

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT Republican News

Sraith Nua Iml 9 Uimhir 16 Deardaoin 23 Aibreán Thursday 23rd April 1987 (Britain 35p) Price 30p

Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement

THE LEADERSHIP of the Republican Movement sends greetings to all comrades and their families and republican supporters the world over on this, the 71st anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising and Proclamation of the Irish Republic. We send greetings to our solidarity organisations in Australia, throughout Europe, in Britain, and to Irish Northern Aid, and thank them for their continuing support.

Easter is the occasion when we honour our fallen dead, when we remember those men and women activists, young and old, who made the ultimate sacrifice on the street, in the field or in the prison cell; who gave their lives so that our children, the future generation, shall have peace in Ireland.

We recall the memory of all those who died in the cause of Irish freedom in the current campaign and in previous periods of struggle. To their families we offer our endless sympathy and we renew our commitment to armed resistance. We know that our successes against the

occupation forces, our edging towards victory, must be of some comfort to them in their sorrow, in that the cause for which their loved ones died has not been abandoned and is being pursued with a fresh vigour.

The present leadership of the Republican Movement is more representative of the committed grassroots, of IRA Volunteers, than ever before. It is a leadership which was democratically elected by Volunteers in convention last September and it has been tasked with building a strong revolutionary army capable of winning this war, not handing down another glorious defeat.

All successful struggles rely on a military and political basis. We agree with the building of a revolutionary army in the course of the armed struggle and we refuse to be over-euphoric with electoral victories or disillusioned or deterred by electoral set-backs.

The British will only be talked out of Ireland through the rattle of machine-guns and the roar of explosives. And a socialist republic cannot be talked in but has to be painstakingly worked for.

This Easter we need no long speech.

We have comradeship, we have courage. Our prisoners have thrown back their imprisonment into the face of their gaolers and from them and the prison struggles we have drawn immense strength.

Our commitment is unquestionable.

It has been a long time since the Irish Republican Army has felt so confident, so sure of victory, so happy about the future, even though for many of us the coming fight may mean imprisonment or death.

We do not shirk from those necessary sacrifices because, at the end of the day, British rule will be finished in Ireland once and for all.

Now we will go and talk with the only words they understand.

We will talk them out of their spy-posts, bunkers and barracks and off the streets until they hear us and hear us right!

We will talk to them until they heed us, and we will only stop talking when they leave us and leave us in peace.

Onwards to victory and freedom!



'The only words they understand'

1987 Easter Commemorations

SEE
INSIDE



● An armed Volunteer of the Derry Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, mingles with the crowd in the Creggan, on Saturday, April 18th



Intensive IRA actions

DURING A WEEK of intensive IRA actions, an RUC inspector was killed in Newcastle, County Down, a British soldier was seriously injured and another wounded in a mortar-bomb attack in South Armagh while a contractor was executed in South Derry.

These and other attacks have rattled the crown forces' confidence and morale to its core and serve to further explode the British government's myth of 'normalisation' in the Six Occupied Counties.

NEWCASTLE - An IRA Volunteer shot and killed an RUC inspector in Newcastle on Monday night, April 20th, was the eighth member of the force to be killed by the IRA since January. This number is already approaching the total number of RUC personnel killed throughout the whole of last year, a factor which is clearly serving to further undermine RUC morale. Media accusations that the IRA is singling out 'soft' targets such as RUC personnel on foot have ignored the fact that IRA Volunteers are operating under difficult circumstances, in hostile areas, and against heavily-armed RUC forces.

Volunteers from the South Down Brigade shot the RUC inspector, who had been in the RUC for 17 years and was a former British soldier, as he was returning to the local barracks at around 10pm on Monday night. He had earlier been engaged in supervising crown forces patrols in the area. The IRA said its Volunteers, mingling with the crowd, opened fire at close range to avoid danger to civilians and shot the RUC man only a few hundred yards from the barracks.

BESSBROOK
The so-called 'watertight security' surrounding Bessbrook Barracks in South Armagh was found to be totally ineffective when IRA Volunteers drove a lorry, loaded with more than a dozen mortars, under the very noses of the crown forces and launched one of the most concentrated mortar attacks on any base in the North last Thursday morning, April 16th.

Despite a highly-sophisticated surveillance network of cameras and observation posts, IRA Volunteers from the South Armagh Brigade breached tight security and drove a commandeered Bed-

ford complex 'bus' yards behind the barracks which was once a former weaving mill.

The mortars, each weighing 50lbs, were detonated by remote-control. Four exploded on the lorry, two overshooting the target, but several landed in the barracks, seriously injuring one British soldier and wounding another. Blast damage was also caused to the base.

Earlier that day, IRA Volunteers fired a number of high-velocity shots at Belleek Barracks in South Fermanagh while British soldiers on foot-patrol returned fire.

LONDON
The IRA claimed responsibility for sending letter-bombs last week to six senior British government civil servants. Included was Thatcher's Press Secretary, Bernard Ingham, and Sir Robert Andrew, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Northern Ireland Office.

The devices, packed with high-explosives, were all defused but the targeting of such prominent British civil servants dominated the British news for several days.

DUNGANNON
For the second time in a fortnight, a garage which provided services to the crown forces was bombed by the IRA. At around 1.30am on Friday, April 17th, IRA Volunteers planted an explosive device at McGowan's Garage, situated on the Dungannon bypass. The garage and an adjoining cafe were devastated.

DERRY
Shortly after IRA Volunteers appeared in strength in the Creggan area of Derry on Saturday night, an IRA active service unit attacked Rosemount RUC

Barracks with several blast-bombs.

FUNERALS

In a lengthy statement issued on Thursday, April 16th, the IRA said it had taken a decision not to fire shots over the coffins of Volunteers in the precincts of churches in future but that it reserved the absolute right and duty to honour Volunteers "in full soldierly fashion". The statement added, had been taken after careful examination of the situation "and having analysed the various possible RUC and British army responses. The IRA will always pay full tribute to its Volunteers who made the supreme sacrifice and will not be deflected by mischievous and dishonest criticisms from those whose only concern is to prop-up British rule in Ireland."

Those who condemned republican funerals as "propaganda coups" the statement added, were "liars" as there had been no attempt made by the IRA to make political capital from the deaths of Volunteers. It continued: "On numerous occasions we have paid our final tribute in quiet graveyards or at deserted republican monuments, free from the glare of publicity. The violence and the media hype are a direct result of the British government's decision to interfere with our funerals."

"Following the funerals of Volunteers Gerard Logue and Laurence Marley, bishops and politicians vied with each other as to whose condemnation was the most lurid, the most outrageous and the most hypocritical. The day before Laurence Marley was eventually buried, a British soldier killed in Divis Flats, was accorded a full military burial, and his Union Jack-draped coffin was taken from a Catholic church to an adjoining cemetery where a volley of shots was fired over the coffin. That incident provoked no critical response."

The IRA explained that there was never any deliberate intention to fire a volley of shots within the precincts of St Columba's Church, Long Tower, in March, at Volunteer Gerard Logue's funeral which

brought forth a flood of condemnation.

"We could - as we proved at the funeral of Claran Fleming - have carried out an armed salute despite the presence of hundreds of RUC and British army members. We are convinced, however, that it is only a matter of time before the British forces engineer another Bloody Sunday situation. "Given the size of the RUC and British army presence at Gerard Logue's funeral, given the fact that the previous night our Volunteers had executed two senior and influential RUC detectives, and recognising the resultant open hostility shown to mourners, it was felt that any show of military strength on the streets would have resulted in the deaths of mourners. Given all these factors, the IRA, always mindful of the consequences of its actions and potential risk to civilians, decided that the safety of mourners was paramount."

The statement added that the RUC and British army's massive and intimidatory shows of strength at republican funerals and traditional commemoration ceremonies since 1981 were designed to "create an atmosphere of terror and humiliation" in order to drive people off their own streets and conceal the extent of support for the Irish freedom struggle. Such a policy, the IRA concluded, was in order to "hijack" funerals from both the dead person's family and mourners.

BELFAST

Two British soldiers were injured in the early hours of Monday, April 20th, when an anti-personnel mine was detonated by the IRA in the Twinbrook Estate situated on the outskirts of Belfast.

The mine was placed at the side of St Luke's Primary School and was detonated at 12.35am as a British army patrol was passing.

In a statement the IRA said that "all effort was taken to ensure that no civilians could be injured by the blast".

CONTRACTOR EXECUTED

A contractor from the South Derry village of Loup, Harry

Henry, was executed by the IRA on Tuesday night, April 21st.

Claiming responsibility, the IRA said:

"Since the execution of one of their staff in Magherafelt, the directors of this firm have restated to their workforce their determination to assist the British in the repair, building and maintenance of their bases. Furthermore, they openly supplied their vehicles to transport members of the UDR and British army around the Six-County area.

"The British cannot protect them from the inevitable results of their continued actions and we assure them we will not tolerate their continued assistance to crown forces.

"Unless there is an immediate and public withdrawal by this firm, the responsibility for further executions rests with them."

In a further statement the IRA responded to RUC criticisms and rejected claims that Henry had "no connection" with the crown forces. The IRA said:

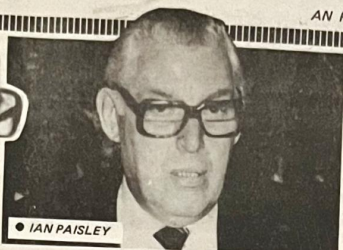
"Harry Henry had more connections with the RUC hierarchy than most RUC constables and was more important than many officers.

"In rural areas, Henry Brothers is now the major contractor and supplier to barracks precisely because they took up the work abandoned by others following IRA warnings.

"Such people are more of a prime target than the foot-soldier or RUC constable because of the crucial function they perform. We have been updating our intelligence on those engaged in construction and supplying and they have been reminded of the penalty."



• HAROLD McCUSKER



• IAN PAISLEY



• FRANK MILLAR

UNIONIST DIFFERENCES SURFACE

BY EAMON TRACEY

DIFFERENCES between the Official Unionists and the DUP over how best to tactically oppose the Hillsborough Agreement continue to surface. In several interviews this week, OUP General Secretary Frank Millar indicated some softening of attitude by his party and a cynical awareness of the unionist need for pragmatism in order to secure the Union.

Shrewdly, Millar appeared to raise the stakes by demanding at the very least a "return of the powers exercised by Stormont under the 1920 Act" including "the return of security responsibility".

Significantly, however, he placed the onus on loyalists to come up with an alternative to the Agreement. He said:

"A campaign aimed purely at getting rid of the Agreement would not work. A condition of success for unionists is that they should demonstrate they are committed to a realistic alternative that is prepared to meet the British government half-way."

UNIONIST TASK FORCE

Although Millar and Harold McCusker DUP together make up the so-called "Unionist Task Force" and have responsibility for formulating unionist strategy, there are those in the DUP who see the

present political deadlock as an opportunity to enhance their own and their party's prestige and influence. In addition, there is clearly a split between the OUP and the DUP over the role that physical opposition to the Agreement should play in the campaign of opposition.

Traditionally, the OUP has been uncomfortable about taking part in street protests outside the Orange marches and has been reluctant to step outside the 'law'. Consequently, many OUP councillors are now carrying out sufficient duties within the councils to avoid prosecution.

The DUP, on the other hand, has inherited Paisley's enthusiasm for noisy token protests and confrontations with the RUC, occasionally resulting in arrests similar to the brief detention of Paisley at Stormont on Wednesday morning. Paisley's success in getting arrested, as the 13th Inter-Governmental Conference got under way, and the lack of OUP participation in the protest served to reinforce unionist differences.

The Stormont meeting between the Dublin and Northern Ireland Office ministers, the first since the Haughey government came to power in March, reaffirmed both governments' commitment to the Agreement. Haughey's earlier rejection of it is now a distant memory.

CHALLENGE TO AGREEMENT?

Ironically, following the decision of the Dublin Supreme Court that the Single European Act is unconstitutional, there has been increasing speculation that OUP member Dr Chris McGimpsey might challenge the Hillsborough Agreement in the Dublin courts. Although no firm decision has yet been taken, such a move position of arguing their case in Dublin, fits more comfortably into the type of constitutional and legal tactics preferred by the Official Unionists.



• PETER ROBINSON

SEA amendment campaign begins

BY MAIRTIN MacDIARMADA

THE REFERENDUM on the Single European Act will, like the last general election, see the main establishment parties united on the central issues and urging ratification of the treaty which takes the 26 Counties further into the clutches of NATO.

Last week, the Fianna Fail government announced the wording of its proposed amendment to the 26-County Constitution. It will take the form of a simple paragraph saying:

"The State may ratify the Single European Act signed on behalf of the member states of the communities at Luxembourg on 17th February 1986 and at the Hague on 28th February 1986."

This would remove the obstacle to ratification posed by the Supreme Court when it declared that the SEA was unconstitutional. Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats proposed wider amendments in Leinster House this week, covering all future treaties signed by Dublin governments. The extent to which these parties would go in making the 26 Counties completely subservient to foreign powers was shown in these proposals which would give

the Dublin government a blank cheque to sign away as many rights as they saw fit.

CONTRADICTORY

The official Labour Party position is to support the ratification of the SEA, although the split on this issue within its ranks is likely to widen as the amendment campaign gets under way. With the Workers' Party, Labour also proposed an alternative amendment which, while allowing ratification, would insert a clause referring to neutrality.

This is a typically contradictory position for these two parties, preferring lip-service to neutrality to real opposition to the Single European Act which will strangle 26-County foreign policy and tighten the death-grip of EEC capitalist economics on Irish workers.

