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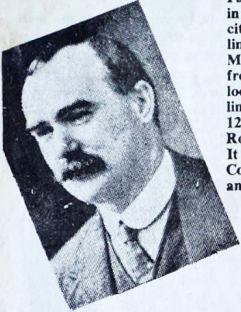
"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 133

Saturday, 13th April (De Sathairn, 13 Aibreán), 1974

THE EXECUTED LEADERS OF 1916

Padraig Pearse, Tom Clarke and Thomas McDonagh were executed at 3.30 a.m. on 3rd May in Kilmainham Prison. Their bodies were thrown into an army wagon and carted across the city to Arbour Hill barracks. There they were cast into prepared graves, sprinkled with quicklime and buried. An NCO kept count. On 4th May Joseph Mary Plunkett, Edward Daly, Michael O'Hanrahan and William Pearce died. On 5th May gallant Major John McBride from Mayo died alone. He refused to be blindfolded, facing the firing squad, saying: "I've looked down the barrels of English guns before." On 8th May Eamon Ceannt, Michael Mallin, Sean Heuston and Con Colbert died. On 9th May Thomas Kent was executed in Cork. On 12th May James Connolly and Sean Mac Diarmada of Killyclogher died. On 3rd August Roger Casement was executed in Pentonville Prison. It is our hope that the young men and women of today will be faithful to the ideals of Pearse, Connolly and Clarke, of Plunkett, Mac Diarmada, McDonagh and Ceannt so that soon our ancient nation will be completely and absolutely free and independent.



THE PROCLAMATION OF Poblacht na hÉireann

The Provisional Government of the

IRISH REPUBLIC

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government:

THOMAS J. CLARKE,

SEÁN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,

P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT, JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT

Winchester Hostages

151 Days of Torture

Who Said "Don't Repatriate the Winchester Prisoners"?

SPEAKING recently at a meeting in Derry calling for the repatriation of the Winchester hunger strikers, a leading journalist with the "Sunday World" electrified the audience with a brilliant, hard-hitting speech against the inhuman torture and misery inflicted on the four young Irish prisoners by the Tory and now the Labour Government.

In it he made the staggering revelation that the British Labour Party's failure to take a stand against the forced feeding torture was due to the advice of the SDLP leader, Mr. Gerry Fitt, who advised the Wilson Party to steer clear of this issue, as he pointed out that a return of the "Winchester Eight" would be a victory for the Provos. The vast crowd greeted this news with "SDLP rats, rats, rats—every one of them".

The journalist went on to explain that his revelations stemmed from a research project which a team of journalists including himself carried out into the changed attitude of the British Labour Party to forced feeding torture.

Mr. Jack Stallard and Mr. Norman Atkinson, Labour MPs, confessed that Mr. Gerry Fitt's advice not to oppose forced feeding or engage in the demand for the repatriation of the prisoners has been taken.

Messrs. Stallard and Atkinson are prepared to stand over this revelation which so stunned the crowd.

The journalist then outlined the background to the research project. He told how the British Labour Party had taken a very militant anti-forced feeding line when the Suffragette Movement bombers refused food in British jails at the beginning of this century.

One Labour MP then hysterically assaulted Prime Minister Balfour and knocked him to the ground before being dragged screaming from the house. "No words in the English language are capable of describing Mr. Fitt and his SDLP. His conduct is a disgrace to humanity, a disgrace to the whole Irish people," he concluded.

Southern Diary

AN International School of Condemnation is being set up in the six counties with another one planned for the 26. Directors of the School include Cardinal Conway, Bishop Philbin, Mr. John Hume, Mr. Ian Paisley, Mr. William Whitelaw, Mr. Merlyn Rees, Mr. Austin Currie, Mr. Jack Lynch, Lord Brookeborough, Mr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, and Mr. Brian Faulkner. The School will be for full-time pupils initially but it is hoped to open a Correspondence Course section in the near future.

Said a spokesman for the school interviewed by a CONCERNED reporter this week: "All our Directors are seasoned condemners and all of them have taken part in preparing the curriculum. Pupils can be assured they are getting the best possible tuition and will be able to go out into the world capable of condemning occurrences without fear."

But why can't people condemn at will if they are shocked by an occurrence? asked the reporter. The spokesman looked astonished. "Condemning is an art," he said. "For a start it must be selective. You'd look damn silly if you inadvertently condemned one of your own side."

