

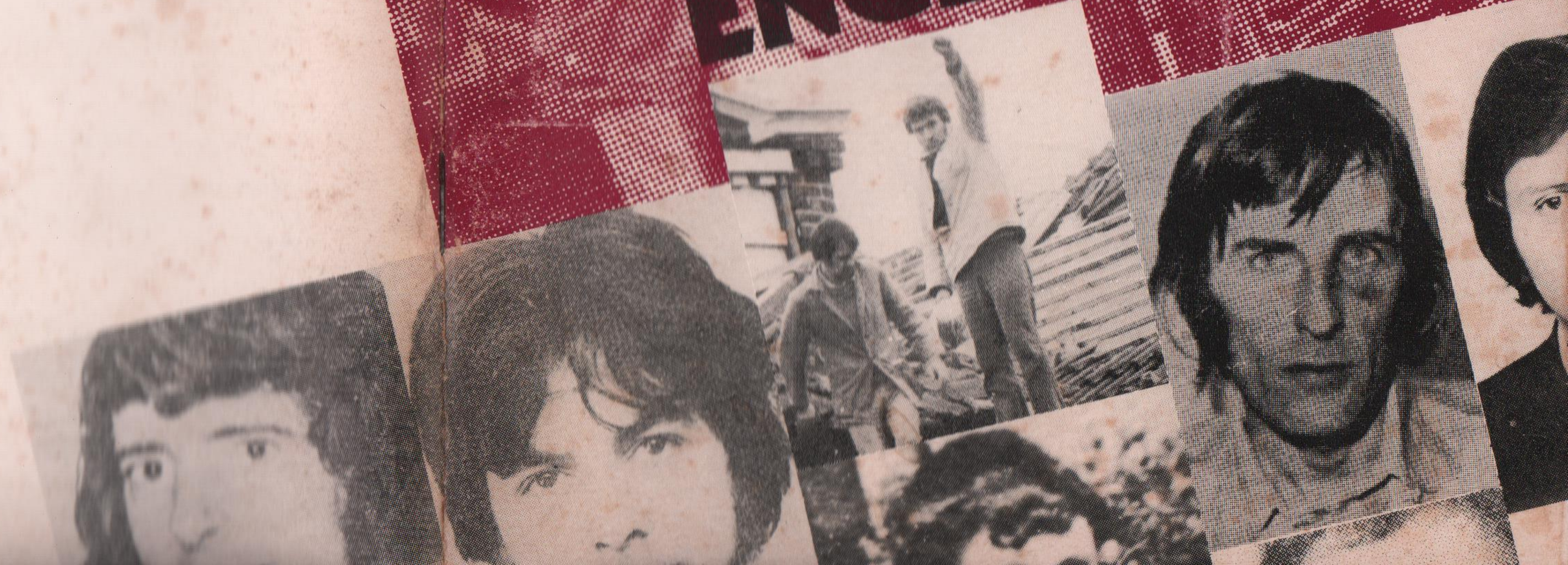
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IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ENGLISH JAILS

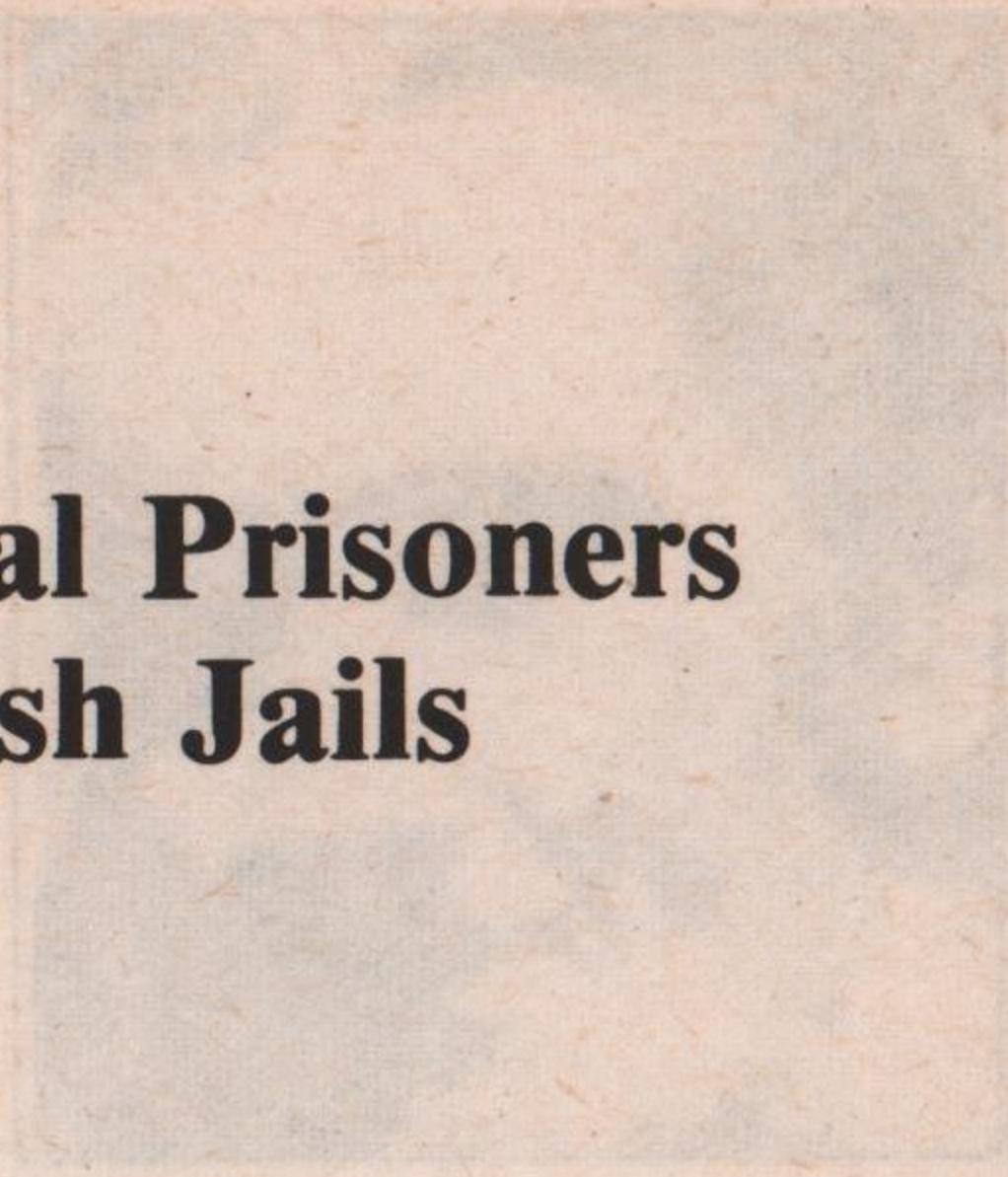
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Box 9
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Islington, London N1



Irish Political Prisoners in English Jails

This booklet is dedicated to
those prisoners who gave their
lives for a free, socialist, and
united Ireland.