It is likely that alternative amendments will be rejected in



Leinster House and that the campaign will be fought on the Fianna Fail wording.

OPPOSITION

The Single European Act is

being opposed by a wide variety of organisations, political, religious and anti-nuclear. A 26-County co-ordinating committee is expected to be elected today (Thursday, April 29th) at a

public meeting in Liberty Hall. Sinn Fein will be opposing the amendment and has instructed all members and supporters to play a full and active part in the anti-amendment campaign.



MID-YEAR INTERNAL CONFERENCE

ALL SINN FEIN MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND

Saturday/Sunday
2-3rd May
Mansion House
DUBLIN

Expulsion threats

THE UNWRITTEN RULE of trade union silence about British colonialism in Ireland was broken by John Mitchell this week when the general secretary of the Irish Distributive & Administrative Trade Union (IDATU) told his annual conference that union leaders had opposed moves to fight discrimination against Catholics and co-operated with the British state while "not the tiniest little squeak has been made about the repression of our people".

Mitchell has been suspended from the ICTU executive, which also threatens to expel IDATU (the third-largest Irish-based union) from Congress. Right-wing trade unionism is lining up against IDATU and its secretary in what may become Irish trade unionism's most serious witch-hunt for decades.

An interview which Mitchell gave to the Belfast weekly, *Andersonstown News* began the controversy. He explained that "a fairly hostile attitude" towards the labour movement which he'd met with in Belfast was due to the fact the "unions haven't served the people very well in the past". Although Six-County unemployment among Catholics is between two and three times that of Protestants and the proportion hasn't changed over 15 years, union leaders (with a few exceptions) have failed to do anything in the Six Counties "which leads a comfortable sort of existence. There are never many strikes here."

The 'Mafia' in question is the North-

IDATU to risk being expelled by ICTU
IDATU rift with Congress worsens
Mitchell stands over his criticism of North unions

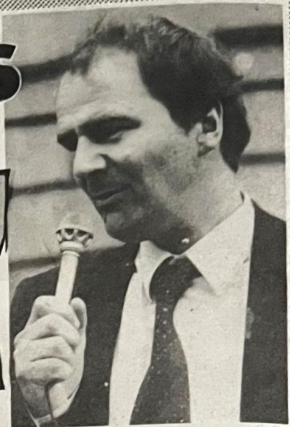
ern Ireland Committee (NIC) of the ICTU — formally it's part of the all-Irish union movement but, in practice, it follows decisions made by an elite body of well-paid union officials who are mostly unelected and who generally belong to British-based unions. Partition, job discrimination and bureaucracy combine to exclude nationalist opinion from the NIC. Although the Six-County state relies on a combination of discrimination and military brutality for its very existence, the NIC has no objection to receiving large sums of money from it. In fact, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the NIC and the Six-County state, such as when it takes part in the so-called 'Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights', a government-controlled body whose purpose is

to suggest that imperialism has a conscience about human rights. The NIC even has nominees on the discredited Police Board with responsibility for the sectarian RUC.

To call such a body a 'Mafia' may be an understatement.

UNCLE TOM UNION

The NIC bureaucrats were further angered when Mitchell described the British-based shopworkers' union, USDAW, as "an Uncle Tom reactionary union" and called it "useless", but once again the facts are on Mitchell's side. During a recent official dispute between USDAW in Derry and the Wellworth shopping chain, strikers were not provided with placards and the union did not give strike pay until the strike was over.



● JOHN MITCHELL

The union ended the strike against the wishes of its Derry members and without consulting them. USDAW members in Britain have publicly described the union as "paternalistic" and it is mainly known as a firm supporter of the right-wing in the British Labour Party.

Some NIC leaders are guilty of more than sheer cowardice: the GMBATU, a British-based engineering union, was found guilty of religious discrimination by the British government's Fair Employment Agency and yet its representative was among those who suspended Mitchell from the Congress executive. The NIC have opposed the MacBride Principles, a set of equal opportunity guidelines directed against job discrimination. It is clearly frightened by IDATU's success in organising the nationalist workers whom it has ignored for so long.

If the witch-hunt is successful and IDATU is removed from Congress at the approaching ICTU annual conference or if Mitchell's suspension isn't lifted, Irish trade unionism will seriously suffer.

GARDA SPECIAL BRANCH TELLS CORK REPUBLICAN 'WE'LL BURN YOUR HOUSE'

A CORK-BASED Garda Special Branch man threatened to burn down the home of a local republican if reports of an early morning raid were carried in *AP/RN*.

Garda Detective Jim McCarthy was one of four gardai who raided the home of Cork Sinn Fein organiser Don O'Leary at 9am on Saturday. Both McCarthy and a Detective Sergeant Scanlon are alleged to have abused both the O'Leary family and the contents of the house.

Before leaving, McCarthy told Betty O'Leary that if a report of the destructive raid was sent to *AP/RN* then the house would be burned down.

At 9.45am on Saturday, the same group of gardai raided the home of Cork Sinn Fein treasurer Freddie O'Doherty. Again Detective McCarthy was abusive, this time to O'Doherty's parents.

When Freddie O'Doherty complained to Detective Sergeant Scanlon he was told to "Fuck off!" and was then punched. A scuffle broke out and before leaving the house the Branch men threatened that there would be charges. One of the four gardai involved in the raid later returned to the O'Doherty home to dissociate himself from the behaviour of his colleagues.

Also on Saturday, two other Cork republicans were arrested in separate incidents. Paddy Lucey was questioned in the Cork Bridewell about Sinn Fein activities in the city; Michael Doherty was charged with assault on two Garda Special Branch men who

had been harassing Freddie O'Doherty on Patrick Street.

DUBLIN RAIDS

Special Branch gardai also carried out house raids in Dublin where they arrested two members of Finglas Sinn Fein on Tuesday, April 14th.

John Daly, who joined Sinn Fein during the recent general election, was awoken at 8.20am by a party of four Special Branch members. They searched his house extensively and arrested him. He was then taken to the Bridewell Garda Barracks.

The same party of Branch men then raided the house of another member of Finglas Sinn Fein, Stephen Duggan, who lives with his parents. His bedroom was searched and then Branch rummaged through papers and photographs as they did in John Daly's house.



● DON O'LEARY

Duggan was arrested and taken to the Bridewell from where the

two were finally released at 5.20pm that day.

The Special Branch was also in Dun Laoghaire on Tuesday, April 14th, when an *AP/RN* seller was abused and searched outside the local unemployment exchange. In Dundrum, *AP/RN* sellers were stopped in a car which was searched. In Coolock, an Easter lily seller had his collection tin and lilies confiscated by the Branch.

WEXFORD SEIZURES

And in New Ross, County Wexford, on Good Friday, two members of the local Sinn Fein cumann who were selling Easter lilies in the town were stopped by Special Branch detectives. Two collection tins were seized. However, the New Ross cumann was not deterred and Easter lilies were on sale in the town on Easter Saturday.

RENT STRIKE

THE MAIN TALLAGHT to Blessington road, County Dublin, was blocked for over an hour on Thursday, April 16th, by a large group of protesters attempting to highlight the ongoing rent strike in the area.

People from various housing estates in West Tallaght joined the picket to show the widespread support which exists for the rent strike which began in January.



Threats and bribes in Gough Barracks

RUC DETECTIVES in Gough Barracks, Armagh, cajoled threatened and attempted to bribe a County Fermanagh woman who was arrested from her parents' home near Lisnaskea on Thursday morning, April 16th.

Six car-loads of RUC personnel, some wearing boiler suits, raided the Mulligans' home at Ballyhulla shortly before 7am. The Mulligans' daughter Oonagh was arrested and many of her personal belongings seized. Her two-year-old son, Ciaran, screamed uncontrollably

as the RUC swept through the house and then took his mother away.

In Gough Barracks, she was taunted by RUC detectives about her husband, Sean Lynch, who has been imprisoned for the past year. Describing how they had

tortured Sean and his comrade Seamus McElwain, both of whom were shot by the SAS near Roslea, the RUC went on to threaten Oonagh that she and another Lisnaskea woman, Kathleen Gleeson, would be "dead by Christmas". (Kathleen Gleeson is the teacher who last week won an appeal against her suspension by the Western Education Board for allegedly using her position to recruit people into the IRA.)

For most of her two-day detention the RUC tried to persuade Oonagh to become an informer but stressed that this would not mean becoming a "supergrass". In return for information about named republican activists she was offered "a new life in Cyprus" along with her son and her husband who would "get early release".

Throughout her imprisonment, Oonagh refused to answer any questions and ignored both the threats and overtures which were made to her. She was released at 9pm on Friday.

ORGANISER

There were further raids and arrests in Fermanagh on Saturday morning. One of those held was Jimmy Lynch, of Donagh, an organiser of the Easter commemoration which took place the following day. The arrest was condemned by local Sinn Fein Councillor Hugh O'Neill, who said:

"It was a deliberate move designed to disrupt the Easter Commemoration. Like other repressive measures, it failed in its objective."



RUC VICTIM HOSPITALISED

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

SEAN HUGHES (26), from Dromintee, South Armagh, has been a target of crown forces abuse for the past two years. From about 3am on Saturday, April 18th, a neighbour noticed that British soldiers had the Hughes home in Forest Park under surveillance. At 5.50am,

RUC men arrived by helicopter and landed in a nearby field. They woke the Hughes family and another family.

Mother-of-two Annette Hughes opened the door to the RUC, who pushed by her into the house and abusively told her, "Shut your fucking mouth!" when she asked them for a search warrant. Her husband was taken outside and marched towards the helicopter.

HANDCUFFED

"Sean's hands were handcuffed behind his back. I heard shouting and went upstairs to look out the window. A melee was going on in the corner of the field. The RUC had Sean on the ground and they were kicking him; an RUC sergeant was just laying into him."

Annette lifted her 14-month-old son, Ciaran, from the bedroom and ran from the house in her dressing gown. When she got to the field, "Sean was sitting with blood pumping from his nose and mouth. In the few minutes it took me to get there, one side of his jaw had swollen badly."

The RUC only stopped the attack when local people intervened. "Otherwise," Annette said, "they'd have kicked him unconscious."

DOCTOR

Sean Hughes was taken to Bessbrook RUC Barracks, from where he was transferred to Gough. There, his doctor examined him at lunchtime and demanded that he receive immediate medical treatment in Craigavon Hospital. Annette Hughes continued:

"He was X-rayed and has a perforated eardrum and bruising and swelling all over his body. The doctors said they also think he has broken ribs but there's too much swelling to be sure."

On Tuesday night, April 21st, Sean Hughes was charged at a special sitting in Banbridge Court with resisting arrest and assaulting an RUC man. Sinn Fein Councillor Jim McAllister described the move as "the RUC once again using the legal system to railroad nationalists while they, the real culprits, are let off the hook".

Nuclear bunker fall-out

FOLLOWING the disclosure of a proposed nuclear bunker to be built in Craigavon, Sinn Fein Councillor Brendan Curran has introduced a motion before Craigavon Council to have the area designated as a nuclear free zone. Derry, Belfast, Fermanagh and Omagh councils have already taken this step which excludes each council area from participating in the spread of nuclear technology.

Craigavon's bunker is sited for construction on the Carn Industrial Estate, where a pre-selected list of 300 'chosen people' (Northern Ireland Office officials, private industrialists and key government personnel) will be sheltered from nuclear attack or 'widspread civil unrest'.

STEP TOWARDS SELF-DESTRUCTION
Councillor Curran has called for the support of all constituents

SINN FEIN
CRAIGAVON
COUNCILLOR
BRENDAN
CURRAN



in opposing this "dangerous step towards self-destruction. It is criminally misleading for the Ministry of Defence to suggest that business as usual can be carried out throughout a nuclear strike."

Two additional bunkers are scheduled for construction at Armagh and Ballymena at an estimated total cost of £7.8 million. In the event of severe rioting and disorder they would also be

used as command centres to direct street closures and the rounding up of 'dissidents'.

Councillor Curran said: "Sinn Fein is unequivocally opposed to the deployment of nuclear technology. At a time of widespread poverty in the Six Counties, we are not prepared to allow £7.8 million to be spent protecting a handful of the elite from a disaster of their own making."

DERRY MAN THREATENED

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

A 25-YEAR-OLD Derry man, Charles McMenamin, has been threatened with execution by the RUC. McMenamin, of Lisfannon Park, Bogside, has been held four times in Castle-reagh since last October.

On Thursday afternoon, April 9th, McMenamin was playing a game of draughts in Pilot's Row Community Centre when a large number of RUC and British army personnel surrounded the building. Several RUC men entered and arrested him under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

During the journey to Strand Road RUC Barracks, McMenamin was struck about the back of the head and a revolver was placed at

his neck and the trigger pulled. Following a body-search at the barracks he was handcuffed and transferred to a car for the trip to Castlereagh. The three detectives who accompanied McMenamin repeatedly threatened him and asked him to become an informer.

Throughout his six days in Castlereagh the interviews were a continuous mixture of physical abuse and verbal threats.

CORPSE IN THE MORGUE
McMenamin was told by the



● CHARLES McMENAMIN
RUC that, "After I'd been shot they would come and spit on my corpse in the morgue," as they

had previously done to IRA Volunteers. He was also told that as soon as the Strabane inquest had ended and the whole affair forgotten, the RUC would make its move in Derry and he and Derry man Eddie McSheffrey would be its first targets.

