

PAC NEWS

2P

DECEMBER 1977



PRISONERS AID COMMITTEE
182 UPPER STREET
LONDON N 1

THE PRISONERS

Billy Armstrong life Wakefield
Paddy Armstrong life Wakefield
Jimmy Ashe 12 yrs Long Lartin
Liam Baker 20 yrs Albany
James Bennett 20 yrs W Scrubs
Stevie Blake 15 yrs Wakefield
Martin Brady life Gartree
Eddie Butler life Leicester
Eddie Byrne 14 yrs W. Scrubs
Sean Canavan 10 yrs W Scrubs
Hugh Callaghan life Albany
Sean Campbell 10 yrs L Lartin
Anthony Clarke 14 yrs Walton
Pat Christie 10 yrs Albany
Thomas Cooper 5 yrs Bristol
Gerry Conlon life Canterbury
Joe Conlon 12 yrs Wakefield
Joe Coughlan 7 yrs L Lartin
Martin Coughlan 14 yrs Gartree
Gerry Cunningham 20 yrs L Lartin
Busty Cunningham 20 yrs Albany
Tony Cunningham 10 yrs Albany
Hugh Doherty life Leicester
Adrian Donnelly life L Lartin
Brendan Dowd life Parkhurst
Joe Duffy 12 yrs W. Scrubs
Harry Duggan life Parkhurst
Kevin Dunphy 12 yrs Albany
Hugh Feeney life Long Kesh
Fr Fell 12 yrs Albany
Noel Gibson life Parkhurst
Ann Gillespie 14 yrs Durham
Eileen Gillespie 14 yrs Durham
Pat Guilfoyle 14 yrs Gartree
Pat Hackett 20 yrs W Scrubs
Sean Hayes 20 yrs W Scrubs

John Higgins 10 yrs Parkhurst
Paddy Hill life Parkhurst
Paul Hill life Gartree

Paul Holmes life Gartree
Gerry Hunter life Gartree
Gerry Kelly life Long Kesh
Jimmy Kelly 5 yrs W Scrubs
Sean Kinsella life Albany
Tony Lynch 7 yrs W Scrubs
Liam MacLarnon 15 yrs W Scrubs

Michael MacLochlainn 5 yrs Wakefield
Ronnie McCartney life Bristol
Con MacFadden 20 yrs Winchester
Bernard McCafferty 16 yrs Parkhurst
John McCluskey 10 yrs Gartree
Ray McLaughlin 12 yrs Albany
Donal McLaughlin 10 yrs Gartree
James Murphy 10 yrs L Lartin
Richard McIlkenny life L Lartin
Anne Maguire 14 yrs Durham
Pat Maguire 14 yrs Gartree
Pat Maguire jr 4 yrs Aylesbury
Vincent Maguire 5 yrs Aylesbury
Tony Madigan 10 yrs Parkhurst
Gerry Mealey 10 yrs Gartree

John Melia 10 yrs L Lartin
Paddy Mulryan 20 yrs W Scrubs
Andy Mulryan 20 yrs Parkhurst
Mick Murray 12 yrs Wakefield
Steve Nordonne life W Scrubs
Paul Norney life Wakefield
Joe O'Connell life Parkhurst
Shane O'Doherty life W Scrubs
Eddie O'Neill 20 yrs Leeds
Pat O'Neill 8 yrs Parkhurst
David Owen 10 yrs L Lartin
Billy Power life Albany

Marian Price life Armagh
Colours Price life Armagh
Carole Richardson indefinite Durham

Michael Reilly 10 yrs Wakefield
Gerry Rush 7 yrs Long Lartin
Phil Sheridan 10 yrs Gartree
Mike Sheehan 9 yrs Gartree
Peter Short 10 yrs Gartree
Gerry Small 12 yrs Parkhurst
Sean Smyth 12 yrs Albany
Peter Toal 10 yrs Long Lartin
John Walker life Wakefield
Roy Walsh life Parkhurst
Judith Ward life Durham
Gerry Young 14 yrs W Scrubs



Proinsias Stagg, died for Ireland
Wakefield prison 12 th 1976.
"The fight must go on."

PROINSIAS STAGG

In the early hours of 6 November the coffin containing the remains of Proinsias Stagg was removed from its Free State grave to where it had been kidnapped in February 1976. In accordance with his will Proinsias is now buried in the Republican plot in Ballina along with his comrade Michael Gaughan. The PAC offers its congratulations to those who were responsible for respecting and carrying out the final request of a man who gave his life for Ireland.