Surely one doesn't take sides in condemning an atrocity, persisted our reporter. The spokesman looked at him pityingly. "You have led a very sheltered existence. Only one side commits atrocities. All the other occurrences are either 'unfortunate accidents' for the fault of individuals who insist on committing suicide by throwing themselves in the path of bullets or bombs. You wouldn't want to be seen supporting idiots like that, would you?"

Our reporter had no answer to that, so he resumed his original attack. What, then, is the art in condemning? he asked.

"I'm glad you asked that," replied the spokesman. "As I've said, you'd look a bit stupid condemning your own side so you've got to make sure the other side did it, or the publican can be persuaded they did it."

"Sometimes its easy. If its a shooting, for instance, you merely ascertain the religion of the victim. If its a Catholic you say nothing—but if its a Protestant you should have a reasonably simple job in persuading people the other side did it so you can condemn away."

"Sometimes the Provos make it easy for you by issuing a statement saying they are responsible for an occurrence. Even if nobody is hurt you can blast away your condemnation then all right!"

Can we take it then that the only target for condemnation is the Provos? asked our reporter unbelievably. You don't condemn the actions of the British army, the S.A.S., R.U.C. torturers, or sectarian murderers?

"You don't catch me like that," retorted the spokesman. "If you want any more information you will have to pay your fees and join the School like everybody else. The way you're going you'd have the whole secret of condemnation out of me."

Our reporter typed out this report of the interview and was last seen in a Dublin pub drowning large whiskeys at a great rate. Observers say they heard him muttering about about the sanctity of all human life, someone dying on a Cross for all mankind, and all the while interjecting: "Lord have mercy on us."

DUE to pressure of space a number of articles have been unavoidably held over until next issue.

EASTER GREETINGS 1974

To our readers, distributors and sellers; to the men and women engaged in the struggle for justice, freedom and a true and lasting peace; to the internees, political prisoners, male and female, in concentration camps and hell-holes in the six counties, the twenty-six counties, England and America; to the gallant four suffering the forced feeding torture in England; to the heroic men now in their 33rd day of hunger strike in Long Kesh concentration camp; to all sufferers for justice sake—we wish you all a **HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER.**

In aid of Political Prisoners' Fund

DANCE

in ST. NINNIDH'S HALL, DERRYLIN

or

FRIDAY, 19th APRIL, 1974

Music by

DEE LEYDON and THE POWERMEN

Admission 60p

REPUBLICAN IRELAND HONOURS HER DEAD

TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY, 14th APRIL, 1974

Commemorations at Monaghan in honour of Fergal O'Hanlon

PARADE AT 2.30 p.m.

Commemoration at Beleck, Co. Fermanagh in honour of Patrick Slevin (the Fenian who died for Ireland in Enniskillen Jail)

PARADE TO HIS GRAVE AT 11.30 a.m.

Cavnacarra Resistance Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

in CAVNACARRA HALL

on

WEDNESDAY, 17th APRIL, 1974 at 9 p.m.

Forum: Rent and Rates Strike
PROMINENT SPEAKERS WILL ATTEND

LANGUAGE COLLECTION

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FAMOUS GUERRILLA LEADERS

By a Special Correspondent

Irish, under Barry, set a style for revolt



TOM BARRY, perhaps one of the greatest guerrilla leaders Ireland ever produced, was born in Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, in 1898. In the 1900s West Cork was a particularly poor area and the usual option for a young man was either to emigrate or join the British forces.

The latter course Tom Barry adopted in 1915, when he was aged 17, "in order to see what was like," more than any other reason. In 1916, then serving in Iraq, Barry learned of the Easter Rising and was awakened for the first time to Ireland's long struggle for freedom.

He learned of the previous failures of resistance movements yet was conscious of the continued resistance of the Irish people to foreign domination despite these failures.

In 1919 Tom Barry returned to his native Cork and there became better acquainted with Irish history and became aware of a new resistance movement then being formed and organised around him, the Oglagh na hEireann. In the summer of 1919 Tom Barry joined the Aims as an intelligence officer with the Cork No. 13 (West Cork) Brigade.

No shots fired

West Cork in 1919 was a quiet spot for the British occupation forces, with no shots being fired in anger by the I.R.A. at what would now be termed by enemy or puppet authorities "the security forces".