The RUC also told McMenamin that it would be easy to set him up. The RUC would wait for him on a dark street, shoot him and plant something incriminating on him. They went on to say the "alphabet soldiers" would get him, a reference to the SAS habit of introducing evidence in court as Soldier A, B, etc. The RUC named other republicans whom they claimed would all be dead within six months.

During the interviews, references were made to McMenamin's family and he was told they'd torture his family until they'd broken him. McMenamin was eventually released on April 15th.

READ IT

AN PHOBLACHT
Republican News

Send to AP/RN,
44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.

Ireland	Ir£25
Britain	Stg£25
Europe Surface	Stg£30
Europe Airmail	Stg£45
USA	US\$60
Canada	Can\$65
Australia	Aust\$65
Elsewhere	Stg£40/Ir£45

Name _____
Address _____



1987 Easter Commemorations

THE EASTER STATEMENT FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT WAS READ AT ALL THE COMMEMORATIONS REPORTED HERE

Antrim

WITH the dramatic events of Volunteer Larry Marley's funeral still fresh in their minds, thousands of nationalists assembled in Belfast for one of the largest Easter commemorations, both defying the Public Order Act and in protest at the intimidatory crown forces presence.

Kerbstones and lamp standards in Beechmount Avenue boasted a coat of bright green, white and orange paint. Similarly, wall murals which have been repeatedly defaced by the crown forces were repainted and helped to add some colour to what was a very cold, wet day.

British army snipers and Land Rovers were positioned in the side streets along Beechmount Avenue while two lines of RUC personnel moved across the Falls Road as if they were about to prevent the commemoration from moving off. There were a few tense moments before the RUC warned people of the consequences of participating in what they termed an "illegal" march. The tension vanished, however, as the crowd sent up a roar of defiance.

At around 1.30pm there was tumultuous applause as the first band moved out onto the Falls Road, followed by a smartly turned-out colour party. The RUC stood back but several Land Rovers paced the parade along the route to Milltown Cemetery. Among the hundreds of nationalists and Volunteers who vocal outbursts from people enraged by the RUC's presence on Sunday and in protest at their behaviour at Volunteer Marley's funeral.

In Milltown Cemetery, lines of RUC personnel flanked one side of the Republican Plot and converged on the platform. They were fully aware of the hostility directed at them from the crowd.

Buffeted by the wind and rain, veteran republican Liam Rice chaired the proceedings and recalled the sacrifices of Easter Week 1916 and noted:

"Although much has been lost in intervening years, there is one immortal virtue that can never be extinguished: it is the incomparable love of freedom in the hearts of the Irish race; the indomitable struggle of the past 18 years has proved this."

The RUC looked even more uncomfortable as *The Last Post* was sounded by a bugler and republicans stood to attention in memory of their fallen dead. Veteran republican Malachy McNally read the Proclamation and wreaths were laid on behalf of GHQ, Ogligh na hEireann; Northern Command, Ogligh na hEireann; Belfast Brigade; the National Graves Association; Sinn Fein; Irish republican prisoners; and the GAA.

A youth read the statement on behalf of the leadership and the following applause was sustained as Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams MP was introduced.

As he then soaking wet crowd again cheered as Adams promised them he would keep his speech short. As well as recalling the patriot dead, he said:

"The sad reality of Ireland, 71 years after 1916, should also be remembered. The Dublin government has given up on the republic - we have not. We do not struggle for a change of management in an Ireland without the symbolism of British rule. We struggle for real change, the redistribution of wealth, the ownership of Ireland for the people of Ireland. We struggle for Irish national independence and for democratic control of the economy, for a system of socialism which will eradicate poverty, inequality and privilege from Irish society."

Turning to the RUC - which was as attentive to his words as those gathered (but for obviously different



● (Above) The Belfast commemoration march approaching Milltown Cemetery on Sunday, and (below) the Easter Tuesday march in Ardoyne, North Belfast



motives) - Adams reminded people that, by assembling:

"We are all guilty of an offence... It is illegal. Last year it was legal, this year it is illegal."

Criticising the SDLP's support for the Public Order Act, he added: *"It's strange that it's almost 20 years since the Civil Rights Association was founded and we have a new Special Powers Act supported by those politicians who have built lucrative political careers for themselves on the backs of that Civil Rights struggle."*

"One of the lessons of the Civil Rights period is that we can't have civil rights for Irish people under British colonial rule and that lesson is hammered home again today by the conditions under which this peaceful commemoration is held."

To deafening cheers, Adams pointed his finger towards the RUC and emphasised:

"If we are guilty of an offence, that especially includes the terrorists of the RUC and British army. They are guilty of the use of terror to maintain part of our country under British control."

They did so, he said, at a great cost to the nationalist people in terms of the wide range of repressive measures.

"But," he reminded them, *"they do so also at a great cost to themselves, as a much smaller force, not a force like them, a force of terrorists or a force of mercenaries, but an army of freedom fighters, the army of Ogligh na hEireann, the Irish*

Republican Army, has shown time and time again, from 1916, from the GPO in Dublin right through to today, that the IRA and, especially this generation of the IRA, cannot and will not be defeated."

The British cause in Ireland is a lost cause, he added, and those people who manipulated events for their own ends would be forced to realise that their days in Ireland are numbered.

The Hillsborough Agreement has failed to remove the causes of alienation and has certainly failed to either isolate Sinn Fein or defeat the IRA, he pointed out. The task ahead for republicans was to *"build throughout the 32 Counties a nationwide movement which will push the British out and push democracy in"*.

In conclusion he called on people to rededicate themselves to the struggle, *"to the republic of a risen Irish people"*.

*"Let us do a little more, then we will assemble in a free, united, Gaelic Ireland wherein we will have justice and peace and where the RUC and British army will be a bad memory. Like the bogey man, our children will hear the stories of when terrorism stalked the land. Until then comrades, *beir bua. Keep up the struggle, keep up the fight.*"*

"Tiochtáir arís!"

NEW LODGE

In North Belfast, several hundred people attended the annual Easter Monday commemoration. They took the traditional route, forming up

behind a colour party in Carlisle Square before marching through the New Lodge area to the commemoration plaque at Duncairn Parade. Several attempts by the RUC to warn marchers about the Public Order Act were drowned out by the local Billy Reid Band.

North Belfast constituency representative Paddy McManus chaired the ceremony and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and the families of those killed from the New Lodge area over the past 18 years. To the haunting sound of a slow lament played on a tin whistle, the Roll of Honour was read out.

Belfast Sinn Fein Councillor Sean Keenan gave the oration and traced the suffering of the New Lodge people, many of whom have been murdered at the hands of the RUC/ British army and loyalist murder gangs.

He also asked people to remember that the SDLP had given its full support for the Public Order Act.

"When the SDLP are canvassing for votes in the New Lodge, they should be reminded that they are prolonging this struggle and are actively supporting the British presence in Ireland."

DUNLOY

In spite of a marked intensification of crown forces activity in the Dunloy area of North Antrim for the previous week, the IRA fired a volley of shots on Easter Saturday evening in tribute to Volunteers

Henry Hogan and Declan Martin, both of whom were killed in an SAS ambush on February 21st 1984.

A number of armed Volunteers secured the Carness Drive area of Dunloy while three of their comrades fired the volley of shots, over two crosses marking the site where Volunteers Hogan and Martin were shot. The Volunteers then withdrew, firing several bursts of gunfire into the air.

The following day, upwards of 100 people attended the Easter commemoration in St Joseph's Cemetery, where wreaths were laid on both graves on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann, North Antrim Sinn Fein, Dunloy Sinn Fein, County Antrim National Graves Association, and the Volunteers' families. Following a minute's silence, Bernie Hogan, a sister of Volunteer Hogan, read the Proclamation.

Giving the oration, Ballymena republican Sean Phillips saluted the courage and dedication of both Volunteers. He also told the gathering not to be provoked by the RUC's presence:

"We can afford not to respond for we are on the road to victory. That victory will be the victory of the Irish people, it will be the victory of the Irish Republican Army."

ARDOYNE

Paddy McManus, Sinn Fein's North Belfast constituency representative, addressed an impressive gathering of around 2,000 people at the Easter Tuesday commemoration in the Ardoyne area.

Several RUC jeeps preceded the march but kept their distance, aware no doubt of the deep antagonism their presence caused among local people.

After marching through Ardoyne, the parade, which was led by a colour party, halted at the Republican Memorial at the junction of Bromley Park/Berwick Road. Mary McGuigan chaired proceedings, the Ardoyne Roll of Honour was read, and Jimmy Boyle read the Proclamation.

Paddy McManus told the people that the Hillsborough Agreement, as predicted by Sinn Fein, had failed to deliver and had resulted in an escalation of sectarian attacks on nationalists and nationalist property throughout the Six Counties. He pointed out:

"While the Flags & Emblems Act was abolished, it's about 12 years since anyone was prosecuted under it and on the day they abolished it they introduced the Public Order Act - a much more subtle and draconian piece of legislation. Now we're do-

1987 Easter Commemorations



● The colour party of IRA Volunteers at Drumbree, County Donegal

they think the nationalist people are?"

He also paid tribute to the Ardoyne people who have suffered imprisonment, harassment and death at the hands of the crown forces and loyalist paramilitaries. In particular he praised their refusal to be browbeaten by the intimidatory presence of the RUC at the recent funeral of Volunteer Larry Marley.

"The RUC will never, never be accepted by the nationalist people."

Armagh

"WE CAN'T hear you!" was the defiant shout as hundreds of marchers passed the crown forces in Crossmaglen Square, one of whom was vainly telling them that they were taking part in an 'illegal' parade.

In spite of the cold and with the rain steadily falling, over 500 people had earlier gathered at the Rangers GAA Hall, in the shadow of Crossmaglen's besieged British army/RUC barracks, to take part in this year's Easter commemoration. Hundreds more lined the route.

Led by a colour party of local republicans and the Cullyhanna Youth Band, the marchers, some of whom carried Sinn Fein and GAA banners, moved off on time, shortly after 11am. On two occasions, as the parade made its way through the Tricolour-forested streets of the South Armagh village, RUC men using loud-hallers warned that those taking part were breaking the new Public Order legislation and liable for prosecution. Other crown forces members were busy taking photographs or noting down the names of those participating.

At one point, as the marchers passed several camouflaged British soldiers with their faces blackened, an elderly woman loudly remarked on the absence this year of an IRA colour party. "They're all having a rest," she said "after last Thursday's mortar attack on Bessbrook and getting ready for next week's." There was vigorous applause.

The commemoration got underway in heavy rain with wreaths laid on behalf of IRA veterans, the IRA's Second Battalion, Crossmaglen and local Sinn Fein cumainn. After *The Last Post* and the reading of the Proclamation, a masked IRA Volunteer stepped forward and, in a clear purposeful voice, read the Easter statement from the leadership.

"In keeping with the previous

years, the Volunteer also read a statement from the Second Battalion, Crossmaglen, in which the IRA acknowledged the continued support of the local community:

"We have no need to remind you, the people of this area, of the massive enemy presence in the hills not far from here. We have forced them into deploying an unprecedented level of troops because of our capability to strike."

The statement also warned of the dangers of loose talk and revealed that the IRA is aware of "a campaign by the RUC to cultivate informers". The IRA urged anyone providing the RUC with information to come forward and help expose this sordid RUC tactic.

The statement concluded by reaffirming the IRA's determination to continue the struggle until final victory.

The final speaker, local councillor Jim McAllister, spoke of his pride at the contribution made by South Armagh to the struggle for Irish self-determination. He slammed Seamus Mallon of the SDLP pointing out:

"For the first time, this commemoration has been declared illegal by Britain. Declared illegal with the help of Seamus Mallon who voted for what is called the Public Order Order."

"The SDLP claims that this new law is aimed at loyalists. Nonsense! The RUC already had enough 'laws' to more than adequately deal with loyalist triumphalism. The reality is that this new legislation is aimed at republican resistance and that is why Mallon voted for it."

McAllister was applauded when he said of Crossmaglen and South Armagh:

"This town and district has suffered much from British domination. The very parish is bordered by the border. Very few people here today do not have relatives forced to emigrate because of the unionist economic system. Tinkering with the system will not help us. It must be torn down and we must begin afresh."

MULLAGHBAWN

The first Easter commemoration in County Armagh occurred on Saturday evening when about 100 people, led by a colour party of local republicans and by the Cullyhanna Youth Band, marched from the village community centre to the Republican Plot in the nearby cemetery.

There was a heavy and at times intrusive RUC and British army presence, with the RUC attempting on several occasions to warn the

participants that they were taking part in an illegal march.

The commemoration was chaired by Sean McCoy. Following the laying of wreaths at the Republican Plot and on the grave of Pearse McGeough, a former chairperson of Sinn Fein in the area, the Roll of Honour, Proclamation and leadership statements were read. Lisburn Sinn Fein Councillor Pat Rice, who comes from South Armagh, gave the address.

CAMLLOCH

There was a larger than usual turnout for the Easter commemoration in the South Armagh village of Camloch on Sunday morning. Led by a colour party, hundreds marched from the village centre to the nearby Carrickcurrupin Church.

In the Republican Plot are buried IRA Volunteers Raymond McCreesh and Brendan Quinn and veteran republican Art McAllinden. Sean Doran, a Volunteer of the Ten War, is buried a short distance away.

Joe McIlhawe (Camloch) chaired the ceremony and, after the Proclamation and Easter messages, Sinn Fein's Lisburn Councillor Pat Rice gave the oration.