Mr Gaughan placing a wreath on the Republican Graves in Ballina where his son Michael and Proinsias Stagg at last Rest in Peace.

STEPHEN NORDONNE

Stephen was held in a control unit in Wakefield last Oct. despite the fact that the unit had been officially closed. While in the unit he was not allowed to know what time of day it was and his meals were brought at different times in order to disorientate him. He could not see through the "window" which was in fact made of opaque perspex blocks. He was held naked and there was no covering for his bed. In order to keep warm he had to rip the foam rubber off the walls and try to wrap it round him. When he was taken out of this regime he had difficulty in speaking and it took him a week to write a two page letter.

SEAN O'CONNELL

Sean told his solicitor before he died that amongst his property held in Albany prison was political writings which he had produced during his time in jail and some poems. When his property was handed over there was no trace of these writings and although they appear on the official prison list of his property the prison denied all knowledge of them. In the case of Noel Jenkinson too, the prison destroyed all his diaries and political writings after his death. The No4 issue of THE IRISH PRISONER will be entirely dedicated to the writings of Irish political prisoners held in English jails.

POLICE WHITEWASH

19 months after it began the "inquiry" by Asst Chief Const of Northumbria, Price, into the assaults by police in Manchester & Merseyside on five Irish political prisoners in July 1975 has finally been sent to the DPP who has of course decided to do nothing.

GARTREE

Irish political prisoners in Gartree have been victimised for supporting an English political prisoner, anarchist Malcolm Simpkins. Simpkins suffers from stomach complaint which means he has to buy special food from the prison canteen. When he was ill could not work he had no money to buy food. The prison doctor refused to prescribe the food and told him he could starve. When Simpkins went on hunger and thirst strike, screws tried to drag him to the hospital. IPPs intervened and organised a sit down protest. As a result two IPPs, Martin Coughlan and Peter Short, were hi-jacked out to do solitary under Rule 43. Coughlan was taken to Lincoln and Short to Leicester. The sit down went ahead and as a result Brian MacLaughlin and Phil Sheridan ended up on the block along with a number of other prisoners, including Blackie Saxton, a black prisoner who was very badly beaten in Hull. While on the block Sheridan lost 7 days remission because he asked a screw where his NF badge was.

The PAC would like to thank all the prisoners in Gartree who arranged for mass to be said for Sean O'Connell RIP and all the prisoners both English and Irish who contributed to the collection which was made towards the cost of his funeral. The solidarity displayed by the prisoners in Gartree is obviously a great threat to the prison authorities.

EDDIE BYRNE

Despite the fact that he has now completed the solitary given him as a result of the escape attempt from the Scrubs, Eddie is still being held in solitary under Rule 43.

George Bingham and Michael McGuinness were released on 13th November after serving three months. Bingham was charged with being in breach of an exclusion order and McGuinness charged with aiding and abetting him.

PADDY ARMSTRONG

Paddy was assured by the Security Officer in Wandsworth, where he was being held while three judges worked out how they could turn down his appeal, that his sister would be able to visit him the day after the appeal ended. When she arrived at the prison he had been shipped out to Wakefield the same day.



LEGAL AID

The Law Society has refused to give legal aid to Irish prisoners who were attacked by screws in Winson Green on the night of the Birmingham bombs three years ago. At that time 9 prisoners were assaulted, two of them Gerry Young and Pat Guilfoyle were badly injured and for one, Jimmy Ashe it was the second time he had been assaulted. The Law Society admitted that the prisoners had a good case for an action against the Home Office but they said that "wider considerations" had to be taken into account and not only did they refuse an application for legal aid to Stephen Blake but they then went on to WITHDRAW a legal aid certificate from Jimmy Ashe. It is clear that the British are determined that no Irish political prisoner will be allowed to have access to the courts. As a result of the adoption of this policy by the Brits, the prisoners will take a group action before the European Commission in Strasbourg alleging discrimination on national and political grounds.



James McDaid, died for Ireland in a Coventry Street November 14th 1974.

SEAN CANAVAN

Sean's appeal against his 10 yr sentence on a conspiracy charge was turned down on 8 Nov.

WALLY HEATON

Wally Heaton was released on 8 Nov after winning his appeal against a 6 year sentence for supposedly running arms to Ireland. At the time of this "trial" Wally was already serving a 4 yr sentence which he had got for supposedly taking part in a robbery on the home of Rose Dugdale's father. He has been in prison since Oct 1973.

The Appeal court said that the only "evidence" against him at the trial had been the word of a self confessed liar and police informer, Thomas Card and the fact that Wally had "Republican literature" in his flat.