Nevertheless, raids for arms and general counter-insurgency operations were intensified by the British during the early months of 1920.

On February 12, 1920, attacks on the British and their R.I.C. allies commenced and they continued, with deadly effect, until the end of the war making West Cork one of the "hottest" areas for the British in Ireland.

Skirmishes with the enemy and training took up most of the time of the Army and, in August, 1920, Tom Barry was made a member of the Brigade staff. Shortly afterwards he became, reluctantly, he admits, Commandant of the Brigade Flying Column.

From then until the Truce a ruthless guerrilla war was waged by Tom Barry and his Flying Column on the British forces. Spies and informers were the source of British intelligence in the West Cork area and, as soon as the Army recognised and identified the threat, the network was smashed, effectively leaving the British in the dark.

British tactics in the Cork area were similar to those employed in the Six Counties today - raids for arms and men, torture and intimidation, assassination of innocent people and the muzzling of captured I.R.A. prisoners, black propaganda, of course, condemnation from the bishops.

The Oglagh na hEireann reply consisted of ambushes, sniping, attacks on police and military barracks, shooting of spies and informers and, to a certain extent, disruption of communications.

Fire was used by the British in their terror campaign. Native Irish houses were burned to deter guerrillas from being offered shelter.

The Army answered this by burning twice as many loyalist "big" houses as the British. This helped to discourage the British in this particular type of activity.

Barry's Flying Column waged war with success and daring against the enemy forces which included the infamous terrorist Essex Regiment (among its ranks Major, later Lieut. Gen. Percival, who was to surrender Singapore so ignominiously to the Japanese in 1941), the Auxiliaries and, of course, the Black and Tans.

Barry's most famous victory was probably that at Kilmichael, where the Army ambushed and wiped out two lorry-loads of Auxiliaries who, up to then, had become seemingly invincible.

Another substantial victory was that at Crossbarry, when Barry's Flying Column of little more than a 100 men fought its way clear and inflicted heavy casualties on an encircling enemy force of more than 1,000 British troops, supported by armour and artillery.

Many other successful actions, such as the attack on Rosscarbery R.I.C. barracks, took place during this time but they are too many to be listed here.

Despite Bishop Cullen's decree, that anyone taking part in an ambush was guilty of murder and would incur the censure of excommunication, despite the Cork I.R.A.'s rather poor knowledge of explosives in the initial stages, despite the presence of some 12,600 British troops in the Cork county, opposed by some 300 armed Volunteers of Oglagh

na hEireann, the Irish forces were able to wage a highly successful guerrilla war against the demoralised occupation troops.

However, Tom Barry's assertion to de Valera, shortly before the Truce, that the Cork Flying Column could survive for another five years, at least, may have been too optimistic.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that resistance could have continued for a considerable time.

After the Truce came the war in Defence of the Republic and Tom Barry's imprisonment in Kilmichael jail by the Free State. After that war Tom Barry stayed on in the Oglagh na hEireann and eventually rose to the rank of commandant-general.

The War of Independence is regarded as a classic of guerrilla warfare (in which Tom Barry played no small part) and the tactics of the Army were copied by other liberation movements, such as the Irgun, in Palestine, the FLOKA, in Cyprus.

They proved that guerrilla warfare by a small, ill-equipped people could defeat a major industrial power in a colonial war by making the situation intolerable for that colonial power and thereby forcing it to withdraw.

THE IRISH NEWS DID NOT PRINT THIS LETTER

83 Andersonstown Road, Belfast, 11.

13th March, 1974

Sir,

Surgeon J. P. Lane has issued a document called "The Price of Peace" dated 8th March 1974. It seems to refer directly to a letter of mine which the Irish News published some months ago about the Witnesses for Peace's rhetorical question "What Price Peace?" Perhaps you would allow me space to comment on the proposals in the document. I should like to make it clear that I am concerned only with the merits of the proposals, having nothing but admiration for Mr. Lane personally and sympathy for his bereavement.

My answer to the question was: either a victory for the Irish people or a total British victory. It seems to me that these proposals fall into the second category.

The proposals could be paraphrased: Since partition is an issue in our present politics, and Britain tacitly recognises its injustice, nationally-minded Northerners should unite - the S.D.L.P., both wings of the Republican Movement and others,

- on the issue of Irish reunification. "The militant republicans would be induced, if not obliged, to call off their campaign of violence. This in turn would allow the British forces to disengage and withdraw, a process which they would welcome, if not with gratitude, with relief." The hand of partnership as fellow-Irishmen should then be extended to "our unionist neighbours" who "are sensible people." They should have a hand in the shaping of a new Constitution for Ireland.