"Labhairm i nGaeilge ar dtús mar tá dlúthcheangal ag an teanga náisiúnta le Deiseart Ard Mhaca. Labhairm i nGaeilge le cur i gcumhine daoibh go bhfuil sé mar pholasáid ag Gluaisacht na Poblachta an Ghaeilge a chuir ar ais mar phríomh-théanga na tíre agus le tabhairt le fíos do na saighdiúirí - Sasanaigh atá thart orainn go bhfuil siad sa tír chontráilta."

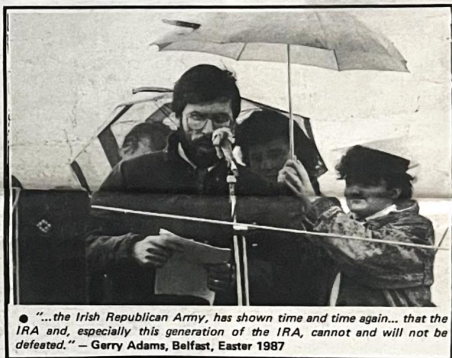
Rice particularly singled out those who have lost loved ones in "our struggle to drive the British off our land":

"Their loss is great and we are with them in their sorrow. But they and we can feel the pride in the steadfastness of the men and women of Oglagh na hEirinn. They have put us in their debt, a debt that can only be repaid by carrying on the fight for Irish freedom - in all its different aspects - to a successful conclusion."

BEELEKS

On Easter Monday morning, at 10.30, almost 200 people attended the commemoration in Beleeks. Led by a colour party and accompanied by two bands, the parade moved from Main Street to the graves of IRA Volunteer Seán Boyle, who was killed in February 1975, and Peter Cleary, who was murdered by the SAS in April 1976.

The ceremony was chaired by Jimmy McCreesh and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican



● "...the Irish Republican Army, has shown time and time again... that the IRA and, especially this generation of the IRA, cannot and will not be defeated." - Gerry Adams, Belfast, Easter 1987



● Young and old defied the weather and the RUC at the Belfast Easter Commemoration

Movement. Jim McAllister gave the oration.

was read. Jim McAllister gave the oration.

ARMAGH CITY

One of the biggest commemorations ever seen in Armagh city took place on Easter Monday. Hundreds of people assembled at the start of the march at Loughgall Road.

Led by a ten-person colour party and including five bands, the crowd, which was around 1,000 strong, made its way to the Republican Plot while hundreds of onlookers watched from the roadside.

The commemoration was chaired by Sinn Fein Councillor Tommy Carroll and wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, Sinn Fein, republican prisoners and the National Graves Association. A minute's silence was observed and *The Last Post* played. The North Armagh Roll of Honour

PORTMORE

Earlier that morning, a wreath-laying ceremony took place at the monument in Portmore erected in memory of IRA Volunteer Sean McIlvenna killed by the crown forces in December 1962. Around 30 people, including his wife and children from Belfast, were present.

JONESBOROUGH

Although wreath-laying ceremonies have been held at Jonesborough in the past, it is was the first year that a full ceremony took place.

Almost 100 people followed a colour party to the cemetery where Volunteer Francis Jordan, who was killed in June 1975, is buried. Local

(continued on next page)

1987 Easter Commemorations

(continued from previous page)

Sinn Fein member John McNamee chaired the proceedings and Arthur Morgan, Sinn Fein candidate for Louth in the recent 26-County election, gave the oration.

DRUMINTEE

In spite of a heavy RUC presence and warnings about the Public Order legislation, over 100 people, led by a colour party, took part in the annual commemoration in Drumintee on Sunday morning. At 11am the parade marched to St Patrick's Cemetery, where wreaths were laid at the graveside of IRA Volunteer James Lochrie who, with his comrade Sean Campbell, was killed in December 1975. Sinn Fein Councillor Brendan Lewis gave the oration.

KILLEEN

Also on Easter Sunday morning, republicans gathered in Killeen at the graves of Volunteers Peter McGinnity and John and Thomas O'Reilly, who were murdered by the Black and Tans in July 1921.

There was a colour party of local republicans and wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA and Sinn Fein. Cyril Toman gave the oration.

In Lislea, about 50 people took part in a wreath-laying ceremony which took place at the grave of Volunteer Michael Bennett, who died in 1923. A short oration was given by Jimmy McCreech.

DERRYMACHASH

Two republican bands and around 150 people attended this year's Easter commemoration at Derrymachash. Patsy Crossey (National Graves Association) chaired the proceedings at the graveside of his brother, Volunteer Michael Crossey.

In a solemn and moving ceremony, Mark O'Dowd read the North Armagh Roll of Honour accompanied by lament played on a tin whistle.

John Little (Lurgan Sinn Fein) gave a brief oration reminding those present of the need to consolidate the achievements made in the armed struggle with grassroots work on the political front.

MAGHERY

Sinn Fein's Ronan Ruddy chaired a wreath-laying ceremony at the Maghery grave of Volunteer Seamus Robinson, who was killed in the 1940s. Following the Proclamation and the statement from the leadership, Ruddy spoke of the challenge facing Sinn Fein in the electoral area after years of political isolation.

PORTADOWN

In Portadown, a republican colour party and the Armagh Martyrs Band led over 700 marchers, the biggest Easter commemoration ever seen in the town, from Turson Park to the Republican Plot in St John's Cemetery, where IRA Volunteer Julie Dougan, who was killed in July 1972, is buried.

Among the marchers was Julie's mother, Mary Smith, who was imprisoned in Armagh Jail in the early '70s. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, the Smith family, Sinn Fein, Green Cross and the National Graves Association.

In his oration, Sinn Fein Councillor or Brendan Curran warned:

"This statelet cannot be reformed. To survive it must become more repressive as we've seen with 'Mallon's Law', the new Public Order Act."

LURGAN

Over 2,000 people assembled in Lurgan's Francis Street to begin the two-mile march through the Kilwickie Estate to the Republican Plot in St Colman's Cemetery.

The North Armagh Roll of Honour was read by Lawrence Green, brother of slain IRA Volunteer John Francis Green. Eleanor McKerr, widow of IRA Volunteer Geravase McKerr, who was murdered by the RUC in November 1982, read the Easter Proclamation.

In his oration, Sinn Fein Councillor or Brendan Curran recalled the sacrifices made by the relatives on the platform and in the crowd:



● Monaghan



● Dundalk

"You've all heard the Roll of Honour. You will all have recognised the name of someone you knew personally: someone who went to our schools, walked our streets, lived as we lived and knew the same problems of surviving in an unjust state. Our critics speak of ruthless terrorists, of faceless men and women. We reject this. These weren't strangers who came across the sea with guns, they are our people and we are proud of them."

BALLYMACNAB

At around 2.30pm, between 300 and 400 people accompanied by three bands and led by a republican colour party attended a wreath-laying ceremony at Ballymacnab Cemetery. Wreaths were laid and a lone piper played a lament. The Proclamation and Roll of Honour were read and Jim McAllister gave the oration.

CULLYHANNA

The Cullyhanna commemoration took place on Sunday afternoon after the now traditional seven-side football and bowls (known locally as 'bullets') competition, for which trophies in memory of IRA Volunteer Michael McVerry are given.

Between 500 and 600 people watched both competitions before forming up in St Patrick's Football Grounds to parade to the nearby McVerry Monument. Inevitably, the RUC arrived to warn the participants that they were breaking the new Public Order Law. They were ignored. Led by a colour party and the

Cullyhanna Youth Band, several hundred marchers made their way to the memorial. Prior to the commemoration, Michael McVerry's sister, Carmel, presented the Michael McVerry memorial trophies to Crossmaglen Rangers, who won the seven-side football competition, and Enda McGuigan and Francey Rush, who won the bowls.

While the RUC video-taped the proceedings and took photographs of those present, the commemoration commenced. Local republican Peter John Caraher chaired the ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the McVerry family, the Republican Movement, Sinn Fein and local GAA clubs.

Tony Murphy read the Proclamation while Mark Bracknell read the Roll of Honour. Jim McAllister gave the oration in which he again criticised SDLP support for the legislation which made commemorations in honour of Ireland's patriot dead 'illegal' unless permission was asked of those against whom our patriot dead fought.

Cavan

DESPITE adverse weather conditions, a large crowd gathered at Crossdoney Road station to march to the grave of Commandant Tom Fitzpatrick in Ballinagh Cemetery.

A Fianna Eireann colour party was followed by the Bruskey Youth Band at the head of the parade which halted to lay a wreath at Crenard on the memorial to Captain Thomas Sheridan, Drumcrow, who was killed by the RIC in May 1920. The parade later stopped at Ballinagh Hall, where it held a minutes' silence for Commandant Fitzpatrick, who died in 1924 as a result of ill-treatment in prison. Joe Ennis (Cavan) chaired the proceedings and gave the oration denouncing the collaboration of the 26-County forces with the British and the "huge exodus of young people while the multinationals plundered the country's wealth leaving us empty-handed."

Clare

WITH THE main Clare commemoration being held jointly with Galway republicans in Shanaglish, County Galway, on Sunday afternoon, some 50 people assembled on Clonaham Cemetery, Shannon, in the morning to honour Ireland's dead.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and Sinn Fein. Shannon Town Commissioner Mick McKee gave the oration. Eithne Donnelly closed the proceedings, chaired by Peter Flanagan, by playing a lament on a tin whistle.



● The Loss



● The Mourning

Cork

THERE WAS a big turn-out for Cork's Easter commemoration which was led by a republican colour party, Fianna Eireann and the Strabane Memorial Flute Band which entertained the crowds lining the streets.

After the laying of a wreath at the National Monument, the parade proceeded to the old Cork Prison where another wreath was laid. The ceremony at St Finbarr's Cemetery was chaired by Kieran McCarthy.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, *The Last Post* was sounded and a Fianna member read the Proclamation.

In his oration, Belfast City Councillor Sean McKnight said that parallels could be drawn between the tactics of the RUC at Volunteer Larry Marley's funeral and the activities of the Special Branch in Cork over the Easter weekend as they harassed, arrested, assaulted and raided the homes of Sinn Fein members. He said that it was a sure sign that the republican struggle is succeeding when the establishment stoops to such measures.

The commemoration ended with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

COBH

A large colour party and two bands, the Ringskiddy Pipe Band and the Strabane Memorial Flute Band, led the republican parade in Cobh.

The march began from Russell Heights in the heart of the town's large housing estates and up to 200

1987 Easter Commemorations



... South Derry



The wreath-laying at the Republican Monument in Nenagh, County Tipperary



Two young republicans carry the wreaths at Ballymacnab, South Armagh



... County Derry



J.B. O'Hagan at the wreath-laying in Monaghan

people took part. Chaining the commemoration at the Old Cemetery, Kieran McCarthy spoke of the party's work in the area over the past year.

Sean McKnight was the main speaker and the Strabane Flute Band ended the ceremony by playing the national anthem.

Derry

A DELUGE of heavy rain dogged the footsteps of Derry city's Easter marchers but failed to dampen their spirits or affect their morale. A wind-swept drizzle had already begun to fall on the Bogside as hundreds of Derry republicans, young and old, gathered at the foot of Westland Street at 2.30pm.

Despite the suffocating presence of RUC Land Rovers and British army foot-patrols, the attention of the swelling crowd was fixed firmly upon the overcast sky as raincoats were hastily buttoned, umbrellas unfolded and hoods pulled tight. In fact, for most of the day, little attention at all was paid to the crown forces.

As if to test the will of the republican crowds, the persistent drizzle turned to a downpour just as the parade stepped out. An eight-strong civilian colour party briskly set off, followed by the Michael McLaughlin Flute Band and numerous wreath-bearers. Behind them, the lines of marchers huddled close together to seek shelter beneath a sea of multi-coloured umbrellas. Throughout the long and steep ascent to the

Creggan Cemetery, men, women and children shielded one another and seemed to shrug off the driving rain with ease.

Arriving in the Creggan Cemetery nearly an hour later, the marchers took up position around the Republican Plot. For the first Easter in living memory in Derry, several hundred riot-clad RUC men had besieged the Republican Memorial. Amongst the thousands of determined Derry people, the intruders were easily outnumbered and the provocation ignored.

With the crowd's undivided attention focused on the platform, the republican message was clear and defiant. The chairperson, Strabane Sinn Féin Councillor Ivan Barr, spoke first, asking everyone to rededicate themselves "to the noble principle of Irish freedom if the sacrifices made by each generation of republicans is not to be in vain".

The Derry Brigade Roll of Honour was read by Stephanie English, sister of IRA Volunteer Charles English, and a minute's silence was observed.

After the reading of the 1916 Proclamation and the leadership address, Martin McGuinness gave a forceful and uncompromising speech to an appreciative audience. Praising the courage and sacrifices of the Volunteers of the Derry Brigade, McGuinness said that Derry was one of the great fighting republican areas, "an area which continues to plague and break the heart of the British government and its military forces".

Although everyone had assembled at Easter to honour every generation of Ireland's dead, "in all our hearts there is a special place for the Volunteers of this generation who gave their lives over the past 17 years".

"Never in the history of liberation struggles has such bravery, such ingenuity and such commitment been shown."

Making special mention of the recent traumatic ordeals of the families of IRA Volunteers Gerard Logue and Larry Marley, McGuinness said that the RUC policy of saturat-

ing republican funerals was another attempt to isolate the Republican Movement.

"When they attack our funerals and our commemorations, either verbally or with batons, they are out to stop the voice of revolution in this country. They are deeply afraid of the amount of popular support that we possess and they believe that they can intimidate us, harass us and drive our supporters into passive submission. The courage and resolve of the Marley and the Logue families exposed to everyone the violent, vindictive and unacceptable nature of British forces in Ireland and our determination never to be intimidated off our streets."

