



**H**

**DAY 49 — DAY 13**

**HUNGER STRIKE 5<sup>p</sup>**

**TIME RUNS OUT**



**FOR**



**THATCHER**

**AND HAUGHEY**

**ACT NOW END THE HUNGER STRIKE**

**SMASH H-BLOCK & ARMAGH**

**RELEASE PAULINE M<sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN**

# SUPPORT THE HUNGER STRIKERS



BRENDAN HUGHES - BELFAST

## WHY?

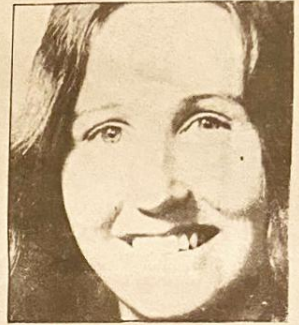
Why? does this man have only a blanket to wear, and so much sorrow, he has to take and bear. Why? Is he locked in a cell all alone, and denied all the things which are even his own.

Why? is he degraded by those who say they rule, and treated like an animal and looked on as a fool. Why? is he being forced to wear a suit of shame, which leaves him a number and deprives him of his name.

Why? is his pride still glowing and still strong, though some try to say what he's doing is wrong. Why? is his spirit refusing to break or die, so comforting at times when he finds it hard to get by.

Why? is he still living in conditions grim and bleak, with a body that's so worn, so frail and so weak. Why? is he still suffering, everyday and night, Why? in the first place, did this man have to fight.

## BLANKETMAN H-BLOCK 6.



Mairead Farrell



TOM McFEELY - CO'DERRY



SEAN McKENNA - NEWRY



RAYMOND McCARTNEY - DERRY



Mary Doyle



LEO GREEN - LURGAN

As I lie here in this cell full of scorn, with just a blanket to keep me warm, my comrades and I will not be beat, we do not know or hear the word defeat.

As I lie here in this cell full of scorn, on this blanket all tattered and torn, we are all here for the justice we seek, we will not be beaten for we are not weak.

As I lie here in this cell full of scorn, just lying here from dusk to dawn, we will fight for our five demands, we will not fall into no BRITS hands.



Mairead Nugent

## VICTORY TO THE BLANKET MEN.

Teresa Martin, Lenadoon. 13 years old.

# SUPPORT THE 5 DEMANDS



TOMMY McKEARNEY - MOY



JOHN NIXON - ARMAGH

# POEMS AND ARTICLES FROM THE H-BLOCK'S AND ARMAGH.

## TODAY IN THE H-BLOCK

Today in the H-Block seven men lie and wonder, If they'll die in the end as a result of hunger. Though for over forty days they have refused to eat They know that whatever happens their cause cannot be beat.

Today in the H-Blocks seven men are so weak because freedom and justice is all that they seek. For years they have suffered at England's hated hands and now they risk their lives to secure these demands.

Today in the H-Blocks seven men feel the pain and pray that their struggle isn't all in vain. A struggle all the time is so very hard to do, But a struggle which they know is only right and true.

Today in the H-Blocks seven men look for aid as the life in their bodies is starting to fade, Please lerd your help and show by your stand These men are not forgotten in their own native land.

Fir Fluid H-Block 6.

**SEAN McKENNA**

**NOW SERIOUSLY ILL.**

These days the men here in H-Block 5 have become a lot quieter, they seem to spend their time thinking, its not hard to guess what they are thinking about. The rosary is said three times every day its being said like I never heard it being said before, straight from the heart, men putting everything they have got into it. Of course the screws have not changed, we still get the same abuse, the same obscene comments and the same snide remarks. What must it be like for our seven comrades lying slowly and surely dying here in the prison hospital. The last reports we got of them they had lost all the weight that is possible for them to lose, the medical screws come to them every four hours and rub their bodies down with a special cream. This cream has a dual purpose one, its to keep the skin from cracking and two its to keep the bones from protruding through. Speech now comes hard to them as if it hurts them to get the words out, their movements mechanical, their reactions have completely slowed down. One can't help wondering just how long can they last now? The past 46 days have must been hell for them, they have suffered in a way that no-one but them could know, they must shudder to think what the coming weeks must hold for them. Meanwhile here in H-Block 5 we spend our days thinking, thinking about our comrades and what they are going through and what they may have to go through before death brings them relief. Our feelings are feelings of hopelessness. We can't go to protest meetings, pickets etc., we have no way to show our protest. The place is quieter the men seem to be waiting, waiting on what?, DEATH.

Message from Blanketmen H-Block 5.

**'JOE McDONNELL BLANKET MAN  
MARRIED. 4 CHILDREN  
4 YEARS WITHOUT A VISIT  
INTERVIEW  
IN NEXT WEEKS EDITION:**



1. NO PRISON WORK
2. NO PRISON UNIFORM
3. FREE ASSOCIATION
4. VISITS, LETTERS, PARCELS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.
5. FULL REMISSION.

## BRITISH PROPAGANDA AND THE POPE.

One of the favourite parrot phrases of the British Government in their campaign against political status is the Pope's statement that "Murder is Murder". You'll notice, however, that it is a pronouncement they reserve for the Irish; their own murderers do not appear to be covered by it. It doesn't seem to have been applied to the paratroopers of Bloody Sunday, the S.A.S., killers of John Boyle, or to British culprits in general. This would seem to suggest that the British want to preach the rule to the Irish without having to practise it themselves. Not that such hypocrisy and double standards are anything to be surprised at with the British. What is surprising however, is that there are still Irish people gullible enough to be taken in by this British humbug. Too many of us overlook the fact that though the British like to use Catholic Church teaching as a stick to beat Republicanism, they are not so fond of Catholicism themselves. The British parliament recently refused to repeal the Act of Settlement in the event of Prince Charles wanting to marry a European Catholic Princess. It was a case of 'No Taig need apply'. It must also be borne in mind that the Pope's visit to Britain is at the invitation of the Catholic Hierarchy in England. He has not been accorded an official government invitation. A British Army band accompanied a recent anti-Popery demonstration in Lewis, Scotland, at which an effigy of the Pope was burned. This occasion was reported and photographed by the Dublin based Sunday World newspaper. Initial British denials collapsed in the face of the photographic evidence, and a government spokesman admitted 'official embarrassment'. So the next time you hear some hypocrite quoting the Pope's message at Drogheda, remember that the Pope addressed his statement to everyone, and anyone who applies it to Republicans but not to British soldiers or the R.U.C., is not quoting the Pope, but misquoting him.