In reply I would say:

(1) Britain does not recognise its injustice. Empires employ only force and recognise only force, - and, of course, economics. In spite of losing most of her direct colonies (who should be ashamed of themselves for being the last) Britain is still an empire, however moth-eaten. Its empire is a neo-colonial one, its imperialism is economic.

(2) Sunningdale is not a failure but only a first instalment of success. This is why British politicians would like to bring in what they call "the extremists on both sides" to a new settlement, not much different from Sunningdale except

for a change of personnel. This Sunningdale Mark II if it could be obtained would be durable, and would be in Britain's interests. It would be like the entry of de Valera's party into the Free State.

(3) Those concerned with civil rights, decency, justice, and Irish self-respect should have nothing to do with the S.D.L.P. It must be remembered that they are not an opposition party but our new masters. They have made themselves responsible, as the new government, for internment, repression and legal injustice. They are a British political party, formed at the behest of Britain, and governing in Britain's interests. Talk of a United front AGAINST Stormont makes no sense but talk about a United Front WITH Stormont makes none.

(4) Militant Republicans are not the instigators of violence any more than the victim who dares to strike back at the bully. Let the oppressors cease their violence - the British Government, its Service and Army, the Loyalist organisations, and the Southern Government. Let the Irish people decide what they voted for in 1918 and were

deprived of by British and Unionist violence; control of their own wealth and their own destinies. Then there would be no further violence.

(5) "Our unionist neighbours" are not "sensible," unless being agents of Britain in a peculiarly nasty and brutal way over many centuries is regarded as sensible. They have violently held back the cause of democracy and independence in Ireland for centuries and are doing so still. They should not be put on a par with those who have kept alive the tradition of love of country, of freedom and justice, and whom they have helped Britain to force to "lie down." They prevented the achievement of independence in the 1920's and their ill-gotten gains of that period should not be recognised as lawfully theirs now.

The price of peace is in my opinion either the preservation of an Ireland free from Britain politically, economically and culturally, or the enslavement of the Irish people and culture genocide. The proposals under discussion seem to me to lead to the second alternative.

JAMES DALY

Huge escort for Joe Cahill

PORTLAOISE for Easter: That was the news for Joe Cahill, veteran freedom fighter who, in a heavy-handed "security operation" was removed from Baggot Street Hospital early last week.

As he was being taken to the waiting military ambulance on a stretcher he must have been amazed as the onlookers at the lavishment of the latest law-and-order production, with its cast of black-patched troops, rifles at the ready, backing up the armed Branchmen, backing up the uniformed gardai.

Bewildered shoppers and passers-by drew comparisons with the lack of surveillance, regarding the Littlejohns and laughed when the "smooth operation" was spoiled by the leading military jeep taking off at high speed for Portlaoise two minutes ahead of the rest of the convoy.

As if as complete "harassment" of military and Gardai is still the plan for the future. What is needed perhaps, is a co-ordinator of security, somebody who could see the nail the country down, somebody such as John Kelly, perhaps?

Thoughts on a long prison sentence

The sun will still be there to warm us, the rain to wet us, the sky will turn from blue to grey to black despite us, and we must be content to pass these years, these long and lonely years away from that. But how much richer will we be at last when all this pain and living death has passed?

- Djalors Price

Conditioned?

Nineteen sixth-year students, from Belvedere College, Dublin, sat and listened to the Parliamentary proceedings in the Stormont Assembly one day recently.

They were welcomed by Mr. Basil Melvor, the Minister of Education. The visit was the first by a party of schoolchildren from the 26 Counties.

Mr. Ivan Cooper in 1970 said: "If Bernadette Deegan goes to gaol, I will resign from Sinn Féin and will never go back there." Bernadette went to gaol.

