



Bulletin.

Prisoners Aid Committee,
c/o 142 Drummond Street,
London N W 1
July 1976

Irish Political Prisoners convicted in England & Scotland

James Ashe	12 yrs Long Lartin	Patrick Mulryan	20 yrs Gartree
Patrick Armstrong	life Hull	Andrew Mulryan	20 yrs Parkhurst
Stephen Blake	15 yrs Hull	Anthony Madigan	10 yrs Wakefield
Eddie Byrne	14 yrs Wakefield	Anne Maguire	14 yrs Durham
Martin Brady	life Hull	Patrick Maguire	14 yrs Bristol
Joseph Coughlan	7 yrs Long Lartin	Patrick Maguire jr.	4 yrs Ashford
Martin Coughlan	14 yrs Albany	Vincent Maguire	5 yrs W. Scrubs
Sean Campbell	10 yrs Albany	John Melia	10 yrs W. Scrubs
Patrick Conlon	12 yrs Wormwood Scrub ^{bs}	Cornelius McFadden	20 yrs Hull
Gerard Conlon	life Wakefield	Ronald McCartney	life W. Scrubs
Hugh Cunningham	20 yrs Gartree	Sean McGourgan	4 yrs Lancaster
Robert Cunningham	20 yrs Wakefield	John McCluskey	10 yrs W. Scrubs
Hugh Callaghan	life Albany	Raymond McLaughlin	12 yrs Gartree
Kevin Dunphy	12 yrs Parkhurst	Michael Murray	12 yrs Parkhurst
Joseph Duffy	12 yrs Hull	Richard McIlkenny	life Long Lartin
Fr Fell	12 yrs Bristol	Paul Norney	life W. Scrubs
Hugh Feeney	life Long Kesh	Gerry Mealey	10 yrs Wakefield
Bobby Gallagher	6 yrs Albany	Brendan O'Dowd	life Bristol
Ann Gillespie	14 yrs Durham	Eddie O'Neill	20 yrs Long Lartin
Eileen Gillespie	14 yrs Durham	Patrick O'Neill	12 yrs W. Scrubs
Patrick Guilfoyle	14 yrs W. Scrubs	Sean O'Connail	life Hull
Wally Heaton	6 yrs Walton	William Power	life W. Scrubs
Paul Hill	life Durham	Dolours Price	life Armagh
Patrick Hill	life Albany	Marian Price	life Armagh
James Harkin	12 yrs	Caroline Reneghan	5 yrs Corntow Vale
Paul Holmes	life Gartree	Carole Richardson	indefinite Durham
Gerry Hunter	life Gartree	Barry Reid	5 yrs
Noel Jenkinson	life Leicester	Thomas Rush	7 yrs Long Lartin
Raymond Kane	life	Philip Sheridan	10 yrs Long Lartin
Gerry Kelly	life Long Kesh	James Sweeney	7 yrs Perth
Jimmy Kelly	5 yrs Long Lartin	Michael Sheehan	9 yrs Wakefield
Sean Kinsella	life Winson Green	Gerard Small	12 yrs Parkhurst
Noel Gibson	life Bristol	Peter Short	10 yrs Gartree
Anthony Lynch	7 yrs W. Scrubs	William Smyth	12 yrs Bristol
William McLarnon	15 yrs Durham Albany	John Walker	life Hull
Michael MacLochlainn	5yrs W. Scrubs	Roy Walsh	life Long Lartin
Stephen Nordonne	life Strangeways	Judith Ward	life Durham
		Gerard Young	14 yrs Gartree

Please note change of address. The PAC replies to all letters and receipts all donations. If you have replies outstanding please contact us again as your letter may have gone astray in the post. We need money in order to produce the bulletin and help prisoners and families. Send donations now.

