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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 112

Saturday, 10th November (De Sathairn, 10 Samhain), 1973

British soldier defects to IRA

A BRITISH soldier, Fusilier David Moody, defected to the Irish Republican Army in Belfast after the fatal shooting of a UDR man. In a statement the IRA says Moody is now safely out of the country hoping to start a new life elsewhere, and they repeat their assurance that any British soldier who defects will be treated as a non-combatant and afforded safe passage out of the country.

With the courtesy of "An Phoblacht" we publish the following article:

"Part of the duties of Moody's section was the guarding of the Hannastown electricity sub-station just outside Belfast. It was a once a week and much despised job because of its boredom.

On Sunday, 14th October last, Moody went on duty there at 08.00 hrs. and was to have remained on duty until the following Tuesday at 10.00 hrs. He stayed on duty throughout Sunday, getting to bed, in a rucksack, at 01.00 hrs. on Monday morning, getting up again at 07.00 hrs.

ARGUMENT WITH UDR

There were 12 soldiers on duty. As usual, they were relieved during their sleeping hours by eight UDR men, who came on at 10.00 hrs. From about that time onwards on the Monday night (15th October) eight of the soldiers had been outside the power station on car check duties. They returned to the station at about 23.30 hrs.

On their way in the gate, Moody and another soldier got into an argument with two UDR men at the gate. It was over something very trivial, but quickly developed into a heated argument about the respective merits of the UDR as opposed to the British army proper.

Following some heated words, Moody and the other soldier left the gate and went towards the guard huts. The other soldier went into the one occupied by the remaining soldiers, but Moody went into the adjoining one, occupied by two UDR men.

His feelings of antipathy towards the UDR had not abated since the altercation at the gate and he quickly got involved in another heated argument with two UDR men in the hut.

Moody says that there has been tension between the UDR and the British army for some considerable time and that heated exchanges such as these are not rare. The tension is said to have arisen from the fact that British soldiers regard the UDR as just another arm of the UDA and UVF and an embarrassment to the British army.

He says that the UDR is so grossly incompetent in everything they did that they have become a laughing stock. This causes considerable bitterness.

But to return to the scene in the hut: Moody says he was depressed and tired and was getting more than he could stand from the UDR men. Eventually, he muttered, quite meaninglessly, he admits, that he was going to join the Provos.

THREATENED BY UDR GUN

At this point one of the two UDR men, Forsythe, pointed a gun at him and said he was going to have him charged. In a burst of rage, Moody says he raised his gun and fired first, killing Forsythe.

"I did not know what I was doing and, really, I don't remember the details that clearly," he said. "I

remember him falling and then I think I fired another shot in the direction of the other UDR man.

'Instinctively I ran out and towards the gate. I shot the lock off and ran out into the waste ground in front of the power station. It was only then I stopped and realised what I had done.

'I knew that if I stayed where I was I would be picked off by one of the other guys at the station, so I headed towards some houses. There was also an army helicopter hovering overhead at the time and it was shining its beam down on the general area. So I knew I had to get off-side.

'Because I had been on patrol in that area I knew it quite well, so I headed towards what I thought was a Republican household. I knew that if I went to the UDA or UVF I'd end up with the back of my head blown off. The same might have happened me had the army got me. At least, I would have been in big trouble with them.

'I didn't know how I would be received by the IRA, but I thought my chances were 50-50. Anyway I went to the wrong house, but there I got civilian clothes and, after staying there for about two hours, I moved to a house that I was sure was Republican.

'From there I was taken to yet another house—a safe one—and one of the first people I met was one of the officers of that area whose picture I had been carrying around for months in an effort to capture him.

SAFE WITH IRA

'Almost immediately from the time I met the IRA I knew I would be safe with them,' he stated.

Moody is typical of the type of person recruited by the British: economically and socially deprived, psychologically and emotionally disturbed. Society deprived him of an identity and then made him a bogus offer of one, as a bully boy for those who had robbed him of a chance of life in the first place.

It is one of the tragedies of history and of our circumstances that the likes of Moody should present themselves on our streets as the blunt instruments of our oppression and the immediate target for our resistance. Our fight—the overthrow of imperialism—is their fight, but Oglagh na hEireann cannot allow sentimentality to stay their hand in this cruel, bitter but determined struggle for victory.

