CAN INFLICT THE MOST BUT, THOSE WHO CAN SUFFER THE MOST WHO WILL CONQUER..."

# EEC EXERCISE POINTLESS

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE EEC INQUIRY into the "political and economic problems of Northern Ireland" is to go ahead. Proposed by John Hume and some Free State Euro-MPs, the move had been strongly opposed by the two unionist Euro-MPs, Ian Paisley and John Taylor, and violently condemned by British and unionist politicians. Nevertheless, the EEC parliament, has ruled that its Political Affairs Committee could appoint a commission of inquiry.

However, the fact that the inquiry will have to confine itself to 'political and economic' issues and carefully avoid the problem of the constitutional status of the six counties means that the report is condemned to deal with the symptoms, rather than the cause, of the war in Ireland.

The appointment of Danish Euro-MP Niels Haagerup as "rapporteur" for the commission gives a further indication of how pointless the whole exercise will be. Niels Haagerup, a member of the Danish Liberal group in the parliament, and according to press reports an 'expert in strategic studies' — a euphemism for 'counter-insurgency' — is, according to some Fianna Fail Euro-MPs, more than sympathetic to the British Conservative viewpoint. It will not be Haagerup's first time in Belfast either: he was part of a fact-finding delegation which met Jim Prior in June 1982.

## REACTIONS

Interestingly, Prior's reactions to the EEC inquiry were much more muted than Thatcher's. While she declared on March 10th that the EEC move was "widely resented" and that "we are absolutely against it," Prior declared:

"We have nothing to hide. If members of the European parliament wish to come, we are perfectly prepared to invite them on that basis, but we are not prepared to allow the European parliament to interfere in the affairs of Northern Ireland."

The British direct-rule administration will therefore, it appears, receive, wine and dine the visiting Euro-MPs, not as a committee of inquiry, of course, but as individual fellow-politicians. John Hume will give them his own brand of Irish nationalist thinking. A bland report will be produced. And another diversion will be over.

## Call for 'PTA Free Zone' in W. Midlands

Four West Midlands Labour councillors, including the chairman of the County Council, Kerryman Barney Downey, have signed a petition which calls for the Midlands to be made a 'Prevention of Terrorism Act Free Zone'.

The petition was organised by the Irish Freedom Movement, an extreme left socialist group, and, bearing 1,000 signatures, was handed over to the West Midlands County Council whose all-Labour policies and resources committee will discuss it.

The other councillors to sign the petition are Mrs. Elsie Gibson, Davie Benny and Malcolm Speak.

The Conservative leader on the West Midlands Council; Cllr. Alan Hope, has condemned his four Labour colleagues. But Cllr. Downey has strongly defended their action as a step towards a peaceful solution to the troubles in Northern Ireland.

## 'NEED FOR CHANGE'

"The petition draws attention to the fact that there is a need for change. The Act, in my view, should be called the Provocation of Terrorism Act because one act of violence incites another," Barney Downey said.

"I am against all acts of violence and that includes legalised and institutionalised violence that has occurred over the years," he added, and said that he was pleased to accept the petition from the Irish Freedom Movement and recommend it to the council's policy and resources committee.

"People do not like to talk about these things because they are afraid of saying things that might be taken up wrongly. But the more openly we talk about these things, the better it is for society generally," he said.

IP March 24

# MORE BITE IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY

As Irish people throughout New Zealand celebrated Saint Patrick's day, the local Irish Societies and clubs were once again found wanting. The New Zealand Irish societies, who have in recent years not only failed to take a stand on the Irish question (a point of some concern for many New Zealand Irish), but have acted as little more than apologists for Irish cultural and historical values.

This ineptness must have reached its depth this year when at the Wellington Irish Societies Saint Patrick's day celebration held on the "19th" of March in the Chinese Cultural Centre, a well known judge was physically stopped from singing 'Kevin Barry', and not because of who he was or how drunk he may have been, that would have been excusable, but because of the political nature of the song.

On this Saint Patrick's day, however, public celebrations were held in at least three centres when the participants were not only encouraged to sing songs such as 'Kevin Barry', but were unashamed of their Irish heritage. These celebrations, run by local H-Block/Armagh committees attempted to put a little bit of Ireland back into Saint Patrick's day, and succeeded.