GIUSEPPE CONLON



MICHAEL GAUGHAN



NOEL JENKINS



JAMES CONNOLLY



JOHN DOHERTY

Produced by the Prisoners of Conscience
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in English Jails

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December 1980.

Introduction

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GIUSEPPE CONLON



MICHAEL GAUGHAN



NOEL JENKINSON



SEAN O'CONNAILL



PROINSIAS STAGG

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Introduction

Ireland is England's oldest colony — her first conquest and now her last. The history of the relationship between the two countries is a history of brutality, cunning and deceit being met by courageous self-sacrifice and determination. Throughout 800 years of struggle the Irish people have never abandoned the idea of liberty and national independence despite the efforts made to crush them.

The soldiers and citizens of Ireland in every century have given their lives in this cause: men, women and children have shown their bravery and spirit being prepared to die rather than bend to foreign occupation. Worse than death for many have been the tortures inflicted on those taken in battle. While England has always demanded that her captured soldiers be treated to the 'rules of war', attitudes to Irish prisoners have revealed the depths of degradation to which the British state is capable of sinking. Men and women captured in battle have been held as hostage, tortured and murdered in order to intimidate the Irish people.

The twentieth century has seen no change in these tactics. Following the 1916 Rising, hundreds of Irish people were transported to concentration camps in England where they rotted, without charge or trial while the English employed the dregs of their mercenary armies to crush the struggle for national independence.

Over the last ten years since the rising in the six counties the British state has invented new refinements of torture. In Ireland itself they created concentration camps and later built the H-Blocks, designed to subdue and dehumanise prisoners.

The fate of those taken prisoner in England itself has been, if anything, worse. As this pamphlet shows, the English government has used a whole barrage of weapons in an attempt to crush and isolate men and

women who are separated by hundreds of miles from their families. From beatings in police stations and forced confessions, through massive use of solitary and sensory deprivation, to denial of all rights and privileges. Prisoners and their families have been harassed and humiliated, the subject of plots by screws to separate them from other prisoners. Irish prisoners have been denied medical treatment, been the subject of abuse and misuse of drugs and constantly switched from one prison to another. In all these areas the British state has dedicated time, energy, money and physical and psychological expertise in order to repress the hostages it holds. It imagines that the humiliation of these prisoners will represent a defeat for the Republican movement. On the other hand it is aware that the knowledge of the struggle by these prisoners will be an inspiration for those on the outside.

Since 1972 the PAC has worked to support and aid Irish political prisoners in jail in England. During that time five prisoners have died, all in tragic circumstances. In June 1974, Michael Gaughan was killed while being force fed on hunger strike in Parkhurst; in February 1976, Frank Stagg died on hunger strike in Wakefield jail; in October 1976 Noel Jenkinson was found dead in his cell in the security unit of Leicester jail; in October 1977 Sean O'Connail died from undiagnosed cancer a few hours after being transferred to hospital from Parkhurst; in January 1980 Guiseppe Conlon died in Wormwood Scrubs after years of ill-health and medical neglect.

These men, like those Irish men and women still alive in English jails, should never have been imprisoned. Some had trials which were blatant frame-ups and others had committed no known 'crimes' — they had fought for the freedom of their country while being labelled by British imperialism as criminals.

Those now imprisoned in the jails of England have made their rights and demands clear and the PAC fully supports them: The right to political status and to serve their sentences with their comrades in Ireland. An

amnesty for all Irish political prisoners following British withdrawal from Ireland.

We ask you to read these pages which are a personal testimony to the courage and endurance of Irish patriots in English jails and to give your support to their struggle.

Acknowledgements

The PAC wishes to extend its thanks to all Irish prisoners in jail in England who under the most difficult circumstances have over the last eight years supplied PAC with information. We would also like to thank the friends and relatives of the prisoners who have helped us break down the barriers of one of the most secretive prison systems in the world.

We would like to acknowledge the help of PROP the National Prisoners Movement in the formulation of parts of this pamphlet. Also the help of Alistair Logan.

THE PRISONERS

BILLY ARMSTRONG Belfast

Married with five children.

Tried in Winchester by Sebag Shaw, Billy was one of the 'Belfast 10' prisoners arrested at Heathrow in April 1973 following bombs at the Old Bailey, Scotland Yard and other places. All ten spent over 100 hours in detention in contravention of the Judges Rules. Charged with conspiracy, their trial was transferred to the army town of Winchester despite defence objections. Billy and eight others, including Dolours and Marian Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerry Kelly, were all sentenced to life imprisonment on conspiracy charges, setting a judicial precedent which has since been followed that offences committed in England carry far heavier sentences than the same offences committed in the Six Counties. Billy has spent long periods in solitary following escape attempts and was refused permission to see his dying father in 1978.

PADDY ARMSTRONG Belfast

Sentenced at the Old Bailey by Judge Donaldson in October 1975 to 35 years on charges arising from the Guildford and Woolwich bombs of 1974, Paddy was the victim of a massive police frame-up. Despite evidence provided by the 'Balcombe Street' four that he and co-accused Paul Hill, Gerry Conlon and Carole Richardson knew nothing of the bombings, their appeals in October 1977 were turned down by the Appeal Court in London.

JIMMY ASHE Birmingham

Tried in Birmingham and sentenced in May 1975 to 12 years in jail by Judge Forbes on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions. He was assaulted by screws in Winson Green in November 1974 and was then refused permission to take legal proceedings. He is now taking a case to the European Commission for Human Rights (ECHR) challenging the right of the Home Office (HO) to open

mail, deny legal advice and to deny a prisoner fair hearing.

LIAM BAKER Belfast
Married

Tried in Winchester in November 1976 and sentenced along with James Bennett and Bernard McCafferty on conspiracy charges, portrayed at the time as an attempt to blow up the QE2. Baker and Bennett were jailed for 20 years. Liam went on the blanket with other POWs in Albany in October 1978 in protest at visiting conditions. The protest ended after 18 months when the prisoners were moved to other jails. While Liam was on the blanket in 1979 his wife described a typical visit: 'I had two screws and a policeman behind me and Liam had two screws behind him. They listen to everything you say and sometimes they write things down so you can't have a decent conversation. The whole time they have been on the blanket they have had no exercise. They were also deprived for a long time from going to Holy Mass. Also they are put under punishment for the least little thing they say or do to try and break them.'

JAMES BENNETT Belfast

Tried and sentenced with Liam Baker (see above) to 20 years at Winchester in November 1976. He undertook a blanket protest with Mick Murray in Wormwood Scrubs from December 1978. Later he was moved to another jail and ended the protest.

STEVIE BLAKE Donegal

Sentenced to 15 years in May 1975 at Birmingham Crown Court on conspiracy charges. Stevie was beaten by screws in November 1974 following the Birmingham bombs when a large number of Irish POWs on remand were also attacked and beaten. Stevie was on the roof of

the Scrubs in November 1975 for 30 hours in freezing conditions along with his comrades Roy Walsh and Martin Coughlan. Stevie has been moved frequently from jail to jail; he was moved twice between Albany and Bristol in one month. These moves make visits from Donegal very difficult to arrange. In addition, while he was in Wakefield, his visitors were arrested under the PTA. He is now taking a case against the HO to the European Court.

