

REPUBLICAN NEWS

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RATHER YOU THAN ME. By Thomas Nelis, Glasgow.

Harse experience of life as a regular soldier in the British Army constrains me to assent to the conclusions of the writer of the front page article, "Scotland The Brave", published in a recent issue of "Republican News".

As a young man, I enlisted in the British Army on a 22 year engagement. Economic necessity compelled me, for I was unemployed; one among the many thousands in this land of my birth. When I went along seeking to fill some vacant job advertised in the newspapers, I would find 30-40 young men just like me after the same job.

I had little chance of getting it, for I had no educational qualifications. Because of my slum environment, and the poverty of my family I had a rather weak physique making it necessary for me to enter hospital for long terms. The other applicants could boast of things like Scottish Leaving Certificates.

So into the army I went, hoping to learn a trade, and gain some formal educational qualifications: vain hope. I became one of the instruments in upholding the great British Empire by which vast wealth was milked from nations all over the earth for the benefit - the sole benefit - of an arrogant British/English ruling class.

I loved the army life from the start; the comradeship was good. I even liked things like drill. The sheer clock-work precision of a well-trained squad of men doing complicated drill formations on a vast barrack-square gave me a sense of belonging - being part of the crowd, so to speak.

My work as a sapper also was intensely interesting, for it afforded me a large variety of occupations. We would build bridges, roads, water-points, concrete bunkers; using in the process explosive charges and vast machines.

Then we had the inevitable training in small-arms like light machine guns; sten gun; .303 rifle and Browning 9 m.m. automatic pistol. It was a great life until I injured my spine in the Far East, and was given a medical discharge with a 100% disability pension of - wait for it - 4 guineas per week. What a vast sum of cash to give a lowly soldier, and just for serving his (King first) and then Queen and country. Why they are duties all good Britishers should be prepared to do for nothing.

At the Army Medical Board, I pleaded with an English Colonel to let me stay in, but he considered I was of no more use to the army. I could not trek through Malayan jungles any more in search of Communist bandits. What use was I to them in putting down the Mau-Mau of Kenya, or the guerrilla fighters of E.O.K.A. ? I was, as far as they were concerned - the Medical Board - a half cripple. So they tossed me out, to live on a miserly pittance which would not have been sufficient to keep one of Prince Phillip's polo ponies in hay for a week.

Out in civvy street back in Glasgow, I could not get a job and £4.20. per week was not sufficient for my needs. Oh! they offered me a job through the Ex-Regular's Association; operating a lift in one of the large Glasgow stores in Argyll Street for about £6.50. per week.

I went down the social ladder, sleeping in old vans and lorry cabs or up by the monkland canal in the Summer time. If it had not been for my Mother, I guess I would have starved to death.

Young fellow-Scot, serving as a mercenary soldier in the English Army of Occupation in Ireland, The same could happen to you. Any day a sniper's bullet can go through your abdomen and lodge in your spine, incapacitating you for further army-service. What will you do then? Will your officers take up a collection for you? Will they even think of you one month after you are given a medical discharge? If your experiences are the same as mine, They will not.

You could be in Scotland, your own country, helping to build up it's economy, making it into a republic - one of the wealthiest republics in the world - but you stay in the English Army, fighting England's battles for them, oppressing the Irish people who are descended from the same Celtic stock as yourself. **YOUNG FELLOW-SCOT, RATHER YOU THAN ME.**

JAMES BRYSON AND THE B.B.C.

By the P.R.O., Cage Six, Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

The Republican prisoners in this cage view with disgust the derogatory remarks made about the late James Bryson on B.B.C., programme, 'Children in Crossfire.'

Not content with Bryson's death, the B.B.C., saw fit to cause his wife and family further anguish by quoting a British soldier as saying, "he was a psychopathic murderer, which was at the very least, stupidly tactless."

Bryson was a man of great courage and so it is not surprising that the British Army saw fit to insult him as they feared him deeply.

Before the present troubles started in August, 1969, our crime rate was far lower than that in England, and indeed still is. In making these remarks about Jim Bryson, the B.B.C., conveniently forget that England is a land of murderers, rapists and thugs. Now they have taken up child-killing as a past-time. So for them to say there is a sickness in the six counties deserves only contempt. The sickness is in England. Now England's sewers have vomited up her scum in the guise of British soldiers and turned them loose to continue their thuggery here.

Her so-called clean-cut boys in khaki have made their mark by appearing in criminal courts for burglary, assault, torture, robbery, attempted murder and now child-killing in which an English judge preferred the term, "manslaughter."

To insult the late James Bryson, is hypocritical of these English but it does not surprise us as the Brits are past masters at this.

We demand that the family of the late James Bryson receive an apology from the B.B.C., for their contemptible remarks.

DISGUSTED WITH DONEGAN.

By the P.R.O., Cage Three, Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

I wish to express my disgust with the remarks made by Mr. Patrick Donegan, regarding the role Irish troops will play in dealing with Republican activity on the Border.

Mr. Donegan informs us that Irish troops have been issued with "green cards," These cards are a subsidiary of the "yellow" card carried by British troops in the North and spell out the conditions under which Irish troops may open fire. It is interesting to note that one of these conditions is the "prevention of a criminal outrage or the commission of a crime likely to cause loss of life." In other words, Mr. Donegan is telling us that anyone who engages British troops with gunfire or in any way helps the carrying out of an I.R.A. operation is liable to be fired upon by Irish troops.

The implications involved with this latest piece of Donegan madness are enormous and far surpassing anything seen yet. The memory of the Civil War still remains with us but the Dublin Government still insists on creating the foundations of another by their constant harassment and restrictions which they rigidly apply to Republicans.

It is becoming more and more evident that the British Government have the final and ultimate say in the policy making decisions of the Dublin Government.