In Dunedin a very successful Hoolie was held with over 150 people attending. In Wellington a ceilí, attended by over 200 people, celebrated the national holiday with dancing and rebel songs old and new (not to mention the cruibin and the potatoe bread). In Auckland the local committee held an evening of films, including the 'Patriot Game', and music at a local coffee bar, and ended the evening with a rousing party having first canvassed the city hotel bars selling shamrock stickers bearing the inscription "Support the Struggle".

## Saint Patrick's Day in America

The politicising of Saint Patrick's day was not only evident in NZ. In American cities the election of republican sympathisers as honorary grand marshalls started a ripple that threatened to engulf Leinster House and Westminster alike.

In Philadelphia and Kansas city Michael O'Rourke, the republican prisoner who blasted his way out of Dublin's Green Street courthouse in 1976, was elected Honorary Grand Marshal. In San Francisco, the late hunger striker, Francis Hughes was elected Honorary Grand Marshal but the biggest sensation was the election (299-5 votes) of 80

year old Michael Flannery, the leader of Irish Northern Aid (Noraid) as Honorary Grand Marshal in New York.

Both the Irish and American governments tried to disrupt the New York parade by dubbing it a march in support of the IRA (Michael Flannery was acquitted of a "gun running" charge to the IRA last year.)

Despite the impression one gained from the British media that all in sundry had boycotted the New York parade, it was one of the biggest Saint Patrick's day parades ever seen in that city in the 221 years it has been celebrated.

At a mass on Thursday morning at Saint Patrick's cathedral a crowded congregation gave Mr Flannery a standing ovation as he left the church and he was cheered all the way along Fifth Avenue by the two million odd spectators as were the Noraid units and banners calling for British withdrawal from Ireland.

Cardinal Cooke of New York remained behind closed doors at the cathedral until Flannery had passed by, refusing to make his traditional appearance. When he did appear on the steps, almost two hours later, he was loudly booed by the crowds for his pro-British attitude.

# Kelly's Eye

Interesting things going on in Kenya. Thirty years ago Mau Mau guerillas commenced an armed struggle for independence from their British rulers, the first of its kind against any colonial power in Africa. They won. Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the Mau Mau, became Kenya's first President and the Brits showed there were no hard feelings by knighting him Sir Jomo.

The United States also appreciated the successful struggle against their British rival in Kenya and responded with enthusiasm to Sir Jomo's open-house invitation to investors. Lately a number of Kenyans have been popping up suggesting the Mau Mau aim of ending exploitation and oppression was never actually realised. These trouble-makers have, of course, been promptly removed by the authorities. But what has all this got to do with Ireland? Answers on a postcard, please, to Garret Fitzgerald and Charles Haughey, Leinster House, Dublin.

\* \* \*

"Tracing ancestors?" asks the NZ Herald. "Then it pays to be Irish. The British High Commission quotes these prices for birth, death and marriage certificates: England and Wales 9.60 pounds, Scotland 4.60 pounds, Northern Ireland 3.50 pounds, Irish Republic 53 pence." Get in now before the next Irish budget.

\* \* \*

Another Royal Visit. Last year it was the English Queen. There's a poem about these visits, "An Ode To The Reigning Monarch On The Occasion Of Her Majesty's Visit To Pig Island", written by James Baxter whose father Archibald so heroically refused to take part in the imperial blood-bath of 1914-18. The last two verses go:

I give you now to end our talk  
A toast you will not like:  
MacSweeney, the Lord Mayor of Cork  
Who died on hunger strike.  
It took him eighty days to drown  
In the shit and blood that floats the crown.

While Big Ben bangs out stroke on stroke  
And the circus wheel spins round,  
The Maori looks at Holyoake  
And Holyoake looks at the ground,  
And there will be more things to say  
When the Royal Yacht has sailed away.

- Here's to you, Jim.

\* \* \*

And while I'm on about bards and scribes, I hear the highlight of last year's James Joyce Centenary Celebrations in Dublin was the availability of Guinness in a local pub at 1904 prices — the year, in which Joyce's great comic novel *Ulysses* is set. Good order did not prevail... (This sort of hearty commemorative innovation should be drawn to the attention of the Arts Council.)

\* \* \*

From the TV programme *Not The Nine O'Clock News*: "Cornwall is demanding the same status as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Government has agreed and will shortly be closing down its industries too."