MARTIN BRADY Belfast
Married with children.

Sentenced as one of the 'Belfast 10' (see Billy Armstrong above), he was jailed for life at Winchester in November 1973. He went on hunger strike demanding repatriation and was force-fed in Hull; a smuggled letter revealed that this compelled him to give up the hunger strike. He was charged with 'looting' following the Hull prison protest of August 1976 and was refused permission to be tried by an outside court. He submitted a detailed statement to the PROP Hull enquiry. He has spent long periods in solitary, including 80 days following the Gartree protest of 1978 and has also spent three months in the control unit of 'F' wing in Wakefield in 1979. He is at present pursuing proceedings against the British government to the ECHR.

EDDIE BUTLER Limerick

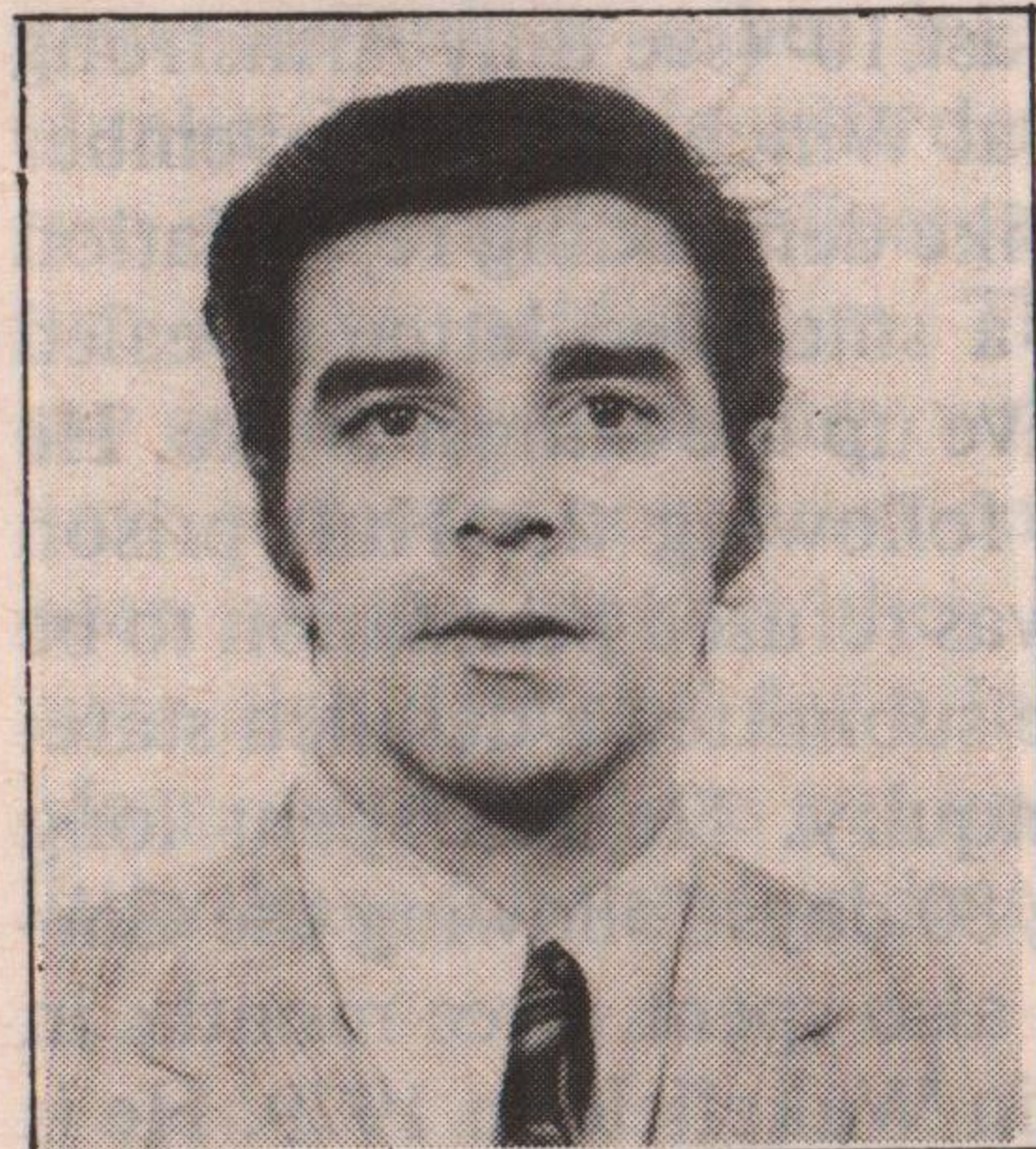
Arrested following the Balcombe Street siege in December 1975, he was charged along with Harry Duggan, Joe O'Connell and Hugh Doherty with 100 counts of murder, bombing and conspiracy. On remand in Wandsworth all four were treated as convicted prisoners, denied visits, exercise and hobbies and forced to wear prison uniform. They were tried at the Old Bailey before Judge Cantley in January 1977. At the trial Eddie, along with Harry and Joe, admitted to the Guildford and