LONG LARTIN

Security Officer at Long Lartin John Lees was convicted in Oct for a sexual assault on a man. Lucky Mr Lees did not lose his job, in fact he is now on the door at the jail. Prisoners in LL are refusing to be searched by screws as they fear that this kind of perversion may be rampant in their ranks.

ALBANY AND PARKHURST

Visiting conditions for IPPs continue to deteriorate in both jails and screws have taken to sitting in the laps of visitors. Prisoners in Albany have been told that they cannot have books from their families, only from bookshops.

PAT GUILFOYLE

Deepest sympathy to Pat Guilfoyle on the recent tragic death of his mother after an accident in the home of her daughter. Pat was allowed to see his mother before she died but was not allowed to see his father who was also at the hospital. He was handcuffed to a prison officer. The hospital was saturated with armed police causing even the screws to complain.



Home Office
H M PRISON
Gartree Leicester Road Market Harborough Leics
Telephone 6697 (Market Harborough) 5041 ext

Miss Una Toal

Please reply to the Governor

Your reference

Our reference DJB/EM

Date 13 October
1977

Dear Miss Toal

Re: Sean O'CONNAILL

The enclosed amount is the proceeds of a voluntary collection from the inmates of this prison towards a wreath, or funeral expenses, for Sean O'Connell (ex Gartree Prison inmate) who died recently.

Yours faithfully

D J Bradley
for Governor



GUILDFORD AND WOOLWICH APPEAL

The appeal of Paul Hill, Paddy Armstrong, Gerry Conlon and Carole Richardson against their convictions for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings opened on 10th October. The appeal was staged at the Old Bailey for security reasons. All four prisoners were present and the main evidence considered were sworn affidavits by Joe O'Connell, Brendan Dowd, Harry Duggan and Eddie Butler which explained in great detail how they and not those convicted carried out the bombings. All four were called to give evidence and the usual snide suggestions by the prosecution that all had been involved etc were wheeled out. It is quite clear that as far as British justice is concerned it would be far better for a hundred Irish prisoners to serve life for something they did not do than it should ever be admitted that innocent people had been framed.

Not unexpectedly on 21st October the Court of Appeal in the person of Roskill turned down the Appeal cloaking their bias and hypocrisy in a display of spurious reasoning and sleights of hand.

Francie Bennett, brother of James Bennett, and Patrick McCartney were sentenced to 15 months at Winchester on 21 October after being found guilty on a drugs charge. The case has several very odd features. The chief prosecution witness turned out to be Don Donway who was actually in possession of heroin but who pleaded guilty on the first day of the trial, returned to give evidence against the others and was finally given a suspended sentence, the third he has received over the last few years. Donway has not lost his job on the docks, despite a conviction for theft, but Bennett who had worked there 17 years has lost his and McCartney had lost his following an earlier attempt by Southampton police to frame him on an arms charge at a trial in which Peter Short got 10 yrs. Another man charged along with Bennett and McCartney, Hugh Nathaniel Green, was let out on bail after the jury failed to agree and it is unlikely to be tried again as the police were only interested in getting convictions against the two Belfastmen. Southampton police have a record second to none for the persecution of Irish people, especially under the Terrorising Act. They had told Bennett and McCartney that they would "get" them and the 15 month sentences mean that the two men cannot appeal without serving longer in prison than they were sentenced to.

Fr Michael Connolly who was suspended from parish duties in June 1974 because he attended the funeral of his cousin Michael Gaughan and described him as "a great man who has died for his conscience," has been reinstated by the man who had originally suspended him Dwyer, Archbishop of Birmingham the man who also refused to allow mass to be said for James McDaid. FR Connolly has now been given a parish in Staffordshire after being unemployed for 3 years.

Rev Terence Spong, ex-prison chaplain in Rhodesia, spoke at a National Front meeting in London on 15 October, revealing that "There is no clash between my Christian views and those of the NF". Rev Spong was recently appointed chaplain at Brixton prison on the grounds that his experience in working for the illegal terrorist regime in Rhodesia eminently fitted him for the job. However following the embarrassing public revelations of his racist views Mr Spong was allowed to resign, unlike Fr Connolly whose love for his countrymen got him the sack.

TERRORISING ACT

Sean Hitchen, Hugh & Paul Fullerton and James Todd were arrested in Liverpool on 28 Oct when they arrived from Belfast to see a football match. They were held under the act until 31st Oct when they were released without charge.

