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Fuair siad
bás ar son
saoirse mhuintir
na hÉireann



• Vol EUGENE KELLY



• Vol TONY GORMLEY



• Vol PADDY KELLY



• Vol DECLAN ARTHURS



• Vol SEAMUS DONNELLY



• Vol JIM LYNAGH



• Vol PADRAIG McKEARNEY



• Vol GERARD O'CALLAGHAN

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS



EIGHT VOLUNTEERS KILLED IN AMBUSH

EIGHT IRA VOLUNTEERS and one civilian were brutally slain and other Volunteers narrowly succeeded in escaping when the crown forces ambushed IRA Volunteers attacking the RUC barracks at Loughgall in County Armagh on Friday evening, May 8th.

The tragic deaths of so many Volunteers is the single biggest loss the IRA has suffered since the Tan War and clearly came as a result of a carefully-laid ambush involving scores of RUC personnel and British troops.

Exact details of what happened are still not known as AP/RN goes to print as the Volunteers who escaped have been taken to a secure location. However, what is clear is that the operation by

IRA Volunteers had begun earlier that day when IRA Volunteers commandeered a blue Toyota Hiace van from a local business in Dungannon. Shortly after 6pm, a mechanical digger was taken from a farm at Lislassley Road, also in Dungannon. Volunteers remained at the farm while the operation was in progress.

At 7.15pm, the digger, with a 200lb bomb placed in its bucket,

was driven into the village. The Volunteer driving the vehicle was accompanied by two armed Volunteers. Immediately behind the digger came the van containing several other Volunteers.

As the digger drew level with the RUC barracks the driver swung it across the road, smashing through the perimeter fence and jamming it tight against the wall of the building. The firing mechanism to detonate the bomb was set and the Volunteers began to withdraw through the fence towards their comrades in the Toyota van.

It was at this point that British troops, who had been lying in wait around the barracks and in the fields alongside the road, opened fire on the Volunteers from all sides. Two of the Volunteers who had been on the digger attempted to get out of the line of fire by running back in the direction they had come. One was shot and killed about 20 yards from the van and the second was killed about 100 yards away. Some of the Volunteers had deliberately-placed bullet wounds to the head as well as their bodies being riddled.

There was a huge explosion which demolished half of the barracks and reduced the mechanical digger to a tangled mass of wreckage.

British troops continued to fire hundreds of shots into the van while others tried to kill Volunteers who were attempting to break out of the ambush area. Three Volunteers were killed in the van and another three were shot immediately beside the vehicle.

About 100 yards from the scene of the ambush, Anthony Hughes and his brother, Oliver, who were returning home to Caledon, were fired on by British troops. Anthony Hughes died when he was struck several times in the head by bullets which had smashed into his white Citroen from every direction. Oliver Hughes was critically injured.

About 20 yards away, a local woman, Mrs Beggs, had a narrow escape when the back window of her car was shattered and bullets smashed in the bodywork.

KILLING ZONE

It is clear that the RUC and

British troops taking part in the ambush had, under instructions from their political masters, established a killing zone within which no-one was to be left alive. No effort was made to prevent civilians, like the Hughes brothers and Mrs Beggs, from straying within that area.

Loughgall was sealed off within seconds by a large force of British troops and RUC men who swamped the small village and, with the help of at least one British army helicopter carrying a powerful searchlight, continued to scour the countryside in a vain effort to find and kill those who had escaped the ambush.

In a statement issued by the East Tyrone Brigade on Saturday, the IRA paid tribute to their fallen comrades.

"Eight Volunteers of the East Tyrone Brigade died on active service while launching an attack at Loughgall RUC Barracks.

"Crown forces, who heavily outnumbered the Volunteers, surrounded them and assassinated them. Volunteers who shot their way out of the ambush and escaped saw other Volunteers being shot on the ground after being captured.

"The British army and the RUC had everything in their favour — personnel, weaponry and communications.

"Our Volunteers died courageously and we salute them and pledge our commitment to pursue the goal of peace and justice for the Irish people.

"The East Tyrone Brigade extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of our dead comrades."

The IRA also extended its sympathy to the family of the civilian killed at Loughgall.

Attacks continue

IRA VOLUNTEERS in Ardoyne, North Belfast, shot and wounded one RUC man, while in other parts of the North in the past week, IRA Volunteers continued to strike at the crown forces.

On Thursday, May 7th, the IRA in South Derry revealed that it had planted a booby trap anti-personnel mine two days earlier on the "Portglenone-Kilrea line".

According to the South Derry Brigade.

"The bomb was placed at a gatepost close to a filling station. Some hours later we gave a hoax warning about a bomb at the filling station. The crown forces sealed off the area but the device failed to detonate.

"The following morning the area was again sealed off and the bomb was discovered by British troops and removed.

"We view as sinister the fact that the crown forces have not publicly acknowledged this attack nor the discovery of explosives."

DHSS FRAUD SQUAD WARNED

In a second statement the IRA in South Derry warned:

"In a number of recent incidents, IRA active service units in the Magherafelt/Bellaghy area came close to carrying out attacks on members of the DHSS Fraud Squad in the belief that they were undercover British Soldiers or RUC.

"We would advise members of the Fraud Squad to change their

methods of working in nationalist areas and to clearly identify at all times who they are."

GRENADE ATTACK

Also on Thursday, Volunteers from the IRA's East Tyrone Brigade carried out a grenade attack on the Dungannon Courthouse. The building, which was devastated in an IRA bomb attack last November, is presently being repaired. Claiming responsibility, the IRA said that the extensive rebuilding was being carried out by the Henry Brothers, who have been repeatedly involved in servicing crown forces bases in the North. The IRA warned that attacks against the firm will be stepped up if they don't stop carrying out work for the RUC and British army.

In the same statement the East Tyrone Brigade denied any involvement in a robbery the previous weekend in Cookstown in which £20,000 had been taken at an SDLP fund-raising poker tournament.

Meanwhile, in West Belfast on Thursday night, IRA Volunteers opened fire on the RUC at Springhill. The IRA said:

"Volunteers using automatic rifles opened fire on RUC gunmen operating from the roof of a spec-



ial care school at the top of Springhill Avenue. As our Volunteers made their way safely back to base, the RUC poured an indiscriminate volley of rifle fire into Springhill."

RIOTING

Two nights of rioting in parts of Belfast erupted after Wednesday's funeral of IRA Volunteer Finbarr McKenna, during which the RUC had attacked and injured dozens of mourners.

On Friday evening, the IRA's Belfast Brigade called on young people to end the hijacking of vehicles and sporadic street violence, saying: "Hijacking serves no useful purpose and in fact is causing great inconvenience in

nationalist areas."

With the shock news on Friday night of eight Volunteers killed at Loughgall, rioting again broke out in Belfast and in other towns across the North. On Saturday, the IRA once again called on nationalist youths to stop the street violence:

"We fully understand the frustrations of the nationalist youth on hearing of the death of eight IRA Volunteers killed on active service, but we feel nothing is to be gained by the hijacking and burning of privately-owned vehicles in nationalist districts. This only serves to inconvenience our own people.

"If anyone wants to vent their frustration and anger on the crown forces then the most effective outlet is to join with the Republican Movement in the organised resistance struggle."

RUC GUARD ATTACKED

Shortly before midnight on Saturday, May 9th, IRA Volunteers in Belfast attacked the RUC guard protecting the home of Diplock County Court Judge John Curran.

At 11pm, an IRA active service unit in a commandeered vehicle stopped outside Curran's home on the Old Cavehill Road.

One Volunteer fired a grenade at the security building inside the grounds while two other Volunteers, armed with high-velocity weapons, fired several bursts of shots.

Saturday night's attack came only two weeks after the IRA killed Diplock Judge Maurice

Gibson and less than three months after a similar attack on the home of Diplock Judge Ian Higgins.

Earlier that day, IRA Volunteers in the Beechmount area of West Belfast launched several gun attacks against mobile British army and RUC patrols in the district. In Ballyclare Street, in the Oldpark area of North Belfast, shots were also fired at an RUC mobile patrol.

DERRY ATTACKS

A single mortar was fired on Saturday afternoon at the heavily-fortified Strand Road headquarters of the RUC in the north west of the Six Counties. The mortar landed inside the perimeter, causing slight damage.

In the early hours of Sunday, IRA Volunteers opened fire on RUC personnel and British soldiers in William Street and Rossville Street.

RUC MAN SHOT

One RUC man was seriously wounded on Sunday night when IRA Volunteers opened fire on a mobile RUC patrol in Ardoyne.

The RUC had stopped near a block of shops and it was as the driver of one armoured Land Rover stepped from his vehicle that two IRA Volunteers opened fire. The RUC man was hit in the body.

The crown forces quickly sealed the area off but the IRA had already withdrawn.

In South Derry on Sunday night, the IRA attacked the RUC barracks in Bellaghy. Over a dozen shots were fired.



● Volunteers of the East Tyrone Brigade, Ogleigh na h'Eirsann, salute their fallen comrades at the Republican Monument, Cappagh, on Monday night

ON FRIDAY EVENING, May 8th, a group of IRA Volunteers set out to attack the RUC barracks at Loughgall, County Armagh. They went with courage and skill and, above all, with comradeship and a firm belief in the correctness of their action. They went as republican soldiers who had carefully planned and hoped to successfully inflict a major blow against part of the British war machine which occupies six counties of our country.

When they reached their objective the Volunteers found a carefully laid ambush all around them. They were cut down without mercy by undercover SAS soldiers. When the firing ceased, eight young republicans lay dead, as did a passing civilian and the passenger in the car with him seriously injured because they happened to pass through the ring of steel laid by the crown forces.

The IRA Volunteers who died at Loughgall knew the tremendous risks they took and the massive forces ranged against them. In this, as in every operation carried out by the IRA, those involved ran the risk of years of imprisonment, injury or death. Knowing all this, they used their skill to meticulously plan and carry out the Loughgall attack. They did so because they were politicised and highly-motivated republicans committed to the armed struggle which is the only means by which the British government can be forced to break its stranglehold on political progress and peace.

The strength of that stranglehold was epitomised by the ambush at Loughgall. The IRA Volunteers were greatly outnumbered and outarmed by an occupying army with a vast array of military equipment and surveillance technology at its disposal. The Volunteers could have been arrested but it was never in the minds of the SAS to arrest them. They planned to take no prisoners and they took none, murdering an uninvolved civilian in the process.

Republicans do not complain about the way in which the British forces carried out their operation. Centuries of British terror have taught us to expect it.

The illegitimacy of the forces which carried out the Loughgall killings is not simply in their actions there but in their very presence in our country. It has always been and always will be illegitimate and unacceptable.

The British have always maintained their rule by military might and brute force. They have always been met with armed resistance and, in this final phase of the freedom struggle,

OPINION

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS

with increasingly effective armed resistance. Loughgall proved, if proof were needed, that the sectarian Six-County state cannot be held without the British army, the occupying force which underpins all the political and military strategy of the Westminster government.

The highly-trained and elite SAS terrorists of the British army were needed to carry out the Loughgall ambush. They could rely on their training and technology to carry out their killings with ruthless efficiency. But they could also rely on the SDLP, the Dublin government and the Catholic hierarchy to provide them with moral 'justification'. The SDLP's Seamus Mallon and Bishop Cahal Daly (speaking at the funeral of a 17-year-old victim of sectarian loyalist assassins) used the opportunity to attack the IRA and to blame nationalist resistance for the deaths.

It took 14 hours for the Dublin government to issue its response to Friday night's events. We heard none of the unequivocal condemnations of violence reserved for the IRA when they kill members of the crown forces. Speaking on behalf of the Fianna Fail government, Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan condoned the actions of the SAS and concentrated on an attack on the IRA whom he also blamed for the tragedy. He expressed his sympathy with the crown forces in their recent set-backs in the war and his sentiments were echoed by Fine Gael's Peter Barry.

With the arrogance we have come to expect from self-appointed spokespersons on the Six Counties from the Free State establishment, Peter Barry told nationalists that they should see that "the security forces had no other option than to act the way they did".

These are the people who, under the Hillsborough Agreement, claim to be guarantors of nationalist rights in the Six Counties. The RUC and the British army have never been acceptable to Northern nationalists or to the Irish people as a whole. The Dublin government knows it and the SDLP knows it.

In his statement this week, Lenihan also referred to an IRA leadership 'trapping young people into violence'. There is no such leadership. The Volunteers who died at Loughgall took their lead from their republican beliefs, from their desire to end the oppression they saw all around them. The truth that Brian Lenihan, Peter Barry, John Hume and Seamus Mallon can never face is that the Loughgall Martyrs were themselves leaders in the finest sense of the word. They were respected and protected by their communities. Their beliefs are held dear among the people, not only in British-occupied Ulster but all over Ireland where they have been honoured this week as courageous men who were prepared to do more than talk about freedom.

The leaders who are ultimately responsible for condemning the Irish people to more years of violence and death are those political leaders who not only ignore but contribute to the root cause of conflict in our country — the British political and military occupation.

The eight Volunteers who died at Loughgall wanted peace as much as anyone. They were republicans who had experienced personal loss and suffering to the full. They wanted, as do all republicans, to live their lives in peace in their own country, among their own people. But they understood why that could not be and they resolved to work and fight to achieve the freedom to make it possible. That was the freedom they died for. Not a slogan, not an abstract theory, but freedom for their communities, themselves and the downtrodden people of Ireland to live in justice and in relative comfort, in control of their own destinies in their own land.

The memory of the Loughgall Martyrs will be in the minds of republicans as we bring forward our struggle to victory.

It will be in the minds of the political activists of Sinn Féin as they take the war to the ground for so long occupied by those politicians who have made their peace with the war-mongers who carried out the Loughgall massacre.

It will be in the minds of their comrade Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army, the army of our country, as they take the war to the heart of the enemy and inflict mounting defeats on it until it has no option but to go, and go for good.