1. We print below a poem sent to us from an Irish Republican prisoner in an English prison, London, 16 June 1976.

FALLEN COMRADES

" I UNDERSTAND FRANK, I KNOW
HOW IT KILLED; DEATHLY SLOWLY
CONSPIRACY TO MURDER.
I KNOW DAYS AND NIGHTS OF HELLS
IN SOLITARY CELLS
EMPIRE-MADE TO DESTROY.
AND I CAN FEEL THE WOLF-PACK
PSYCHE-BUTCHERS AT MY BACK
METHODIC'LY HUNTING ME....
THE FOOLS! THE FOOLS! FREEDOM CALLED
US, NOT OPPRESSION; CALLED
YOU AND I MICHAEL. FIGHT!
AND WE SHALL HAVE FREEDOM.
REST IN PEACE -FALLEN COMRADES."

2. Michael Gaughan's murder in Parkhurst prison two years ago was commemorated in Ballina on 30 May. His two brothers were arrested and held under the Terrorising Act when they arrived in Liverpool from Dublin when they were returning from the comm^{no}eration. They were held for 48 hours. Different treatment was given to Fascist Robert Relf who was released from prison on 21 June on "health grounds" although he was still in contempt of court for displaying an illegal racist poster outside his home. He had been on hunger strike for 45 during some of which time he had been eating Complan. He was not force fed despite the fact that he is mentally ill with hatred and racism. Relf's release shows how eager Rot Jenkins is to give in to right-wing pressure and is a great victory for Fascism in this country. Jenkins attitude to the demands of Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg that they be moved to other prisons (not even released) shows how completely the administration of "justice" in this country is in the hands of right wing fanatics whose treatment of Irish political prisoners is always vicious and often sadistic.

3. The Winson Green screws trial, now continuing, is a marvellous example of British hypocrisy at its worst. Even if the screws are sentenced, it will only be a smokescreen to cover the issue of the beatings of the six prisoners by police to extract "confessions". The judge has already shown where he stands by allowing one of the screws to challenge a juror because he had an Irish accent. In Irish political trials on the other hand, prisoners are not even allowed to challenge jurors who have been themselves or who have relatives in the British Army of Occupation in Ireland.

4. Treatment of prisoners. Michael Murray spent two months in solitary confinement after being beaten in Parkhurst. He is now in the ordinary part of the prison as the screws in the security unit made it plain they wanted no "Paddies" there. The Home Office enquiry failed to establish how he came to be beaten up. Mrs Conlon's first visits to her son Gerry in Wakefield and her husband Guiseppa in Wormwood Scrubs were marked by the usual display of brutality. Gerry, who like all Irish political prisoners in Wakefield has no recreation or educational facilities, was forced to talk to his mother from behind a hardboard screen. He had not seen her for 12 months. On her first visit to the Scrubs Mrs Conlon

could hardly see her husband who was seated behind a dirty glass screen. Mr Conlon, who is seriously ill with TB, was stripped naked before and after the visit. Mrs Conlon was told that her visits were a "concession" as she had not been "cleared" by Belfast police to visit him. Fr Fell's mother died on 3 June after being very ill for some time; despite many efforts Fr Fell had been refused permission to be moved to Magilligan where his parents could visit him from Donegal. He was also refused permission to attend the funeral. He was instead moved to Bristol prison and put in solitary. When Frank Stagg's sister visited him she was allowed only a 20 minute visit and was strip-searched despite the fact that she is eight months pregnant. Letters of condolence sent to Fr Fell in Bristol were returned to the senders. All British soldiers sentenced for crimes in the Six Counties have been transferred to serve their sentences in England. Joseph O'Connell, Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Hugh Doherty are all being held in a prison for convicted prisoners, Wandsworth, despite the fact that they have not yet been tried. They are being held in solitary confinement in basement cells and refused newspapers which have been sent to them. Letters are also being held up for long periods of time. Mr Gadd, assistant governor at Wakefield during the death of Frank Stagg will shortly be moving on, no-one will be sorry to hear.

