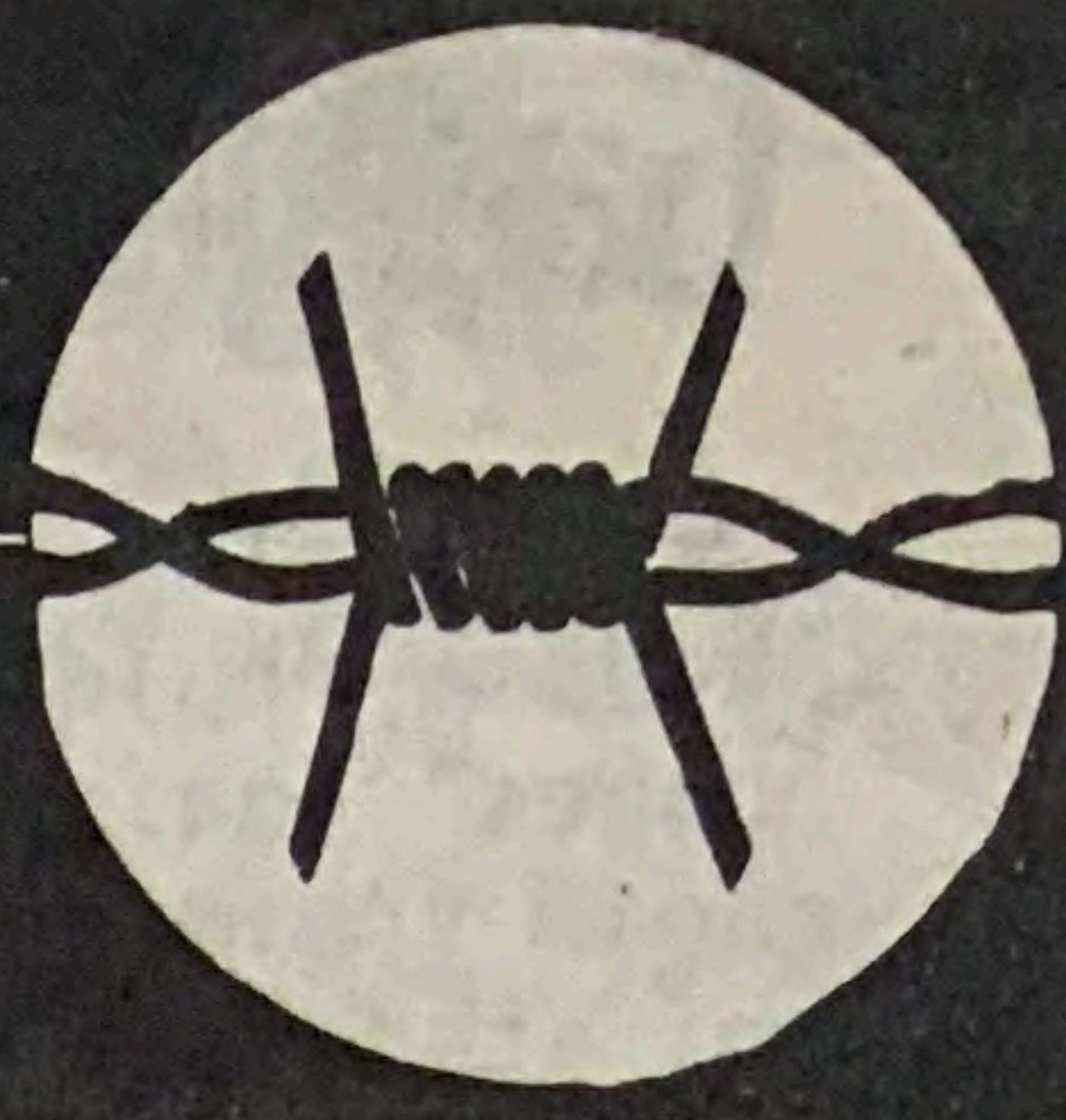


Drumcondra/Whitehall



ARMAGH / H-BLOCK NEWS

Price 5p or by contribution.