The Loughgall Martyrs did not live to see the Ireland they fought for. Let us ensure that we in this generation fight on ever harder, ever stronger until we achieve the democratic socialist republic. Only then can we say that we have lived up to their memory and won their victory.

Baying for blood

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

TOM KING was beaming on Saturday as he met the press. Forgotten was the sanctimonious talk of "murder is murder." His army and his paramilitary police force had just killed one civilian and eight IRA Volunteers, some of them as they lay injured on the ground or after they had been arrested. That was not murder. That was "a very effective response" to the IRA. More importantly, he would be able to report to Thatcher that he was getting results. He had not been getting too many of those lately.

To unionists the circumstances of the Loughgall killings mattered little. The blood of eight republicans had been spilled and they were happy. They were gloating. DUP leader Ian Paisley welcomed the "effective action" taken and wished for more "similar incidents". "Justice has been done," enthused the DUP's Rev William McCrea, while ex-UDR Major Ken Maginnis said he felt "encouraged" and asked for selective internment. "I hope we are not going to have any accusations of shoot-to-kill."

OUP leader James Molyneux warned, eyeing the SDLP and the Dublin government. He need not have worried. Support for the British government's summary execution of republicans reached far and wide into those parties who are usually so quick to condemn "violence from whatever source". British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock welcomed this "victory against men of violence". John Cusnahan of the Alliance Party applauded the "successful security operation" and blamed the civilian death



on the IRA. And on Tuesday, party colleague Seamus Close let it be known that he objected to a priest describing IRA Volunteer Paddy Kelly as "upright" and "honest".

SDLP & DUBLIN

The reaction from the SDLP and the Dublin government was that "IRA godfathers" were to blame for all the deaths. SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon refused to speculate on a shoot-to-kill policy as the IRA Volunteers were armed, and he called for an IRA ceasefire. But as details began to filter through the nationalist community, the SDLP realised they had been a bit too quick off the mark, what with a general election in the offing, and on Tuesday they dispatched Austin Currie to ask for

a public inquiry into the killing of Anthony Hughes, the civilian killed in Loughgall.

But the choice of Austin Currie badly backfired on the SDLP as he couldn't resist the temptation to exploit Anthony Hughes' funeral to try and boost his own ego. In separate interviews with BBC and UTV, Currie not only repeated the SDLP's (selective) opposition to violence but sickeningly went on to claim that his appearance was "particularly poignant" because "almost 17 years ago I started the Civil Rights campaign near here".

Austin Currie and his party are seldom slow in accusing others of exploiting funerals for political ends.

THEME

'Blame the oppressed for resisting oppression' was the theme. In Dublin,

the Fianna Fail Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brian Lenihan, accused the IRA for being responsible for the deaths. It had "trapped young people into the cycle of violence", he said. Fine Gael leader Alan Dukes suggested that the British army could have prevented the ambush rather than waiting for it. Dukes said it because the party was in opposition, Lenihan did not say it because his party was in government. Neither party expressed concern nor condemnation of the British government. Murder was definitely not murder.

HALLMARKS

But for the average Northern nationalist what happened in Loughgall on Friday evening bore all the hallmarks of an SAS-inspired execution. Fr Faul must have sensed the mood. The RUC should have arrested the IRA unit, he said, and added that the "take no prisoners policy" would bring more recruits to the IRA.

The media (with few exceptions) followed the cue of politicians: "Let no-one criticise," warned the unionist News Letter. "A necessary and very professional security operation," said the Belfast Telegraph. "Drop the armalite," called the Sunday Press. On Saturday, the Irish Times trotted out its usual line: republicans were "provoking repression" out of "an appetite for martyrdom"; they were trying to "satisfy a notion of Irishness which had long been rejected by the great majority of the Irish people". By Monday, the Irish Times was asking for a public inquiry, having realised, like the SDLP, that Loughgall would soon become a byword for legalised massacre.

Election questions

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THATCHER finally set the date for the next British general election: Thursday, June 11th. It came as no surprise, just as the British election results are unlikely to cause any surprise either.

Recent opinion polls put Thatcher ten points ahead of her nearest rival, the British Labour Party. She is presently riding on the crest of a wave of popularity, the combined effect of tax cuts, a drop in interest and mortgage rates, low inflation, the prestige accrued from her recent trip to Moscow, and the poor image of the Labour Party leadership.

In the gerrymandered Six Counties, there never was any surprise: the inbuilt unionist majority will, as always, get most of the seats.

The elections will focus, as always, on the national question in its present-day manifestations: unionists will ask for a massive unionist vote against the Hillsborough Agreement and against Sinn Fein; the SDLP will ask for a massive nationalist vote for the Hillsborough Agreement and

against Sinn Fein; and Sinn Fein will ask for the vote of all those who want the British to leave and the Irish people to determine their own future as a unit.

Public and media interest will concentrate on four main areas:

1. Will the unionists remain united?

The two main unionist parties have agreed not to run against each other, but there are those in the DUP who are aching for a contest with the OUP. Jim Allister, for example, is hopeful that he could unseat Roy Beggs of the OUP in East Antrim, where the OUP majority was a mere 367 votes in 1983. Nigel Dodds is eyeing Cecil Walker's North Belfast seat, and Sammy Wilson has designs on John Taylor's Strangford seat.

These DUP 'hopefuls' are arguing that sitting OUP MPs have not been kept opponents of the

Hillsborough Agreement and unionist voters must be given the opportunity to get rid of the 'deadwood'. Recently, at an internal meeting of the DUP, party leader Ian Paisley warded off the challenge of the rebels. Order was restored. But for how long?

2. Will the SDLP retain Newry/Armagh?

Seamus Mallon won the seat from the Official Unionists in January 1986. In the aftermath of the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement and after a high-powered, well-financed campaign. The Sinn Fein vote dropped by 3,000.

Today the OUP is fighting to regain the seat. In the interval, Mallon has developed a high media profile, helped by the SDLP's unofficial organ, the Irish News. But the Hillsborough Agreement has not delivered on the promises made by the SDLP at the end of 1985.

The border is lined with British army observation posts, the building of which has considerably angered local farmers; repression has increased since the Agreement was signed. A lot of the things Sinn Fein was saying in January 1986 about Hillsborough will now be seen as correct by nationalists. The SDLP has a fight on its hands.

3. Will the SDLP win South Down?

South Down is presently held by OUP in the person of "74 year-old English exile" Enoch

Powell, as the Irish News calls him.

Powell's majority in 1983 was 548. This time, however, the DUP is not running (3,743 votes in 1983). But the SDLP has worked very hard on registration. There are now 4,000 extra voters on the register, the bulk of whom are nationalists. SDLP candidate Eddie McGrady has made confident noises about winning the seat. He rests his hopes on taking some of the Sinn Fein vote and the lack of discipline by DUP voters. He will be in for a disappointment on the former. The latter will depend a lot on the state of the unionist pact coming up to June 11th.

4. Will Sinn Fein keep West Belfast?

Once more West Belfast is poised to be the focus of the media's attention.

The unionists, the British government, the SDLP and the Dublin government are all hoping that Gerry Adams will be unseated. On the face of it, it is a distinct possibility: Sinn Fein polled 16,379 votes in 1983, while the combined votes of the SDLP candidate, Joe Hendron, and of the outgoing MP and former SDLP leader, Gerry Fitt, totalled 21,313. The Alliance Party announced last Thursday that, once again, it would not stand in West Belfast so as to give the SDLP a clear run against Sinn Fein.

But in 1983 a fraction of Gerry Fitt's vote came from

the unionists' tactical voting. While Gerry Fitt was acceptable to unionist, Hendron may not be. Unionists perceive the Hillsborough Agreement as an attempt to humiliate them and give power to the SDLP over their head. Sinn Fein's assets include very thorough constituency work, a consistent and principled stand on the national question, and the stature of Gerry Adams.

But the SDLP enjoys massive establishment support and is prepared to bribe and lie its way through the campaign. Recently it has been putting pressure on Dublin to speed up a 'West Belfast development programme' through the Inter-Governmental Conference. The programme, which included a speedy demolition of Divis and Unity Flats, the creation of a fourth college of further education and an enterprise zone, has been designed with the declared aim of boosting the SDLP's electoral chances in West Belfast. Meanwhile, Hendron's campaign manager, Alex Atwood, claimed last Sunday that the SDLP had secured £65 million of EEC money for housing in Belfast; This was denied by the EEC offices in Belfast, which in answer to enquiries made by Sinn Fein housing spokesperson Sean Keenan said that no EEC money had been spent on housing in the last four years.

West Belfast voters are highly politicised and have a long experience of such claims. The SDLP is about to learn that lesson the hard way.



● Heavy RUC presence at the funeral of Volunteers Declan Arthurs and Seamus Donnelly



● Angela McKearney, sister of Volunteer Padraig McKearney



● A Volunteer pledges the determination of the East Tyrone Brigade to continue the struggle

**Fuair siad
bás ar son
saoirse mhuintir
na hÉireann**



● A final salute from one of Volunteer Declan Arthurs' brothers



● The funeral cortege of Volunteer Gerard O'Callaghan



● Volunteer Tony Gormley's beret and gloves are placed on his Tricolour-draped coffin



● Volunteer Jim Lynagh's brothers, Finbarr and Colm, carry his coffin across the border at Moy Bridge and into County Monaghan, flanked by veteran republicans J.S. O'Hagan and John Joe McGirl



● Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams are pall-bearers at the funeral of Volunteer Eugene Kelly in Cappagh, County Tyrone

Oglach Antaine O Garmaille



He will never die

TWENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD IRA Volunteer Tony Gormley was buried on Monday afternoon.

Tony was the first to be buried of the four Volunteers from Galbally who came out to fight the British and were tragically mown down at Loughgall, and the impact on the small community was evidently deep and harrowing. Black flags flew on every telegraph pole in Aughnagar. The faces of many mourners were grey with sleeplessness and grief. Many had spent the entire previous day visiting the wake houses.

The funeral, which began shortly after 1pm, was attended by around 1,000 people. Four masked and uniformed IRA Vol-

unteers carried Volunteer Gormley's Tricolour-draped coffin, with his beret and gloves placed on top, some 50 yards along the laneway from the family home in Aughnagar.

The coffin was carried further up the lane by six women: his sisters Marie, Ailish and Roisin and his three first cousins.

The cortege then proceeded the half-mile to St Patrick's church. For hundreds of yards, the country lane was packed with mourners. The small church was filled to overflowing for the Requiem Mass and, outside, many more people waited silent-

ly under the rain-dark skies or spoke in hushed tones.

SURROUNDED

During the Mass, scores of RUC men, dressed in riot gear and many of them carrying plastic-bullet guns, surrounded the small hilltop graveyard, some positioned within feet of the graveside, but totally failed to intimidate mourners.

At last, Volunteer Gormley's coffin was carried from the church. While a lone piper played a lament, it was again draped with the Tricolour for the brief journey to the graveside through the silent, sombre crowd.

After local priest Fr Crowley conducted the burial service, Dungannon Sinn Fein Councillor Francie Molloy, who cut short his Australian tour to attend the funerals, chaired a brief graveside ceremony.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the families; GHQ, Oglagh na hEireann; East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann; East Tyrone Sinn Fein and local cumainn; Tyrone PDF; Tyrone National Graves Association; Dungannon Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann and others.

Brigid McCartan read a statement from the republican remnant of POWs in Crumlin Road Jail. A minute's silence followed, broken only by a British army helicopter. Then a lone piper played *The Last Post*. Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams MP then gave an oration.

Friends, and especially the parents and brothers and sisters of Tony Gormley, I would like to extend on behalf of the Republican Movement our sincerest condolences and solidarity to you on the loss of your son and brother.

I didn't know Tony Gormley, I don't know his parents, I don't know his family. You have lost a son and a brother, and there's a place that can never be filled. We also, as part of Tony's bigger family, the republican family, have lost a brother.

STRANGERS CAME

In Loughgall on Friday night, strangers came. Those strangers weren't the Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann. Tony Gormley, a young man from this parish, born in the mid-60s, wasn't seeking a military career, wasn't seeking any gain or



advantage over his fellow citizens in this country. There'll be a lot said and a lot written about what happened in Loughgall. What happened in Loughgall was cleared at the very highest level of the British government's administration. The godfathers of the British colonial administration decided that we had to be punished, decided that this struggle had to be ended.

And Tony Gormley, a young man who took up his part in this struggle in 1981, was a victim of that decision.

He, and seven other Volunteers, and let us not forget the civilian who was killed and his brother who was critically injured.

The British very quickly produced forensic samples of how the weapons in possession of the IRA Volunteers had been used in the past. They have yet to produce evidence of who shot Anthony Hughes and his brother. It's said that they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is obvious that there was a kill-zone around the barracks and everyone, whether IRA Volunteer or passing civilian, was to be killed.

Now, we republicans make no complaint about that. IRA Volunteers know the risks they are taking. But we do complain, and we complain to the heavens, as to why they should have to take that risk. We complain to the heavens as to why our country is partitioned. We complain to the heavens as to why the rich and the powerful and the ruling class in our country collaborate with the foreign oppressor. And we complain to the heavens why a family like the Gormleys have to suffer this loss.

MISE EIRE

Loughgall will not end the republican struggle. I don't say that because I am staunch, or defiant. I say that as a fact of reality. This is Ireland.

Mise Éire. Sine mé ná a chailleadh Bhéara, mór mo ghlór mé do rug Cúchulainn cróga. This is Ireland. The British government has no right to be in this country. It has no right to partition this country. It has no right to visit injustice on us.

The Irish people, whether Protestants or Catholics, whether nationalists or loyalists, when the wedge of British oppression is removed, will come between ourselves to our own arrangements which will stop the killing, which will stop the oppression, and which will develop a society of freedom, of justice and of peace.

Tony Gormley is one of many; many, many young men and young women throughout long generations who took up a struggle to remove oppression. As I said before, I didn't know him and I don't know his family. Unfortunately, I know many, many other families like his. We are gathered here and I would ask you all to rededicate yourselves to the cause of Irish freedom.