Moody is now safe in a foreign land and no longer the enemy of the Irish working class. The same option is open to any other British soldier who defects and ceases to aid his and our common enemy.

"ALWAYS GETTING INTO BRAWLS"

FUSILIER David Moody was born 25 years ago in Larkhall, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He is illegitimate and was adopted into a "brilliant" family when only a few months old. His background is staunchly working class.



Fusilier David Moody

He left primary school when 15 and went to a government training centre, where his studies were interrupted after only three weeks. He was convicted of housebreaking malicious damage and sent to an approved school.

'Larkhall is known as thieves' paradise, you know. Many of the older hands in the gang had been involved in this kind of thing and I just went along with it,' he explained.

After a few weeks he was moved to another approved school, for the first institution was reserved mainly for the more hardened juvenile criminals.

However, within a few weeks he was back in the first school again, following a violent outburst which seems to have characterised his behaviour off and on since then.

The occasion of this first tantrum was a group therapy session where the participants were encouraged to talk openly about their frustrations and motivations. The issue of illegitimacy arose.

'I just blew up and stormed out of the place,' he said. 'The headmaster was a soft bloke. I'd prefer a hard bloke. I don't know what it was about him. Anyway I clobbered him. I was quite violent to even my best mates at the time. I was always getting into brawls.'

OFF TO LONDON

Following his release from the approved school, he got a job as a blacksmith. This he kept for nearly three years. However, his predilection for violence was again to cause him difficulties, this time from a neighbouring family.

He had got involved in punch-ups with younger brothers and the older brothers made life a little too hot for him. He left Larkhall and went to London in search of a job.

He worked for a while as a waiter and then was employed in a warehouse of the Tesco supermarket chain. London was a lonely place for him. He knew nobody and found it difficult to make new friends.

On the advice of an acquaintance he met in the YMCA hostel where he was staying, he went to a British army recruiting office and signed up with the

(Continued on page four)

Twomey airlift foreshadows total victory

by AIDAN CORRIGAN

THE 'copter airlift of Seamus Twomey, Kevin Mallon and J. B. O'Hagan from Mountjoy Jail was the most spectacular of such operations in the history of the world. It had an electrifying effect on people right across the country. The sheer audacity and outstanding ability of the men who performed this inimitable feat caught the imagination of all Irish people, thus rendering Cosgrave and his small, sullen-faced brigade very lonely men indeed. Every man has a desire to be on the winning side, and so Twomey and his men have been very much on top of the situation, in every sense of the word, since their historic escape.

A PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR TWOMEY

Not only has this unparalleled escape been a personal triumph for the three men concerned, but above all it has been a tremendous triumph for the whole Republican Movement, especially for its leaders, like Daithi O'Connell, whom squads of Gardai and armed Special Branch have been hounding in vain for a full year now. It has been a singularly great triumph for the intelligence and quite obviously most painstaking advance planning and preparation of those involved. It gives the lie to the O'Briens and the Fitzgeralds that the Provos have neither brains nor support. This operation involved both. Without plot brains to think out, plot, plan and execute this most delicate and daring of operations which called for the involvement of all the mental and manual skills, then the jail break could never have taken place. Without the wide support of the civilian population who would shelter and give succour to the escapees and all those who must have been involved in their safe getaway, the escape could never have materialised. Quite clearly, however unpalatable this must be to Cosgrave and Co., the Provos have enormous support and the capacity to increase this support.

MEEHAN HOODWINKS THE BRITISH

During the past 24 years the Provos have effected successfully many daring prison escapes, none so spectacular as this recent Twomey snatch. Just two years ago the great Martin Meehan and his friends Doherty and McCann, after standing in 44 feet of ice-cold water in a manhole for 3 hours, crept along the ground for 50 yards and then under the noses of two British soldiers scaled a 20 foot wall, topped with barbed wire, and leaped to freedom. This operation also caught the imagination of the country. It came in December, 1971, at a time when the Faulkner jackboot tactics had the suffering people bled almost dry. Meehan and Doherty infused new blood, new life, into the people and into the civil resistance campaign by their dramatic and daring escape. It is hard to believe that Fitt and Hume are now in cahoots with the same Faulkner, the man who wreaked such suffering and destruction on the people and ordered the Bloody Sunday executions.