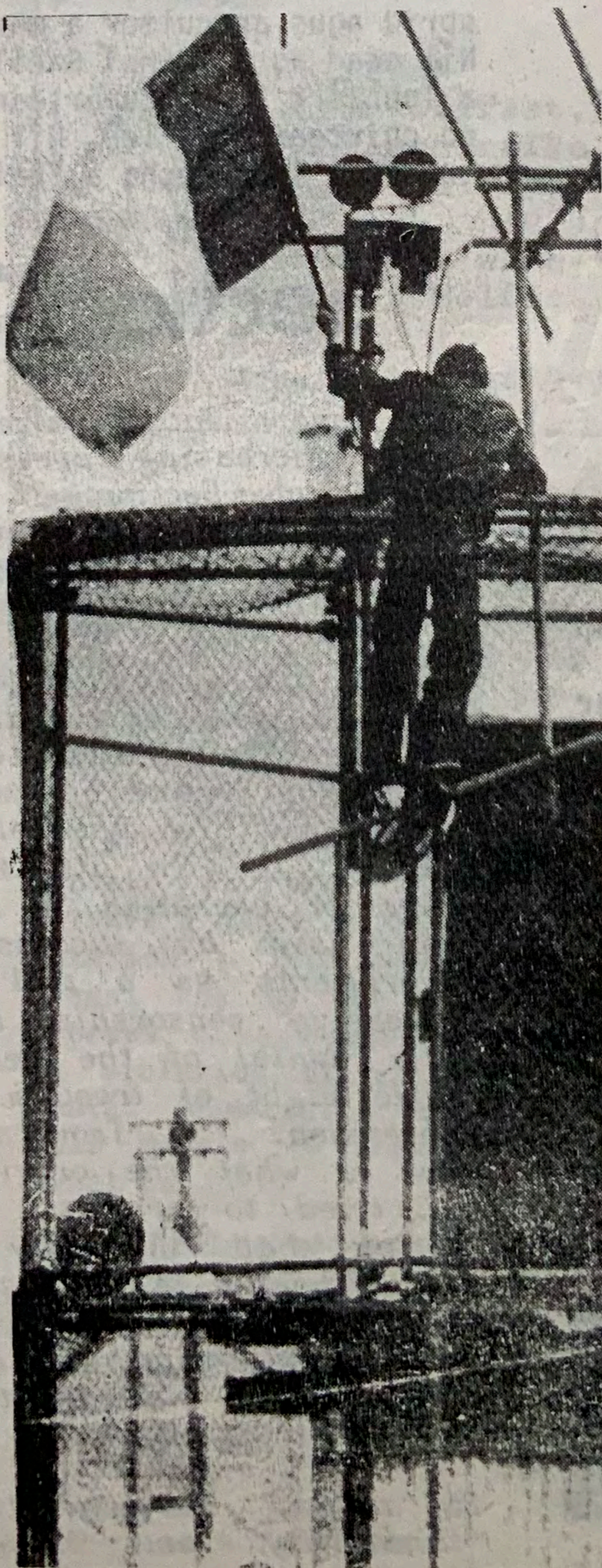
September 5th.
Vol. 1 No. 3.

Successful Cross-Border March

The Cross-Border Action Day, organised by Armagh, Louth and Monaghan Action Committees, proved to be a success last Sunday August 30th. Between 8000 and 10,000 people marched into the square at Crossmaglen. Marchers coming from three points on the Southern side fo the border met up with the people of the six counties in the village square.

NOT ALONE IN STRUGGLE

The march was called to show that the nationalist people of the north are not alone in their struggle to gain the five demands of the prisoners and that the people of the 26 counties feel part of and are willing to take action against the British Repression carried on in the north east part of our country. The idea of the "Cross Border March" was proposed by a number of Action Groups and other elements in the campaign, including the Drumcondra/Whitehall Action Group. The march organisers expressed their satisfaction at the large turnout and stated the it had "surpassed their wildest expectations". The crowd, which included people from France and Italy, was addressed by various speakers involved in the H-Block/Armagh movement.



GESTURE OF RESISTANCE

Before the meeting began a spirited youth climbed a nearby British Army observation post and placed a tricolour on the wire cage. This gesture of resistance to the British presence was greeted by loud cheers from the assembled audience.

The crowd, which included people from France and Italy, was addressed by various speakers involved in the H-Block/Armagh movement. The rally commenced with a speech by Caoimhin O Caollain, (election agent of Kieran Doherty T.D. in the last General Election) who emphasised that there was growing support for the prisoners in the south. Two other speakers followed - Sheila Darragh, recently released from Armagh Gaol, and Tony Fields.

NO BUTS!

A touch of humor was added to the proceedings during the speech of Tony Fields, a local Armagh man. He condemned the politicians in Ireland who continually claimed that - "We support the withdrawal of the British - but..." - "We want to end partition - but..."

Gaeilge sna H-Blocanna

Fhoghlainn ar Feisire Bobby Sands a chuid gaeilge sna "cages" nuair a chaith sé a chead tréimshe ann nuair a bhí stádas politiúil acu ó 1972-1976. Nuair a cuireadh é faoi ghlas arís i Deireadh Fómhair 1976. Chunaigh sé ranganna gaeilge do na Fir ar pluid.