Attacking the one-sided and hypocritical condemnations of the IRA by the SDLP and the Catholic hierarchy, McGuinness called on the enemies of the Republican Movement to "stop hiding behind the cloak of religion".

"Republicans do not seek confrontation with bishops. If the Catholic bishops wish to support British rule and act as SDLP election agents, so be it. At least their attacks on the IRA and Sinn Féin could then be understood, if not accepted."

McGuinness also praised the vital role of women in the struggle:

"Their contribution to the Irish freedom struggle would put most men to shame. They are helping to shape the future development of our movement and to eradicate, through intellect and force of argument, the sterile and destructive notions of a repressive past."

"Republicans cannot live in a past that no longer has any relevance. There is no Celtic twilight, the dawn of revolutionary common sense is upon us - and not before time. No longer can we rely upon random events and emotional interpretations of Irish history. Disciplined armed resistance, coupled with the creation of a mass political movement poses the most dangerous threat to British interests in Ireland."

When solidarity messages had been read out from the Catalan and people and the Doncaster Labour

a solidarity message was delivered by a visiting member of the Irish in Britain Representation Group.

Sean Corey, who chaired the commemoration, introduced the main speaker, East Derry Councillor John Davey, who praised the courage of everyone attending what was now an 'illegal' commemoration of Ireland's dead:

"You are witnessing yet another attempt by the British to criminalise the struggle of the Irish to be free. They will fail just as they have failed in all of their previous efforts."

SWATRAGH

In Swatragh on Easter Monday, RUC Land-Rovers preceded a much larger than usual procession, including bands and several Sinn Féin drummers. Warnings were issued by the RUC several times along the route as the parade marched to the graveside of Volunteer Danny McMullen, where wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglaiha na hEireann and the McCusker/McMullen Sinn Féin Cumann.

BELLAGHY

In Bellaghy, just after 12 noon, local republicans gathered at the graveside of hunger-strikers Francis Hughes and Thomas McElwee for the traditional wreath-laying ceremony.

At Desertmartin, a short wreath-laying ceremony was held at the grave of Volunteer Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde.

Donegal

A CROWD of over 2,000 people from all over the North-West took part in Donegal's Easter commemoration at Drumboe, where the parade was led by an IRA colour party.

Rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the predominantly young crowd which gathered at the assembly point in Stranorlar and cheered loudly as the impressively-turned-out colour party of IRA Volunteers marched up to lead the commemoration.

Six bands took part: the Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, from Kesh-naught in South Derry; the Kevin Lynch Band, also from South Derry; the Emerald Accordion Band, from Letterkenny; St Laurence's Pipe Band, from Fintona; the Oliver Plunkett Band, from Strabane; and the Creggan Flute Band.

The parade marched from Stranorlar across the Finn Bridge into the twin town of Ballyshofey, and back again to the County Donegal Republican Memorial, where the colour party halted while wreaths were laid and the Tricolour was lowered to half-mast. The march then proceeded up to Drumboe Wood to the site of the castle where IRA leaders Charlie Daly, Sean Larkin, Daniel Enright and Tim O'Sullivan were executed by the Free State forces in 1923.

The Drumboe Memorial is one of the most impressive sites of republican commemorations, overlooking the valley of the River Finn with the Blue Stairs Mountains in the distance. When the colour party had formed up in front of the monument the ceremony was begun by Sinn Féin Councillor Liam McElhinney. He introduced Donnie McIntyre, who read the Proclamation, Eamonn Monaghan read the Tir Chonnail Roll of Honour while the West Tyrone Roll of Honour was read by Ultan McAnulty, a former blanketman.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglaiha na hEireann and Sinn Féin, and an IRA Volunteer read the statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement to loud cheers from the crowd. The main oration was given by Sinn Féin vice-president John Joe McGin.

He traced the history of the republican struggle since 1916 and said:

"The past 18 years will go down (continued on next page)"

DUNGIVEN

A wreath-laying ceremony attended by over 100 people took place at 12.15pm from the car park opposite St Patrick's Church, Dungiven.

Wreaths were laid on the graves of local patriots, including that of hunger-strike martyr Kevin Lynch by his father, Paddy. The ceremony was chaired by local Sinn Féin Councillor Mick Hannon. When the Proclamation was read, the oration was given by Dungiven Sinn Féin Councillor Barney McFadden. The Kevin Lynch Memorial Flute Band concluded the ceremony with the national anthem.

THE LOUP

The main commemoration in South Derry was in the Loup at the graveside of IRA Brigadier Sean Larkin, one of the Drumboe Martyrs. Five bands led a parade of several hundred marchers for the mile-long procession from the Ballyronan Road to the IRA Volunteer's grave.

A family atmosphere was maintained throughout with groups of parents and children occupying every vantage point underneath numerous Tricolours and rows of bunting.

A brief wreath-laying ceremony was held before the gathering adjourned to the nearby car-park for the main speeches. A brother of Sean Larkin read the Proclamation and

1987 Easter Commemorations

(continued from previous page)
in the history books as the most heroic and the final phase of that struggle.

"I would like to join with you in paying tribute to the fighting men and women who are struggling to rid our country of British rule. Their fight is the same as was carried on the length and breadth of Ireland by the IRA in the 1920s, despite all the propaganda to the contrary."

Referring to the recent 26-County election, he said that, while the results had been a disappointment to some of us, they emphasised the need to become involved with the people and to build support for the Republican Movement. He said that British counter-insurgency tactics would fall today as they had in the past:

"The Hillsborough Agreement is a camouflage of imperialism to consolidate British rule in our country, but we shall overcome."

At the conclusion of the ceremony at Drumboe Castle the parade marched back to the town, where the commemoration ended with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

DONEYLOOP & CLADY BRIDGE

Earlier on Sunday, there were wreath-laying ceremonies at the grave-sides of IRA Volunteers at Doneyloop Chapel and Clady Bridge. Liam McEhinney was the speaker at both ceremonies.

Down

A HUGE JEER from the crowd gathered in Newry town centre greeted the RUC announcement that the traditional Easter commemoration was 'illegal'. Not for the first time, people ignored the ban and paraded behind a republican colour party and two bands to the local cemetery.

Deborah Morgan chaired the commemoration, which began with wreaths being laid at the graves of dead Volunteers on behalf of relatives, the PDF, Sinn Fein and South Down Command of Ogligh na hEireann.

A bugler played *The Last Post* and was followed by a minute's silence in memory of those who died for Irish freedom. When the leadership statement had been read, three uniformed IRA Volunteers stepped forward and one read a local statement.

The IRA thanked the people of Newry for their continued support, saying that the wearing of an Easter lily "endorse the path for future generations of freedom fighters".

The statement went on to warn that "the time for pleading with criminals" was over and the ongoing problem of organised and petty crime would not be tolerated.

Commenting on the recent funeral of Vol Larry Marley the IRA condemned those who exploited the situation by attacking working-class property including a minibus belonging to a confederation of community groups.

Of IRA operations in the last year, the Volunteer pointed out that, so far as Newry went:

"The British government's so-called policies of Ulsterisation and normalisation have been destroyed. We are now back to a situation where the British army saturates our town, unable to draw on demoralised RUC ranks."

"To the British army, in this final phase of our struggle, we promise to strike hard and send you back where you came from. The South Down Command of Ogligh na hEireann will lead you, the republicans of Newry, to victory. Freedom shall be ours."

In the course of the main oration, Sean Crowe (Dublin) reminded the crowd of the plight of the prisoners: "As we remember our dead it is equally important that we remember the living men and women who are political prisoners, some

of whom are entering their 15th year in captivity. We should remember the families of prisoners; their courage and steadfastness throughout this long struggle is an inspiration to us all. The larger the effort, the quicker British rule will crumble and the quicker our POWs will be freed and reunited with their families."

Concern for prisoners and their families was also stressed by local republican Raymond Watson, whose book *Cath Saoirse an Iuir* (Newry's Struggle), was introduced to the commemoration by the author. Proceeds from the book, which outlines Newry's part in the freedom struggle since 1798, are going to the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund.

DOWNPATRICK

Shortly after 2.30pm, around 150 people gathered in Downpatrick for the annual commemoration through the town. Undeterred by the RUC announcing several times that the parade was illegal, the marchers assembled in Irish Street and, led by a colour party, moved off towards the cemetery beside the Flying Horse housing estate.

Local republican Paddy Fitzsimons chaired the commemoration. Two minutes' silence was observed after wreaths were laid at the graves of three Volunteers: Vivien Fitzsimons, Martin Curran and Seamus Mooney. Following the Roll of Honour, the reading of the Proclamation and the statement from the leadership, Sinn Fein Councillor Geraldine Ritchie gave a short speech, paying tribute to Volunteers past and present.

Danny Morrison, the main speaker, stressed that the RUC is not a reformed force but, in fact, is worse than it was in 1968 when it thought it could beat the nationalist people into the ground.

Earlier in the day, wreath-laying ceremonies were held in Tyconnet and Ardgliss. Friends, relatives and local Sinn Fein members paid tribute to Volunteer James Carlin at his grave in the small cemetery in Tyconnet. Shortly after that, in Ardgliss, a brief oration was given and wreaths laid at the grave of Volunteer Leo O'Hanlon, killed on active service in 1973.

CASTLEWELLAN

Under grey skies on late Sunday afternoon, a large crowd gathered in Castlewellan for the annual Easter commemoration. In spite of harassment by UDR soldiers and the RUC, who had blocked the main roads, around 450 people gathered at the Bann Road assembly point at the edge of town.

Led by a colour party and the Armagh Martyrs Flute Band, the marchers set off for Paul Magorrian Park. Spectators stood at the side of the road as the commemoration made its way through the town centre.

The commemoration was chaired by Lorraine Canavan, who began by reading the Proclamation. Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the various South Down Sinn Fein cumainn at the spot where Paul Magorrian was murdered by British troops and the Roll of Honour was read.

Councillor Geraldine Ritchie gave an oration in which she stressed the unity of the Republican Movement, which is looking forward to further successes in the coming year.

Danny Morrison was warmly welcomed by the assembled crowd as he gave the main speech of the afternoon. He pointed out that everyone attending the commemoration was breaking a law Seamus Mallon had voted for and the SDLP had "voted red, white and blue with the British government". The crowd cheered loudly as Morrison described Thatcher as "the real gangster".

Morrison went on to speak about the brutality of the nationalist people had endured over the years at the hands of the crown forces and thunderous applause greeted his remark that instead of being beaten "out of the ashes of 1969 arose the unbeatable Provisionals."

The commemoration ended with Lorraine Canavan thanking everyone for coming, especially the McNulty/Magorrian/Rice Memorial Band and the Armagh Martyrs Flute Band, who closed the events with the national anthem.

Dublin

DUBLIN CITY'S commemoration began this year at the GPO after a 20-strong Fianna Eireann colour party and the Tom Smith, Fife & Drum Band paraded along O'Connell Street, with the band's vigorous playing and rousing chants attracting the attention of many onlookers.

After both the colour party and band dipped their flags outside the GPO and a minute's silence was observed in honour of fallen republican freedom fighters, the four hundred marchers paraded to the Republican Monument in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Chaired by Dublin City Sinn Fein Councillor Christy Burke, the ceremony opened with a reading of the Proclamation by Aine Connolly, the Roll of Honour by Mickey Reilly and the statement from the Republican Movement leadership. Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Dublin Brigade of Ogligh na hEireann and Sinn Fein.

Tom Hartley (Belfast) told the crowd:

"Seventy-one years after the men and women of 1916 declared that 'the wealth of Ireland belongs to the people of Ireland', the wealth of this country is still firmly held by a small percentage of the rich and powerful, poverty is rife, unemployment remains high and our people are still 'our own people'. Emigration haunts us as much today as it did during the great waves of emigration in the late 19th Century."

"Irish wealth remains at the disposal of the international banks and the multinationals. In the Ireland of the 1980s, the situation is worsening with the introduction of new laws like the Single European Act, which allows for greater political and economic control by the EEC. This Act was introduced against the background of a propaganda offensive by the major European states aimed at bringing the Dublin government into the military alliance called NATO."

"On every front there is an attack on the very idea of self-determination."

Hartley ended by saying: "Let us go away from here today strong in our convictions and determined to secure by our commitment and hard work the republic proclaimed at the GPO on Easter 1916. This movement of ours has all the potential to change for the better the political map of Ireland; that will only be done by continuing hard work and personal sacrifice. Our task remains to carry through the ideals of 1916 into the 1980s."

The proceedings were closed by a Fianna colour party salute, a minute's silence and the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

DUN LAOGHAIRE

A Fianna Eireann colour party and the Sallinoggin Our Lady of Victories Pipe Band and the Tom Smith Band headed the Dun Laoghaire commemoration to the Republican Plot in Dean's Grange Cemetery on Easter Monday.

Joe Reilly (Meath) gave the oration at the graveside commemoration which was chaired by Kevin Fitzpatrick, chairperson of Dun Laoghaire Sinn Fein.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and Sinn Fein and the Proclamation was read by Dick Farrell. For the first time, the parade marched through two local housing estates on the way to the cemetery.

TALLAGHT

Sixty people turned out for the



● A Fianna Eireann colour party lowers its flags in salute at the GPO in Dublin

local commemoration in the Dublin South-West suburb of Tallaght on Saturday afternoon.