\* \* \*

Old joke: wife of a Long Kesh prisoner writes to her husband that the vege garden out by the back fence is overgrown and hard as nails and she's given up any thought of planting the season's spuds. Back comes the reply: "Dear Mary, for the love of God don't touch the vege garden, that's where the weapons are buried." Within hours the backyard is swarming with shovelling coppers. The following day she writes: "Dear Liam, the RUC intercepted your letter. They've dug up the whole garden. Thank God they found nothing." Back comes the reply: "Mary, Now then, plant the spuds." (Now I didn't say it was a new joke, did I.)

\* \* \*

And another, this one told at an Auckland H-Block/Armagh demo a while back: There was a Scottish doctor, an Irish doctor and an English doctor talking about the operations they had performed. The Scottish doctor said, "We had this woman with bad kidneys, put her in hospital, operated on her and had her out looking for work in a month." The Irish doctor said, "That's good, but we've done better. We had this woman with a bad heart, put her into hospital, did a heart transplant and had her out looking for work in two weeks." "That's nothing," said the English doctor. "We had this woman and put her into Parliament and now everyone's out looking for work."

\* \* \*

— Kelly

# Stormy reception

IRISH GROUPS, trade unionists and racial minorities united in a grand alliance to oppose the visit to California by the Queen of England. Massive demonstrations throughout the state showed a depth of feeling against British rule in Ireland and clearly embarrassed the royal visitors and their host, Ronald Reagan.

Freak weather conditions, which helped to make the tour a wash-out, proved less worrying than the constant protests which greeted the Queen everywhere she went and particularly in San Francisco.

## SECURITY

Issues represented by the protestors combined the British presence in Ireland

with American involvement in El Salvador. Massive security screening and pouring rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of between 10,000 and 15,000 demonstrators who turned up at Golden Gate Park for the main protest against the visit.

A counter-banquet for the poor of San Francisco, which was organised by the Irish Republican Committee, served up 3,000 dinners of chips, potato salad and sausages, in contrast to the lavish meal being provided to the Queen and the elite of Californian society.

Breaching the tight security, Irish Northern Aid member Seamus Gibney, a native of Belfast, managed to gain access to the Queen's official civic reception and, seated a mere 20 feet from her, denounced her as

a torturer and called for British withdrawal before being forcibly ejected by security guards.

Huge advertisements which appeared in Californian newspapers called for a free Ireland, an end to intervention in El Salvador, a nuclear freeze, jobs and housing, and an end to discrimination.

Recalling the former British imperialism in America and their fight for freedom, the adverts greeted the Queen with the message:

"Queen Elizabeth II, you are as welcome as George III."

## MODERN TIMES

It is said we live in modern times,  
In the civilised year of 'seventy nine,  
But when I look around, all I see,  
Is modern torture, pain, and hypocrisy.

In modern times little children die,  
They starve to death, but who dares ask why?  
And little girls without attire,  
Run screaming, napalmed, through the night afire.

And while fat dictators sit upon their thrones,  
Young children bury their parents' bones,  
And secret police in the dead of night,  
Electrocute the naked woman out of sight.

In the gutter lies the black man, dead,  
And where the oil flows blackest, the street runs red,  
And there was He who was born and came to be,  
But lived and died without liberty.

As the bureaucrats, speculators and presidents alike,  
Pin on their dirty, stinking, happy smiles tonight,  
The lonely prisoner will cry out from within his tomb,  
And tomorrow's wretch will leave its mother's womb!

Bobby Sands, MP & IRA volunteer.

## Leirmheasanna Leabhair Book Reviews

### BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER: by LIAM DEASY.

Published by the Mercier Press Dublin  
and Cork

Available in New Zealand in paperback  
through the Dunmore Press.

Most writings on the period covering the Irish civil war 1922-23 concentrate on the ideological and political divisions within the Republican Movement that gave rise to the civil war. However this book by Liam Deasy takes a close look at the military struggle itself and the bitter disillusionment that engulfed the Republican cause as the task became more and more hopeless as the struggle continued.

The term "Brother against Brother" has often been used in the context of the civil war and it is therefore not surprising that Deasy should choose this title for his book on the subject. Few people today would be better equipped to write such an account of the fight in Cork and other parts of Munster.