You don't have to join the IRA as he did, you don't have to join Sinn Fein, you don't have to go to prison, but you do have to stand up and speak out against injustice. You do, regardless of your status or station in life, have to say as your conscience dictates what is right and what is wrong.

Loughgall was wrong. What caused Loughgall is wrong. War is wrong. But the conditions in this country which cause war are evil.

We will remember Tony Gormley and we will remember Loughgall. And Margaret Thatcher and Tom King and all the other rich and powerful people will be sorry, in their time, that Loughgall happened. And Tony Gormley is dead but in a new, peaceful Ireland, Tony Gormley will never die.

was his first priority.

Like most young nationalists from the area, Tony was repeatedly forced into confrontation situations with the crown forces who would regularly stop and harass him. In the last year there was a noted increase in the number of times he was arrested and held in Gough Barracks.

He and Volunteers Declan Arthurs, Seamus Donnelly and Eugene Kelly were close friends as well as comrades. This factor, with each knowing the others' capabilities, made them a highly-effective team of guerrilla fighters — an element which can be judged by the level of IRA attacks in the Tyrone border area.

Vol TONY GORMLEY

THE AGONISING YEAR of the H-Block hunger-strike in 1981, which left ten Volunteers dead, became a watershed not only in Irish history but in the life of 24-year-old Volunteer Tony Gormley from Galbally, County Tyrone.

The death of hunger-striker Martin Hurson, who lived nearby, made a deep impression on Tony's view of the struggle.

The second eldest of six children, he began questioning British occupation and shortly afterwards, at 18, joined the

Irish Republican Army. At home, Tony Gormley rarely voiced an opinion on politics or the struggle. He had a happy-go-lucky nature generally but he would think before he attempted to say anything or take any action. This was a strong characteristic which, his comrades agree, epitomised the kind of Volunteer he was: quietly determined, resolute and totally committed. Members of the family who at times would express concern for his safety, recall that Tony would shrug off their anxieties, telling them that the Republican Movement



● The coffin of Volunteer Tony Gormley is carried by his sisters, Marie, Ailish and Roisin, and his three first cousins

Óglach Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh



● (Above) Vincent Kelly carries his son's coffin; (Inset, centre) Kathleen Kelly

Tyrone in mourning

FOUR MASKED IRA VOLUNTEERS removed the Tricolour-draped coffin of their comrade, Volunteer Paddy Kelly, from his Dungannon home on Monday morning. The crown forces watched from a distance and, without RUC interference, the atmosphere at the funeral of Paddy Kelly was as it should be: quiet, respectful and totally dignified.

The brief appearance of the Volunteers had offended no-one and the funeral procession wound its way out of Lisnahull Estate led by a piper. Black flags flew from telegraph poles and houses and Paddy Kelly's wife, Kathleen — who is expecting their fourth child on Friday — walked directly behind the remains. She clutched her husband's beret and gloves and frequently reached out to touch the corner of the Tricolour.

The cortege slowly made its way up the Quarry Road and passed by Dungannon Barracks where the crown forces, perched on top of the roof, surveyed the mourners. Several RUC men scurried ahead, stopping traffic at the roundabout as the cortege made its way to St Patrick's chapel for Requiem Mass.

PACKED CHAPEL

Inside the packed chapel, Fr Brian McNiece said that Paddy Kelly had "lost his life in a most brutal way". Many questions were asked over the last few days, he said, "as to why some of the leaders of our society are gloating over what happened in Loughgall".

Paddy Kelly, he concluded, was "an upright man, a truthful man, a man who loved his family, his Irish culture and his country."

The Tricolour, beret and gloves were replaced on Volunteer Kelly's coffin outside the chapel

and over 1,000 mourners walked the two miles to Edendork Cemetery. The RUC kept their distance but appeared at several high embankments along the route.

At the Republican Plot in Edendork Cemetery, Coalisland Sinn Féin Councillor Brian Duffin chaired proceedings as wreaths were laid on behalf of the family; East Tyrone Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann; GHQ staff; the Tyrone POWs in jail in Ireland and England; the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle and various Sinn Féin cumainn throughout Ireland. A brief statement was then read on behalf of Tyrone POWs in Crumlin Road Jail extending their sympathy to the families of the eight Volunteers. This was followed by the playing of *The Last Post*.

IRA STATEMENT

Seconds later, as the RUC watched from a distance, a masked woman Volunteer emerged from the mourners and read a statement from the O/C of the East Tyrone Brigade, Irish Republican Army. The statement, which was given warm applause by mourners, said:

"While we accept the loss of eight comrades murdered by the British crown forces, we have a message for the British. The East Tyrone Brigade, IRA, is still here. Make no mistake about it.

"The slaughter of our comrades has made us stronger, resolute and even more determined to ram home to the British that we are capable of striking at their heart wherever and whenever the opportunity arises."

In the course of his graveside oration, Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Martin McGuinness said:

Republican Tyrone is plunged deep into mourning and republican Ireland mourns with you. What happened at Loughgall will forever be remembered by those thousands and thousands of Irish people shocked and angered at the wanton murders of nine young Irishmen by the soldiers of a foreign army holding no legal or moral right to bear arms on Irish soil.

And yes, eight of those killed were IRA Volunteers.

And yes, those Volunteers were armed and about to launch an attack on a British barracks.

The Volunteers had every right and justification for doing so. The British soldiers involved in the Loughgall shootings and the government that sent them into our country have none. They are indeed guilty of murder.

On behalf of the Republican Movement and everyone assembled here, I offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to Paddy's wife,



Kathleen, and her young children, to Annie and Vincent, Paddy's mother and father, to all his sisters and friends.

To you, Kathleen, Paddy was a good and decent husband and a good father to his children. To you, Annie and Vincent, he was a good and considerate son. To all of us he was a hero, a freedom fighter and peace seeker.

A LEGEND

Volunteer Paddy Kelly will forever be remembered as one of the Loughgall martyrs. He and his fallen comrades have become a legend. The legend will never die.

The road to Loughgall was, for Paddy Kelly, like most young Northern nationalists, one of persecution, injustice and hardship at the

were shot by British crown forces at Loughgall. They were not, as the media suggests and as the RUC and British suggest, killed in crossfire. They were not killed by republican forces; they were murdered by the British forces because they happened to be in the street and because the British forces of occupation felt that these two men were part of the IRA active service unit. They were not killed by the British army and these people who are so quick at producing the forensic results and ballistic tests on rifles of IRA Volunteers are very slow to tell us what bullets killed Mr Hughes and critically injured his brother.

REVENGE

We all know why Loughgall happened. We know that Loughgall happened because the British needed it to happen, because the British needed revenge, because the British in the streets and towns of the Six Counties have been defeated and demoralised by the IRA.

They were defeated by strong men and women. We lost strong, honourable, proud men at Loughgall. We are not whinging, we are not crying. Those men would not have wanted us to do that because those men came from strong people — the republican people of Tyrone surrounding this graveside. They got their strength from you, the republican people, and we got our strength from them.

We are proud of them, we will stand by them. We will stand by the soldiers of the IRA and we will defeat British rule in this country.

Loughgall has angered republicans. Loughgall has embittered republicans.

Out of that anger and bitterness will come a greater strength and, as the British themselves will see, a greater number of IRA recruits not just in Tyrone but throughout the Six Counties.

Loughgall will have an effect in the streets, villages and towns of Ireland.

The effect will be the opposite to what the British expect and may well turn out to be the rock on which Britain's policy in Ireland will perish.

This sad occasion must not be allowed to pass without mention of Anthony Hughes, who was also murdered by the British, and his brother, Oliver, who was critically injured.

The reality is that both these men

Vol PADDY KELLY

IRA VOLUNTEER Paddy Kelly (30) was a fearless Irish republican soldier who had spent most of his adult life in action against the crown forces.

The eldest of five children, he was born in the staunchly loyalist town of Carrickfergus, County Antrim, and although from a fourth-generation republican family, Paddy Kelly needed no-one to tell him about the injustices and discrimination inherent in the Six-County state. He witnessed it all at first hand in Carrickfergus.

By the time he was 16 the family had moved to Dungannon and he was fully aware of the role of the British government in Ireland. It was an awareness that was reinforced by the

brutal beatings he received from the RUC when he was frequently singled out on his way home from school. As his father, Vincent, said: "It was the RUC's beatings which made Paddy a Volunteer."

He joined the Irish Republican Army when he was in his late teens and became fully involved in the armed struggle.

ARRESTED

In early February of 1982, he and seven others were arrested on the uncorroborated word of Dungannon man Patrick McGurk. Five, including Paddy Kelly, were detained for the following 21 months. He used his time well, learned the Irish language and, above all, gave encouragement and support to his comrades. The five were

released in October 1983 when the charges against them were dropped but the experience of jail made Paddy Kelly a stronger soldier. He immediately returned to the struggle and went all out against the crown forces despite continuous harassment, raids on his home and frequent seven-day detentions in Gough Barracks. He was fully immersed, in heart and mind, in the struggle and involved in the planning and carrying out of numerous successful IRA attacks on the crown forces and their installations.

Volunteer Paddy Kelly earned the highest respect of his comrades, had exceptional leadership qualities and gave his whole-hearted commitment to the struggle for Irish freedom.

His wife, Kathleen, who is expecting their fourth baby this week, can probably describe him better than anyone else:

"He was a dedicated soldier — I am so proud of him."

Oglach Pádraig Mac Cearnaigh



Volunteer brothers rest together

THE FUNERAL of Volunteer Padraig McKearney was fraught with sad memories for his family and friends, falling as it did 13 years to the day after Padraig's brother, Sean, was himself killed on active service in 1974 with Volunteer Eugene Martin.

Hundreds of people gathered at the McKearney home in the tiny Tyrone village of Moy on Wednesday morning for the start of the funeral. There were scores of RUC Land-Rovers positioned around the village while other RUC personnel stood in a field near the wake-house, some taking photographs of the mourners.

COMRADES

Silence fell on the crowd as four IRA comrades took up position, two on each side of the coffin, before the Tricolour, beret and gloves were placed on top.

The Volunteers stood to attention then, in a final farewell, removed their own berets and lowered their heads in a minute's silent tribute to their fallen comrade.

Led by a piper, the coffin was carried by the Volunteers a short distance down the driveway of the house. The RUC men at the rear emerged at the same time and hastened down another driveway adjacent

to the McKearney house but went no further.

Mr and Mrs McKearney held each other's hands and paused while the Volunteers withdrew. As black flags fluttered in the breeze, the cortege made the 100-yard journey to St John's Chapel. RUC Land Rovers moved well in advance of the cortege and positioned themselves within yards of the chapel. A line of RUC men stood along the outside wall of the adjoining cemetery.

At the Requiem Mass, Fr James Devlin offered his sincerest sympathy to the McKearney family. Padraig's death had been "tragic" he said, adding that: "In other times, Padraig would have lived a full, useful and happy life. In his early years around here he was a very bright and happy boy." His death and the death of everyone, should, he said, convince people of the need for peace, but "peace founded on justice and love".

Following the brief religious ceremony, the remains of Volunteer McKearney were lowered



alongside his brother Sean and Volunteer Eugene Martin.

Kevin Mullen chaired the graveside proceedings and wreaths were laid on behalf of GHO, Oglagh na hEireann; East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann; Tyrone GAA; as well as numerous others from relatives and friends.

After a minute's silence in memory of Padraig McKearney and his seven comrades, a bugler played *The Last Post*, the final note lingering in the stillness which hung over the graveyard.

TRAGIC

Giving the oration, Tyrone republican Kevin Corrigan said:

This is the seventh funeral we have attended since Monday and our grief and sorrow have not eased but have become even greater.

It is a very, very sad and tragic day for Margaret and Kevin McKearney and for Padraig's brothers and sisters, Margaret, Tommy, Kevin and Angela. It is even more tragic because Mr and Mrs McKearney's family have borne much hardship as a result of British rule in our country. Padraig is the second son they have laid to rest. On this very day 13 years

ago, May 13th 1974, his brother, Sean, died on active service along with his comrade, Eugene Martin, when Padraig was in jail, in jail for the second time despite the fact that he was just 19. Then Margaret, their daughter, was hounded by the British press so much that it was not safe for her to be at home.

As a direct result of this campaign in British newspapers, loyalist assassins, believed to be out looking for Margaret's parents, shot dead just outside The Moy a middle-aged couple also named McKearney.

And for the last 11 years another son, Tommy, has been imprisoned, serving a life sentence for his part in our struggle for peace and freedom. He has been on the blanket protest, on hunger-strike, and today he lies in his prison cell having been refused compassionate parole.

The deaths of the Loughgall Martyrs was the largest loss of IRA Volunteers in any single incident since 1921. It was a terrible blow and a terrible tragedy for each of the eight republican families and for the family of Anthony Hughes, the civilian who, along

with his brother, was brutally shot by the SAS.

LIFE SPRINGS FROM DEATH

Padraig Pearse once wrote: "Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations."

From the grave of Padraig McKearney we here pledge ourselves to build such a nation.

We will be spurred on by Padraig's courage, we will draw strength from his determination, and we will be inspired by the dream of peace for which he sacrificed his life.

Mr and Mrs McKearney, on behalf of the Republican Movement, I offer you and your family our sincerest condolences on your irreplaceable loss.

Each of us, in our own way, will try our best to replace his services to the Republican Movement and to the republican cause, even though we know that no-one could ever replace such a great republican soldier.

We salute our fallen.

We shall never forget Padraig McKearney.

Vol PADRAIG McKEARNEY

WHEN VOLUNTEER PADRAIG McKEARNEY was 17, and on remand charged with blowing up the post office in The Moy, County Tyrone, his granny on his father's side told him that his great, great uncle had blown up the same building, the "Crown building" as she called it, nearly 100 years before. His grandfather on his mother's side had fought in the Tan War.