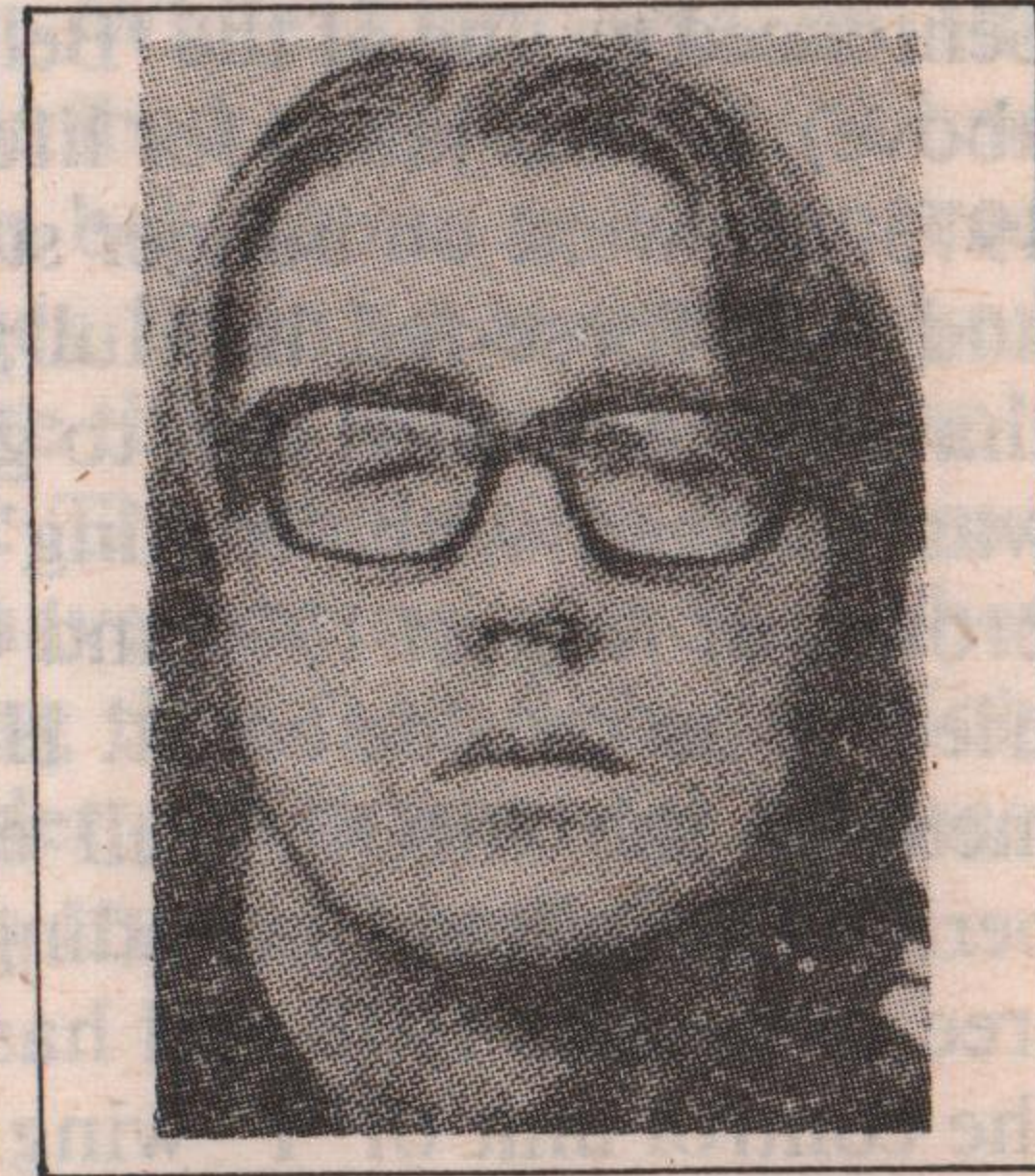
BILLY ARMSTRONG



PADDY ARMSTRONG



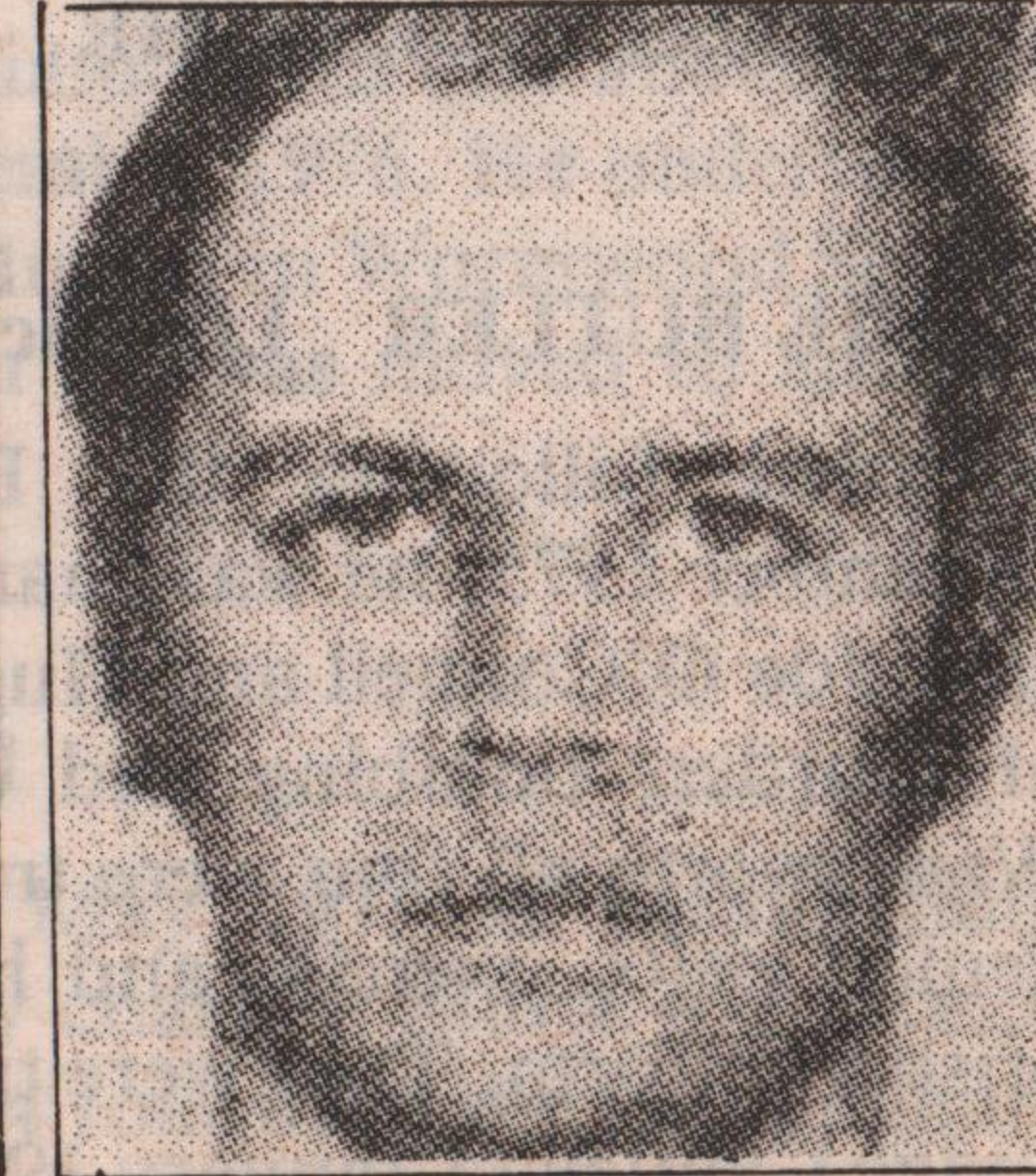
LIAM BAKER



JAMES BENNETT



MARTIN BRADY



EDDIE BUTLER

Woolwich bombs for which others had been framed (see Paddy Armstrong above). Subsequently they also gave evidence, along with Brendan Dowd, at the appeal of Armstrong and the others but the convictions were allowed to stand.

At the trial, while not recognising the court, the Balcombe Street four used every opportunity to point out the inconsistencies in police evidence and especially in that of so-called 'explosives experts'. As a result of this, and due also to a forceful speech from the dock by Joe O'Connell, the jury acquitted on a large number of counts showing obvious sympathy with the clearly expressed political motivation of the four.

After his conviction Eddie, along with Hugh Doherty, spent more than two years in solitary confinement under prison Rule 43 which allows prison governors at their own discretion to hold prisoners in solitary for reasons of 'good order and discipline' even though they have not contravened prison rules. Eddie was held in Winson Green and Manchester Strangeways where the restrictions placed on his visitors included having to speak to them through a screen and not being allowed any physical contact. When the special security unit at Leicester jail reopened Eddie was moved there along with fellow POWs Brian Keenan and Brendan Dowd, but repressive conditions have led to protests by the prisoners which have resulted in their all being put in solitary in the unit.