PORTGLENONE FATHERS HELP

Three weeks prior to Meehan's escape (November, 1971), nine Provos by means of a rope ladder darted to freedom from Crumlin Road Jail. Two of them were re-captured and the Cistercian priest, Fr. Thomas from Portglenone, was fined £250 for his part in the operation. Three days after internment Joe Cahill held a Provo Press Conference right under the nose of the British Army and so won world-wide support for the resistance campaign to British rule in Ireland.

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN SWIM TO FREEDOM

It would be fair to say that the morale of the people, due to the brute force tactics of the British

Army, was on the sag at Christmas, 1971. Excruciating tortures, extensive arrests and brutal harassments of the people had all taken their toll. Then in January, 1972, the Provos struck again and electrified the people once more. Seven men, led by the late Jim Bryson, cut through the barbed wire and iron bars which held them on the Maidstone ship and dived into the ice-cold water of Belfast Lough and swam to the shore 800 yards away. They then hijacked a bus and as RUC and British Army trucks followed close behind they jumped out and melted away into Belfast City. This escape, although not fully as dramatic as the Mountjoy escape, did call for much greater human endurance. Medical men were unanimous that in the normal course of events the men's hearts should have stopped beating because of the coldness of the water. It was proof of their great physical stamina and moral courage. One of the swimmers did get into difficulties and thought that he wasn't going to make it.

BRYSON HELPS COMRADE

At that stage Jim Bryson crossed over beside him and encouraged him on the way. He got him to float for a bit on his back and assured him that he (Bryson) would take him to safety if he gave up. Besides, the Magnificent Seven had planned to be lifted by a friend on the shore. Due to trouble on the ship the prisoners were an hour late in leaving.

BRYSON DOES IT AGAIN

This involved putting into operation an alternative or standby plan, i.e. the hijacking of the bus. Jim Bryson's second escape from prison last January was also a tremendous feat. It involved the overpowering of a warder, taking off the warder's uniform and putting it on himself. Ill-luck struck Bryson as soon as he got out of the Courthouse; he failed to hijack a car and had to race by foot followed by half the British Army. He made good his escape, however, went South for a few days' rest and returned shortly to face Ireland's ancient enemy once again. He died as a modern Cuchulainn last September and had the biggest funeral ever seen in Belfast.

MCGUIGAN ESCAPES FROM LONG KESH

A week after Bloody Sunday, in February, 1972, Francis McGuigan was the first man to escape from Long Kesh Concentration Camp. He was 48 hours gone before he was missed.

A couple of months ago young J. Green, from Lurgan, whose brother, Fr. Green, was tied up when he visited Long Kesh, fled to freedom in his brother's clerical clothes. In January last a Provo who had been taken to Musgrave Park Hospital was taken to freedom by friends who overpowered the police and soldiers guarding the man. A Derry Provo, John Keenan, made good his escape from the Crumlin Road last Christmas dressed as a warder.

THE MEEHAN-CAMPBELL FEAT

In June, 1972, Martin Meehan, who had earlier escaped from Crumlin Road, sidled through the Paratroopers' roadblock, went up the Mater Hospital wall undetected by soldiers and police on duty, and took Bobby Campbell, who was ill on hunger strike, on his back down the wall and out to freedom. Only an acrobat of the Meehan calibre could perform such a daring feat. Then there was the young Provo who outwitted 567 British soldiers, 40 Special Branch RUC, among them Harry Taylor, to escape from Palace Barracks in January, 1972. He married three weeks later.

SEVEN MEN OUTWIT FREESTATERS

Last October (1972) seven men had a successful escape from the Curragh by digging a trench. Six of them were from the North and only one was subsequently recaptured.

There have been other escapes from jails by the Provos in the past two years. The fact that so many and such daring escapes can take place proves (1) the ability of the Provos, (2) the support which they enjoy. Ability and success breeds success and support.

The Twomey airlift is more than a daring prison escape. It foreshadows final victory for the Irish; it foreshadows the airlift of British soldiers from this country following a declaration of intent by the British to disengage.

It has already breathed new life and vitality into the resistance struggle against the British and their unjust tactics and regime. It has uplifted the hopes and aspirations of a people sorely harassed and oppressed. It has demonstrated that if the will to win and endure is there we will finally have a free Ireland. Michael Farrell's hunger strike led the people out of a state of near-despair last summer; the Mountjoy hunger strikers increased the people's confidence; the Twomey airlift has set the people dancing with delight and determination!