There is a strong republican tradition in the family and it was strengthened by Padraig's interest in history. He was fascinated by the social and political history of his own county, Tyrone.

Educated at local primary schools in College Land and The Moy, Padraig went on to Dun-

gannon Academy but left school after he was first arrested in 1972. He spent six weeks on remand in Crumlin Road Jail and Long Kesh, suffered a severe beating from British soldiers there, and was released when the charge was dropped through lack of evidence. He was arrested again in December 1973 and sentenced to seven years for possession of weapons.

BROTHER KILLED

He was in prison when his 18-year-old brother, Volunteer Sean McKearney, was killed in action in The Moy in May 1974 with Volunteer Eugene Martin. Before his release in August 1977, Padraig was held in Magilligan Prison where one of his comrades was Jim Lynagh.

Padraig was again arrested in August 1980 and was sentenced

to 14 years. He escaped from the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in the mass break-out of September 1983 and was soon back on active service. He was a key figure on some of the most daring and innovative missions in the last few years in the East Tyrone Brigade's operational area.

Of Padraig's three brothers and two sisters, the eldest, Tommy, has been in the H-Blocks for 11 years; his sister Margaret lives in the South, unable to go home; and Sean is dead, killed on active service. Padraig last saw his parents in March when he arranged a special reunion with his family on Mother's Day.

Margaret McKearney said this week that her brother would have wanted her to thank all the people in Tyrone and the border counties who "took him into their homes and their hearts" while he was on active service.

The last word goes to his nine-year-old niece, also named Margaret:

"He was a brilliant fighter and he was cool."

Óglach Gearóid Ó Ceallacháin



Your sacrifice has not been in vain

SHORTLY AFTER NOON on Tuesday, in appalling weather, close to 500 people lined the lane leading to the O'Callaghan farmhouse in Tullymore, Benburb, County Tyrone, as the body of Volunteer Gerard O'Callaghan was carried from his home. The coffin was draped in a Tricolour and his gloves and beret placed on top by his family. It was met by four IRA Volunteers who carried the coffin a short distance down the narrow lane before handing it back to relatives. A lone piper preceded the cortege.

The coffin was placed in the hearse when the procession reached the main road for the four-mile journey through the countryside which Gerard O'Callaghan loved to the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Tullysarron. By the time they reached the chapel, the numbers had swelled to 1,500 and many could not get in to hear Fr Patrick Campbell tell mourners that "nationalists had been the victims of gross injustice in the partitioned North" and that nothing had improved in over 60 years.

The chapel bells tolled as the lone piper led Volunteer O'Callaghan's coffin to the adjoining graveyard. Following a brief service by Fr Campbell, Sinn Féin Councillor Jim McAllister

chaired the graveside ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Sinn Féin, Oglagh na hEireann, Volunteer Gerard O'Callaghan's family and many others.

INCREASED COMMITMENT

A statement was read out on behalf of the Tyrone POWs who promised to increase their commitment ten-fold and said nothing less would do for their fallen comrades. A minute's silence was followed by *The Last Post*.

The crown forces kept a discreet distance at both the O'Callaghan home and the graveyard but mourners were stopped and harassed going to and from the funeral. Jim McAllister was stopped by the RUC earlier in

the day and they threatened to shoot him. Another man was hit on the head by a rifle butt and many people had their vehicles searched.

In his oration, Danny Morrison said:

It is my sad duty today to speak at the graveside of a great Irishman. Let me say from the outset that it is an honour to be associated with the likes of Gerard O'Callaghan and his brave comrades who gave their lives so that we and our children could have peace and justice in this country.

On behalf of republicans throughout Ireland and on behalf of many Irish people scattered across the world, on behalf of prisoners in England, in the 26 Counties and in the occupied Six Counties, I extend the sincerest condolences of the Republican Movement to the O'Callaghan family, to Mr O'Callaghan and to Gerard's brothers and sisters.

This son of Ireland was not raised to be cut down in cold blood in his own streets. As an Irish republican I think I can understand full well. I think I would be speaking on behalf of Gerard and on behalf of his

comrades when I say that the Irish Republican Army, Volunteers were right. They risked death, they risked serious injury, they risked going to jail, and yet they continued.

It is an amazing courage against which many other so-called leaders in the Irish society pale into insignificance in comparison to this fallen Volunteer. The Irish Republican Army's hand stretches out not in reprisal or in revenge but as part of the ongoing struggle which Gerard was associated with.

The East Tyrone Brigade has lost very valuable leaders and the families of these men face irreplaceable losses. Out of our ranks have to stand young men and women who are prepared to carry on the struggle.

WEAPONS

The RUC was very, very quick to state that eight people had been killed with the weapons: RUC men, UDR men and their collaborators had been killed with the weapons recovered from the Volunteers. But if you were to carry out forensic tests on the SAS weapons, you would find a very, very long list: John Green, Peter Cleary, Jackie Mailley, Denis Brown, Jim Mulvenna,

Paul Duffy from Tyrone and many, many more; and our eight comrades, Paddy Kelly, Declan Arthurs, Padraig McKearney, Tony Gormley, Eugene Kelly, Seamus Donnelly, Jim Lynagh, Anthony Hughes, the civilian who was also gunned down, and our comrade, Gerard O'Callaghan, not to mention the many other Catholics throughout the Six Counties whose deaths may have been claimed by the UDA or UVF but whose death may well have been at the hands of the SAS in the background. We don't hear the forensic results on their weapons.

We offer our greatest sympathy to the families. This man here went out and sacrificed his life. He'd already been to jail. He knew what the costs of war could be and nothing stopped him.

Gerard O'Callaghan, Irish Republican Army Volunteer, H-Block blanket-man and freedom fighter, we salute you. And at your grave we swear that we will have Irish freedom, that we will have peace and justice, that your life has not been in vain and that our children will experience happiness in this country.

membership, and spent some months in Magilligan Prison, County Derry, before his release in 1983.

DARING ATTACK

Gerard O'Callaghan immediately reported back to the IRA on his release and resumed active service along the border, being involved in planning and carrying out some of the most daring attacks on barracks and commercial targets.

He was not one for expressing his opinions. He was quiet and, in his own way, a bit of a loner. On active service, however, he was sharp, cool and utterly reliable: qualities which impressed his comrades who trusted him completely.

Vol GERARD O'CALLAGHAN

VOLUNTEER GERARD O'CALLAGHAN (29) had an unshakeable courage and quiet determination which saw him through imprisonment in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and constant harassment by the British crown forces.

He was the youngest of 11 children and grew up in the loyalist Benburb area, eight miles from Armagh. He was a carefree youth, had an outgoing personality, and had a special place in the hearts of all who knew him.

Unknown to his family, Gerard joined the Irish Republican Army when he was 17 and felt that his role in the struggle against British imperialism was as a soldier of Oglagh na hEireann.

In 1980, he and Volunteer Padraig McKearney were captured on active service when they were stopped at a crown forces roadblock. They were held on remand in C-Wing, Crumlin Road Jail, during which time they both went on the 'no wash' protest. He was sentenced in 1981 to six years for possession of weapons and IRA

Óglach Deaglán Mac Airt



● Amelia Arthurs, Declan's mother

The story

VOLUNTEERS Declan Arthurs and Seamus Donnelly, the youngest members of the IRA active service unit mown down at Loughgall, were buried in a joint funeral in Galbally on Tuesday afternoon.

Several thousand mourners defied RUC intimidation to pay their last respects to the young comrades, and the narrow lanes of Galbally townland became a swaying mass of people, in scenes reminiscent of the burial of local hunger-strike martyr, IRA Volunteer Martin Hurson, six years ago.

Appropriately, the two Volunteers, who as schoolboys became committed republicans as a direct result of the 1981 hunger-strike, were buried in the same graveyard as Martin Hurson.

were replaced on the coffin.

This simple ceremony over, the IRA guards of honour carried the Tricolour-draped coffins a short distance, then other mourners took over the heart-rending burden.

Many hundreds of people followed each coffin on their separate ways to Galbally crossroads. The corteges met up and from there the two friends were carried side by side to St John's chapel nearby, led by a lone piper playing a lament, while the chapel bell tolled.

With the chapel packed, most of the huge crowd waited quietly outside. However, the triumphalist jeers of the RUC provoked at least one isolated incident when a RUC man was hit by a stone.

At around 5pm, the coffins re-emerged from the church and Tricolours, berets and gloves were replaced for the short journey to the graveside.

During a moving burial service, the two Volunteers were laid to rest side by side in their joint grave while heartbroken relatives quietly wept, several holding each other to contain their anguish.

Over 60 wreaths were laid on the dead Volunteers' grave, among them tributes from GHQ, Oglagh na hEireann; East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann; Sinn Fein; Tyrone National Graves Association; the Arthurs and Donnelly families; and the families of the other Volunteers killed in Loughgall.

The graveside ceremony which followed was chaired by the former Fermanagh Council Chairperson, Sinn Fein's Paul Corrigan.

A statement from the Tyrone republican prisoners of war was read and was followed by a minute's silence. Then as a bugler played *The Last Post*,



Vol DECLAN ARTHURS

VOLUNTEER DECLAN ARTHURS (21) had no fear of the British crown forces — they knew it and indeed felt the brunt of it during IRA attacks along the Tyrone and South Armagh border where Declan Arthurs engaged their superior firepower and attacked their heavily-fortified installations.

He grew up in the strongly republican Galbally area but his republicanism was also inherited from his parents, Paddy and Amelia, who had six children: Mary, Paul, Brian, Declan, Patrick and Dominic.

Just as the 1981 hunger-strike had a powerful effect on Volunteer Seamus Donnelly and Volunteer Tony Gormley, Declan Arthurs was deeply moved by the grief and bravery of the

Hurson family who lived closeby. Although he was only 15 years old he resolved to join the Irish Republican Army at the first opportunity and was impatient until he did so the following year.

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

He soon revealed astounding leadership qualities despite his youth and inexperience and gave his total attention and commitment in every operation he was involved in.

"Dec", as he was known to his comrades and friends, was very security conscious, particularly about the safety of other Volunteers. He made certain, to the best of his ability, that arrangements for operations were checked and rechecked, that there were no loose ends which could endanger or jeopardise the lives of his comrades. Because of this, he was held in the highest

regard by the Volunteers of the East Tyrone Brigade who knew he was absolutely reliable and capable of making crucial on-the-spot decisions regardless of the pressures.

Last Christmas, he was held in Gough Barracks for seven days, released on a Saturday then re-arrested on Monday and interrogated for a further seven days. The RUC beat him up and told him they were going to shoot him.

During the month of January, Declan had one week of freedom, being held on a succession of seven-day detention orders for the rest of the month. His family's home was constantly raided and on one occasion the floors were dug up. The RUC clearly underestimated Declan Arthurs.

He became even more resolved to rid his country of British occupation and injustice. Of all his many fine qualities, Volunteer Declan Arthurs' determination and daring made him stand out as a well-loved individual within the Galbally community and an outstanding, brave Irish freedom fighter.



Oglach Séamas Ó Donnaille

of Ireland

one of Declan Arthur's brothers, eyes swollen with grief, stepped forward and raised his arm in formal salute to the dead Volunteers for several minutes.

Finally Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness gave an oration in which he said:

It is particularly tragic that Volunteer Seamus Donnelly and Volunteer Declan Arthurs, the two youngest members of the IRA active service unit killed at Loughgall last Friday night, are now laid to rest today. It is a tragedy for Ireland, it is a tragedy for this community, a tragedy for the people of Tyrone and an awesome tragedy and loss for the families of Seamus and Declan.

SUFFERED

Many words have been used since Friday night, words like 'terrorists', 'guilty', and 'innocent'. And it is very hard to make some semblance of sense out of all the things that have been said, but I will attempt to untangle in some way the reasons why these two young men are now lying in their graves.

The story of Volunteer Declan Arthurs and the story of Volunteer Seamus Donnelly is the story of Ireland. These two young men, like the young men and women of Belfast, Derry and all the other parts of the Six Counties, have suffered unbelievably at the hand of the military tools used by the British government in Ireland: the RUC, the UDR, the British army.

Many times these two young men were in Gough Barracks on seven day interrogation orders. And we all know what that means. They were released on one occasion and they were arrested again and they were released again. And their houses and lands were invaded by Brit-

ish soldiers, by RUC men, by UDR men.

That happens all the time too in Derry, in Belfast, and it happens simply because a reign of tyranny has been imposed on nationalists of the Six Counties for the last 20 years, because the price that nationalists have to pay for standing up for their rights is continued oppression, is continual raids on their homes, is continual withdrawal of liberty.

Many young men can't even walk the streets but they're stopped by soldiers, they're abused by soldiers, they're abused by the RUC.

And the young people of the rural Six Counties can't walk their fields but they're stopped and abused and taunts and cat-calls are shouted at them. These people with their black uniforms and their camouflage uniforms are a blight on the streets of Belfast and Derry, on the towns of Newry and Strabane, and are a blight on the green fields of Galbally. These are the people who are giving us no peace, who impose a reign of injustice and repression upon the nationalists of the Six Counties.

And what do young people do, or what do they expect young people to do, when this has gone on for so long? And they use words like, 'Who has led them into this? Who are the godfathers who stand behind them?'

Well, the young people don't need godfathers. The young people see the repression - and we've seen it here today - because all around us we have a huge force of RUC.

And that proves the point. There have been many funerals, on many occasions. When we are left alone with our funerals

there is peace, no stones thrown, absolutely no trouble whatsoever. But they are here in huge numbers and when they come, as they come to our houses in the middle of the night and as they take us to interrogation centres, there is trouble in Ireland.

And our position is quite clear - those young men who were there, with guns in their hands, had every right and every justification to be there. They were there for us, the Irish people. And those people who laid in wait, the people who murdered them, they are the terrorists.