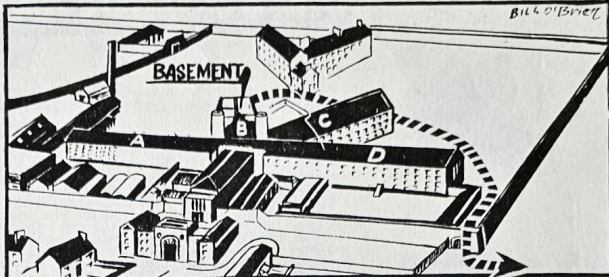
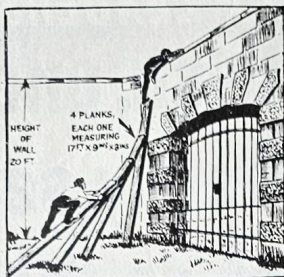
Public warned of captured weapons

THE BRITISH Military have acquired possession of a PPG rocket launcher, according to a supplied statement from Brigadier Dhoire, Oglagh na hEireann. The acquisition has not been publicised by the enemy.

"We are of the opinion that the British may use this in an effort to discredit the I.R.A." according to the statement. "They have done this in the past,

when soldiers in special murder squads were armed with Armalite rifles and Thompson sub-machine guns.

Their task was straightforward. They were to shoot innocent civilians in the Republican and anti-British areas and thus create confusion and dissent among the people. We believe that this rocket launcher now in British hands could be used to the same end."



LITTLEJOHNS: Were They Let Out?

TV VIEWING for prisoners at Mountjoy Prison finishes at 7.20 p.m. After that the prisoners get cocoa; then they are locked in their cells for the night. That is a time when there is general movement in the prison, and when the warders, who have just started the evening shift, are most busy. It was at that time in the evening that prisoners organised their riot and their roof-squat last October. And it was that time on Monday, 11th March, that the Littlejohn brothers made their escape.

Only an hour before that they had been called up to the main building to meet their solicitor, William Blood Smyth. He had come to Mountjoy to see another client, and decided to see them too. They gave no impression that they were expecting anything out of the ordinary. Yet it is clear that their escape had been carefully planned. They are very unlikely, to say the least, to have decided on the breakout on the spur of the moment. Their planning and precision caught the prison authorities flat-footed and has made the security-conscious Coalition Government look ridiculous.

On the evening of March 11th the Littlejohns had been allowed to watch TV with the other prisoners. Prisoners are locked into their cells for the night at 8.00 p.m. The Littlejohns were never locked in that night. They left B-wing through a gate and a door at the northern end (both the gate and door are supposedly doubly locked), went down the few steps, and made their way across the prison grounds to the south-east corner of the outside wall. To do this, they had to pass the end of C-wing and D-wing where there would normally be guards on duty. They were either not there, or not looking. Conveniently, or by arrangement, there were four planks close to the corner of the prison grounds with which they were able to construct a make-shift "ramp" to take them over the wall. The Gardaí who patrol outside the prison were either not there at the time, or were not looking. None of that is conceivable without the most carefully coordinated planning or the most monstrous ineptitude on the part of the prison authorities. It may well be a combination of both.

More than two weeks after the escape the Government is still maintaining silence on the details and would appear to the outsider at least to be none the wiser for the two dramatic break-outs which have taken place from Mountjoy within five months of each other. Following the helicopter escape last October, the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, ordered an inquiry into prison security at Mountjoy; it was to be carried out by a team headed by Justice Finlay and including an ex-army officer and an ex-Garda. The Minister has the findings of that inquiry, but there is little to indicate that any recommendations arising from them have been implemented.

On the Littlejohn escape the Government has played its cards even closer to the chest. It took a flurry of questions in the Dail to elicit the information that an inquiry was being carried out by officials of the Department of Justice. This is being headed, it seems, by Garda Superintendent Daly. The inquiry has been completed, but once again its findings will be the sole property of the Minister, and we may not know until the next escape (in Minister Cooney's words

"every prisoner is a potential escapee") whether anything more has been learned from them.

Mountjoy was never the most secure prison in the State, and the journalists who were taken around the prison last November were told that the damage done by the October riot had affected its security further. Representatives of the Prison Officers Association have said that maximum security could never be achieved by any modification of the existing institutions but only by the construction of a new purpose-built prison. Why were the Littlejohns, who were perhaps "more potential" escapees than most prisoners, held there? The only available alternative was to move them to Portlaoise, the usual place for long-term prisoners, but according to the Department, they were "not in the classification of prisoners serving long-term sentences in Portlaoise."