Born in Kilmacsimon Quay near Bandon Co Cork in 1896 Deasy was active in the Gaelic Athletic League and other nationalist organisations from the age of thirteen onward. Joining the Volunteers in 1917, he formed a company in Innishannon and was elected its captain. He later became adjutant of the newly formed West Cork Brigade. Almost all his active service was spent 'on the run' during the 'Tan War' and the Civil War. He succeeded Brigade Commander Charlie Hurley when the latter

was killed in action. After the truce in 1921 Deasy was appointed Adjutant of the First Southern Command under O/C Liam Lynch.

Deasy was arrested by pro-treaty forces and sentenced to execution near the end of the civil war but was eventually spared. He later became an officer in the Free State Forces during the 1940s and followed this with a career in commerce. Deasy died in August 1974 as he was completing this book having previously had published TOWARD IRELAND FREE in 1973.

Liam Deasy has been described as one of the greatest military leaders to emerge during the 1919-1923 wars for independence. This book outlines the republican disillusionment with the truce and the treaty, the incidents leading to the start of the civil war and its ignominious end. It tells of a war where the outnumbered republicans were hunted in the hills like wild game by their former comrades. Comrades who were now supported and armed by the very British authorities they had all spent the last four years fighting against. It was a war that split families and friends.

A number of controversial incidents are alluded to in this book including the shooting of his former close friend Michael Collins in an ambush at Bealnablath (an ambush that Deasy played a role in). He also backgrounds his controversial orders from Mt Joy gaol that ended the civil war and spared the lives of many hundreds of republican prisoners. (Executions of republican prisoners by their former

## A PLACE TO REST

As the day crawls out another night crawls in  
Time neither moves nor dies.  
It's the time of day when the lark sings,  
The black of night when the curlew cries.

There's rain on the wind, the tears of spirits  
The clink of key on iron is near,  
A shuttling train passes by on rail,  
There's more than God for man to fear.

Toward where the evening crow would fly, my thoughts lie,  
And like ships in the night they blindly sail,  
Blown by a thought — that breaks the heart —  
Of forty women in Armagh jail.

Oh! and I wish I were with the gentle folk,  
Around a hearthened fire where the fairies dance unseen,  
Away from the black devils of H-Block hell,  
Who torture my heart and haunt my dream.

I would gladly rest where the whin bush grow,  
Beneath the rocks where the linnets sing  
In Carrmoney Graveyard 'neath its hill  
Fearing not what the day may bring!

comrades had been taking place at an alarming rate in the final stages of the civil war.)

BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER is a short book (126 pages) but nevertheless an absorbing documentary of one of Ireland's most bitter tragedies. A tragedy the republican movement has even fifty years on never fully recovered from. Deasy also gives some insight as to why a population that had previously so enthusiastically helped the republican movement in the fight against the British were now lukewarm in their support. It is as much a story of a war weary people as it is of a defeated and betrayed liberation struggle.

This is an easy book to read and one that should be read to help give you a better insight into that bitter period of Irish history. Deasy underlines the fact that so long as partition exists there will never cease to be people who will continue to strive for its abolition and the expulsion of British control from every part of the country. BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER is not intended to be an authoritative historical analysis of the civil war, but rather the personal account of the war in Munster from one of the key republican leaders in the struggle.

Comparing the end of the war with the surrender of Pearse and Connolly in 1916 Deasy writes "... not the end of a dream, but merely a prelude to the resurgence of the spirit of Ireland, we too felt that even in this bitter defeat we had advanced another step towards Ireland free and undivided."

Phil O'Connell

## Cluichí/Sports

### HURLING:

Kilkenny repeated their All Ireland final victory over Cork recently with a 3-13 to 0-11 win in the National Hurling League championship. The win guarantees Kilkenny a place in the semi-finals of the league to be played in April. They will join Limerick, Laois, and either Clare or Wexford who will play off for a semi-finals berth.

### Other results:

Clare 3-7 beat Wexford 0-15; Limerick 2-10 beat Laois 1-8; Galway 1-14 beat Waterford 1-11; Tipperary 1-7 beat Offaly 0-6; Dublin 0-9 beat Westmeath 0-7; Wicklow 1-13 beat Carlow 1-3; Antrim 2-7 beat Kerry 2-5; Mayo 0-10 beat Meath 0-9; Kildare 5-13 beat Monaghan 1-4; Down 1-10 drew with Armagh 2-7; Roscommon 3-12 beat Derry 1-5.