NOT TERRORISTS

Declan Arthurs and Seamus Donnelly and the rest of the Loughgall martyrs are not terrorists in our eyes. The SAS or whoever they were - it's really irrelevant - they are the terrorists, because they are here in this country against the overwhelming wishes of the Irish people. Their presence is wrong.

The responsibility for all that lies in one place - at the door of the British prime minister and the British parliament. We will remember Loughgall. We will remember Loughgall forever. We will see to it that the British government remembers Loughgall as well.



● (Left) Volunteer Seamus Donnelly's father and young sister holding his beret and gloves

Vol SEAMUS DONNELLY

THE YOUNGEST of the IRA Volunteers killed at Loughgall was 19-year-old Seamus Donnelly. He was only 13 when his neighbours, the Hursons, suffered the loss of their son, Martin, on hunger-strike in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

At the time, Seamus Donnelly was too young to do anything constructive but at the age of 16 he was prepared to commit himself to Oglagh na hEireann in pursuance of peace, justice and freedom for the Irish people.

He was the fourth eldest of eight children and at home he would often talk about the hunger-strikers and was convinced they were right not to bend

the knee to the British government. He often said he would have adopted the same attitude in the same circumstances.

At 15, the year before he joined the IRA, Seamus was arrested and frequently singled out for beatings by the crown forces. But his carefree nature and ability to bounce back in the face of pressure was an important characteristic which often sustained him in the next few years as an active service Volunteer.

In February of this year, he and Volunteer Declan Arthurs were coming from a dance when they were detained by a UDR patrol at Kilnaslieve. Although a gun was put to his head and the hammer pulled back, Seamus Donnelly remained totally calm. Again it was one of his stronger

characteristics not to buckle under pressure.

THREATENED BY THE RUC

The following month, during a seven-day detention in Gough Barracks, the RUC threatened that they would shoot him. They showed him detailed plans of his own room and indicated they knew where he slept. Typically, Seamus was more concerned for the safety of his younger brother, Michael (17), who shared the bedroom.

In the three years he spent as an active Volunteer, Seamus Donnelly was regularly involved in IRA operations and proved, despite his youth, that he possessed strong qualities: reliability, determination and courage. He never complained and at all times was considerate of his comrades. Although conscious of the risks involved in every operation, Seamus Donnelly was utterly determined to play his part to the full.



Oglach Séamas Laighneach

Oglach Eoin Ó Ceallaigh



Land-Rovers in the narrow lanes in the vicinity of the church, plus scores of heavily armed RUC men.

THREATENING PRESENCE

The RUC even invaded the grounds of the family house at Lergylee and maintained a threatening presence, the cortege left the house shortly after 11am. Family, friends and other mourners, including Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison, helped carry the coffin nearly two miles to Altmore Church.

The silent crowds ignored the heavy force of RUC which proceeded the cortege.

Heavily-armed RUC men also surrounded the grounds of the hill-top chapel.

The building was packed to overflowing for Requiem Mass and outside, mourners waited, for the most part in silence. Only a British army helicopter fractured the stillness of this remote spot.

The cool air and sunshine repeatedly gave way to torrential downpours and biting hail, but the people stood motionless, with angry dignity, seeking what shelter they could from each other and from the tall, yawning trees enclosing the graveyard.

SMALL TRIBUTE

Despite the biting cold, people didn't complain, didn't fuss, didn't melt away to their cars. It was as if their own discomfort and endurance was being shared by the nationalist people as a response and small tribute to the determination, courage and sacrifice of Volunteer Eugene Kelly.

At last, the cortege made its final journey from the chapel and, after the burial service conducted by local priest Fr McGirr, IRA Volunteer Eugene Kelly was finally laid to rest in the Cappagh hills he knew so well.

Wraths were laid on behalf of the family, relatives and friends, the other bereaved families, various branches of the Republican Movement, Tyrone prisoners of war, the local Gaelic football club and Dún-Gannon Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

and spent numerous seven-day periods in Gough Barracks.

Eugene Kelly knew the terrain of Tyrone and Armagh like the back of his hand. He knew the shortcuts in the maze of country roads and on more than one occasion his familiarity with the local geography enabled him, his comrades and the weapons they were transporting to evade capture or ambush by the crown forces.

No task was ever too small for Eugene. He would undertake the transportation and concealment of weapons, act as a scout and expose himself to danger in attacks on the crown forces with the same reliability and courage which marked him out as a highly-experienced IRA Volunteer.



Heroic freedom fighter

Vol JIM LYNAGH

BORN IN MONAGHAN on April 13th 1956, Volunteer Jim Lynagh's life was spent in the service of his people. He joined the IRA as a teenager, operating with the East Tyrone Brigade. During an attack in The Moy, County Tyrone, in 1973 he was badly injured when the bomb he was carrying exploded prematurely.

He was captured after this incident and sentenced to ten years in Long Kesh.

So strong was his commitment to the struggle that on his release in 1978 he immediately reported back to his unit — even before he went home. Jim was elected to Monaghan Urban District Council in 1979 as a Sinn Féin councillor.

His reputation as a revolutionary soldier, a leader of a highly-active IRA unit, made him a special hate figure, not only for the British but for the gardai as well.

TARGET

He was a repeated target for arrest and beatings. Even as he walked through the streets of his home town, a passing gardai patrol was likely to set upon

him and indeed any of his brothers. So intense did garda persecution of the Lynagh family become that one brother, Michael, was driven to take his own life in Mountjoy Jail in September 1982. Jim would not be intimidated and he continued to engage the crown forces, spending months at a time living among the people of Tyrone and Armagh and prepared to lend a hand wherever he was needed.

When Jim wasn't operating it was generally because he had been lifted by the gardai. He beat a charge of IRA membership in early 1980 and later that year he was one of three men to make history, being the first to be charged under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. Once again he beat the charge.

In 1981, he was again charged with membership but while out on bail further charges were preferred against him so Jim went on the run. He was recaptured in 1982 and sentenced to five years in Portlaoise. There he sharpened his political awareness and enjoyed the regular debates within the prison. He was joined in Portlaoise by his brother, Colm, who is serving ten years.

On his release, in April of last year, Jim again took up where he left off but suffered a blow just a fortnight later when his close friend, Seamus McElwain, was killed. Not one to mope, Jim's response to his friend's death was to work even harder.

FEARED BY THE CROWN FORCES

So much was he feared by the crown forces that his name was repeatedly raised by RUC detectives interrogating people in Gough Barracks. They offered massive bribes to set Jim Lynagh up and vowed that they would kill him before next Christmas.

Jim took it all in his stride. He had no illusions that he was invincible and working on the law of averages he reckoned that his luck would run out sooner rather than later. And so it happened.

For his hundreds, indeed thousands of friends throughout Ireland his death comes as a personal loss but his ready smile, love of the crack, his talent as a story-teller and his ready wit made him immensely popular — a far cry from the image of a dour fanatic painted by sections of the media.

We will all miss Jim but nobody should let sadness at our loss of Jim Lynagh and his comrades get us down because that's the last thing this great revolutionary soldier would have wanted.

After a minute's silence and the playing of *The Last Post*, the main oration was delivered by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams. Like Pat Treanor, he stressed the humanity of Jim Lynagh, adding that he would have enjoyed the spectacle of the Special Task Force "spedding about in the streets at Emyvale".

STILL SMARTING from their humiliation of Monday evening, the gardai turned out in massive numbers from early on Wednesday morning, hours before the funeral of Volunteer Jim Lynagh got under way, while Free State troops, armed with riot gear, waited in lorries and jeeps along the country roads.

All access roads to Monaghan town were blocked and people in cars going to the funeral were searched. Gardai in riot gear were positioned at strategic points around Old Cross Square in the town in what was obviously a preplanned operation. As the coffin of Jim Lynagh was taken from his flat, 11 uniformed Volunteers of Ogligh na hEireann stepped forward and flanked the coffin. Responding to orders in Irish, they turned and faced the body of their fallen comrade before giving him a final salute. Following a minute's silence, the Volunteers withdrew.

Before the main ceremonies began, Fr Joe McVeigh stepped forward and asked mourners to think of "all those murdered at Loughgall".

In his oration later, Gerry Adams was to point out the lack of reference to the circumstances of Jim's death in the homily delivered by the priest in St Macartan's. "You would think he had died not of injustice but of pneumonia," said Adams.

Scores of wreaths were laid on the grave of Volunteer Jim Lynagh, among them were trib-

utes from GHO, Ogligh na hEireann; the East Tyrone Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann; Sinn Féin; the National Graves Association; Clann na Geall (USA); and several from the republican POWs.

Speaking at the graveside, Sinn Féin Councillor Pat Treanor recalled that Jim was not only a brave soldier who dedicated his life to the Irish people and to oppressed people everywhere but he was also an ordinary human being who enjoyed the things that ordinary young people enjoy. A message was then read from the Tyrone POWs which called on people to increase their efforts tenfold following the Loughgall massacre.

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SIGHTS

Adams continued: "As a more serious note, the self-proclaimed democrats in this state need to ask after Emyvale and after the Glenholmes debacle how long it will be before their political police lower their sights."

On Friday night, the forces of British oppression lowered their sights. After ten minutes of sustained firing, nine corpses lay in the area around Loughgall Barracks.

Jim Lynagh was one of those corpses. He would not complain about the enemy action. He probably would have thought that they did not have to shoot some of the younger Volunteers, but he would not have complained. He knew the risks. He didn't have to go into the Six Counties. No-one intimidated him into taking up arms.

Loughgall happened because of the British presence on a part of this island and Jim Lynagh and the IRA were in Loughgall last Friday because no other organisation or institution in Ireland but the Republican Movement is pre-

pared to oppose that British presence.

In a strong attack on the Dublin government, Adams said that James Connolly's warning about the symbols of freedom rather than the substance had come true and the establishment had sold out on Irish freedom.

A few short months ago, the people of this state elected a Fianna Fáil government of sorts. Their leader made many brave noises about a British withdrawal being a prerequisite for peace in this island. He described the Six-County state as a non-viable social and economic unit. He chose Bodenstown to denounce British policy, FitzGerald's collusion in that policy and the actions of the British crown forces. That was when he was looking for votes.

I have some questions for all Fianna Fáil supporters and for all nationalists: Did you elect a government to support Thatcher's terrorism?

Does Brian Lenihan speak for you?

Does Charlie Haughey with his U-turns on the Single European Act and the Hillsborough Agreement, and his Fine Gael budget represent you?

You owe him no elegance, he has broken every promise he made.

Mór na míre
Mo chliem féin do dhíol a míreil.

A TOMBSTONE FOR BRITISH POLICY

The British government understands Charles J. Haughey and Brian Lenihan as it understood FitzGerald and Spring.

It has always understood the shrewd deal — it bought them off with partition. But the British government does not understand the plain people of Ireland. It does not understand the Jim Lynaghs, the Padraig McKeaneys or the Seamus McElwains. It thinks it can defeat them, it never will.

Loughgall will become a tombstone for British policy in Ireland and a bloody milestone in the struggle for freedom, justice and peace.

Dignity and endurance

IRA VOLUNTEER EUGENE KELLY was, on the wishes of his family, buried in a private ceremony in the graveyard beside Altmore Church, Cappagh, on Tuesday morning.

Around 2,000 nationalists came to Cappagh to pay their last respects to the highly-experienced and dedicated Volunteer so tragically killed with his comrades at Loughgall.

Many of those who came were local, but nationalists were there from all areas of the

Six Counties. Many others were at the funeral of his comrade, Gerard O'Callaghan, taking place simultaneously at Benbulbin. Though this was not a republican funeral, the 'discreet' presence promised by the RUC in newspaper ads in fact included at least 30 armoured RUC

Vol EUGENE KELLY

IN THE FIVE YEARS since he joined the Irish Republican Army in 1982, Volunteer Eugene Kelly (25), from Galbally, gave his unqualified commitment to the struggle for Irish freedom.

Unlike many of his comrades, Eugene Kelly's family were not republicans. He came from a large family of four sisters and two brothers but he would avoid discussions at home and

was very conscious about his own security, not allowing anything, however small, to be inferred about his involvement in order not to worry his family.

Eugene Kelly's decision to join the IRA in 1982 was taken after long and serious consideration, but when that decision was made he did not hold back and was involved in numerous operations in the Cappagh area. Like many young nationalists, he was frequently harassed along the roads by the RUC/British army



Jim would have loved it!



CARMEL LYNAGH stood alone but defiant in front of the row of RUC Land Rovers which had provided an unwanted escort to the border for her son, Jim.

Even in the midst of her grief she was conscious of the fact that the armed RUC men who had jeered and insulted her and the rest of the Lynagh family throughout the torturous journey from Craigavon might lurch forward to snatch some of the hundreds of mourners who had crossed Moy Bridge into Tyrone. Amongst those gathered at Moy Bridge were her son, Colm, released on parole from Portlaoise, and several senior republicans including John Joe McGirl.

Only when the cortege got underway and had crossed Moy Bridge into County Monaghan

did Carmel Lynagh rejoin her family and the huge crowd which had come to pay tribute to a friend and a freedom fighter.

VOLLEY OF SHOTS

A few miles away, at Emyvale, the cortege halted and was joined by an Oglai na hEireann colour party which provided an escort through the village. From a side entry, three more Volunteers armed with automatic rifles stepped forward and fired three single volleys and then a sustained volley of shots over the coffin of their fallen

comrade. As the Volunteers lowered their rifles, Jim's brother, Finbarr, patted the coffin, knowing that Jim would not only have appreciated the honour but also the risks taken in giving it.

When the armed Volunteers returned through the entry to a waiting van they found their way blocked by Garda Special Task Force men carrying sub-machine-guns. Seeing what was happening, the crowd surged forward towards them. Oblivious to threats and gunfire from the 'Taskies', and using their bare hands, they lifted the patrol car blocking the road and tossed it into an empty drain with an

armed garda inside. Another plainclothes garda leapt into the drain with two uniformed colleagues, firing wildly in the air and almost taking the head off the garda nearest to him.