Ta toradh an obair sin le feicéal i "Faoi Ghlas ag Gall leabhrán áta curtha amach ag "Gaeil Béal Feirste". Ins an leabhrán tá rogha de shleacht a as litreacha a chuir na cimi pholaitúla amach, faoi choimi, as na Blocanna H. Bíonn trí rang Gaeilge i ngach roinn de H 4, bunrang, meánrang agus ádrang. Níl peann, paipear nó peann luaidhe acu. Scríofhann siad ar fallaí an cillín le piosa miotal nó cruach. Ba gnách leis na coinnheadóirí na chillíní a churdach i gconaí agus scroiseann siad aon Gaeilge a fhaigheann siad ann.

I Mí Lunasa '77 thosaigh na coimheadóirí ag tabhairt iriseán do na cimi. Fuair siad "Our Boys" iriséan maith fá choinne an Gaeilge a fhoghlains ache nuair a fuair na coimheadóirí seo amach chur siad stad leo gan amhras. Nuair a bíonn na ranganna ar suil bíonn ar na suas chuig an doran, scairteann an múintroir amach an ceacht agus scríofhann na daltaí é ar an falla.



Owen Carron - banned by R.T.E.

Bíonn ranganna Gaeilge ag na cimi i priosún Ard Mhaca fost a. Tá dearg ghráin Shasna le feicéal in aghaidh cultúir na hÉireann mar tá na húdaráis san priosún ag iarraidh an sprid agus an cultur a mharú. Níl cead ag na cinsi Gaeilge a labhairt ar na cuairteanna nó cuirtear stad leo. Níl cead acu litreacha a fhail

tríd an gcinsire i nGaeilge. In ainneoin na deachrachaí ar fad tá an líofacht san teanga ag dul i bhfeabhas ó lá go chéile. Muna mbeadh greins ag na fir seo ar teanga agus cultúir na hÉireann is docha go mbeadh siad imithe as a meabhair cheanna féin.

Rath Dé Oraith.

Section 31 Censorship

The Government is coming under increasing pressure to abolish Section 31 of the Broadcasting Authority Act. This amendment to the 1960 Act was introduced in 1976 by British propagandist, Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, then Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (before he was thrown out by the electorate). In its five years of operation it has been used by successive Governments as a tool of repressive censorship and is a denial of the democratic right of freedom of expression. Ironically this is what the original Act tried to protect by stating that "the duty of the Authority is to ensure that all news broadcast by it is reported and presented in an objective and impartial manner".

It seems, however that "impartiality" and "objectivity" were acceptable so

long as they did not seriously threaten the status quo. Those who dare tell the truth about British imperialism in this country and the shameful collaboration of the southern Irish Government are denied the right to have their views broadcast on the national television and radio networks.

The National Union of Journalists is opposed on principle to Section 31 but in the meantime is seeking the compromise of a twelve month suspension. Even this possibility has been flatly refused by the present Minister Paddy Cooney. It is sheer hypocrisy for the two previous Ministers, Conor Cruise O'Brien and Albert Reynolds, to blame R.T.E. for being "too restrictive" in its interpretation of the Act with regard to interviewing Owen Carron

Contd. p3



M.P. for Fermanagh/South Tyrone. Can you blame them for playing safe when the last R.T.E. Authority to resist the Government had been sacked?

Not only is this Act unjust sometimes it is also ridiculous - for instance when a Sinn Fein Councillor from Bundoran could not speak on R.T.E. radio after the tragic fire in the town last summer. Surely the Irish people have the right to see and hear all points of view on television and radio? In the meantime we will have to rely on the B.B.C.....!

Police Harassment

On the night of Wednesday August 26th. two members of the Drumcondra/Whitehall Action Group encountered police harassment at first hand.

The members in question were doing door-to-door leafletting for the Action Group's film-show and meeting on Tuesday in the Croften Airport Hotel. As they made their way from house to house in Clonturk Park a squad-car approached from the main Drumcondra Road. The car came to a halt beside the two Action Group members. Two Gardai jumped out and called on our members to stop - which they did. There followed a rapid succession of questions.... "Where are you going?".... "What have you got under your arm?"... "Have you got a permit for these leaflets?"... "What are your names?"... "Where do you live?" All of these questions were answered politely and it was pointed out to the Gardai that a permit was not needed. The Gardai then claimed that some householder had complained (Which is possible but highly unlikely.) and they asked the Action Group members to hand over the leaflets.

HUNGER STRIKE NEWS

LAWRENCE McKEOWN

(Aged 24) from South Antrim, joined the Hunger Strike 29th June 1981 (69 days). Sentenced April 1977 (on the basis of an alleged verbal statement) to life imprisonment for attempted killing of RUC man.