IN 'COPTER GO BRATH

Tune: Erin go Brath

On an evening of Samhain, in the year of '73,
There were three men locked up who would make
Ireland free.
They were pining away under Jack Lynch's law,
When they should have been fighting for Eire go
brath.

We'll hire a helicopter, to fly them away,
Said the Dublin Brigade of the bold IRA.
We will pluck them out of young Liam's claw,
And they'll fly through the sky for ould Eire go
brath.

First to Stradbally, Captain Boyes he did go,
Where the lads waiting for him were all in the
know.
Then along to Mountjoy and Republican cheers,
While the warders all said: "Tinker Donegan's
here."

Yet it was not a slave of the imperial crown,
But three leading Provos who leapt off the ground.
From Lurgan, Coalisland, and Beal-feir-iste,
Who flew away on that day for Eire go brath.

When Twomey, O'Hagan and Mallon had fled,
The faces of special detectives went red.
For they blew wages due from Ted Heath and
Whitelaw,
By dereliction of duty in Eire go brath.

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE SOCIETY

WON £5 EACH

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

MR. BRIAN MAGUIRE,
Knocknahunchin,
Derrygonnelly

MR. SEAN MCBARRON
Corrocoash, Macken,
Enniskillen

THE BRITISH ARMY CHAPLAINS

THE row created by the casual remarks on British Army chaplains made by Fr. Des Wilson in a letter to "The Catholic Standard" has now died away. The public clash between the Vicar-General of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Mgr. Mullally, and Fr. Wilson, the sensationalism of some newspaper reports and the naive performance of Bishop Tickle, Bishop-in-Ordinary to HM Forces during his embarrassing press conference at Army HQ, are several weeks in the past and, as yet, the public is not much the wiser about what was at the bottom of the affair. But several aspects are now evident. Firstly, Fr. Wilson was reflecting the feelings of disquiet among many priests in the North that some Army chaplains have behaved in a way which has left them open to charges of abusing their priestly office. For example, one chaplain frequented pubs in the Falls Road area and, two days before internment was introduced, he visited a local presbytery and asked for information on the whereabouts of Joe Cahill. This particular chaplain had made several attempts to reduce friction between local people and the Army and it's possible he was hoping to meet Cahill to ask his assistance in that field. But his request was as ill-conceived as it was ill-timed, and it's hardly surprising that he was generally referred to as "Father Spy". Fr. Gerry Weston, who served as chaplain with the Parachute Regiment in Ballymurphy—he was killed in the bomb blast at Aldershot Officers' Mess—was less than popular with some Belfast priests. Significantly, perhaps, there was no great rush by priests who knew him and his work to eulogise him after his death—despite many requests from cross-channel newsmen. His habit of wearing clerical clothes and introducing himself simply as "a Catholic priest" on his many visits to households in the Ballymurphy and Springfield areas caused some resentment among parochial clergy.



Bishop Tickle

There have been other incidents, some of them in towns outside Belfast, where Army chaplains have caused concern among priests and laity by asking questions which seemed inappropriate. One such incident was a request by a chaplain who visited a Catholic school with a sheaf of Army photographs to the school head asking that pupils in the pictures be identified. In another incident, which has also been documented, a youth from the Clonard area of Belfast who suffers from a physical disability was beaten by soldiers. Shortly after his parents complained to the military authorities, they had a visit from a Catholic chaplain who apologised and assured them that the soldiers concerned had been disciplined. The chaplain returned the following day and spent a long time in the house talking about politics and asking about local Republicans. Towards the end of the interview his questioning became so pointed that some doubt arose about his claim to be a priest. The possibility that the reputation of Army chaplains was harmed on this occasion by an officer who was not in the Army Corps of Chaplains cannot be ruled out, however, as precedent for such behaviour exists. On 10th August this year the "Down Recorder" and the "Mourne Observer" carried reports of a case heard at Newcastle Magistrates' Court where a member of the RUC Special Patrol Group gave evidence of being on duty disguised as a priest. Constable Duncan said that he had been given official permission to dress that way, although he denied that he had told prisoners that they were to be shot or asked them to pray with him during questioning. Another incident which disturbed local priests occurred on Internment Day in Girdwood Military Barracks. After



Thomas Ashe in his piper's uniform.

prisoners had been subjected to interrogation and what was officially described as "some physical ill-treatment", a padre who introduced himself as Father Kenny offered to see any of them privately. At least four men availed themselves of the offer, although it is not known if any of them were offered or requested confession. In this case a civilian priest offering spiritual comfort to men who believed they might not survive would hardly have raised an eyebrow. But if this priest was the Rev. A. C. Kenny—who is the only Fr. Kenny in the British Army—he is not only a priest, but a padre who is ranked as, and wears the uniform of, a British Army major.