5. John Higgins chairman of Luton Sinn Fein, and Eddie Caughey chairman of Birmingham Sinn Fein, were arrested under the Terrorising Act on 18 May. Both men had been subjected for a long time to police harassment. John Higgins had already successfully fought an exclusion order. They appeared in court on 24 May charged with "soliciting" for support for an illegal organisation along with two ex-mercenaries, Gerald Smiley and Morrison Davidson. This is the first time that this section of the Terrorising Act has been used. At one time eight men were "helping police" and amongst them was John Banks who had organised the departure of recruits to Angola to fight against the national liberation movement, the MPLA. Banks has however now been released and has disappeared under police escort. While John Higgins and Eddie Caughey are held as top security prisoners in Brixton, the two mercenaries are classified as "low risk prisoners."

6. Jimmy Reilly, acting Chairman of Luton Sinn Fein after the arrest of John Higgins, was himself arrested for the third time under the Act on 8th June and held in Luton police station until 13. His wife, from whom he is separated was also raided at 6.30 am, her house was searched by four pigs. No police woman was present. Police also visited Jimmy's work. After his last arrest by Liverpool police Jimmy had to have five months off work as a result of the way he had been treated. There is obviously a concerted campaign underway in this country against all those who are politically active on the Irish question. So much for democracy.

7. Joseph Coughlan, sentenced to 7 years on a conspiracy charge after two trials had his appeal turned down on 10 June. At his trial the "evidence" against him was a pass to BP petroleum plant supposedly "found" in his flat.

8. James Patrick Murphy was committed for trial on a conspiracy charge at the Old Bailey when he appeared at Lambeth magistrates court on 24 June.

9. Thomas Cooper, aged 17, was committed in custody/for trial at the Old Bailey on 17 June charged with sending a parcel bomb to a Bristol firm. Mr Cooper is from Derry and is expected to be charged with Shane Paul O'Doherty who was kidnapped in Belfast and brought to London to face innumerable counts of this kind.

30 Donald McQuaid, William Baker, James Bennett, Anthony Madden, Anthony Walsh and Bernard McCaffery, all from Southampton, were committed for trial at Eastleigh on 25 May charged with conspiring to cause explosions.

11. Terrorising Act. Joseph Coyle, a relative of Marion Coyle, was held for 36 hours on 26 May after arriving at Heathrow. Mrs June O'Connor, was arrested on 4 June and held at Paddington, she has a two year old son. Larry Sillery was arrested on 21 May when 25 police and 3 dogs broke into his home at 7a.m. It was the second arrest under the Act. Previously he had been held on his arrival at Holyhead and told that he would never be able to work in London. Three Irishmen were held at Southend on 6th June and their homes in London were searched.

12. Joseph Patrick Gilhooley was released in Dublin on 5 June after an attempt to extradite him to England. Mr Justice McMahon said the offence was clearly a political offence because Mr Gilhooley and the organisation he served was at odds with the British government.

13. Noel and Marie Murray were sentenced to death in Dublin on 9 June for the murder of an off duty garda. They had been tried before a political, non-jury court which they had refused to recognise. For most of their "trial" they were in cells below the court. Judge Pringle was brought out of retirement to try them. There was no suggestion, that the Murrays, who are anarchists belonged to any political organisation. Both complained of police ill-treatment and another man accused with them originally, Stetson, had to be given a separate trial because of the state of his mental health. It is expected that if the hangings go ahead the hangman will be brought over from England. He has had some practice in recent times on his trips to Rhodesia hanging black people who were struggling to liberate their country from the white rebel fascists. The couple are being held in separate prisons while they await the decision as to whether they are to suffer the obscenity of the hangman's noose - a fitting comment on a Christian country.

14. George Stagg, brother of Frank Stagg, said on 10 May that his brother was still not "at rest" while "lying in ground which is unclaimed and unpaid." The gardai on duty contacted Special Branch by radio when Frank's 70 year old mother visited the grave. William McLoughlin, father of six, was sentenced to three months for assaulting two gardai at Frank Stagg's funeral when he appeared before a court in Killala on 23 June.