## THE FIRST CRACKS.

In the struggle of wills between the Republican hunger strikers and the Loyalist/British opposition to political status the first cracks have begun to appear.

The recent announcement by UDA prisoners in the Maze that they intend making a bid for special category status has taken the wind out of the sails of Ian Paisley, Robert Bradford and the whole Protestant backlash fleet.

This pair in particular are a couple of very deflated looking balloons indeed, because since the commencement of the hunger strike they have threatened dire consequences should any solution be attempted by the authorities. But now the people who would have been expected to back up their threat of anti-Catholic violence are leaving them high and dry.

The significance of this goes far and beyond the current hunger strike controversy. For the entire Catholic population of Northern Ireland and for moderate Protestants a break-through has occurred in that the bullying, browbeating intimidation of Ian Paisley has been put to the test and Paisley has lost.

In such diverse issues as the siting of a GAA pitch the building of houses for Catholics in Poleglass, or the Pope's visit, the threats and menaces of Paisley and his ilk have had a deterrent influence on the authorities and Catholic fainthearts alike.

But the Republican hunger strikers are no faint-hearts and their campaign for Political Status is an extension of the demand of working class Catholics for equal status in their own country. It should always be borne in mind by people who think that the hunger strike issue is something to do with prison conditions and has nothing to do with them, that if they accept that Englishmen and Loyalists in the security forces can kill Irish people and be paid for it as a profession but that Irish people fighting but for yourself and your children in all other walks of life.

The hunger strikers have given us a foot in the door in our own country; it's up to the rest of us to push on in.

SEAN DOUGLAS (DOUGIE)

WELCOME HOME SEAN, FROM ALL YOUR  
FRIENDS AND MATES IN  
LENADOON. BEST WISHES.

## WHATS ON

### THE COOLIN

Friday Night, 12th December 1980 in the Tullymore Community Centre commencing at 9p.m. - 1a.m.  
Admission £1.00.

VIGIL Friday 8p.m. to Monday 8p.m. at Lenadoon shops.

St. Pauls Football Club present GRAND DANCE in the Glen Community Centre on Saturday, 13th December 1980. Commencing 8p.m. sharp. Featuring the Fabulous BUS STOP. Admission £1.00.

Protest at Armagh on Saturday 13th December 1980  
Bus leaves Lenadoon shops at 1p.m. sharp.  
Fare £1.50.

## WOULD A CRIMINAL DO THIS?

At the time of writing 7 of our comrades in the HOBLOCKS of Long Kesh have been on hunger strike for 44 days, while in Armagh jail 3 of our women comrades have been hungering for 9 days. Do these figures 44 and 9 mean anything to you? Can you grasp what it is like to lie that long without food? Maybe we are all guilty of failing to grasp the seriousness of the situation - until it will be too late. Time passes quickly for us, we don't see 44 days pass, maybe we will not see 60 days pass, but by then it will be too late. What about these 7 men and 3 women, does time pass quickly for them?

Can you really put yourself in their position? How many of you have gone one full day without food? Fortunately in this country not too many.

Think of them - firstly 7 men who have come through a protest that has dragged on for 4 years taking its toll on the physical and mental state of the strongest men. Out of desperation and the failure of the English Government to listen to reason they were forced to put their already tortured minds and bodies through the soul destroying agony of a hunger strike - A LONG AND AGONISING ROAD TO DEATH.

Their world is a small concrete tomb like cell that's coldness and loneliness in itself is enough to shatter any mind. In the first days of hunger strike their morale and spirits were high, not complaining when the first signs that their bodies yearned for nourishment began to show. Headaches sharp stomach pains, backpains and bouts of sweating. The men kept naked except for blanket, bear a frightening appearance with long matted hair and rambling beards. They must endure the terrible agony of having to sit and stare at the food their bodies want sitting on the floor in front of them. Think of the mental torture mind must conquer over body.

As the days drag endlessly on the pain and pangs of hunger become greater. It becomes impossible to remain seated in the one position for any period without pain and discomfort. Walking is an exhausting burning up too much precious energy left in their fast decaying bodies. Without food their bodies are stabbed by the merciless sharpness of winter. The cold bites through their empty frames sleep is irregular and when it does come is restless and short. Nothing kills time; talking is annoying and at times painful, their speech is slow and given in whispers, any movements are uncertain, they retire more and more to their beds their bodies must be rubbed with cream to prevent bed sores and their bones breaking through their weak skin.

All this have these 7 men endured after travelling the road of hunger for 44 days. In Armagh the journey which will lead 3 young women through all this and more has only begun. I ask you to reconsider your part in the SMASHING of these H-Blocks and Armagh. Are you doing enough? Can you encourage others to do more? At the time of reading this how long over 44 days has passed? What other suffering have they endured? Would Criminals whose only interest is self gain and selfishness do this? What self gain do these men and women achieve from this stand taken unselfishly for others? Make yourself and others more around you more aware, DON'T LET THEM DIE.

REPUBLICIAN P.O.W. H-BLOCK 6 long kesh.