Trade Unionist Harry Robinson was deported from Liverpool to Belfast on 31 October.

Josephine Horne, 20 yrs old from Belfast, was deported from England on 8 November. She had been held in police custody for a full week in Blackpool where she had been working since June. Police visited her employers who said that her job would be kept open for her and also her landlord. At the same time her sister with her young baby was being held in Castlereagh under the Act. When Blackpool police deported Josephine they told her she would be able to appeal against the order in Belfast, which is a lie:

Michael Tubman and Andy Mulligan were arrested under the Act in Kilburn on 4 November where they were collecting for prisoners with boxes clearly marked: "Sinn Fein." Police perjurers alleged that they had said they were collecting for the "IRA" and they were not given bail until 9 Nov. Meanwhile their homes were raided and money taken away.

There are at present 17 Loyalist prisoners in English jails. Figures for Scotland are not yet available.



MERLYN REES refused to say how many people from the Free State and the Six Counties had been held under the Terror Act when he was asked by Frank Maguire in a Parliamentary question on 26 October. According to Rees:

"Information about the nationality or country of origin of persons detained is not collated centrally" despite the fact that it is well known that ALL information about those held, including fingerprints and photos is immediately put on police computers.

Vance Beverley James and Barbara Irving Comer were remanded in custody by Wallasey magistrates on 26 October charged under the PTA with possession of guns and ammunition.

Mairead Bean Uí Dhomhnaill a member of the Gaelic League was abused and kicked at Glasgow airport when she refused to give an English version of her name.

Balcombe Street Bomb

Three youths were found in possession of a home made bomb in Blacombe St on 18 November following an explosion and fire. They were later charged.

Three men, an Englishman, a German and an Australian were arrested at the Old Bailey under the PTA on 11 October as they tried to attend the Guildford and Woolwich appeal. They were arrested because the Englishman refused to give his name. While they were held they were fingerprinted and photoed under the Act.

NOBEL "PEACE" PRIZE

The PAC will be holding a picket on the Norwegian Embassy in London on 10 December from 3-4pm to protest at the award of the Nobel "Peace" prize to Amnesty International, an organisation which has consistently and relentlessly ignored the torture of Irish political prisoners in the country where its HQ is, England. This picket will coincide with a picket on the Nobel Institute in Oslo held by Norwegian students and supporters of Irish freedom who will be protesting at the award being given to the wealthy "Peace" people.

TERRORIST CASES.

Two Coldstream Guardsmen, Dale Patrick Martin and Anthony William Bottrill appeared in court at the Old Bailey on Nov 7 th charged with the murder of two men in a flat in Brixton on 21 st May, cup final night. The two murdered men had invited their killers to their home where after a meal they were brutally murdered and robbed. On the 8 th Nov Martin was sentenced to life imprisonment and Bottrill given five years after being convicted of manslaughter. The hosts were murdered with knives Martin and Bottrill bought at a shop near their barracks at Windsor.

On 31 st October Private Wm. Porter of the 1 st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders had his conviction for the murder of a person in W. Germany set aside by a Brit Court, the Court of Appeal in London. Porter had been charged with murder after a drunken brawl outside a beer hall.

Bmdr. Shaunt Conboy of the 40 th Field Regiment was given bail of £500 at Belfast magistrates court on 14 th Nov. He is accused of the murder of Cpl. Barry Hylton at Flax Street Hill, Ardoyne on Saturday 12 th Nov.

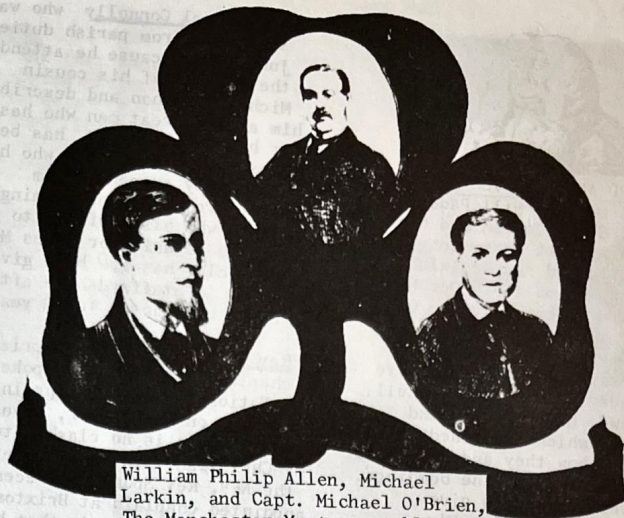
Corporal Reginald Booth of the Royal Engi neers was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment at Winches ter Crown Court on 28 th October.