### GAELIC FOOTBALL:

In the last issue we covered the early rounds of the Irish Club championships, especially the passage of Hugh O'Neills of Leeds into the All-Ireland quarter finals. Well they didn't proceed beyond this round. The eventual finalists were Leinster club Portlaoise and Roscommon club Clanna

Gael, the Connaught champions. The final was won by Portlaoise 0-12 to 2-0. So Portlaoise are the All Ireland club champions for 1982-83.

### SOCCER:

Athlone Town's domination of the League of Ireland competition continues. Latest reports show that Athlone Town need only one more point in the competition to clinch the league title with three games remaining. They maintain a nine point lead over nearest challenger Dundalk.

### Recent results include:

Athlone Town 4 beat Home Farm 1; Dundalk 1 beat Drogheda United 0; Shelbourne 3 beat Galway United 2; Bohemians and Sligo Rovers drew 2 all; Limerick United 3 beat U.C.D. 0; By the time this paper goes to press Athlone town will probably have secured their second title in the last three years.

### RUGBY:

Irish captain Ciaran Fitzgerald has been chosen to lead the British Isles Lions on the forthcoming 1983 tour of New Zealand. Fitzgerald this season led Ireland to jointly win the four nations championship with

France. This season, as last season, Ireland won the title losing only one game, however due to the loss to Wales this season they were unable to retain the triple crown they also won last year. Ireland's current domination of rugby in the British Isles is reflected in the fact that there are eight Irish internationals included in the touring party. Fitzgerald is the second Irishman to captain the Lions in recent years, the other being the great Willie John MacBride who led the 1977 Lions in New Zealand.

The eight Irish Internationals in the Lions for 1983 are: Ciaran Fitzgerald (14 caps) and John O'Driscoll (22 caps) both of Connaught, Hugo MacNeill of Dublin (13 caps), Trevor Ringland of Antrim (8 caps), David Irwin also of Antrim (14 caps), Ollie Campbell of Dublin (9 caps), Donal Lenihan (9 caps) and Michael Kiernan (8 caps) both of Cork.

The most experienced Irish player in the squad is John O'Driscoll with 22 caps. However most New Zealanders will be more familiar with the brilliant fly half and goal kicker Ollie Campbell whose goal kicking ability can win matches.

## New Zealand H-Block/Armagh Committee Diary

### AUCKLAND BRANCH

**MEETINGS:** Regular meetings take place on the *last Wednesday of the month*, 7pm, Trades Union Centre, Great North Road. The next meeting will be on April 27, the major item for discussion is the forthcoming commemoration of the death of Bobby Sands (May 5).

**THE ROYAL TOUR:** Royal Tour protests are being co-ordinated for April 17 (Airport), April 25 and April 29. There will also be protests outside the civic reception dinner. For further details phone 769-103.

### WELLINGTON BRANCH

**MEETINGS:** Regular weekly meetings are held in the branch office, 25A Marrison Street, 4th Floor, every Thursday at 7.30pm.

**IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES:** Language classes are being held on Tuesday nights at the committee rooms, 25A Marrison Street, at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**ROYAL TOUR:** Demonstrations are being planned for at least three public functions in Wellington.\*

**HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION:** A commemorative wreath laying ceremony will be held at the cenotaph on May 5 in memory of the death of Bobby Sands.\*

\* Further information on these activities are included in the local H-Block newsletter or can be obtained by ringing Brian 847-102 or Linda 376-668.

### HAMILTON BRANCH

For information concerning activities and meeting dates phone 255-861.

### DUNEDIN BRANCH

**MEETINGS:** Meetings are held regularly. For times and dates phone 771-614.

**ROYAL TOUR:** Appropriate activities are being organised to celebrate the visit of the royal trio to Dunedin, in conjunction with the local Waitangi Action Committee. For details phone 771-614.

**PLASTIC BULLET DISPLAY:** A plastic bullet display has been organised by the local committee for the Dunedin Public Library and will be on show early this month.

### CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH:

For information concerning activities and meetings, phone 438-96.

**SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE GAOLS OF IRELAND AND ENGLAND. JOIN THE NZ H-BLOCK AND ARMAGH COMMITTEE. SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO YOUR LOCAL COMMITTEE:**

**NZ H-BLOCK AND ARMAGH COMMITTEE**  
AUCKLAND, P.O. BOX 39132  
WELLINGTON, P.O. BOX 50466.  
CHRISTCHURCH, P.O. BOX 6028  
DUNEDIN, P.O. BOX 779  
Hamilton, C/- C. Marron,  
Okete Rd, R.D.1, Raglan.