15. Terrorist cases. 1) Edward McClafferty was released on bail on 22 June to await a re-trial on a charge of possessing a gun. He has already served three years of his sentence when an ex-paratrooper told a British paper that he had lied on oath at the trial on the instructions of his commanding officer in June 1974. McClafferty had been in custody since April 1973 when soldiers opened fire on a group of unarmed men in the Ardoyne. One man, Brian Smith, was killed and another, Jackie Meehan, was wounded. Paratrooper Christopher Hindley, told the Appeal Court in Belfast on 21 June that his commanding officer, Capt Burt was a "maniac". 2) David Walter Scott, a private with the Cheshire Reg. was charged in Derry on 18 May with the manslaughter of James Gallagher on 17th May. Mr Gallagher had just been released from Magilligan and was shot on a bus while returning from a film. 3) Liam Prince was shot dead by the Brits on the Newry to Forkhill road on 12 June. He was a local schoolteacher who had applied to join the RUC. A story put out by the Brits claimed that they had been fired on.

4). There have been 304 illegal crossings of the Irish border by Brit soldiers since Jan. 1973 Garret Fitzgerald said in the Dail on 13 May. 5) The House of Lords (see item 15.i May Bulletin) have decided that they may have no jurisdiction to hear arguments about the criminal liability, if any, of a soldier who shoots a fleeing, unarmed civilian. This monumental cop -out arises out of the murder of Patrick McElhone by Lance Copr Roy Jones in 1974. Jones was of course "tried" and acquitted in March 1975. 5) Mrs Susan Simpson was stripped naked in front of Brit soldiers on 3 June after 30-40 soldiers had searched her home in Belfast and taken her to Fort Monagh Barracks. Mrs Simpson, who is 48 years old and the mother of seven children was treated in this way because of her refusal to be searched in her home during a raid which was the 27th to date. 6) Torture report, long awaited after hearings about the systematic torture of civilians before the European Court in Strasbourg has again been delayed due to the machinations of the Brit. government who are "embarrassed" by it; Seven cases brought before the court NICRA have already been rejected on "technical" grounds.

16. Noel Jenkinson Strasbourg Appeal; this case has now gone before the commission in the form of an initial submission. The case is now sub judice and because of the strict confidentiality ruling of the court the PAC, which is the only organisation responsible for the case, will not be publicising it in order not to jeopardise Noel's chances. Unfortunately Clann na h-Eireann, who have contributed no money to this case since November 1974 have already put the case at risk by claiming that they are taking the case and by using it for propaganda to raise money. (A letter from them appeared on 17 June in the Morning Star a paper which has previously refused to publicise the case). Although Noel's lawyers will be dealing with the legal aspect of this matter, including the fact that letters from Noel have authorised only Jacqueline Kaye to be responsible for his case, we feel that it is as well to set out the political background to the attempt by the official republican movement to cash in on the case at this late stage. Accordingly, the following letter has been sent from us to certain political organisations and papers to make the situation clear:

For some years now Cabhair, the prisoner organisation of Gardiner Place Sinn Fein, has been appealing for money for the "Noel Jenkinson Strasbourg Appeal". The PAC also launched a fund for this purpose in 1973 at a time when some of our members were also members of Clann na h-Eireann. We agreed to share half the costs of appealing the case of Noel Jenkinson, wrongfully convicted for the Aldershot explosion carried out by the Official IRA in 1972 and each of us, Cabhair and the PAC, paid £700 for the cost of the transcript which was £1,400. In November, 1974 Jacqueline Kaye and another PAC member who were the only two PAC members remaining in Clann, were expelled after a great deal of bitter recrimination because of our support of prisoners belonging to other organisations. Since then the PAC has had nothing to do with Clann. Cabhair however promised to finance half of the remaining costs. The PAC has, since that date, a period of over 18 months, borne all the costs involved and Cabhair has failed completely to respond to our requests that they meet half the costs of counsel's fees. We have no means of knowing how much money they may have collected on the pretence that it was for Strasbourg Appeal but we, at Noel's request, are solely responsible for the case, we do know that none of this money has gone for the purpose for which it was donated. We have met all financial costs and all the work arising out of it, including the treatment of Noel in prison.