Led by the Tom Smith Band, they marched from the Sinn Fein Advice Centre at St Dominick's Road to the Republican Plaque in Tallaght village, where the ceremony was chaired by Marie Hackett.

Recently-released Portlaoise POW Johnny Johnston gave the oration in which he reminded everyone of the Volunteers languishing in jail and their unbroken commitment to the armed struggle. People outside the prisons, he said, need to give their total commitment to the republican cause.

Fermanagh

A HEAVY RUC presence, blocking roads and diverting traffic could not deter an estimated crowd of 1,000 people from attending the County Fermanagh Easter commemoration in the village of Donagh.

From early morning, all approach roads to Donagh were sealed off by the RUC. Motorists travelling into the area were sent on long detours and it appeared that the RUC might try to stop the parade altogether following the arrest the day before of one of the main organisers.

Refusing to be intimidated either by the RUC or the appalling weather conditions, the parade, led by three bands, went ahead from Donagh housing estate to the grave of IRA Volunteer Louis Leonard. There a large force of RUC, backed up by British troops looked on as wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, Fermanagh Sinn Fein, Fianna Eireann, St Pat's GAA club Donagh and by the Leonard family.

Apart from the death of Louis Leonard in 1972, the commemoration recalled the death a year ago of IRA Volunteer Seamus McElwain a few miles away at Roslea.

Earlier in the day, wreaths were laid on the graves of all other Fermanagh IRA Volunteers who died in this and previous phases in the struggle for freedom.

Galway

OVER 1500 people took part in the Easter Sunday commemoration from Shanglish, County Galway, to the recently-renovated Republican Plot in the local cemetery.

The parade, organised by Galway and Clare Sinn Fein, was led by a republican colour party and Galway's Liam Mellows Band to the graves of the Loughnane brothers, who were murdered by the Black and Tans, and Michael Kelly, who was killed in the Civil War.

Michael Loughrey chaired the proceedings and John Landers read the Proclamation.

Giving the oration, John Carroll (Offaly) called on republicans to play a full part in the campaign against the Single European Act, pointing out that the SEA is a backdoor way of preparing the path for the 26 Counties to join NATO.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann, Sinn Fein and the Easter Commemoration Committee.

Kerry

A good turn-out of 250 people assembled at Denny Street in Tralee for the commemoration on Sunday.

The marchers, led by a colour party and the Gill O'Brien Pipe Band and the Ballybunion Pipe Band, proceeded to the Republican Plot in Rath Cemetery where wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann, republican prisoners (by Mrs Dowd, mother of Brendan Dowd, a POW in England), Sinn Fein (Billy Leen, Tralee councillor), An Cumann Cabhrach (Mary Fusco, wife of Portlaoise POW Angelo Fusco) and the O'Donovan Rossa GAA Club, Belfast, who were playing in Tralee at the weekend and attended the commemoration (Loey Donnelly).

Gerry Savage chaired the ceremony and the oration was given by Brendan Hughes (Belfast), who said:

"Our patriot dead did not pay the ultimate price just to see a Tricolour flying throughout the 32 Counties. They died for much more than mere symbolism. They died for — and we continue to struggle for — the realisation of a sovereign and independent 32-County democratic socialist republic which will be a beacon for all the oppressed and struggling nations of all the world."

The Last Post was played by bugler Pat Short and the commemoration was closed with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann* by the Gill O'Brien Band.

LISTOWEL

At the Listowel commemoration, 120 people marched behind a colour party and the Ballybunion Pipe Band to the local Republican Plot.

Chairperson was local Sinn Fein Councillor Donal Kelleher and wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann and the political prisoners. Brendan Hughes gave the oration and *The Last Post* was played by bugler Pat Short.

Kildare

A PIPER and republican colour party led Kildare republicans from the town centre to the

1987 Easter Commemorations

Republican Memorial on Easter Sunday.

The memorial was unveiled in 1939 in honour of seven IRA Volunteers who were captured by Free State troops in a dug-out at Moorebridge in December 1922 and were executed in the Curragh by men whose rifles were blessed on the day by a Free State army chaplain.

The ceremony was chaired by Sinn Fein Councillor Paddy Wright and the oration was given by Pamela Kane (Dublin) before Thomas O'Connell gave a moving speech which recalled his friendship with the seven men killed by the Free State.

The commemoration ended with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

Leitrim

COUNTY LEITRIM'S Easter commemoration was held this year in Drumshanbo. The parade was led by the Kiltubrid Pipe Band and marched to the cemetery, where the ceremony was chaired by Sinn Fein Councillor Mel Farrell.

Wreaths were laid on the graves of the republicans who are buried in the cemetery. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Martin McTiernan and Niall Donnelly (Dublin) gave the oration. Referring to the recent IRA attacks, he said:

"The last four months have shown clearly, from Belfast to Belcoo and from Bessbrook to Armagh, that not only does the armed struggle continue but that it will be intensified."

On the Hillsborough Agreement, he said that Fianna Fail had created the illusion of being critical of it but "then, in Washington, the forgetful cowboy, Ronald Reagan, cracked the whip and Charlie jumped."

The Single European Act was, he said, another sell-out of Irish sovereignty and must be opposed by republicans. He ended by urging all present to continue their efforts to build the Republican Movement and achieve the socialist republic.

Limerick

OVER 200 people, including a large contingent of Fianna Eireann, attended the Easter commemoration in Limerick city on Sunday afternoon.

Led by a colour party, they marched from Bedford Row in the city centre to the Republican Plot in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery.

The ceremonies were chaired by Padraig Malone. The oration was given by Aengus O Snodaigh (Dublin) who called on people to join the Republican Movement and for republican unity in the face of continuing attacks by the British and Irish establishments. He called on people to give a greater commitment to the struggle.

Wreaths were laid on the Republican Plot and on the grave of Sean Glynn, who died in Arbour Hill Prison in 1936, on behalf of the Republican Movement and Fianna Eireann.

ATHEA

Later that afternoon, a crowd of over 70 people marched from the village of Athea to the local cemetery, led by a republican colour party and followed by Fianna Eireann and the local pipe band, Pobairi Chnoic Uí Chóiláin.

The proceedings were chaired by Donncha O'Nualláin and the oration was given by Aengus O Snodaigh. *Amhran na bhFiann* was played by the band and then wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement the graves of local republican Michael Mulvihill and Paddy Dalton, who was murdered by the Black and Tans in 1921.

Longford

LONGFORD republicans marched on Easter Sunday from Churchland to Ballymacormack Cemetery to the graves of Volunteers Henry Hughes and Patrick McKeon.

The parade was led by a flag-bearer and the Ballymacormack Youth Band. The graveside ceremony was chaired by Gerry McBride. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and Sinn Fein.

Seamus McDonnell read the County Longford Roll of Honour and the Proclamation.

The main speaker was Donegal Sinn Fein Councillor Eddie Fullerton. On Leinster House he said:

"Republicans had never and would never accept it as the parliament of the people of Ireland but we will use it as a convenience to advance our struggle."

"Republicans have not died simply so that the Tricolour could fly throughout the 32 Counties but for a republic where there would be plenty for all, and where unemployment and emigration would be no more."

A minute's silence was observed for Willie Murray and Pat Higgins, two local life-long republicans who died during the year, and after the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann* the march returned to the assembly point.

Louth

THE Easter commemoration in Dundalk is very much a family affair and local republicans and their children started to gather at the Square an hour before the parade started off.

A colour party led the march which was accompanied by the Young Republican Band (Newry) and the Rising Phoenix Band (Glasgow). The lively strains of flute and drum drew many more people into the march as it proceeded to the cemetery just outside the town.

The commemoration at the Republican Plot was chaired by Dundalk Sinn Fein Councillor Frank Duffy and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Sinn Fein, Fianna Eireann and Cumann Cábhrach. Two local buglers sounded *The Last Post* as the colour party dipped the flags.

The oration was given by Rita O'Hare (editor of AP/RN), who said: *"When it has not been sitting on the fence, the 26-County political establishment has increasingly thrown in its lot with the imperialists. 1916's freedom fighters are now an embarrassment to them because 85 years of pretending to emulate them has been exposed by the Republican Movement of today. To wear an Easter lily, to sing a republican song, even to speak Irish is to be branded a terrorist or a fellow traveller of terrorists."*

"To be proud of your Irish identity and to defend and promote Irish sovereignty is to be called a bad European, threatening the moves to bring our country further into a United States of Europe presided over by the real terrorists - Reagan, Thatcher and their allies. Like the Hillsborough Agreement and indeed the Treaty of 1921, the Single European Act is another formula devised by the ruling class to tighten its grip over the lives of the people."

"As the nationalist victims of sectarian loyalist murder gangs will testify, the Hillsborough Agreement has served only to increase the misery of those who have always suffered most from the injustice of partition. The Single European Act threatens to padlock another chain around our divided and economically-crippled island."

"Republicans must be to the forefront in confronting such measures

which make a mockery of Fianna Fail claims - be defenders of Irish sovereignty. Unlike them, we are concerned not just with the symbols but with the substance of freedom - real social and economic freedom for workers and small farmers which will build the 32-County socialist republic in which the young who are now forced into exile or condemned to the misery of the dole queues can work and live in peace."

DROGHEDA

The Easter commemoration in Drogheda formed up at 12 noon in the town's main street, West Street. With the flags of the colour party flapping in the stiff breeze, the parade, accompanied by the local brass band, marched the mile to the Republican Monument on Marsh Road.

As the marchers passed the spot on Marsh Road where two Drogheda men, Thomas Halpin and John Moran, were murdered by British forces in 1921, the band played a slow air and the silent crowd walked solemnly.

At the Monument the ceremony was chaired by Brendan Guigley, Drogheda Sinn Fein chairperson. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Sinn band, Fianna Eireann and the Easter Commemoration Committee. The band's trumpeters sounded *The Last Post* and *Reveille*.

KILCURRY

At Kilcurry, near the border, on Sunday morning, 150 people marched behind an Ogligh na hEireann colour party to the grave of Volunteer Sean Campbell, who was killed in action in South Armagh in 1975. The graveside commemoration was chaired by Louth Sinn Fein's Arthur Morgan and wreaths were laid by the Campbell family, and on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann, and Sinn Fein.

Mayo

ON A WINDSWEEP and rainy Easter Sunday afternoon, over 120 people took part in the Ballina commemoration. A republican colour party led the march to the graves of Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg, where the proceedings were chaired by Jackie Clarke.

In her oration, Martha McClelland (Derry) drew comparisons between the treatment by the Dublin government of Frank Stagg's funeral and the RUC's attacks on Vol Larry Marley's funeral. She also called on republicans to build on the election results in order to end our political isolation in the 26 Counties.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement on the graves of Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg.

Meath

AT A WELL-ATTENDED commemoration at Ballinlough, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Sinn Fein and the local Sinn Fein cumann in memory of Commandant James Cogan, who was murdered by Auxiliaries in 1920, and Patrick McDonnell.

Over 100 people heard Michael Mac Cormara (Dublin) highlight the fact that the war didn't end in 1922, and that men and women are laying down their lives today in a struggle which will only end when the British government finally gets out of Ireland.

The Hillsborough Agreement, Charlie Haughey's change of stance on it, and the Special Branch presence all came in for special attention. The chairperson, Joe Reilly, ended the ceremony with a minute's silence for the republican dead.



● A Volunteer of Ogligh na hEireann reading the leadership statement at the Crossmaglen commemoration

Monaghan

A COLOURFUL parade from the Feargal O'Hanlon Monument to Lathluran Cemetery in Monaghan town was led by an impressive 14-person colour party and a large slua of Fianna Eireann.

Loud cheers and clapping greeted the arrival at the O'Hanlon Monument of a well-drilled colour party of 11 men and three women. Following the laying of a wreath at the monument by veteran republican J.B. O'Hagan, the parade proceeded through the town, watched by hundreds of spectators.

Behind the colour party and Fianna Eireann slua from Knockattail on the large crowd was entertained by two Scottish bands, the Andersonstown Martyrs Band, from Bridge-ton in Glasgow, and the Wolfe Tone Band, from Wishaw.

At Lathluran Cemetery, wreaths were laid on the graves of three IRA Volunteers by Jim Guigley, Tommy Corcoran and Councillor Owen Smyth.

The Proclamation was read by Councillor Fintan MacPhillips and the Roll of Honour by Councillor Pat Treanor.

Sean McCoy who chaired the commemoration then introduced the main speaker, John Noonan (Dublin).

Referring to the role played by Monaghan in the freedom struggle, Noonan said that the struggle had been fought by IRA Volunteers such as Seamus McEilwin and by the political activists of Sinn Fein who are poised to make a breakthrough "sooner rather than later".

"The lessons of the past should be used to build gains in the future."

Following the commemoration, the parade returned to Park Street where it dispersed following the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

On Sunday morning, there were a series of local ceremonies throughout County Monaghan to commemorate individual Volunteers who died in this and other phases of the republican struggle. Amongst those commemorated was IRA Volunteer Seamus McEilwin, who died a year ago this week.

Offaly

OFFALY republicans marched on Easter Sunday from Killofart Church to Killofart Cemetery and to the grave of Volunteer Joseph Byrne, who was executed by the Free State forces in Portlaoise Prison in 1923.

The commemoration ceremony was chaired by Liam Walsh (Tullamore). Peter Nolan (Ballycumber) read the 1916 Proclamation and Eamon Maloney (Banagher) read the Roll of Honour. A wreath was laid by Fred Gogghy, (Tullamore).