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# DEATH THREAT

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A YOUNG Jonesborough man, 18-year-old Kevin Gallagher, has become the latest target for a British army death threat, an increasingly reported method of intimidation which has to be taken seriously in view of the number of threats later carried out under the shoot-to-kill policy.

The death threat was issued through Kevin's 23-year-old brother, John Gallagher, when he was detained by a British army foot patrol not far from the Armagh/Louth border Saturday night, March 19th.

John Gallagher was on his way to his local pub, the Border Inn, at around 10.20pm, when he was confronted by several British soldiers who took him to the side of the road and questioned him intensely about his movements, the movements of his friends and, in particular, the activities of his brother, Kevin.

## WIDOW

It was very dark and he was off the main road and very aware that no one had witnessed his detention. The British soldiers told him:

*"If Kevin does not behave himself, within the next couple of months his girlfriend will find herself a widow before she marries him."*

The Gallagher family are extremely worried about the British army threat as Kevin Gallagher regularly returns home late at night from his girlfriend's house about 1/2 mile on the Louth side of the border. Their fears are further heightened in view of the fact that people in the area recently arrested and taken to Gough Barracks have all been questioned about Kevin Gallagher.

## GRENADE ATTACK

Three Russian military F1 hand grenades were thrown at Belfast's Springfield Road RUC Barracks, by three IRA Volunteers on Saturday, March 12th.

# ACTIVE SERVICE

FOUR Belfast Brigade IRA Volunteers took part in an RPG7 rocket attack on a Saracen armoured vehicle in West Belfast on Thursday, March 17th, seriously injuring one of its British army occupants and giving the rest of the patrol a bad attack of nerves.

The successful ambush was launched shortly after 10am when the ASU walked out of a house in Britton's Parade, in the White-rock district, where they had been waiting since 10.30pm the previous evening, and fired a single armour-piercing RPG7 rocket at the Saracen shortly after it drove out of Fort Pegasus and turned into the street.

The rocket pierced the right-hand side of the vehicle seriously injuring one soldier in the legs. Simultaneously, Volunteers opened fire with automatic weapons at the Saracen and continued firing as they withdrew.

A commandeered vehicle used by the IRA to leave the scene of the attack was later found not far away in Glenalina Crescent in Ballymurphy.

Fort Pegasus, situated on the Whiterock Road and one of three massive British army bases in the greater Ballymurphy area responsible for heavy enemy patrolling and harassment, has been the target for several IRA attacks, the last being a devastating mortar attack at the end of last summer.

VOLUNTEERS of the IRA's South Down Brigade shot dead a member of the RUC Reserve on Tuesday morning of March 15th, as he drove to work to begin his regular bread delivery round.

The ambush took place just before 7am on the Tandragee Road, about a mile from Newry. Two bursts of automatic gunfire were directed at the van he was driving from a Renault 20 car carrying three Volunteers. The van plunged 30 feet into a field beside the road and the RUC Reservist died instantly.

The dead RUC man, whose job as a delivery man is a very frequent intelligence-gathering combination among RUC and UDR part-timers, had been a member of the Reserve since its inception 12 years ago, and prior to that had been a member of the 'B' Specials.

## UDR SOLDIER SHOT DEAD

IRA Volunteers in Ballygawley, County Tyrone, ambushed and shot dead a 22-year-old UDR soldier on Friday 25th February, the fourth successful IRA ambush on enemy personnel in the space of five days and the third enemy fatality in that period.

The active service unit struck as the soldier drew up in his car outside the John Finlay engineering works at Ballygawley around 8.20am. In addition to his mercenary involvement with the UDR he worked part-time as a welder at the works.

As he parked his white Ford Escort car, IRA Volunteers approached and opened fire with an Armalite, hitting the soldier several times in the head and chest and killing him instantly. Despite an immediate follow-up search by British army helicopter reconnaissance, the ASU withdrew safely from the area in a commandeered car found later a few miles away.

## BORDER POST ATTACKED

A Tyrone Brigade IRA active service unit fired about 20 shots at British troops manning the border checkpoint at Aghnacloy shortly after midnight on Monday March 28th. No casualties were recorded.