Booth, a married man with five children was found guilty of deceiving various women and dishonestly obtaining money.

Jeffrey Clark of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars was jailed for three years at the Old Bailey on 7 th Nov ember. Clark pleaded guilty to indecent assault and assault of a sixteen year old girl who was walking near her home last November. Clark forced his victim into a stream, beat her and burnt her with a cigartee end. On the 27 th October a large number of women shouted at judge Peter Mason at Snaresbrook Crown Court. The women protested at the sentence of six months Mason had given to a Royal Navy rating the previous week when he pleaded guilty to rape and causing actual bodily harm.

Corporal John Oliver of Catterick Garrison was fined £700 at Richmond Magistrates Court when he pleaded guilty to taking a Chieftan Tank and driving it without permission. Anthony Colin Williamson and Stephen Ellerton both of the Coldstream Guards had Appeals turned down on 7 th November. In July last year both men attacked and kicked James Davidson to death in a lane near Eton because he was unable to give them a light for their cigarettes. They then threw his body into a nearby river.

Corporal Michael Coulson Corporal Terry Michael Coulson Duke of Wellington Regiment was cleared by a Brit Army kangaroo court at Minden, West Germany on October 13 th. Though arrested by



William Philip Allen, Michael Larkin, and Capt. Michael O'Brien, The Manchester Martyrs, publicly executed on 23 rd November 1867.

W. German police this terrorist was handed over to the Brits for trial. Coulson was charged with Arson after a fire in a warehouse caused £1½ million damage. (see July PAC News).

Lieutenant Colonel David Arthur Charles Randal of the Royal Signals appeared in court on 4 th November charged with corruption involving the sale of tanks. Randall is alleged to have taken £25,000 in bribes. Two business men are also charged.

James Wellbeloved MP who was at one time leading a "Troops Out" movement of soldiers wives etc. has been bought off by being made junior Minister in the Ministry of Defence.

Police convicts Wally Virgo, William Moody and Kenneth Drury have all been moved to open prisons to serve their sentences.

Political Status

A delegate from the PAC attended the conference on political status held by the Relatives Action Committee in Belfast on Sunday, 6 November. The PAC gives full support to those campaigning for political status.

For the men on the blanket, a poem by Ho Chi Minh:

The Paper Blanket of a Jail

Mate

Pages of old books and new ones glued together!
A blanket made out of paper is better than nothing at all.
You people who sleep in jade beds with brocade curtains,
Do you know in the jails there are many who cannot sleep?

Ho Chi Minh was held in solitary in Hong Kong in 1931 after being arrested illegally by the Brits. He wrote this poem about the miserable conditions which he, like the hundreds of prisoners of British imperialism, endured. It has special relevance now to those brave men on the blanket in H Block, Long Kesh.

on 18 October Sidney John O'Shea, a coffee shop proprietor in Liverpool pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Andrew Bernard Jones on 21 April. Jones was aged 15 yrs old and O'Shea originally claimed that he had thought he was being attacked by the IRA when the boy approached him as he walked home and he shot him dead through the heart with a gun he held as a member of a pistol club. Later he changed his story and said that he thought the boy was going to mug him and that he carried the gun to defend women who were being attacked. A sympathetic judge gave him a mere four years so we can soon expect to see this latterday Wyatt Earp back on the streets with his licensed gun.

Christmas Cards

We would like to ask all PAC supporters to send as many Xmas cards to the prisoners as possible and to facilitate this we set out below the full addresses of the prisons in which they are being held:

HM Prison, WAKEFIELD, Yorkshire
HM Prison, LONG LARTIN, South Littleton, Nr Evesham, Worcs.
HM Prison, ALBANY, Nr Newport, Isle of Wight.
HM Prison, WORMWOOD SCRUBS, Du Cane Road, London W12.
HM Prison, GARTREE, Market Harborough, Leics.
HM Prison, Welford Rd, LEICESTER.
HM Prison, WALTON, Liverpool.
HM Prison, LINCOLN.
HM Prison, PARKHURST, Nr Newport Isle of Wight
HM Prison, LONG KESH, Lisburn, Co Antrim
HM Prison, Old Elvet, DURHAM
HM Prison, BRISTOL
HM Prison AYLESBURY, Bucks
HM Prison, ARMAGH, N Ireland.
HM Prison, Armley Road, Leeds.

PAC NEWS. HELP DISTRIBUTE THE PAC NEWS. ORDER EXTRA COPIES NOW.