EDDIE BYRNE Down
Married with three children.

Sentenced in Manchester along with Ann and Eileen Gillespie, Martin Coughlan and Pat Guilfoyle by Judge Croom-Johnson in February 1975 on charges of conspiracy to cause an explosion and possession, Eddie was given 18 years which was reduced to 14 on appeal. He was attacked and badly beaten in Albany in September 1976 by screws when he and five fellow POWs were staging a protest over the holding of Brendan Dowd in

solitary. He suffered a dislocated arm and severe bruising. He was tried before the Board of Visitors and, like the others, lost a huge amount of remission. In October 1977 he attempted to escape from the Scrubs with Ronnie McCartney, Paul Norney and Martin Coughlan. In March 1979 he took part in a rooftop protest at Parkhurst with Gerry Small, Martin Coughlan and Sean Kinsella while other prisoners staged a sit-down protest as a diversion. They protested at conditions in the jail and demanded repatriation.

They were on the roof for three days, during which time they were alleged to have done over £50,000 worth of damage. All lost between four and six months remission. Eddie refused to appear before the Board of Visitors hearing at which he was given 112 days in solitary. He was refused medical treatment while in Walton prison, Leeds, despite suffering severe pains. His request for a transfer to a prison which would be more accessible to his mother has been refused. He is presently taking proceedings against the HO to the ECHR.

HUGH CALLAGHAN Belfast
Married.

Sentenced to life imprisonment in August 1975 by Judge Bridge on charges arising out of the Birmingham bombs of 1974. He, along with five others, John Walker, Billy Power, Gerry Hunter, Richard McIlkenny and Paddy Hill, were severely beaten by police to extract 'confessions' and then subsequently by screws when they arrived at Winson Green. Despite the feebleness and inconsistencies of the case against them, and their protestations of innocence, all were found guilty. Their appeal was subsequently turned down and prosecutions against screws for assault led to acquittals. Attempts by the six to prosecute the police for assault have been struck out by the courts.

Callaghan signed statements after being arrested by police in Birmingham. He was kept without food and

sleep, slapped and kicked and threatened with a revolver. A police investigation into these beatings, the 'Owen' report, exonerated the police and implicated Winson Green screws who were later acquitted after a farcical trial at which they refused to give evidence.

SEAN CAMPBELL Tyrone
Married with two children.

Sean was one of the Luton Three, the other two being Phil Sheridan and Jerry Mealey who have since been released. They were charged with conspiracy to rob 'persons unknown', tried and sentenced at St Albans by Judge Willis in December 1973 to 10 years in jail. The case was remarkable for the number of police leaks about tip-offs and 'information received', but in April of the following year the body of Kenneth Lennon was found in Surrey and it became clear that he had acted not only as an informer but as an agent provocateur in the case. Nevertheless the Appeal Court headed by Widgery refused them leave to appeal, despite the fact that the prosecution had deliberately misled the court about Lennon being an agent provocateur.

In September 1976 Campbell, along with five others, the 'Albany Six' (see Byrne above) took part in a prison protest which resulted in his being so severely beaten by screws that he suffered a broken leg, fractured ribs and broken fingers. He was denied medical attention and had to go on hunger strike to achieve a move out of Albany. At the Board of Visitors he was sentenced to 570 days loss of remission which has resulted in his still being in jail while those sentenced with him have been released. He also spent over three months in solitary despite his physical condition. He was given no crutches and had to drag himself along the floor as he was so severely beaten. He is currently in solitary in Manchester. Protests about the beatings led the HO to assert that the six had 'bomb making' equipment in their top security cells. This however was never produced. Campbell is presently taking proceedings against the HO to

the European Court.

SEAN CANAVAN Mayo

Tried at the Old Bailey in October 1976 by Melford Stevenson and sentenced to 10 years on charges of plotting to cause explosions in 1973.

PAT CHRISTIE Belfast

Tried in Birmingham with Brian MacLaughlin, David Owen and Michael Reilly and sentenced by Kilner-Brown in October 1976 to 10 years on charges of conspiring to cause explosions.

TONY CLARKE Belfast

Married with children.

He was arrested in Liverpool in February 1977 and charged with causing an explosion and conspiracy. He was sentenced to 14 years by Judge Caulfield in September 1977. He was refused permission to see his children again by a judge who said that any man involved in such offences was unfit to have anything to do with children. He continues to fight for the right to have some contact with his children.

GERRY CONLON Belfast

Charged and tried with Paddy Armstrong (see above), Paul Hill and Carole Richardson for the Guildford and Woolwich bombs, he was sentenced to 30 years. He was arrested in Belfast in December 1974 and brought to England under the PTA. His father, Guiseppe, came over to see him and was also arrested along with the Maguire family (see below) and sentenced to 12 years despite strong protestations of innocence and derisory police evidence. Due to stress and medical neglect

Guiseppe died in the Scrubs in January 1980. He died declaring his innocence. Gerry has spent long periods in solitary and has had his appeal against conviction turned down. (See Paddy Armstrong above).

MARTIN COUGHLAN Dublin

Married with six children.

Sentenced to 16 years in Manchester in April 1975 with four others, (see Bryne above) he was then retried and sentenced in Birmingham in May of the same year. His sentence was reduced to 14 years on appeal. He was assaulted by screws in Winson Green in November 1974 along with a large number of other POWs who were on remand, and was subsequently refused legal aid to sue for damages. In November 1975 he took part in a rooftop protest at the Scrubs with Stevie Blake and Roy Walsh and again in Parkhurst in March 1979 when he was given 112 days solitary. He was moved out of Albany in March 1980 to do 28 days solitary in Winchester, a regular occurrence for POWs. He was then moved to Hull where, like other POWs, he is refusing visits because of the humiliating conditions imposed. Conversation with his family during visits was relayed back to the police. As a result of this he took a case against the HO to the ECHR. This was later thrown out when it was claimed that this procedure was 'necessary for security'.

BUSTY CUNNINGHAM Tyrone

Tried and sentenced at the Old Bailey in March 1975 as one of the 'Uxbridge 8', he was sentenced to 20 years for conspiracy to cause explosions. The trial was remarkable for the way in which the judge, the notorious Melford Stevenson, attacked the defence lawyers for their criticism of the police, ordering that they should not be paid out of public funds. Busty went on the blanket in Albany in October 1978 along with

Liam Baker, James Bennett, Tony Cunningham and Pat Guilfoyle. The protest over conditions in Albany lasted nearly two years. He was not been allowed to see his brother Gerry (also in jail) since his conviction and is allowed only one visit a year from his brother in Ireland.

GERRY CUNNINGHAM Tyrone

Sentenced with brother Busty (see above) to 20 years in jail, Gerry was badly beaten by screws following the Hull prison protest in 1976 and was subsequently held in solitary in various jails, as were other prisoners in an attempt to hamper the police enquiry. Gerry made a statement to the PROP inquiry and gave evidence at the trial of Hull screws charged with assault. Those convicted were given suspended sentences. Gerry started a High Court case demanding the right to seek redress against the punishment awarded by the arbitrarily conducted Board of Visitors kangaroo courts following the Hull Protest. These proceedings are now being carried onto the European Court. He also has proceedings before the ECHR on the basis of the Golder case governing a prisoner's access to his/her solicitor.