CHEERS

The roadway cleared, the Volunteers withdrew from the area to claps and cheers from onlookers as a dishevelled and wet garda sheepishly crawled from the upturned car only to find that he'd left his gun behind and he had to crawl back in to retrieve it. More jeers and cheers followed and when the scenes were relayed on TV sets throughout the country tens of thous-

ands more people joined the chorus.

As the tension subsided and the funeral cortege continued on its way to Monaghan, a single thought was in most people's minds - Jim Lynagh would have loved it!

SEVERAL THOUSAND

In Monaghan town, the cortege swelled to several thousand who followed the coffin to Old Cross Square and to the flat where Jim had lived since his release from Portlaoise a little over a year ago. Flanked by a guard of honour, Jim lay in state until Wednesday as thousands of people filed past to pay their respects.



'Don't let them die in vain'

SHOCK AND DISBELIEF

ALTHOUGH ONLY the barest details of the nine tragic deaths at Loughgall had filtered through to Derry by Saturday morning, already there were visible signs of mourning in the staunchly republican areas of the Bogside, Creggan, Shantallow and Gobnascale. Many black flags flew at half-mast, a stunned silence hung over the estates, and the faces of republicans, young and old, bore the heavy strain of shock and disbelief.

During the afternoon, as RUC and British army mobile patrols sped through the Bogside, taunting people on the street, small crowds of republicans began to gather, looking to give some concrete expression to their rising anger and resentment. The full horror of the Loughgall massacre had become clear by four o'clock as scores of black flags were unfurled all over the Bogside and several hundred grim-faced people assembled at Free Derry Corner.

The march set off in a silent procession out of the Bogside on a roundabout route to the city centre, led by a cavalcade of black taxis, before it came to a halt in Waterloo Place. The names and ages of the eight dead Volunteers were read out by Sinn Fein Councillor Dodie McGuinness and a solemn minute's silence was

observed.

With the city still in deep mourning on Monday night - and tension simmering at boiling point because of the arrogant attitude of the crown forces - a second and much larger black flag procession was held in the Bogside. Closely monitored by a large RUC presence, the marchers heard Sinn Fein Councillor Hugh Brady praise the "courage, determination and dedication" of the Volunteers cut down at Loughgall and compared their violent deaths to the SAS-orchestrated executions of Volunteer Danny Doherty and Willie Fleming at Gransha Hospital, Derry, and of the Devine brothers and Charles Breslin in Strabane.

"These murderous shoot-to-kill operations did not succeed in

breaking our will to resist and carry our struggle through to a successful conclusion. Nor will the carnage at Loughgall. We will continue to resist with all the strength we can muster."

Hugh Brady ended his speech by asking the young people of the area not to be drawn into street battles with the crown forces or into the senseless hijacking and burning of vehicles.

STRABANE

Also on Monday night, almost 1,000 people marched through the border town of Strabane in memory of the eight Volunteers killed at Loughgall. Marchers gathered at two points in the town and each group was led by four drummers and a standard bearer carrying a large black flag.

The two groups merged in Upper Main Street and walked through the town with the intention of stopping at the bowling green for a short service. A large force of RUC blocked all roads leading to the green and the marchers instead held their short vigil in Patrick Street before dispersing.

THROUGHOUT IRELAND, memories of the hunger-strikers returned as black flags honouring those killed in Loughgall appeared on houses and at roadsides after Friday evening's events. Silent marches, black flags vigils and votes of sympathy from Leitrim and Clare County Councils and from Tralee UDC as well as adjournments by Castleblayney UDC and Strabane UDC showed deep disapproval of 26-County collaboration with the British war effort and a rising anger over the deaths of the Volunteers and the civilian.

There were echoes too of earlier battles when Wexford republicans placed a black flag on Vinegar Hill on Saturday and when Councillor Billy Lean moved the vote of sympathy on Tralee UDC by recalling the deaths of Volunteers Laide and Brown at Ballyseedy during the Tan War.

At the British Embassy in Dublin, 100 people supported a black flag vigil lasting 1½ hours on Sunday, May 11th. On the following day there was a lunchtime protest against Fianna Fail collaboration outside Fianna Fail headquarters in Mount Street.

In a cold evening drizzle, over 700 people gathered outside the GPO in Dublin on Monday for a silent march to the British Embassy in Ballsbridge. Led by eight women carrying black crosses who included Margaret McKearney, sister of Loughgall martyr Pdraig, the march moved off to the drumbeat of the Tom Smith Band. The only banner read: *End collaboration with British killers*. Despite the dignity and silence of the marchers, gardai made their disrespect obvious by the loud revving of motorbike engines and by blocking off the road near the embassy. After negotiations, only two of the women, Monica

Brolly and Margaret McKearney, were allowed to place the crosses outside the embassy but this gesture was seen as so subversive by gardai that they refused to allow television and newspaper journalists to photograph it.

The crowd then heard short speeches from Margaret McKearney and Pamela Ni Chathain of Dublin Sinn Fein. The speeches were listened to with such attention that the breeze rustling the trees nearby could be heard. Margaret McKearney thanked the marchers on behalf of the families and friends of the Volunteers and told them: "You're not just honouring the eight who have fallen but you're honouring the ideal for which they fell." She asked the marchers not to let the Volunteers die in vain: "Make sure that what they died for is finished and finished fully." Margaret's words were clearly heard, though spoken in a voice breaking with emotion.

WHERE THE BLAME BELONGS

Pamela Ni Chathain told the marchers:

"We have marched to the British Embassy tonight to lay the

(continued on next page)

Civilian victim killed



ANTHONY HUGHES (36) an uninvolved civilian who was driving along the road at least 200 yards away from Loughgall Barracks, was mown down in a hail of bullets from the British forces. He was killed and his brother, Oliver, was seriously injured. Anthony Hughes was a married man with three children.

The chief mourners at his funeral in Caledon, County Tyrone, were his wife Bridget and his young daughters.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the IRA formally offered its deepest sympathy to his wife and family.



● Margaret McKearney, sister of Loughgall martyr Volunteer Pdraig McKearney, and Monica Brolly are escorted back to the picket at the British Embassy in Ballsbridge, Dublin, having placed eight black crosses at the embassy entrance.

'Don't let them die in vain'

(Continued from previous page)

blame for the deaths at Loughgall squarely at the door of the power to which it belongs - the British government and its political and military administration in Ireland."

She condemned Fianna Fail hypocrisy as seen in the statement by Brian Lenihan, the 26-County Foreign Minister, when he denounced the IRA after Friday's killings:

"Fianna Fail has no right to lecture anyone about violence given its record. Fianna Fail came to power on the backs of fallen IRA freedom fighters of a previous generation, executed republicans in the 1940s and, ever since, while verbalising about the injustices of partition, has fully played its part in maintaining it."

In Dungarvan, County Waterford, a black flag vigil was held on Monday, a mart day, in the Square. In Waterford city the same afternoon, another was held at the Clock Tower on the quays. Placards with the Volunteers' names on them were displayed on both occasions. In Cork city on Saturday, a vigil was held in the middle of Grand Parade. The vigil, which lasted two hours, attracted much attention and some passersby joined in. A further protest was held in Cork on Tuesday, May 12th. At the Peace Bridge in Drogheda, County Louth, republicans gathered on Sunday with black flags to honour those who fell at Loughgall.

GARDA COLOURS

Black flag vigils were also held in the three main towns in County Wexford. In New Ross and Wexford town, the vigils took place on Sunday morning. Ennis-corthy republicans who placed a black flag on the site of the 1798 battle at Vinegar Hill refused demands by gardai to remove the flag. The gardai showed their true colours when one offensively



suggested that the Union Jack should fly instead of the symbol of mourning.

In Nenagh, County Tipperary, a black flag vigil was held at the republican monument in the town's Banba Square while in Bray, County Wicklow, one was held in the town centre. Both events took place on Monday. In Limerick city, a vigil took place on Monday morning outside the branch of Barclay's Bank, the powerful British-based international financiers. That evening a white-line protest along the middle of O'Connell Street was attended by around 100 people.

People's Democracy Councillor Joe Harrington said that the deaths of the Volunteers were "a great loss to Irish freedom" and called on Limerick City Council to send a representative to Jim Lynagh's funeral as Lynagh had been a local representative.

On Monday night, a black flag vigil was held in Sligo town's O'Connell Street. And in Carlow, republicans ensured that black flags were flown from telegraph poles in Carlow town and the surrounding area of Muinebheag

and St Mullins.

In Shannon, County Clare, black flags were flown along the main road to Shannon Airport and around the town centre. A banner saying, "We salute the Loughgall Eight" was carried across the main dual carriageway linking the airport with Limerick city. A vigil was held on Tuesday evening and a Mass for the Volunteers was said at the local Church of St John and St Paul.

COUNCIL VOTES

Clare County Council, responding to this local pressure, unanimously voted sympathy with the families of those killed at Loughgall as did Leitrim County Council and Tralee UDC. The Clare vote deeply embarrassed Fianna Fail because it was moved by a member of the government party. In Tralee, the vote of sympathy was moved by Councillor Billy Leen (Sinn Fein) and seconded by a Fianna Fail member while black flags flew on the town's Ashe Memorial Hall and the Tralee UDC offices. Black flags also flew in the Kerry Gaeltacht.

In Birr, County Offaly, a single black flag flew from the Manchester Martyrs' Memorial in the centre of the town. Labour's representatives on the town's UDC vehemently opposed moves to follow the example of Tralee and County Clare but Leitrim County Council voted to extend sympathy to the families of the eight Volunteers and to the civilian killed by the British fusillade. Sinn Fein Leitrim County Councillor John Joe McGirl moved the resolution which was seconded by Councillor Mel Farrell (also Sinn Fein).

ADJOURNMENTS

Castleblayney UDC adjourned its business on Tuesday night as a mark of respect to the eight Volunteers and civilian killed at Loughgall following a motion proposed by Sinn Fein Councillor Sean McGinn and seconded by a Fianna Fail councillor.

However, a similar move initiated by Sinn Fein Councillors Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and Owen Smyth on Monaghan UDC was rejected despite the fact that one of the Loughgall victims,

Volunteer Jim Lynagh, was a former member of the council.

The two Sinn Fein councillors walked out in protest but later commented that they were not surprised at the anti-nationalist sentiment shown by the other councillors because, contrary to normal practice, most of them had been responsible for opposing a co-optation to the Sinn Fein seat held by Jim Lynagh when he was unable to continue his work as a councillor due to imprisonment in Portlaoise.

Also on Tuesday night, in Strabane, an adjournment motion tabled by Sinn Fein Councillors Ivan Barr and Charlie McHugh extending sympathy to the families of those who died in the "massacre of eight Volunteers and one civilian" was passed by everyone present.

GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

In Leitrim, Clare, Tralee and Castleblayney, the votes were unanimous, putting in question grassroots support for Lenihan's statements on Loughgall.

Sinn Fein's seven councillors in County Monaghan - Caoimhghín O Caolain and Pat Treanor (Monaghan County Council), Owen Smyth and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha (Monaghan UDC), Sean McGinn (Castleblayney UDC) and Peter McAleer and Fintan McPhillips (Clones UDC) - welcomed local authorities' votes of sympathy to the families and friends of the IRA Volunteers and the civilian killed at Loughgall.

Councillor Caoimhghín O Caolain said:

"The passing of unanimous votes of sympathy to the families and friends of the civilian and the IRA freedom fighters killed at Loughgall, including former Monaghan UDC Councillor Jim Lynagh, by Clare County Council, Leitrim County Council and Tralee Urban District Council, supported by Fianna Fail members and in Clare's case initiated by Fianna Fail members, demonstrate how out of touch Brian Lenihan and the Fianna Fail government are with grassroots opinion on the Hillsborough Agreement and the British occupation of part of our country."



Black flag vigil in Cork

Sectarian murder in Belfast

BY PAUL CONWAY

A NATIONALIST YOUTH was shot dead by a loyalist murder gang at his home in South Belfast on Thursday, May 7th. Later the same evening, in the north of the city, a Sinn Fein member narrowly escaped injury when shots were fired through his front door.

The random sectarian murder of 17-year-old Gary McCartan took place around 8.15pm as he was about to leave his Ormeau Road home to visit his fiancée, Joanne Lavelle (18), the mother of his three-month-old daughter, Katrina. The couple had planned to marry in September of this year.

As he stopped to comb his hair at a mirror in the hallway, two men, one carrying a machine gun, burst through the open front door and shot Gary at least three times in the stomach at point-blank range.

Seconds earlier, his sister, Rosario, had shouted a warning to her father, Seamus, and several other family members who were watching TV in the living-room that men with guns were coming up the front path. The gunmen managed to fire four shots into the living-room before Seamus McCartan, believing that his son had already left the house, slammed the door in their faces. Luckily, no-one else was injured.

As the killers fled to a waiting blue Cavalier car, Gary stumbled to the back of the house clutching his stomach and collapsed into his father's arms. He died less than an hour later in the operating



● Gary McCartan (inset) lies fatally wounded at his Ormeau Road home

theatre of the Belfast City Hospital.

The Cavalier car, which had been hijacked in the loyalist Woodvale area, was later found abandoned in nearby Lower Crescent.

Local people have expressed concern at the apparent ease with which the killers struck. The area is usually swamped with the crown forces and residents are subjected to daily harassment from

the UDR and RUC.

OTHER FAMILY VICTIMS

Tragically, other members of the McCartan family have been the victims of sectarian murder. In March 1974, Gary McCartan's uncle, Noel McCartan, was shot dead at Havelock House on the Ormeau Road. Ten days later, another uncle, John Hamilton, was murdered near his McClure Street home.

Gary's cousin, James McCartan, was forcibly taken from a wedding reception at the Park Avenue Hotel in October 1972. His body was discovered in Dee Street — he had been tortured and stabbed at least 200 times by the notorious 'Shankill Road Butchers'. Another cousin, David Gilmour, was found dead in a car in Summer Street in August 1973, while a third cousin, John Whyte, was shot dead when walking near his home on New Year's Day the following year.