In the course of his oration, Michael O'Muirgáin (Dublin) said: *"Doubts as to what the critics and begrudgers have said, it is absolutely clear that the Republican Movement is the only determined and united force in Ireland which can end British rule."*

"Let there be one strong army of resistance, let there be but one political party devoted to articulating the demand for the Republic."

Stressing the need for republicans to campaign against the Single European Act, he said:

"The enemy we face is no longer the war-mongers of Whitehall but the evil conspiracy of Western capitalism which seeks to protect itself from the progressive demands of oppressed peoples and to deny nationhood to those who have suffered under the yoke of imperialism."

Sligo

"WE WILL behave with dignity as republicans." Guided by Sinn Fein Chairperson Sean MacManus, a good turn-out in Sligo town foiled an attempt by a handful of Ruairi O'Bradaigh's group to provoke trouble.

The crowd of over 100 had marched from the Lady Erin Monument to the Republican Plot and had begun the commemoration when the O'Bradaigh group burst in, set up loud-speakers and started its own ceremony alongside.

Acting on Sean MacManus's urging not to sink to the others' disgraceful level by quarrelling over the graves of dead republicans, the crowd waited in great dignity until they were done. The ten-person group left. To great acclaim, John Murtagh read the Roll of Honour, which had been interrupted.

Heading the commemoration marchers were a colour party, the St Oliver Plunkett Band, from Magherafield, County Derry, and veteran piper Larry O'Dowd.

In soaking rain, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and by Maeve Wilkins and Helen MacManus on behalf of Sinn Fein. Joe Burns read the Proclamation.

The Army statement was greeted enthusiastically, as was Mairead Farrell, former Armagh POW, who gave the oration. She pointed out that strip-searching of women POWs in Magheraberry and Durban had indeed increased of late. She asked for a "redoubling of effort" by Sinn Fein workers and supporters to achieve the objective of our fallen - "a new Ireland...a beacon of hope to other oppressed and struggling nations".

Sean MacManus, stressing that he can hope for nothing from Fianna Fail, endorsed her call for a 32-County democratic socialist republic.

Wreaths were laid at other republican graves throughout County Sligo.

Tipperary

A TEN-STRONG Fianna Eireann colour party combined with the presence of Dan Gleeson, a republican for 70 years, to show the remarkable continuity of North Tipperary republicanism at Nenagh on Easter Sunday.

Around 100 people attended a commemoration that morning at the town's Republican Monument in Banba Square, where a special tribute was made to the hunger-strike martyrs whose names are inscribed there. The Proclamation was read by Brigid Hackett, whose brother is in jail in England.

Later a similar number gathered at Lisbony Cemetery outside the

(continues on next page)

1987 Easter Commemorations

(continued from previous page)

town to commemorate Nenagh republicans and wreaths were laid at the graves of Commandants Sean Bergin and Jimmy Nolan and that of Paddy Gleeson, Dan's brother.

In his address, former Portlaoise prisoner Coireall Mac Curtain condemned the "false independence of 1922" and the "big lie" of the Hillborough Agreement. Explaining that republicanism meant a radical change of the whole political system, he promised:

"No-one will ride to power on the backs of the Republican Movement when the British leave this country."

Jimmy Nolan, chairperson of Nenagh UDC, chaired the ceremonies.

TIPPERARY TOWN

A colour party led the march at the Easter commemoration in Tipperary town on Easter Sunday.

At the Republican Plot in St Michael's Cemetery, the proceedings were chaired by Bobby McNamara and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and local republicans.

Geraldine McNamara gave the oration and a piper played the national anthem to close the ceremony.

SOUTH TIPPERARY

The annual commemoration in honour of George Plant was held at his graveside in St Johnstown Cemetery on Easter Sunday under the auspices of the South Tipperary Republican Commemoration Committee. It was well-attended in spite of the uncertain weather.

Eddie O'Doherty (Carrick-on-Suir) presided and the ceremonies opened with a reading of the Proclamation of 1916 by Mary Healy (Fethard). This was followed by the laying of a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement. After playing a lament by a lone piper a spirited oration was delivered by Jackie Whelan (Portlaoise).

He referred to the trial and execution of George Plant in Portlaoise in 1942 and said that in paying this annual tribute to his memory they were honouring one of the greatest Tipperary republican soldiers of that era.

He further stated that if Plant were alive today he would be proud of his colleagues who were carrying on an unyielding struggle against the British occupation of part of our country. That resistance he said, would continue unendingly until the last British soldier was driven from Irish soil and it was only then that a free Ireland could fulfil her destiny among the free nations of the world.

Tyrone

THE determination of the several thousand people who attended the main County Tyrone commemoration at Carrickmore forced the RUC to abandon its efforts to halt the parade.

By 2pm, scores of RUC Land Rovers had invaded the village and the surrounding countryside. The RUC harassment meant that republicans and republican supporters were forced to leave their cars outside the village. They were subjected to body-searches, their names were taken, and they had to walk over a mile to the village in a steady drizzle.

The Main Street in front of the parade's assembly point, the Patrician Hall, was bright with Tricolour flags and bunting. From almost every home in the village, the national flag was flying, confirmation of Carrickmore's staunchly republican tradition. But though the parade clearly offended no-one, the RUC was present in aggressive and provocative strength.

RUC Land Rovers and, in front of them, several lines of RUC men wearing steel helmets and riot gear,

blocked both ends of the Main Street, hemming in the gathering crowd. Intensifying the sinister atmosphere of intimidation, atop one Land Rover, an RUC man knelt, automatic rifle at the ready.

But the crowd's spirits were clearly high. There was enthusiastic applause as bands marched to within inches of the RUC, playing *The Belfast Brigade*, *The Broad Black Brimmer* and other rebel songs, and drowned out the RUC's loudspeaker warnings that the parade was 'illegal'.

The parade eventually formed up, led by a seven-person colour party of Tyrone republicans, including Sinn Fein Councillors Anita Cavan, Seamas Kerr and Christopher Neeson.

Three bands were in attendance, led by the Martin Hurson Memorial Band, from Gortin. Numerous bright Sinn Fein banners added more colour.

There was a sustained cheer as Sean Begley, Sinn Fein's Mid-Ulster representative, used a megaphone to tell the RUC:

"Carrickmore is a nationalist town and we are annoying no-one. Let us march."

The RUC at first remained immobile but, despite the tense atmosphere, men, women and children stood firm and within minutes the RUC slunk back. And, at last, more than an hour behind the advertised starting time, the marchers were able to parade over the usual route around the outskirts of the village.

The march concluded at the republican Garden of Remembrance where, once again, RUC Land Rovers and scores of riot-clad RUC personnel tried unsuccessfully to provoke incidents.

The ceremonies were chaired by Sinn Fein Councillor Francie Molloy, who is chairperson of the Tyrone National Graves Association.

Seated at either side of the platform were veterans of the IRA (including two 1916 men) and relatives of some of the dead Volunteers.

The commemoration started with the reading of the Proclamation by local Sinn Fein member Barry McElduff. The long Roll of Honour for Tyrone was read out while the colour party lowered their flags. Next, wreaths were laid on behalf of GHQ Ogligh na hEireann, and the Tyrone Brigade, Sinn Fein, and the National Graves Association.

Several times during the ceremony, Francie Molloy had to call for calm as RUC men provoked scuffles in one corner of the crowd.

The main speaker was Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin, who began by paying tribute to *"all those brave people in every generation who gave their lives in Ireland's fight for freedom"*, to their families, and to the republican prisoners and their families.

Condemning the attacks by British forces on recent IRA funerals, McLaughlin said they had *"exposed to everyone the violent, vindictive and unacceptable nature of Britain's forces in Ireland and our absolute determination never to be intimidated from our streets"*.

McLaughlin strongly criticised the Church hierarchy and the SDLP who, he said, find it *"quite acceptable"* for Britain's *"paid gunmen"* to be buried with full military rites while judging it *"unacceptable"* that IRA Volunteers should get dignified recognition. McLaughlin told the hierarchy:

"Please stop hiding behind the cloak of religion. Republicans do not seek confrontations with bishops. If the hierarchy wishes to support British rule and wishes to act as SDLP apologists, then let it say so openly."

McLaughlin stressed the importance of adapting republican tactics to fit each new situation. *"The disciplined armed resistance of the IRA, coupled with a mass resistance movement, poses the most dangerous threat to British interests in Ireland,"* he said, appealing to everyone present to become *"fully and enthusiastically"* involved in the forthcoming general election campaign.



● MARTIN MCGUINNESS

The IRA's armed resistance, coupled with the work of Sinn Fein and *"the determination of a risen people"*, mean *"there is no way that Britain can hold these Six Counties for very much longer"*, predicted McLaughlin in conclusion.

The commemoration ended with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

CARRICKMORE

Later that evening, in Carrickmore, the IRA made an appearance at a republican concert in the Parish Hall. To rapturous applause from the enthusiastic 1,000-strong crowd, five uniformed and masked Volunteers appeared, all armed with handguns, and one read a statement from the Tyrone Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, promising to *"step up the war"* in the next 12 months.

STRABANE

As usual, a very large number of republican commemorations took place in Tyrone, reflecting the county's long tradition of republican involvement.

The first of this year's commemorations took place on Saturday afternoon at Cloghcor Cemetery, outside Strabane, where wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann and Sinn Fein at the grave of Commandant Charles McCafferty, who was killed in a premature explosion during the '40s campaign.

That afternoon wreaths were laid at the Cranagh graveside of Fian David McNally, who was killed on active service in 1921.

Also in the Strabane area, at noon on Easter Sunday, around 50 people attended a wreath-laying ceremony at Melmount Cemetery, Strabane, at the graves of Volunteers Jim McGinn and Sean Sharkey.

The Proclamation and West Tyrone Roll of Honour were read and wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann and Sinn Fein.

Later, many republicans attended a similar ceremony at Strabane Cemetery, where IRA Volunteers Eugene Devlin, Charlie Breslin, and Michael and David Devine are buried.

Both ceremonies were chaired by Aidan Harkin.

Also in West Tyrone, wreaths were laid at the graveside of local republican Patrick Kelly in Trillick. Around 40 people were present.

AGHYRAN

At Aghyran, Sean Begley addressed a large gathering at the graveside of Volunteer Seamus Harvey, who died on active service in August 1973.

The commemoration was chaired by Pat Shanahan and wreaths were laid on behalf of West Tyrone Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, and the local Sinn Fein cumann, which also laid wreaths on the graves of John Philip O'Donnell and Robert Barclay.

Earlier on Sunday morning, in St Patrick's Graveyard, Castlederg, wreaths were laid on the grave of Volunteer Gerard McGlynn by Councillor Charlie McHugh and other local Sinn Fein members.

At a mid-morning commemoration in Loughmacrae, Sinn Fein Councillor Cormac McAlister spoke at the grave of veteran republican James McElduff. Around 40 people attended the brief ceremony, the first of its kind to take place at the cemetery, which adjoins St Teresa's Chapel.

An hour later, at Greencastle, local people braved heavy showers to stand at the graveside of Vol-



● Jack O'Riordan, father of Fian Sean O'Riordan who was killed in 1972, at Belfast's Milltown Cemetery with his granddaughter Dawn Michelle on Easter Sunday



unteer Patrick Morris. Local republican Paddy Grugan gave an oration and a wreath was laid on behalf of the National Graves Association.

Around 150 people took part in Carrickmore's local commemoration at St Columcille's Cemetery shortly after noon.

Neil Gormley (Omagh) addressed the gathering and wreaths were laid on the graves of Volunteers Frank Ward and Mairead McEiduff.

DUNGANNON

In Dungannon, East Tyrone, early on Easter Sunday morning, a wreath-laying ceremony took place at Carland Road Cemetery at the grave of Volunteer Patrick Loughran, who was killed at Cookstown Barracks in the 1920s.

An hour later, Sinn Fein Councillor Francie Molloy gave the oration at a wreath-laying ceremony at Endorck. Dismissing Britain's new Public Order legislation, Molloy predicted:

"No amount of British weaponry or legislation will deter republican resistance."

The proceedings were chaired by Norbert McCaughey (Dungannon). Liz Loughran read the Proclamation and Tony McShane read the local Roll of Honour. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann and Sinn Fein.

At Gabally, around 200 people attended the annual commemoration where Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin gave the oration. Wreaths were laid on behalf of

Ogligh na hEireann, Sinn Fein and the National Graves Association.

At Coalisland, at noon, around 100 people attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the graves of Volunteers Desmond Morgan, Denis Quinn and Colm McGirr. The proceedings were chaired by Seamus Hampsey (Coalisland). The Proclamation was read by John Scott and Austin O'Farrell read the local Roll of Honour. Cookstown Sinn Fein Councillor Christopher Neeson gave the oration.

At Clonoe, local Sinn Fein Councillor Brian Duffin chaired a wreath-laying ceremony at the graves of IRA Volunteers Kevin Kilpatrick, Hugh Conry and Brian Campbell, all killed in the present phase of struggle, and Volunteer John O'Neill, who was killed in 1921.

At Moy, 100 people attended the annual Easter Sunday commemoration at the graves of Volunteers Sean McKearney and Eugene Martin. Charles Fox chaired the proceedings and Francie Hughes read the Proclamation. The oration was given by Sinn Fein's Fermanagh/South Tyrone constituency representative, Councillor Paul Corrigan. Corrigan appealed for maximum unity in republican ranks:

"The Republican Movement is the only body with the will to succeed."