A few weeks ago, after strenuous efforts on our part and by his friends Noel was moved from solitary confinement in Parkhurst where he had been for six months after being beaten up. During this period the Officials made not the slightest attempt to alleviate his conditions. When he was finally moved however, Clann, without Noel's permission, were stupid enough to picket Leicester thus putting him in danger of being moved back to the block in Parkhurst. Recent statements show that the Officials are moving away from the

concept of "political" prisoners towards the woolly and liberal idea of what they call "social" prisoners. It is a policy with which we totally disagree but the point is that if this is their position, they should have the integrity to cease cashing in on the name of Noel Jenkinson.

It is clear from their attitude towards Noel and our work on his behalf that the Officials has not the slightest real interest in his case or its progress to Strasbourg. Indeed they have failed even to enquire about it while they continue to collect money for it. We do not believe in sectarianism and Noel has made it clear on numerous occasions, including a letter published recently, that he regards his position as exactly the same as that of all other Irish political prisoners in England who now total upward of a hundred. We regard the prisoner policy of the Officials as being both bigoted and opportunistic. We regard their continual for money for the Noel Jenkinson Strasbourg Appeal as fraudulent and hypocritical. It could now actually result in Noel's case being turned down by the European court.

We feel that the above statement is self-explanatory. Although this fraud has been going for some time, we have preferred to avoid attacks on other organisations until this point when it is beginning to jeopardise Noel's case. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who by their donations have financed Noel's case and enabled it to get so far, without their help Noel's position would indeed be hopeless.

17. PC Jeremy Maynard of Hampshire police has alleged that a Sergeant Hewitson of Alton police station assaulted three young Irish brothers, David, Michael and Joseph O'Connor on 13 November last year when he had locked them up for being drunk and refused them permission to see a solicitor. Sgt. Hewitson told them that they had no rights as they were "Irish bastards." When he made a statement about the assaults PC Maynard was called before a disciplinary enquiry charged with disobeying an order and being asleep on duty.

18. Wilfred Michael Murphy who was serving six months for theft, was found hanging in his cell at Manchester prison on 19 June.

19. Arnold Kimpton petrol bombed the home of his wife's lover in St Albans. When he appeared in court on 12 May he was given a suspended sentence. Mr Kimpton is not Irish.

20. Donald Munro and Lionel Rowe, solicitors, stole £52,000 from their clients but when they appeared in court at the Old Bailey on 18 June they were given suspended sentences. This is known as one law for the rich and another for the poor. It is unlikely that Wilfred Michael Murphy found hanging in Manchester prison had got away with as much as that before they gave him six months.

21. Reginald Gee, agent provocateur in the case of Smullen and Doherty in Huddersfield 1969, has himself been arrested in France on smuggling charges in April. Gee, in his services to Huddersfield police, had already had his gun licence taken away on the advice of the police as he had "misused" it. But this was after he had got Smullen and Doherty 8 and 5 years. His trial in France will start on 30th June.

22. PAC Income March-May 1976. March - £78 80p; April - £139 08p; May - £60 17p.

Total income £278 05p.

PAC Expenditure March-May 1976.

Dependents...	£115 00p	
Payments to prisoners...	£22 25p	
Telephone...	£70 00p	
Visits to prisoners...	£26 00p	
Postage...	£53 90½p	Total Expenditure..£343 50p
Stationery...	£20 47½p	
Travel...	£28 87p	
Misc	£27 80p	