NEW LODGE

In a separate incident just after 10.45pm the same night, a man dressed in an RUC-style uniform tried to gain admission to the Carlisle Parade home of a Belfast Sinn Fein member in the New Lodge area by claiming he was serving a summons. When the Sinn Fein man refused to open the door and demanded that the caller produce identification, two other members of the murder gang, wearing hoods, suddenly appeared and fired nine shots through a glass partition in the front door. The intended victim was uninjured and the raiders fled.

Mourners condemn

RUC attack

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

THE HARASSMENT of neighbours and the assaults on mourners by the crown forces at Volunteer Finbarr McKenna's funeral were highlighted at a press conference on Thursday, May 7th. The conference was chaired by Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, who said that attacks on funerals are part of the British government's strategy to bring the nationalist people to their knees.

Adams said that the RUC's attempt to justify the attack on the funeral was a lie as it was obvious that the IRA wasn't going to make a public appearance as it had previously paid its respects to Volunteer McKenna. He went on to comment:

"The RUC tried to excuse the specific attacks which happened at the Royal Victoria Hospital on the basis that stones were thrown. The stones were thrown after the RUC took advantage of the wide road and the way the procession thinned out to attack mourners."

Nuala McKenna, sister of Finbarr McKenna, and Gerry Adams stressed that the violence could have been worse only for the

intervention of Sinn Fein members and others stewarding the funeral.

SHOULDER BROKEN

One steward, Belfast Sinn Fein Councillor Sean Keenan, had his shoulder broken and back badly bruised in an RUC baton attack. Keenan noted that while the official number of injured was 19 or 20 there were dozens more who didn't seek treatment at the RVH because of the RUC presence in the casualty unit.

Also at the press conference were several other people who received injuries at the funeral including one man from New Zealand who was struck on the back of the head by a plastic



● (Above) Belfastman Edward Cosgrove (59) is bled and kicked as the RUC attack mourners at the funeral of Volunteer Finbarr McKenna on Wednesday, May 6th. He suffered severe bruising to his left shoulder and legs and received five stitches to a head wound; (Below) At Thursday's press conference are (from left to right) Edward Cosgrove, Mairtin Mac Neill, Mrs Boyd, Nuala McKenna, Gerry Adams, Sean Keenan, Nick Swan and Philip Campbell.



bullet and Philip Campbell who was bled on the head.

Another mourner, Edward Cosgrove, who suffers from heart

trouble, told how he was bled and received five stitches to the back of the head.

Adams reacted angrily to com-

ments made by the South's Foreign Affairs Minister, Brian Lenihan, that nationalists had exploited the funeral.

"It's absolutely disgraceful that Brian Lenihan, who purports to represent a republican party which, when in opposition, said that the RUC is sectarian, that the UDR should be disbanded and that the Six-County state is unviable, should now come out with this sort of clap-trap."

It was pointed out that the attacks on mourners didn't start with the funeral but at the time of McKenna's death. Nuala McKenna said the family had been harassed with the continual presence of RUC men and British soldiers outside the house, abusive phone calls, spotlights trained on the windows and obscene comments made. A neighbour, Mrs Boyd from Colindale Street, spoke of the constant abuse the street's occupants had had to endure.

Extradition foiled

McINTYRE FREED

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

DONEGAL MAN Patrick McIntyre was released by order of the Dublin High Court amid jubilant scenes last week as republicans celebrated the failure of another attempted extradition to the Six Counties.

After an hour-long judgement on Thursday morning, May 7th, Judge Gannon ordered the unconditional release of McIntyre who had been illegally detained in Ballyshannon Garda Barracks, County Donegal, last January. Because the extension of the detention under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act was made under false pretences it was unlawful. The judge said that gardai had failed to give evidence to either the District Court or to the High Court that it was within the law to detain McIntyre while they awaited the arrival of the RUC extradition warrants.

There was tension in the packed courtroom as the judgement was delivered. Members of the McIntyre family as well as a large number of friends and supporters of the prisoner watched as gardai and prison officers closed in around McIntyre. When the judge finally ordered his release the prison officers refused to let McIntyre go despite pleas from his counsel, Patrick

McEntee, who described their action as "highly irregular".

Lawyers for the Dublin government argued that the judge's order did not cover all the extradition warrants and that McIntyre could remain in custody in Portlaoise. The judge then had to repeat that he had ordered McIntyre's unconditional release and that he could go free. Fearful of a repetition of the scenes at the release of Eibhlin Glenholmes last year when gardai physically prevented her from leaving and then hounded her through the streets of Dublin, republican supporters and friends of McIntyre formed a cordon around him as he left the Four Courts and sped away on a motorbike.

TASTE OF FREEDOM

His release on Thursday was Patrick McIntyre's first real taste of freedom since before his imprisonment in the H-Blocks, from where he escaped and was soon after recaptured in September 1983. He escaped to the 26 Counties last Christmas but was arrested by gardai on January 6th, the arrest and illegal detention which eventually led to his release.

The bungling of another extradition attempt by the gardai has come as an embarrassment to the Dublin government



Patrick McIntyre is whisked away from the Dublin High Court aboard a waiting motorbike and will increase pressure from the British Extradition Act comes into operation next on Fianna Fail to ensure that the new December.

Vol Francis Hughes commemoration

DESPITE A HEAVY RUC PRESENCE, a crowd of 600 people assembled at Ballyscullion Lane, Bellaghy, County Derry, at 2.30pm on Sunday, May 10th, for the annual Volunteer Francis Hughes commemoration. Led by the Creggan/Toomebridge Band, who drummed a solemn funeral dirge, the crowd marched the one mile to the graveyard of St Mary's Church, Bellaghy.

As in Belfast, the commemoration was also a tribute to the eight IRA Volunteers who were killed at Loughgall. John Davey, who chaired the commemoration, told the crowd that the war against Britain would be won "with the dedication of people like the eight Volunteers who had died and like Francis Hughes, who fought both on the outside and on the inside".

DEEP REGRET

After wreaths were laid, the main speaker of the afternoon, Magherafelt Sinn Fein Councillor Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde, expressed deep regret for all the Volunteers who had died fighting for Irish freedom. He said that the Irish people would not be beaten and that "the British Empire, over the last few decades, has been taken apart. Now they hold on like grim death to the last remnants, Gibraltar, the Malvinas and the occupied Six Counties."



● VOL FRANCIS HUGHES

Mac Giolla Bhrighde urged people to act with dignity and to ignore insults from the RUC "because you know that the cause of the Irish people is right". He said that republicans did not seek revenge but justice.

The people dispersed peacefully but had to endure harassment from the RUC.



Cork Volunteer remembered

ON SUNDAY, May 10th, Cork republicans gathered to commemorate the death on active service 14 years ago of Volunteer Tony Ahern.

The parade to the cemetery was led by a Fianna Eireann colour party. At the graveside of Tony Ahern the ceremony was chaired by Kieran McCarthy who began by calling for a minute's silence in honour of the Cork Volunteer and the eight Volunteers killed at Loughgall the previous Friday. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement in Cork and *The Last Post* was sounded.

The oration was given by Padraig Malone of Limerick. In the course of it he said:

Tony Ahern need never have gone North to meet his tragic and untimely death. He could, like so many others, have been content to get what he could out of the

system and live his life in the relative quiet and security of Cork. But Tony chose another way. He stood shoulder to shoulder with oppressed people of the Six Counties in their struggle which he knew to be the struggle of the whole people of Ireland, whether in Belfast, Tyrone, Cork or Limerick. For his dedication and commitment to a free and united Ireland, Tony Ahern gave his young life.

SUFFERING

This day clearly symbolises the suffering which Ireland has been subjected to as a result of British rule. As we stand here the bodies of eight Volunteers lie in a morgue in Craigeavon; in Belfast, thousands

are assembled in honour of the ten H-Block martyrs; and in Kerry, they honour the four Volunteers who died in the Valley of Knocknaree in 1921.

We are particularly saddened by the brutal slayings in County Armagh last Friday night. We have been told that had those eight Volunteers not gone out to attack the RUC barracks in Loughgall they would be alive today. But we say that had there been no British presence in Ireland these deaths and all the other deaths would not have occurred. We say clearly and unambiguously that British forces have no right to kill Irish people in their own country.

We say that Britain has no right to be in this country.

We say that it is the unjust and immoral British presence that is responsible for all the death, destruction and misery that has affected our country over the centuries.

PEACE

Peace can only be guaranteed when Britain gets out and stays out.

Britain wishes to maintain its control over Ireland. The Free State establishment wishes to maintain the system of power and privilege which it has built up since 1922, and the SDLP wishes to get into a similar position of power in the Six Counties.

For all those forces the Republican Movement is the main enemy and its defeat a major priority.

Padraig Malone concluded that the Republican Movement had the strength to succeed:

Our struggle is about establishing a new democratic and socialist Ireland - a fitting memorial to our fallen dead and a voice for justice and freedom in the world.

PHOBLACHT Republican News

Fight and take as you wisher advances no ill-wishes

LOUGHGALL MARTYRS

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING POLITICAL WEEKLY

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PHOBLACHT Republican News

RUC riot

Opposition to Belfast Urban Plan

BY FIONA BARR

A NUMBER of West Belfast community groups came together at a conference in Andersonstown Leisure Centre on Friday, May 8th, to discuss the implications of the Belfast Urban Plan (see AP/RN, April 30th) which is due to be published by the Department of the Environment later this month.

The well-attended conference, organised jointly by the Falls Community Council and Community Technical Aid, was called to allow local people to voice their needs and demand an input into the plan. Conference organiser Colm Bradley pointed out that the six-week consultation period was inadequate if local groups were to prepare a cohesive response. He said that the plan would establish policies for housing, shopping, transport and environment developments for the next 15 years.

Speakers from local groups, including the Divis Residents' Association, Falls Taxi Association, Twinbrook Tenants' Association, Andersonstown Traders, Glor na nGael, the Council for Travelling People, and the Falls Women's Centre, hit out at the continual neglect of the West Belfast area in comparison to the rest of the city.

BLUEPRINT FOR MISERY
Ann McEvoy (Falls Women's Centre) said that the plan would be little more than a "government blueprint for misery" and this



● **SEÁN McKNIGHT** could be seen from previous construction in Moyard, Divis and, more recently, Poleglass. All had been built without facilities for shopping, young children, leisure, education and community meeting places.

Paul Noonan (the Council for Travelling People) demanded that serviced sites be provided for

travellers. He said that the 80 travelling families in Belfast were among the most repressed communities in Ireland with an average life expectancy of 50 years and an infant mortality rate three times that of the settled community. Uproar was caused when SDLP Councillor Cormac Boomer claimed that Belfast City Council had "done its best for the gypsies living in the Windy Gap site" but that the travellers did not appreciate this. He further alleged that when Ballinasloe Council had built homes for travellers they had moved their animals into the homes and had themselves moved out the back. Paul Noonan denied Boomer's claims and the conference decided to move on to other issues.

Sinn Féin Councillor Seán McKnight said:

"Rather than addressing the problems of local communities,

the Belfast Urban Plan is designed to make major alterations to the road and rail infrastructure of Belfast.

"The process of consultation outlined by the Department of the Environment is totally inadequate and effectively excludes local communities from the preparation of a plan which will dramatically affect them over the next 15 years. Despite very specific lessons in relation to high-rise development and pre-fabricated building techniques, the planners have still failed to grasp the fundamental necessity of community involvement in the decision-making process."

The meeting agreed that a conference report including all the proposals put forward should be drawn up by the Falls Community Council and circulated to all interested parties and that a further public meeting should be called.

OBITUARY

Samuel Carson

ON MAY 9th, the death took place of Samuel 'Doey' Carson in a Belfast hospital. Doey was a veteran republican who, in the '40s, was imprisoned for his republican principles.

He grew up on the Falls Road and at an early age became interested in the sad history of his country, subjected to the brutal repression of British imperialism. He decided to play his part in striving to break the connection and joined the Irish Republican Army. During his active service, he was greatly respected by his fellow Volunteers, who recognised in him a dedicated and valuable soldier.

He was also a great athlete and was an automatic choice whenever Belfast played 'the country' in the prison yard. He also showed a skilful ability as a boxer in the tournaments held in the prison.

On his release in the mid-40s, he became associated with the McDermott's GAC and gave many years of outstanding service to the club.

Doey and his family, of a great republican tradition, had also known grief in their lifetime with the murder of his son by the enemies of our people. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and respected him but his memory will live on.

The Republican Movement tenders its most sincere sympathy to his wife and family circle.