In a statement Gerry described how he was beaten after the Hull protest: 'Burns came up to me, grabbed hold of me by the hair and, still holding my hair, brought me down to my knees. This was very painful and as he pushed my head down I could not fight against it. When I got onto my knees Burns said, "Crawl you bastard." And with that I had to crawl on my knees as I was being dragged forward out of my cell and into the corridor ... I distinctly heard voices say, "Hang the bastard"; "Remember Bloody Sunday"; "Break his legs". As my head bent over somebody kicked me in the testicles ... As a result of this kick I fell to the floor ... I then felt a shower of kicks from the front and right hand side of my body ... I had various lumps on my head which I couldn't see but felt, red marks on my forehead, my right eye was black and half closed. My nose was still painful but had stopped

bleeding ... I had pains when I breathed, it was sore to the touch.'

TONY CUNNINGHAM Belfast

Married with one child.

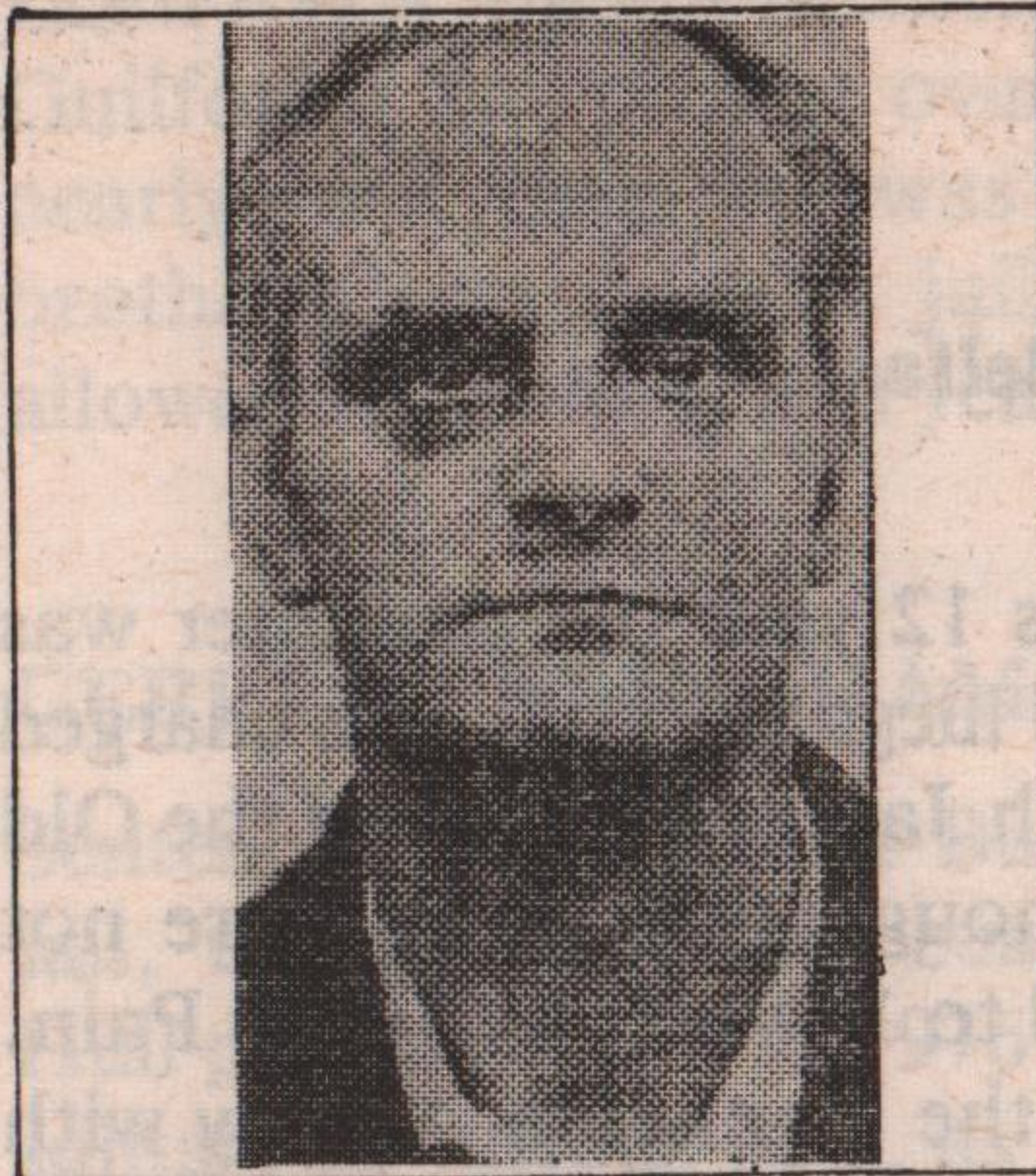
Arrested under the PTA, his 12 year old daughter was also arrested and interrogated illegally. Tony was charged with conspiracy and tried with James Murphy at the Old Bailey in February 1977 although their cases were not connected. He was sentenced to 10 years by Judge Pain. In October 1978 he went on the blanket in Albany with Liam Baker and others. He stayed on the blanket in protest at conditions in Albany until moved to Long Lartin in the summer of 1980. While on the blanket he was refused exercise and could not attend mass. During warm weather the heating was turned up in their cells and turned off in cold weather.