Fr. Des Wilson

The close identification of Catholic chaplains with the military establishment can hardly be denied. They are appointed by the Under-Secretary of State for the Army on the nomination of the Bishop-in-Ordinary and they are listed in order of rank and seniority in the British Army List, as are all other Army officers. At the moment, the senior chaplain, Mgr. J. O'Sullivan, is ranked as a Major-General, one Catholic padre ranks as a Colonel, there are six Lt. Colonel chaplains, 17 Majors and 42 Captains. They wear uniforms appropriate to their military rank and, inevitably, their social life is closely connected with their brother officers. Contact between them and their fellow priests in the North appears to be very limited. Bishop Tickle's press conference in Army premises, at which he was chaperoned by military officers instead of local church leaders, seemed to underline this. And it underlined, too, that their views on what their duty is—and what is morally right—may not always find an echo among Irish civilian priests.

THOMAS ASHE: A HERO OF THE RESURGENCE 1885-1917

I AM writing this small tribute to Thomas Ashe on the anniversary of his murder, 25th September, 1917. Thomas Ashe was one of the outstanding military leaders in the struggle for Irish independence. His "Fifth Battalion" campaigns, especially the victory at Ashbourne, set the pattern for future guerrilla warfare, even right down to our own day.

For his part in the 1916 Rising Thomas Ashe was sentenced to death, a finale on which he looked with absolute serenity. Asked at the courtmartial, "What hope did you think you had of defeating the British Empire?" Thomas Ashe replied, "A soldier does not question the difficulties he has to face."

The death sentence was commuted on 11th May to that of penal servitude for life, due no doubt to the rising public feeling against the executions of the Easter Martyrs which drew down on Britain's head the condemnation of the civilised world. Until the amnesty of June, 1917, Thomas Ashe was shuttled from Dartmoor to Portland to Pentonville to Lewes prisons. It was while in Lewes Prison he wrote the beautiful song of dedication: "Let me carry your Cross for Ireland, Lord."

Thomas Ashe enjoyed only two months of freedom after the amnesty. He was re-arrested in Dublin in August and sentenced to two years in Mountjoy on a charge of inciting disaffection among the "citizenry" by the patriotic fervour of a speech made at the famed Ballinalee, Co. Longford. There he met his friend Austin Stack and some forty or fifty other Republicans. He noticed how they were all placed by the Mountjoy authorities on the same level as common criminals and given identical treatment. Ashe awakened them to the degradation of such classification. Since 1848 it had become official British policy to degrade Irish political prisoners. The fierce personal protest of O'Donovan Rossa forms one of the stirring chapters which marked the resentment such treatment aroused. Thomas Ashe and his comrades made it clear that they were not particular what sort of treatment they received as long as they were not classed as criminals. Their request was for political treatment. This was rejected by the Acting Governor of Mountjoy, so the prisoners there and then decided that unless their reasonable request was met before 1st October they would go on hunger strike. Meanwhile, they declined to do any tasks allotted to criminals, sewing mailbags, etc. The aggressive manner in which the Mountjoy authorities thereafter treated them compelled them to go on hunger strike earlier, on 17th September. The Acting Governor claimed that the prisoners "mutined", but examination proved that the prisoners' hunger strike was provoked by illegal acts committed against them by the authorities. Their beds and bedding, clothes and shoes were taken away. For fifty hours Thomas Ashe lay in his cell absorbing into his body the chills from the bare floor and walls.

The real agony began with the torture called forced feeding. Food was pumped into the stomach by a mechanical device while the prisoner was seated on a chair to which he was bound hands and feet. The operation was unskillfully performed upon Thomas Ashe by "an assistant" doctor who forced the food into his lungs. Realising he was dying, the authorities had him removed across the road to the Mater Hospital. They rather he died outside. He did. Five hours later, Thomas Ashe was dead. The expiration took place in the Mater; the murder in Mountjoy.