LIAM McCLOSKEY

(Aged 25) from Derry, joined the Hunger Strike on August 3rd (35 days). Serving 10 years for conspiring to disarm members of the security forces, hijacking and possession.

PAT SHEEHAN

(Aged 23) from Belfast, joined the Hunger Strike on 10th August (28 days) Sentenced March 1979 to 15 years for warehouse bombing in Belfast

JACKIE McMULLAN

(Aged 25) from Belfast, joined the Hunger Strike on 17th August (21 days) Sentenced December 1976. Serving life for possession and attempted killing of RUC man in Lisburn.

BERNARD FOX

(Aged 30) from Belfast, joined Hunger Strike on 24th August (13 days) Sentenced 1977. Serving 12 years on explosives charges.

HUGH GERARD CARVILLE

(Aged 25) from Green-castle, Co. Down. Sentenced 1978 (After 18 months on remand) to 14 years for possession of arms and ammunition and incendiary attacks on three hotels and a public house. Started Hunger Strike on 31st August.

Days (in brackets) refer to Sunday, Sept. 5th.

Action Group Newsheet

This newsheet is produced by the Drumcondra/Whitehall Action Group. We are a non-party-political group campaigning to secure the five demands of the H-Block and Armagh prisoners. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a counter to the deceptive and lying propaganda being organised by the state on the H-Block issue. It is also produced to answer the questions that many people have on the issue. We encourage people to contribute to the bulletin, both financially, and by sending in comments, questions and contributing articles, cartoons etc. All contributions should be sent to - Peter Farelly, 8 Grattan Parade, Drumcondra, Dub. 9.

This was done in the belief that they would be handed back once they were checked and a sample read through. This did not happen - the Gardai said they were confiscating the leaflets and the Action Group members were unceremoniously told to f*** off! Protesting was futile at that stage and risked a night in the police station. This was an illegal act by the so-called forces of law-and-order and a violation of the fundamental democratic right of all people to organize for what is just.

It should be noted that there were two plain-clothes police officers in the back of the squad-car (Obviously Special Branch) but they took no part in the encounter, happy to let their uniformed toadies do the dirty work for them.

THE SOUND OF THIS DEAD HERO

I

The silent sound of this dead hero
Sweeps like the whispering mist of the rain
Down from the Divis Mountain through to the Slane.
It leaves nobody untouched, as whispers and shouts
To agree and argue the necessity of the sacrifice ^{as one resound}
In the hearts and minds of Bobby Sands; because ^{that can be found}
there are many.

II

What then was in the heart of this man who gave
For the faith that was not kept and in this saga ^{everything}
And herein lies the answer to his people who wept ^{also not kept.}
For the man who died for the dignity of his comrades
And him compelled to do ultimate battle with the
Injustice and vengeful oppression in all this and ^{monster who made}
more.

III

He stood up and chose to fight his imperialist foe
Which also curbs the freedom of his people in other ^{domains}
Struggling against injustice with the strength which ^{only his class retains.}
The black-man demanding real equity, his working-
class El Salvadorean brethren and all enthralled
Who long for the gain of a system truly equitable
Are in solidarity with him in his final sacrifice.

IV

In his own land the strong loud voice, distant but
It was its long awaited desire and message which his ^{resounding nearer he heard}
enemy feared.
And by trying to defeat him and his comrades they ^{sought to defeat it.}
The monster visibly scared, despite its snapping and
biting had failed and with
His death the voice has swelled and stirred the
stillness of once dormant passages.....

Written by an Action Group member after the death of Bobby Sands M.P.



Cont. from Pg.1.

- "We agree with the political prisoners' demands - but...."
In answer to this he demanded
"there should be no "buts" -
it has got to be better".

Owen Carron, the recently
elected M.P. for Fermanagh/
South Tyrone, was greeted
with sustained applause and

cheers when he stepped onto
the platform. He relayed
to the crowd the belief of
the prisoners that a just
solution could be found to
the crisis on the basis of
their five just and reasonable
demands. He reiterated the
call of the National H-Block
Committee to the southern
Irish government to recall the
Irish Ambassador from London,

to send home the British
Amb assador from Dublin and
to withdraw the Irish troops
from the border - a border
imposed by Britain which costs
the southern Irish state ab-
out £200 million a year to
police. He also called for a
meeting with the Taoiseach
Garret Fitzgerald, a request
that has now been turned
down twice in the last week.

Title: Armagh/H-Block News, Vol. 1, No. 3

Organisation: Armagh/H-Block Action Group (Drumcondra/Whitehall)

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