HUGH DOHERTY Donegal

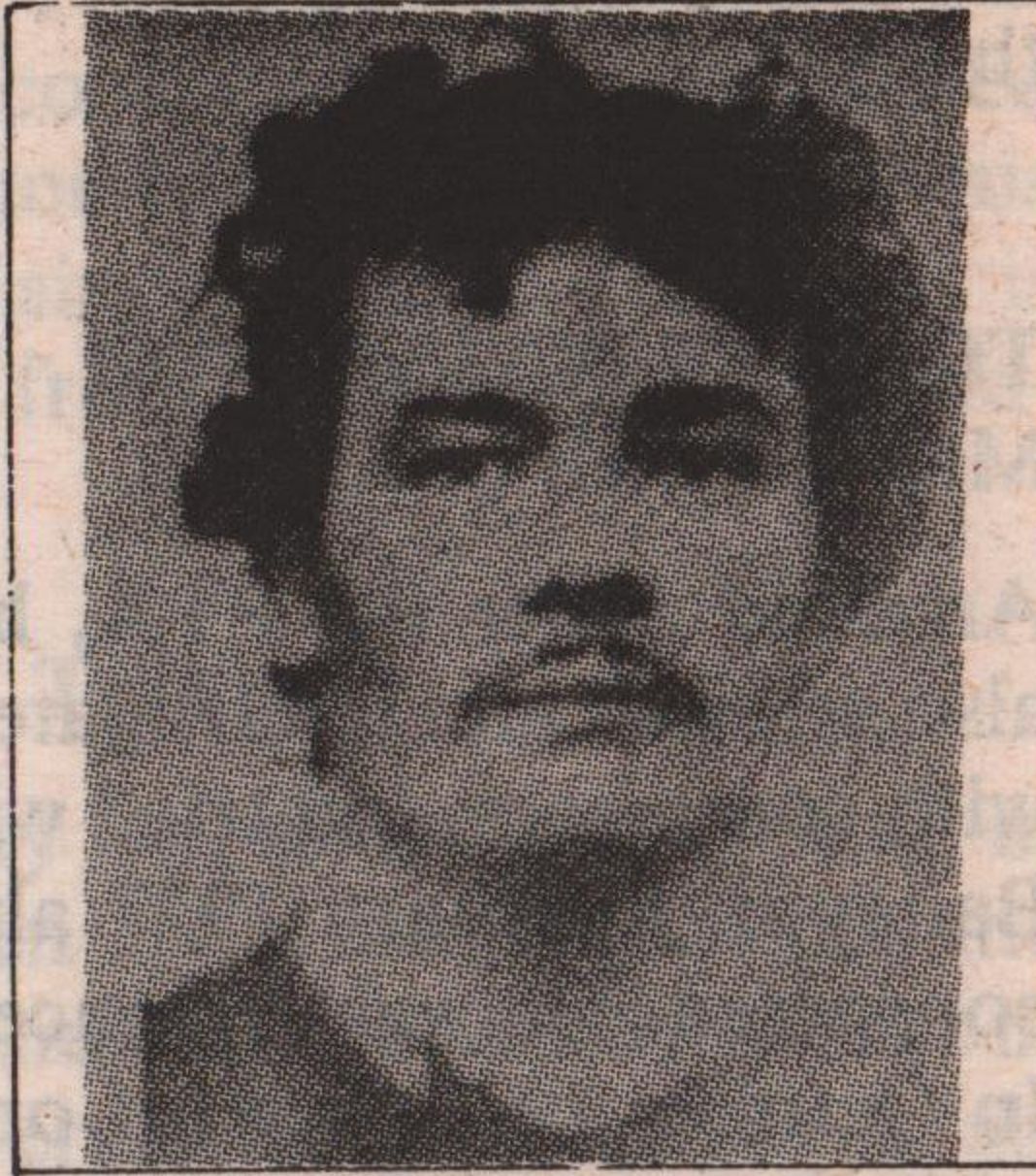
One of the Balcombe Street four (see Butler above), he was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Old Bailey in February 1977. After conviction, like Eddie Butler, he spent over two years in solitary in Durham. During this period he refused visits because of restrictive conditions. He was also assaulted three times by screws while in solitary but was himself charged with assault. Despite the fact that his solitary was ostensibly while the secure unit at Leicester was being repaired, he was eventually moved to Parkhurst.

VINCENT DONNELLY Tyrone

At the time of his arrest his aunt and her children were also arrested under the PTA and his uncle committed suicide. He was tried with his aunt (who was acquitted), Patrick Hackett and Sean Hayes. He was convicted on murder and conspiracy charges in June 1977 and



HUGH CALLAGHAN



SEAN CAMPBELL



GERRY CONLON



TONY CUNNINGHAM



HUGH DOHERTY



VINCENT DONNELLY

sentenced to life imprisonment. He is very deaf and prison authorities in various jails have 'lost' his hearing aid and refused him specialist medical treatment. He went on hunger strike in May 1978 over lack of medical attention. While in Wakefield he was held in the control unit in 'F' wing for 16 months. He has been charged with assaulting an assistant governor in Hull and is to be tried in an outside court.

BRENDAN DOWD Kerry

Charged with attempted murder, conspiracy and possession following his arrest in Liverpool in July 1975, he was tried with Sean Kinsella, Stevie Nordonne, Paul Norney and Noel Gibson in May 1976 and sentenced by Judge Cantley to a life sentence plus 129 years. At his trial police alleged he made a statement at a time when he was suffering from a fractured jaw sustained while 'resisting arrest' and was unconscious in a hospital intensive care unit as a result of police beatings. He refused to recognise the court and played no part in the trial where the police claimed that his arrest had been peaceful and made no mention of his injuries. Following conviction he was held for more than two and a half years in solitary and forced to wear the patched uniform of an escapee. While in jail Brendan has found novel uses for prison facilities and emptied his full chamber pot over a screw in Albany. In Long Lartin his classes on bomb making and usefully secreted diagrams were popular with all categories of prisoner.

In October 1977 he gave evidence at the appeals of Paul Hill and others framed for the Guildford and Woolwich bombs. Brendan, along with Joe O'Connell, Harry Duggan and Eddie Butler told the court how they carried out the bombings but their evidence was discounted. In September Brendan was moved into the security unit in Leicester along with Brian Keenan and Eddie Butler. The regime is very monotonous. The men have no hobbies and do not mix at all with prisoners in the other part of the jail. Political books are banned. On

visits prisoners have to sit behind a wooden partition and this also runs the length of the table underneath. Screws sitting on the podium supervise the visit. In September all the men in the unit, including English prisoners, threw the contents of their pots around the administration office in protest at conditions and were all given 56 days solitary.

Brendan has a complaint before the European Court relating to his assault on arrest, the denial of access to a solicitor and the refusal of legal aid. The British government attributes the injuries to an attempt by Brendan to butt his way out of a police van by fighting eight armed police officers.

JOE DUFFY (MOONEY) Dublin

Joe Duffy was tried with seven other prisoners in Birmingham in May 1975 and convicted on conspiracy charges for which he was given a 12 year sentence. While on remand in Winson Green he, like other Irish prisoners, was beaten by screws in November 1974. He took part in the Hull prison protest of August 1976 and afterwards was very badly beaten by screws. He was eventually charged with 11 offences and found 'guilty' of nine of them. He lost two years remission and was given three months in solitary. Screws in Hull tried to force him to sing *God Save the Queen* and when he wouldn't they beat him. As a result of his treatment in Hull he is taking a case against the HO to the ECHR.

HARRY DUGGAN Clare

One of the Balcombe Street four (see Butler above). He gave evidence at his trial and at the subsequent appeal by Paddy Armstrong and others that he, Joe O'Connell, Eddie Butler and Brendan Dowd had carried out the Guildford and Woolwich bombings. Since his sentencing to life in prison by Judge Cantley in 1977 he has been held in the top security unit in Parkhurst where he is not

allowed to associate with prisoners from the other wings of the jail, nor is he allowed to work. He has refused visits because he would not submit to mouth, anal and strip searches and spent Christmas 1977 in solitary, following a refusal to strip for a search.