The Mater Hospital is but a stone's throw from Mountjoy and was frequently used by the Mountjoy authorities as a Pilate "hands-washing" basin. It is still used. Now, by a so-called Irish Government.

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .

FRANK'S BAR

Home of Traditional Song and Music

MAIN STREET

LISNASKEA

British soldier defects to IRA

(Continued from page one)

Second Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. The date was 26th October, 1969.

Moody underwent 14 weeks' basic training at Sutton Coldfield. Then his regiment was transferred to Berlin. While there one of his duties was to guard Spandau, where Herr Hess is held in captivity.

'The man is dying,' he stated. 'I saw him several times. He looks like a ghost, walking up and down like a yo-yo. He shouldn't be there. The bloke's done his time. He's been there since half-way through the war, hasn't he?'

Berlin was great, particularly the night life. But the Berliners were extremely hostile, rather like Belfast Republicans. The Russian troops seemed to be decent blokes, though. They used to exchange cigarettes and berets on their occasional meetings.

NOT MANY FRIENDS

He didn't make many friends in the army. 'I think it was probably because it was an English mob. If I had been with a Scots mob I would have been with fellas who would have understood how I felt.'

The regiment returned to England in the autumn of 1970. (Moody is very vague on time and all dates from here on should be treated with some reservation.)

They went on block leave and then returned to the regiment's base, at Catterick, Yorkshire. There they underwent a course of intensive training, largely in preparation for duty in Ireland.

One of the most important aspects to this training was riot control. Two techniques were taught. The first was used in the North up to the end of 1970 and the other employed thereafter.

They would fire at those they believed to be the riot leaders, and hoping to hit them, thereby leaving the roadway strewn with injured, leading rioters, just as the snatch squad arrived, unexpectedly, onto the street.

The snatch squad then would fall on the injured rioters or pounce on a few people who had been pointed out to them in advance.

They had to be prepared to take quite a lot of punishment from the crowd for a few minutes, but their main job was just to hang onto a few of the leading rioters.

Once the front-line men saw the snatch squad emerging from the side streets into the crowd, they would charge forward, drive the crowd back, leaving the snatch squad secure with their captives.

The snatch squad would be comprised of the fittest and toughest men in the platoon and would have received special training.

On some occasions the snatch squad would go through houses to make their surprise attack, when the location of side streets didn't suit their purpose.

Peculiarly, Moody's battalion was given no training, other than the initial basic one in the use of CS gas. The use of the gas, however, was phased out during the early part of 1971 after its dangers had been publicised widely.

Moody's first tour in the North was unadventurous. They went to the North sometime around Oct. or Nov., 1971.

TALES OF TORTURE

The killing of the three Scottish soldiers shook his fellow soldiers, though it happened several months before his battalion came to Ireland.

'We didn't feel bad about the fact that they were shot,' he said. 'Our feeling was, well, tough. However, we were told that the soldiers had been castrated and had had their fingernails torn off before being killed. This made us mad and sick.'

'It wasn't until recently I discovered that no such tortures had been done to them. The British propaganda machine is brilliant, you have to admit, don't you?'

The only real action he saw on his first trip to the North was the curfew and search which lasted more than three days, in the New Lodge area, in the early winter of 1971.

'Most of the weapons and things we found then we got in the alleyways and entries,' he said. 'Once we had started the systematic search, the people panicked and threw whatever they had out of their houses.'

Of the search: 'We were told to go into every

home with respect for it wasn't our home. I'm not saying this was true of every mob, but it was of the Fusiliers. There was never any charge against us for wrecking houses.

'The mob before us in the New Lodge Road area got the dirt because they were known to be animals. This was the Duke of Wellington regiment. They were very, very ignorant when they walked into homes.'

He added: 'You must remember that the Second Battalion Fusiliers had quite a lot of Irish descendants in the ranks. It's a Midlands mob and there are a lot of RCs in it, from Birmingham and places.'

The only fatality the battalion suffered during this tour was Major Jeremy Snow, who was killed in November, 1971, in the New Lodge area.

Their Irish duty finished, they returned to the regimental base at Catterick where, after a block break, they engaged in further training.

They went to Canada for four weeks during this period and there they had survival training.

'We were sent out to the jungle for three or four days with nothing but some snare wire,' he said. 'We had to build our own shelter and hunt and fish for food.'