Later, Corrigan gave the oration at the graveside ceremony in Eglisli attended by about 70 people. The proceedings were chaired by Pat Cassidy, Brigid McCartin read the Proclamation and wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann and Sinn Fein.

1987 Easter Commemorations

Wicklow

A LONE PIPER led the Wicklow Easter commemoration from Deering's Cross to the grave of Civil War martyr Tommy Reilly at Hollywood Cemetery on Easter Sunday.

The O'Boyle Sinn Fein Cumann, newly started in Wicklow town, organised the proceedings. It is named after Neil "Plunkett" O'Boyle, murdered by the Free State forces in 1922. Myles Reilly, Tommy's brother, laid a wreath on the grave on behalf of the Republican Movement.

The parade was attended by about 70 people and was chaired by Ken O'Connell (Bray). Pat Nolan, chairperson of the new cumann, read the Proclamation and Gerry O'Neill (Blessington) gave the oration.

England

SINN FEIN Ard Chomhairle member Mairtin O'Muilleoir visited Gartree prison, England, on Easter Monday to convey the Republican Movement's Easter message to republican prisoners at the jail.

O'Muilleoir said: "Republican prisoners are kept separate from one another, are subject to disorientating prison moves without notice, and are denied the right of repatriation to prisons near their homes."

He also slammed the rules and conditions surrounding visits at Long Lartin, Wakefield and Brixton prisons as particularly oppressive and intrusive:

"At Wakefield, two prisoners, Hugh Doherty and Natalino Vella, have been in solitary confinement for over six months for protesting against visiting conditions which are designed to humiliate and degrade visitors and prisoners alike.

"Despite everything, the morale of the prisoners remains sound - a fact which illustrates not only their own resilience but also the commitment and determination of their families."



● The Fianna Eireann colour party at Tallaght, County Dublin



● (Above) The Lurgan Martyrs Flute Band marching in Lurgan, and (below) RUC spy on republicans in Crossmaglen



● The colour party at Ardboe

Waterford

THE Waterford city commemoration was held on Easter Monday. Led by a lone piper and a republican colour party, the parade of over 100 people marched from the Glen along the quays to the National Monument.

A wreath was laid there by Jackie Whelan and a minute's silence observed. Then the commemoration moved through the city centre to the military barracks in Green Street

where, in 1923, two IRA Volunteers, Mick Fitzgerald and Patrick O'Reilly, were executed by the Free Staters.

In Green Street, the commemoration was chaired by Joe Kely. The Proclamation was read in Irish by Trevor Clooney and a wreath was placed on the barracks wall by well-known Waterford republican Tom Lane. The main address was given by Pdraig Malone (Limerick).

He said people now know where Fianna Fail stands as it has done a complete U-turn on the Hillsborough Agreement, health cuts and job creation.

The commemoration ended with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann*.

Wexford

ONE HUNDRED people braved the blustery conditions on Easter Sunday morning to attend the commemoration in Enniscorthy.

A colour party followed by the Enniscorthy Brass Band and the Wexford Town Fife & Drum Band led the march from Foley's Garage to the Republican Plot in St Mary's Cemetery.

The procession paused at the Seamus Rafter Monument where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and *Amhran na bhFiann* was played.

The march then continued to the Republican Plot where the Proclamation was read. The chairperson Seamus Dempsey, introduced the main speaker Pdraig Dalaney (Leitrim) who contrasted the idealism of the men and women of 1916 with the selfish and capitalist attitude of the 26-County politicians.

The *Last Post* was played to complete the ceremonies.

70 YEARS A FIGHTER

BY TOM O'DWYER

SURPRISED, he might have been, but Dan Gleeson certainly wasn't taken aback when presented with a testimonial book in honour of his 70 years' service to the Republican Movement in Nenagh on Sunday night.

The man who joined the IRA in the wake of 1916 wasn't letting the presentation go to his head either. Speaking without a microphone to the hushed silence of 140 people, he said:

"Never praise a man until he lies in the grave because maybe he'll become a sleeper." North Tipperary's least 'sleepy' republican did, however, admit to being "a bit flattered" to receive the book and ornamental mirror at the 10th annual Sinn Fein dinner dance.

A TIME FOR UNITY

After the presentation, Dan, surrounded by republicans of all ages, said to AP/RN

that republicans should put aside petty differences:

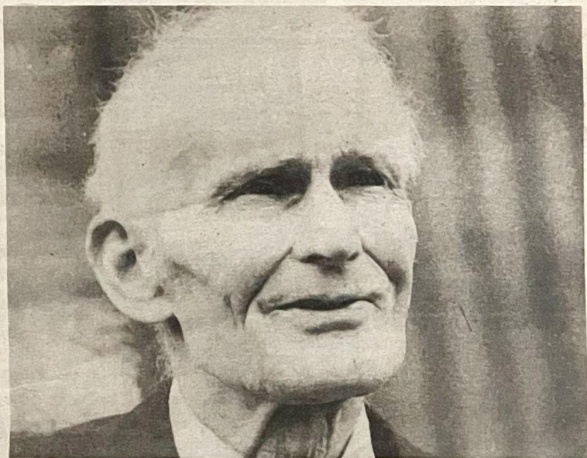
"It's now a time for unity and steadfastness."

He also said that he is "especially worried about the women who are suffering under strip-searching".

Dan has been imprisoned during every decade from the '20s to the '70s. Although he has held every senior rank in Oglai na hEireann since becoming O/C of the North Tipperary Brigade in 1928, he says:

"Rank means nothing to me. I always believe that no matter how small is anyone's part, it is just as important as the biggest."

The book with which he was presented pays a glowing tribute to Dan's long revolutionary career and includes contributions from Oglai na hEireann, North Tipperary, the leadership of the Republican Movement, Patrick Hackett and Ella Ni Dhuibhir in English jails, Noraid, and many others.



Introducing the presentation, Jimmy Nolan, Sinn Fein chairperson of Nenagh UDC, paid tribute to North Tipperary's prisoners serving in England, Patrick Hackett and Ella O'Dwyer, and Bill Meehan in Long Kesh as he introduced Coireall Mac Curtain from Limerick, an ex-Portlaoise prisoner who had previously address-

ed the area's main Easter commemoration at Lisboney Cemetery.

Coireall has never been able to attend a commemoration in his own native area because of imprisonment in Portlaoise and Long Kesh but he gave up his first opportunity to do this in order to be present in Nenagh.

Imeachtaí

SAV NO TO THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT
7.30pm Thursday 23rd April
Liberty Hall
DUBLIN

SOCIAL
Featuring Rogues' Gallery
Friday 24th April
Foresters' Hall
NAVAH
County Meath
Táille €1
Organised by Sinn Fein

TRADE UNIONS & REPUBLICANISM
Speaker: Mitchel McLaughlin
2pm Saturday 25th April
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
All Sinn Fein members welcome

SOCIAL
9pm Saturday 25th April
Top of the Hill
Gurrana-braker
CORK
Táille €1
Organised by Sinn Fein

EDUCATION WORKSHOP
Sinn Fein and local government politics
2pm Sunday 26th April
Swan Lake Hotel
MONAGHAN TOWN
All members and supporters welcome
Organised by Monaghan Sinn Fein

BALLYKISSANE COMMEMORATION
3pm Sunday 26th April
Assemble at The Square
March to the Pier
KILLOGGLIN
County Kerry

MEETING: 1916-1987 'HOW FREE ARE WE?'
Speakers from various political/anti-nuclear groups
7.30pm Monday 27th April
CIE Hall
Marlborough Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein

FALLS WOMEN'S CENTRE CLASSES & VIDEOS
8pm Monday 27th April
Video:
If You Didn't Laugh You'd Cry
(Women in the Lower Ormeau)
170a Falls Road
BELFAST

COLONIALISM AND SOUTHERN AFRICA PUBLIC MEETING

Speakers include
Margaret King-Rousseau
(vice-chair UN Com on Decolonisation)
8pm Tuesday 28th April
ATGWU Hall
55 Mid Abbey Street
DUBLIN

STOP THE STRIP-SEARCHES PICKET
12.30 to 1.30pm
Wednesday 29th April
Leinster House
DUBLIN
Organised by the Campaign Against Strip-Searching

BOBBY SANDS ANNIVERSARY FUNCTION
8pm Friday 1st May
Carnegie Hotel
Malahide Road
DUBLIN
Táille €2
Organised by Dublin North-East Sinn Fein

BLACK FLAG VIGIL
Commemorating the 6th anniversary of the 1981 hunger-strike
7.30pm Tuesday 5th May
Kilburn Square
LONDON

Organised by the Bobby Sands Commemoration Committee

'BOBBY SANDS' COMMEMORATION
7.30pm Tuesday 5th May
Bedford Row
LIMERICK
All welcome

PORTLAOISE SPONSORED CYCLE
10am Saturday 9th May
Leaves 5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
All cyclists welcome
Sponsor cards from No.5 or 44 Parnell Square
Organised by Sinn Fein

DUBLIN SINN FEIN MEETING POSTPONED
The Dublin Sinn Fein meeting, 1916-1987 - *How Free Are We?*, had to be postponed from this evening (Thursday 23rd April) to next Monday evening (see above for details) to enable republicans to attend tonight's meeting on the Single European Act at 7.30pm in Liberty Hall, Dublin.
Sinn Fein would like to apologise to all concerned for any inconvenience but the SEA meeting was arranged after last week's AP/RN had gone to print.

STOP THE STRIP-SEARCHES



New protests in Newport

ANTI-STRIP-SEARCH campaigners staged a vocal protest in the South Wales town of Newport on Saturday, April 11th.

The vocals were supplied by the Red Choir (Cor Cochion Caer Dydd), and solidarity songs backed up the message on the banner draped across the busy shopping precinct: "Stop Strip-Searches". As the choir sang, other protest participants from organisations including Newport Troops Out Movement, South Wales Women Against Pit Closures, Labour Committee on Ireland and local student groups gave out leaflets and collected signatures for the anti-strip-search petition.

"This strip-search event has shown what can be achieved on the streets of Newport," said mid-Glamorgan county councillor and Red Choir member Ray Davies. "People were prepared to listen to us."

Davies said that since the Labour Party is unwilling to take on issues involving Ireland, "the only way to do it is to get

out on the streets ourselves and articulate issues like strip-searching."

SINGING FOR SOCIALISM

The Red Choir has had ample experience in lending its collective voice to street protest. The group was formed because its members thought that a choir singing socialist songs was a good tactic for demonstrations. The Red Choir raised nearly £100,000 for the miners on the streets of Cardiff during the 1984/85 strike.

Women Against Pit Closures member Violet John said she had travelled all the way from Maesteg in West Wales, to join the protest because she found the practice of strip-searching "utterly deplorable".

"I thought the miners got a raw deal during the strike but in Ireland that type of treatment



● Mary Crofton of Newport TOM at the protest against strip-searches is an everyday occurrence."

Organisers of the event said they were very pleased with the response from the public. They plan to hold another protest in Cardiff city centre soon to help build for the major demonstration against strip-searching on June 13th in Durham.

interview on Gramplan TV, two radio interviews, and item on RTE Radio's *Morning Ireland*, and several press articles. Two extra screenings of *Ag Labhairt Amach* also had to be hastily arranged.

CONTACTS

During the festival, Mac Nia met with a host of prominent individuals, including Plaid Cymru President Gwynfor Evans, film-maker Karl Francis and the provost (local authority head) of Inverness. Mac Nia said:

"I am hopeful that the contacts made at this festival will lead to visits to the North by political and cultural activists from all the Celtic nations. One Plaid Cymru councillor, Gerallt Lliwelyn, has already given a commitment to visit Belfast in the Autumn.

"The festival has also afforded Sinn Fein a platform to expose the disgraceful treatment of the Irish language by the broadcasting authorities, North and South."

Sinn Fein at film festival

BY CIAN MAC AOIDH

A MODEST Sinn Fein contribution to the 8th Celtic Film Festival at Inverness, Scotland, became the talking point of a week-long event following a belligerent attack on party representative and cultural activist Sean Mac Nia by local Tories.

Mac Nia, Sinn Fein cultural officer in County Tyrone, had organised one successful screening of the all-Irish video, *Ag Labhairt Amach*, a film record of the Sinn Fein Slogadh in

1986, when the chairperson of the Inverness Conservative Party objected to his presence.

A resulting upsurge of interest in Mac Nia's participation led to an

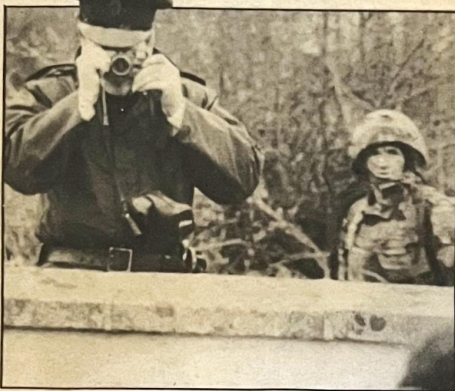
£7.50
FRAMED PICTURES
£5.50

REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS has produced a series of pencil-portraits of famous republicans, from the signatories of 1916 to the hunger-strikers of 1981, from Liam Mellows to Michael Gaughan.

The portraits, mounted and framed, are available from our usual outlets at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin (Tel: 747611) and 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast (Tel: 232820), or from your local Sinn Fein cumann or AP/RN seller.

The portraits are available in two sizes: 5½ x 7½ and 8½ by 10½ inches, at £5.50 (small) and £7.50 (large).

Public Order Act in action



SCENES FROM THE 1987 EASTER COMMEMORATIONS



NOTES
©CORMAC