Imeachtaí

IRISH NIGHT
Music by Harmony
8pm Friday 15th May
Dundalk Bar
Church Street
DUNDALK
Taillie £1
Organised by
An Cumann Cabhrach/
DundalkPDF

**BOBBYSANDS/
JAMES CONNOLLY
COMMEMORATION RALLY**
Speakers: David Beresford
Francis Blake (author
of *The Irish Civil War*),
Brian MacDonald (Sinn Féin)
and Jeremy Corbyn MP
1pm to 5pm Saturday 16th May
Conway Hall
Red Lion Square
LONDON WC1
Bookstalls, music, drama, videos,
exhibitions, food and creche
Organised by the
Wolfe Tone Society

**WORKING-CLASS WOMEN
IN STRUGGLE**
Saturday 16th May
Speaker: Cathryn O'Reilly
(Dunnes Stores striker)
2.30pm to 3.30pm:
all women welcome
4pm to 5.30pm:
Sinn Féin women only
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Creche facilities

**WOLFE TONE SOCIETY
BENEFIT SOCIAL**
8pm till late
Saturday 16th May
Sir George Robey
Seven Sisters Road
(Finsbury Park Station)
LONDON
Taillie £3 (or £1 with
Conway Hall rally programme)

**ANTI-SEA CAMPAIGN
PUB QUIZ**
8.30pm Saturday 16th May
Bird Flanagan's
Rialto
DUBLIN
Organised by the
South-Central Anti-SEA Campaign

**SINN FEIN YOUTH
CONFERENCE**
Speakers on unemployment,
social welfare and the role of
youth in Sinn Féin
Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th May
Conway Street Mill
BELFAST
Open to all supporters
of the Republican Movement
Details from
Pamela Ni Chathain
(Dublin 308783)
or Seamus Boyle
(Belfast 301719)

**NO TO THE SINGLE
EUROPEAN ACT AND NATO!
PUBLIC MEETING**
Speakers: Sinn Féin,
People's Democracy, Michael
Farrell and Bernadette McAliskey
7.30pm Friday 22nd May
CJE Hall
Marlborough Street
DUBLIN

TORTHAÍ CRANNCHUR

Limerick East Election Draw
£50: Noreen Casey, Cahereon L1sh,
County Limerick; £25: C. Crawford,
Sarsfield Avenue, Garryowen, Vodka/
Whiskey; A. Ryan, Hyde Avenue,
Prospect.
Sinn Féin 5th County Election Draw
May 2nd;
£500: Lilyth Gillespie, Derry; Washing
Machine; Noel Abernethy, Dungan-
on; Music Centre; Gerard Haughey,
Carrickmore; £50: Mrs B. Brennan,
Downpatrick.
May 9th:
£500: Oliver McGarrity, Irvinestown;
TV; Dáithí Mac Comáda, Colín
Valer Hill; Sharon McDonnell, Mark-
ets; £50: Susie Lynch, Gónnascale.

Strabane Sinn Féin
April Draw
£50: Noel Graham, Strabane; £25:
Donna Duffy, Strabane.

SERVICES SLASHED

FIANNA FAIL has been bitterly criticised by Sinn Féin for the government's refusal to provide local authorities with adequate funding after a Fianna Fail cuts package of £3.2 million (on top of the city manager's £7.2 million proposed cuts) was accepted by Dublin City Council by 28 votes to 19 on Tuesday, May 5th, to avoid imposing service charges.

- The cuts include:
- Housing and building, including security (caretakers, etc) - £1.33 million.
 - Road transportation and safety - £400,000.
 - Water supply and sewage - £350,000.
 - Environmental protection - £400,000.
 - Recreation and amenities - £300,000.
 - Education, health and welfare - £50,000.

LORD MAYOR CONDEMNED

Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke, who voted against the cuts, condemned the two deputies in his Dublin Central constituency who cast their votes for slashing expenditure and services, Fianna Fail's Bertie Ahern and

the PDs' Michael Keating:
"At the same time as Fianna Fail Lord Mayor Bertie Ahern is promising in the newspapers to make Dublin 'one of the best cities in the world' for its millenium year in 1988, in 1987 he and his party are responsible for attacking the living conditions of Dubliners.

"The cuts Fianna Fail voted through on water, sewage, road safety, housing and security (cut by one third) will pose serious dangers to people's health.

"Instead of claiming credit for abolishing service charges, something which the people achieved with precious little help from Fianna Fail, Bertie Ahern should be using his ministerial clout to get adequate funding from central government for essential services."

H-BLOCK HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION

'Brothers and sisters in struggle'

BY JANE PLUNKETT

BLACK FLAGS were borne up the Falls Road once again on Sunday when the annual march to commemorate the ten H-Block hunger-strike martyrs became a tribute also to the eight IRA Volunteers killed at Loughgall.

Thousands of Belfast people, young and old, women and men, had taken this opportunity to pay their respects to the Volunteers mown down by the SAS on Friday. The march was probably the largest since these annual commemorations began in 1982.

The marchers assembled at Dunville Park, where the road, as elsewhere along the route, was still strewn with the debris of several nights' rioting - burnt-out vehicles, railings and lamp-posts torn down by young people expressing their spontaneous anger at the latest British murders in Ireland.

Sunday's sombre crowds began to gather well before the advertised starting time. A massive and provocative presence of RUC Land Rovers and heavily-armed RUC men, rifles at the ready, blocked the Springfield, Grosvenor and Falls Roads, yards from the spot where, four days earlier, they brutally attacked mourners at Volunteer Finbarr McKenna's funeral.

But RUC efforts at intimidation were ignored by the crowds. The general mood was clearly sorrowful, yet proud and defiant. If the media had come in droves in the hope of finding a dispirited or demoralised people, they were gravely disappointed.

Some marchers came in buggies, a few with the aid of sticks, at least one in a wheelchair. Some of those carrying black flags were barely teenagers: they would still have been at primary school when they saw the H-Block marches - another upcoming generation of republican activists.

A toddler, watching the marchers from her mother's arms asked:

"Mummy, what's that?"

"It's for all the men that died."

DIGNIFIED

There was to be no music at the march but several bands came from various areas of the North to pay their own dignified tribute.

As the marchers formed up, Sinn Fein organisers called for a "peaceful and dignified" demonstration. Finally they silently moved off behind the national flag, in three lines as in the hunger-strike marches, while drummers played a funeral rhythm.

Twelve women bore moving portraits of the ten H-Block hunger-strike martyrs Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan.

Almost at once, the march was halted outside the Royal Victoria Hospital, where RUC Land Rovers still blocked the way. But the RUC, too, evidently sensed the silent determination and anger of

the nationalist people and, after a few moments, they slunk off ahead, allowing the crowd to proceed.

Nevertheless the RUC maintained a massive presence on side roads and outside the marchers' destination, Sinn Fein's Belfast headquarters at Connolly House.

There, local Sinn Fein Councillor Lily Fitzsimons chaired a rally which began with the playing of *Amhran na bhFiann* and a minute's silence in memory of the eight Volunteers.

Lily Fitzsimons then briefly traced the events leading up to the 217-day hunger-strike of 1981, starting in 1972 when the British government conceded political status for republican prisoners, and 1976, when this was withdrawn as part of the discredited criminalisation policy.

Paying tribute to the hunger-strikers and "all the Volunteers who have died at the hands of our enemies", Fitzsimons quoted Bobby Sands' famous words:

"Of course I can be murdered, but I remain what I am, a political prisoner of war, and no-one, not even the British, can change that."

She added to loud applause:

"I believe Bobby Sands was not only speaking about the people in the prisons, but the people outside the prisons - that is us - we are all prisoners of war until the British are removed from our country."

HUNGER-STRIKERS DEFEATED BRITAIN

"The hunger-strikers stood naked against the British government and they won, they defeated Britain," began the next speaker, South Armagh Councillor Jim McAllister.

The hunger-strikers, he reminded the crowd, were deserted by all but republicans and "the plain people of Ireland".

"They got no support from the Dublin government, no support from the SDLP, or from those who claim to be moral and political leaders in this country. And the people who deserted the hunger-strikers deserted the Volunteers killed at Loughgall."

The politicians and religious leaders who "quibbled about theology while our hunger-strikers were dying", also refuse, McAllister pointed out, to pronounce on the morality of the British presence in Ireland, or to condemn British murders of Irish people.

"If they want to be Brits let them follow their leader, Gerry Fitt, and stay over there. Let them say openly that they want partition."

"It is no wonder that the unionist Alliance Party has combined with the SDLP in West Belfast in the hope of depriving Sinn Fein of our seat in the next general election."

The SDLP and others, he said, give a "polite welcome to a pro-partition document from the sectarian murderers of the UDA", but scorn documents from Sinn Fein which attempt to set a course



towards peace. "That is a good sign of their desire to keep things as they are."

McAllister concluded by urging people to reflect on why our enemies fear republicanism.

"They have a bigger fear than physical fear. They know that we are going to win and they don't want us to win because our ultimate objective is to change Irish society in a major fashion. We want to demystify government, we want the ordinary people to control this country and that's the last thing the likes of Joe Hendron or Brian Lenihan or Charlie Haughey or Fr Faul want - they don't want the people to have any power."

THE RISEN PEOPLE

The final speaker was Danny Morrison. Explaining that he had asked to speak "to channel and share" his "anger and frustration" at what had happened, Morrison appealed to young people not to take private cars "because it harms the struggle" and he reminded them that the IRA had called on young people to respect their wishes and organise resistance in a disciplined fashion.

In a deeply-felt speech, Morrison said he had possibly only felt so angry before on two occasions, when the news broke of Bloody Sunday on January 30th 1972 and when Bobby Sands died on May 5th 1981. Every hunger-striker's death after that, he said, was a "rivet confirming my hatred for what the Brits had done to our people, not just since I was a wee lad, the people before me who were forced to emigrate, or were on the dole or forced to live in bad housing, the people who were deserted 60 years ago."

"You people are the risen nationalist people. You people are the conscience of Ireland and we are not going to stop until we have finished our task."

Adding that the British government, successive British direct-rulers and RUC head John Hermon bore chief responsibility for events in the North, Morrison added:

"There are some people who hold the view that the Volunteers deserved it. The Volunteers didn't deserve it! The Volun-

teers lived in this country and the people who killed them don't live in this country, don't come from this country and have no place in this country!"

Morrison castigated the hypocrisy of the SDLP and Dublin government. "Their signatures are on the death certificates of those Volunteers killed on Friday night and they should not be allowed to distance themselves from it."

Mallon, he said, supports the Hillsborough Agreement "four-fifths of which is about cross-border collaboration" but hypocritically complains when the British build spy-posts in South Armagh. "And the only reason there is a Dublin government and a 26-County State is because IRA Volunteers went out and blew the heads off the RUC's forefathers."

The RUC, he said, had got themselves into difficulties. They stated correctly they had killed the leadership of the IRA in East Tyrone, and veteran freedom fighter Jim Lynagh. They couldn't then also claim that "godfathers" had sent them out. "So they leave that to the SDLP and the Dublin government to do."

WE KNOW WHAT'S REQUIRED

Morrison pointed out that Volunteer Seamus Donnelly, only 19 years of age, "was born in January 1968, when some of the people here were first coming onto the streets to march for civil rights."

"The Brits don't respect the ballot box. That's why the IRA have Ammalites. The Brits didn't respect it in 1918. When Bobby Sands got almost twice as many votes as Margaret Thatcher got in Finchley she didn't negotiate."

"This is the anniversary of the H-Block hunger-strike. We know what the struggle is all about. We know what's required." Like the hunger-strikers, he concluded to prolonged ovation, "We're brothers and sisters in struggle, and we're going to win. Victory!"

Finally, Lily Fitzsimons once again appealed to young people to desist from counter-productive activities and to ignore RUC provocation. She ended by urging everyone to attend the funerals of the eight Volunteers.

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REMEMBERING THE PAST

Assassination

BY PETER O'ROURKE

WITH the assassination of eight IRA Volunteers on Friday, May 8th, at Loughgall, County Armagh, by the British army's SAS backed up by the RUC's Special Support Unit (SSU) and its elite murder squad, E4A, the IRA suffered its heaviest casualties in operations against the crown forces since the battle of Clonmult in County Cork during the Black and Tan War.

The ruthless firepower of the British army and RUC directed against republicans seen so often in recent years was also being used 66 years ago.

By February 1921, as the Tan War entered its third year, murder, reprisals and burnings by the British had become the order of the day. In a desperate attempt to defeat the armed struggle of Ogladh na hEireann, Sir Hamar Greenwood, the English Chief Secretary in Ireland, sanctioned a shoot-to-kill policy against republicans.

The Auxiliaries and the Black and Tans soon realised the extent of their licence-to-kill and the *Weekly Sum-*

mary kept their temper at fever pitch. In this journal which Greenwood had started, as he explained, to "revive the morale" of the "police" force in Ireland, Sinn Fein and the IRA were described as "crime incarnate", for whose members "the rope and the bullet are all too good". This journal taught the police that they had licence "to use force to the uttermost, force without stint" - in present-day terms, a shoot-to-kill policy or the authority "to terminate with extreme prejudice", as murder is euphemistically called by British Intelligence.

The effects of the new policy were immediately evident. Throughout Feb-

ruary and early March 1921, 26 IRA Volunteers were killed by British forces; in County Cork at Mourner Abbey, February 15th; Upton Station and Crois-na-Leanbh, February 16th; Clonmult, February 20th; and at Drangan in County Tipperary, March 8th - the highest number of casualties being at Clonmult.

CLONMULT

At Clonmult, a party of 15 IRA Volunteers was surrounded in a cottage by Auxiliaries and British troops. They resisted fiercely, firing until finally the thatch was set ablaze. A British officer then called on them to surrender, promising that they would be properly treated, and the 15 Volunteers came out with their hands up. The Auxiliaries fell on them "like wild beasts", one Volunteer said afterwards, killed nine of them, wounded five and tore from the dead and wounded watches, pens, religious medals, shouting and cursing the whole time. Three of the wounded Volunteers died later that day.

The dead Volunteers were Joseph Morrissey, Richard Hegarty, John Joe Joyce, Michael Hallihan, Michael Desmond, David Desmond, Donal Dennehy, Christy O'Sullivan, Liam Aherne, Jeremiah Aherne, James Glavin and James Aherne.

Although the Clonmult ambush was a set-back for the Volunteers in Cork, the following month the IRA, far from



● Sir Hamar Greenwood, later Viscount Greenwood, inspecting the Black and Tans. A Canadian of Welsh parentage, Greenwood was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland in April 1920. He was a hard-bitten careerist who could be relied upon to implement the ruthless policy of the British government.

being defeated, was to demonstrate that it could carry out devastating attacks on the British forces of occupation with successful ambushes at Coolevokig, Clonbanin, Crossbarry and Ross-carbery.

Twelve Volunteers were killed at Clonmult, County Cork, by the crown forces, the highest number of casualties in a single operation in the 71-year history of the IRA, on February 20th 1921, 66 years ago.

Loughgall will become a tombstone for British policy in Ireland and a bloody milestone in the struggle for freedom, justice and peace.

● IRA Volunteers fire a volley of shots in Cappagh, County Tyrone, in honour of their eight comrades