'I ended up doing six days of this because a few of us hitched into the nearest town and bought 15 dollars' worth of food. On the way back we tried hitch-hiking again, but the first car to stop belonged to one of the officers.'

The block formation technique involved, as the name suggests, the troops aligning themselves into a square. The first line of about eight men would face the rioting crowd.

The two men on the extremities of this line would be equipped with eight-foot shields, carrying rifles ready to fire, though not actually cocked unless shooting broke out.

The other six men in the front line would be carrying four-foot shields and rubber bullet guns.

HANDLING RIOTS

The second line, also facing forward, consisted of the snatch squad of about six men. They would be clad in light gear: rubber-soled shoes, no flack jackets, just helmet, visor and baton.

At right angles to both these lines there would be two lines, on the left and the right. The line on the left watched buildings on the right for blast bombs, snipers, etc., and vice versa.

Another line, again of about six men, would be formed at the rear, mostly walking backwards. In the middle was the commanding officer of the platoon, his bodyguard and radio officer.

The idea was for the front line to move forward towards the crowd, stop at a prearranged point and fire a number of rounds of rubber bullets at the rioters.

The second line (the snatch squad) then would run through, into the midst of the rioters, and hold as many of them as possible, preferably those whom they believed to be leading the riot.

The front line then would charge forward, past where the snatch squad was struggling with its captives, and drive the bulk of the crowd back.

The snatch squad then would bring the arrested rioters back behind the formation to wagons, where they would be lodged to await transportation. The lines then would reform and proceed as before."

CAHILL: ANOTHER ATTACK

JOE CAHILL, the Belfast Republican, had another heart attack in Mountjoy Jail on Friday last. He was left alone in his cell all night without proper medical attention.

When he was in the Mater Hospital a couple of weeks ago, following a similar attack, the doctors there worried that further attacks could occur and that he should not be left alone. Medical opinion is that Mr. Cahill's condition is serious and that he should not be locked alone in a cell at night.

We ask for public protest against this barbaric treatment of the man who defended the Nationalist people of Belfast, following internment in August, 1971.

GAEILGE LINN

le SEAMUS ÉIRNE

AS I mentioned in this column last week, I intend to have some Oral Exercises today. I want you to compose sentences by taking one word from each column (in order) of the following frame:

Translate your sentences into English.

Example: Ní clár dubh é sin.

	peann	
	stól	
Is	peann luaidhe	
Ní	doras	é sin
An	clár dubh	é seo
	mála	
	crínlín	
	glantóir	

Note: Since all nouns in the above list are masculine, é is used in the third column.

Written Exercises:

A. Cuir Béarla ar (Translate into English):

1. Is mála é seo
2. An doras é sin?
3. An stól é seo?
4. Ní peann é sin
5. An glantóir é?
6. Ní crínlín é sin
7. Is clár dubh é sin
8. Is peann luaidhe é sin
9. Cad é sin? Is stól é
10. Cad é seo? Is mála é

B. Cuir Gaeilge ar (Translate into Irish):

1. It is a desk
2. That is a bag
3. Is it a pencil?
4. Is that a desk?
5. This is a stool
6. Is this a duster?
7. It is not a duster
8. That is not a duster
9. This is a blackboard
10. What is this? It is a duster

You will see that on your second lesson you are now able to construct sentences. Please take care with the above as they are most important.

You can let me know how you are progressing and I will do my utmost to help.

Fermanagh place names continued:

Belleek—Béal Leice
Blaney—Bléinigh
Boa Island—Inis Badhbha
Boho—Botha
Brookeborough—Achadh Lon
Church Hill—An Droim Méanach

If you want to contact me, please write to Seamus Éirne, c/o 3 Queen St., Enniskillen.

THAT CAPTAIN

THAT statement issued by Belfast solicitor Pascal O'Hare on behalf of Sean Collins, late of Co. Derry and currently residing in Long Kesh, who is involved in litigation with the British Government because of his alleged kidnapping by the Littlejohn brothers in Dundalk, mentioned a mysterious Captain Van Dorn. This gentleman was, apparently, a regular patron of Dundalk's Imperial Hotel, although, understandably, he used neither his title nor his real name. But Van Dorn is not his name either. However, a Captain G. C. Van Orden, who joined the British Army Intelligence Corps in September, 1966, has spent a considerable period of time in Ireland, and his travels have taken him across the Border from time to time.

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