It is further held that they would have been in physical danger from republican prisoners. However, there is no evidence that at any time following the Littlejohns' first few weeks in Mountjoy there were attempts to intimidate or harass them. In fact, some time after a few remand republican prisoners had tried to beat up Keith, the brothers had a meeting with senior republicans in the prison, and a truce was agreed. The prison authorities themselves were made aware of the agreement.

The Littlejohns' contacts with other prisoners were irregular. In the first months of their stay at Mountjoy they were completely segregated, but they were later able to meet some of the other inmates. They also had more continuous contact with any of the prisoners confined to B-basement — the "base" — for disciplinary reasons. Following the October riot in which a number of prisoners and prison officers were injured, some of those identified by the authorities as "trouble-makers" were held in the "base" for a month. For most of the past year, B-basement, which has a capacity for 35 prisoners, has been occupied by the Littlejohns on their own, and the brothers have had recreation and visits on their own.

The Littlejohns were also relatively isolated from contacts in the outside world, and this seems to have changed very little with time. There were occasional visits from friends from Britain — one, for instance, who came over to arrange to take back cars which Kenneth had owned; there were visits from the various solicitors until finally Mr. Blood Smyth took over their case and pursued it through the various levels of appeal; there were two visits — and two visits only — in the course of the 12 months from an official of the British Embassy.

Naturally enough, when an escape such as the one on March 11th so obviously requires detailed planning and some kind of network both inside and outside the prison, each of those who visited the Littlejohns falls under some suspicion. But it is difficult to see how any of their infrequent visitors could have borne messages relevant to an escape. At most, they might have done it unwittingly.

It was certainly a remarkable coincidence that the visit from the British Embassy official took place only days before the escape — either a remarkable coincidence, or a deliberately planned "blind lead." An

Embassy official would only visit a British prisoner in an Irish jail if called upon to do so by the prisoner concerned. There are about twenty British nationals at present in Irish jails. In this case the brothers had asked to see somebody about personal matters mainly relating to their wives' finances.

The main contact the Littlejohns had from day to day, and, indeed, their main contact with the outside world, other than through their solicitor, were the warders. In two ways the prison staff and the governors responsible for them (Mountjoy has no Governor at the moment, but is run by one of three deputy governors attached to the prison service; the new appointee to the Governor's post was transferred to Portlaoise with the republican prisoners late last year) must carry the burden for an extraordinary incident. In the first place they have been grossly inefficient in carrying out their normal tasks of surveillance and patrolling, and, secondly, some of them have either been used as go-betweens for an escape bid, or have, in some other capacity, actively organised it.

In the planning of the escape, the Littlejohns set up some "blind leads" — for that is the only way one can understand the noisily started and quietly finished hunger strike and the obviously planted addresses and maps found on Keith when he was re-captured and the visit from the Embassy official. Finally, the one bar seen through in their cell was designed to mislead and confuse. They did not leave by the cell window but by an open door. How could prison officers not have noticed the sawn-through bar, unless they did not want to?

Not all the prison staff were, or could have been, aware of an escape plan. If it existed, the warder who was outside the prison wall at the time of the escape, did not know about it; he pursued Keith as he hobbled away from the prison and caught him by the bridge over the canal, about 400 yards away from the point of escape. The same warder has not been seen in the prison since.

There have been enough incidents in recent months to remind the authorities that security in Mountjoy is not all that it might be. Indeed, on a number of occasions they have made moves to remedy the situation, but these have been very partial — merely stop-gap measures. There was, for instance, an armed guard on Mountjoy until June of last year. If it was ever necessary, why did it then become unnecessary? There is a Special Branch patrol on Mountjoy around the clock, but it is simply a number of S.B. men sitting in a car in front of the prison; they are not even in a position to watch "suspicious" movements around the prison — if that is what they are supposed to be doing. The few measures which have been taken appear to have been directed primarily at political prisoners — but the main bulk of these have been moved out of Mountjoy now. Joseph Kavanagh's suicide last August and Francis Murtagh's three-week jumping of parole leave reveal quite different deficiencies in the prison regime.

No matter how lax the security at Mountjoy there are still 220 staff to about 350 prisoners and there was an especially close guard on the Littlejohns — by virtue of their isolation alone. There are grounds to criticise the prison authorities for weak security. But it could not explain the extraordinary series of coincidences which allowed the Littlejohns to make their escape. That is only explained by a worked out plan in which employees of the public service are implicated.