KEVIN DUNPHY Tipperary

Charged with explosive and motoring offences, he was tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced to 12 years by Judge Swanick in June 1975. In 1976 he was severely injured in Parkhurst when screws left his cell door open while other prisoners were locked up and one prisoner, at the instigation of screws, attacked him with an iron bar. He was subsequently refused permission to consult a lawyer about suing for this assault. Following this attack there was a violent confrontation between Irish and English prisoners in the exercise yard after which both Irish and English prisoners were put on the block. When the prisoners came up from the block, work by other prisoners had succeeded in turning the whole situation around. The Irish prisoners were greeted with open arms, the attacking English prisoners apologised and the attacker of Kevin Dunphy was moved out of the prison for his own safety. As a result of the denial to consult a solicitor Kevin Dunphy is presently taking a case to the ECHR.

Fr PATRICK FELL Donegal

Tried with the late Frank Stagg and five others, the 'Coventry 7', in Birmingham in October 1973, his trial was one of the earliest Irish political show trials in England. While on remand all were held in solitary and extreme security precautions around the court were deliberately orchestrated to prejudice the jury. Despite the fact that there had been no explosions anywhere in the midlands at that time, all were charged with conspiring to cause explosions. No explosives were produced in

court and the evidence against them consisted of a street map, a cumann banner and a lot of anti-Irish prejudice of which Fr Fell, as a priest, particularly carried the brunt. He was sentenced to 12 years. On being moved to Wakefield jail Monsignor Cunningham, the HO employee who is overlord of Catholic affairs in English jails, took steps to prevent Fr Fell being able to say mass after Fr Fell said a mass for those murdered on Bloody Sunday.

Fr Fell made, and continues to make, repeated applications to be repatriated so that his parents can visit him. In June 1976 his mother, who had been very ill for some time and unable to travel from Donegal, died. He was refused permission to attend the funeral. The following month a pregnant friend was strip-searched when she visited him. In September 1976 he was injured along with five others in the Albany protest about the treatment of Brendan Dowd (see Byrne above). His nose was broken in the attack and he had to have several stitches in his head. He was called before the regional director of prisons who was looking into the incident but refused to say anything as he was not legally represented. He lost 570 days remission and was given 56 days solitary. While in solitary he was prevented from pursuing his Open University course.

Since that time Fr Fell has been taking legal steps to regain his lost remission, to get parole, to obtain a transfer to a jail in Ireland and to win damages for assault. Recently visitors, including his father's housekeeper, were refused permission to see him although they had travelled all the way from Ireland to the Isle of Wight. He has now contracted TB in Parkhurst and his father is too old and frail to visit him. All those convicted with Fr Fell have now been released. His comrade Frank Stagg died after a prolonged and painful hunger strike in Wakefield in February 1976 following a period of constant harassment and victimisation because he refused to wear prison uniform. Fr Fell has a case arising from his beating in Albany before the ECHR. He has been offered a job by Bishop

Dreery of Texas but this has been refused by the HO on the ground that they were unknown to each other before Fr Fell's conviction.

NOEL GIBSON Laois

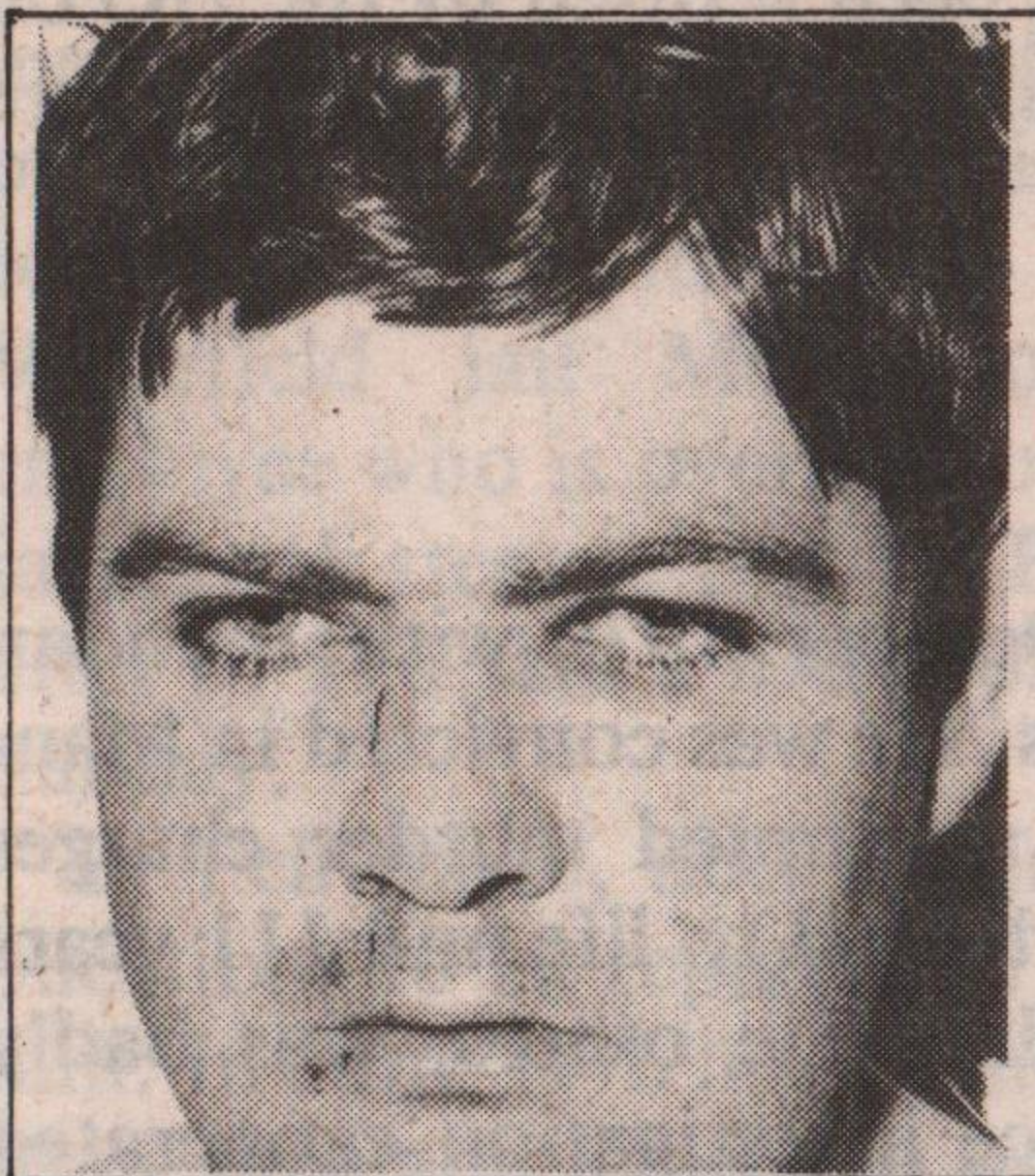
Charged in Liverpool in October 1975 with Brendan Dowd (see above) and others. He was convicted in Manchester on conspiracy and attempted murder charges and in May 1976 he was sentenced to life and 111 years by Judges Cantley. Noel, like the others, was badly beaten by police but a police investigation exonerated the police. In March 1978 he attempted to escape from Parkhurst with Roy Walsh. Now in Hull he is refusing visits because of the impositions on POWs and their families.

ANN & EILEEN GILLESPIE Donegal

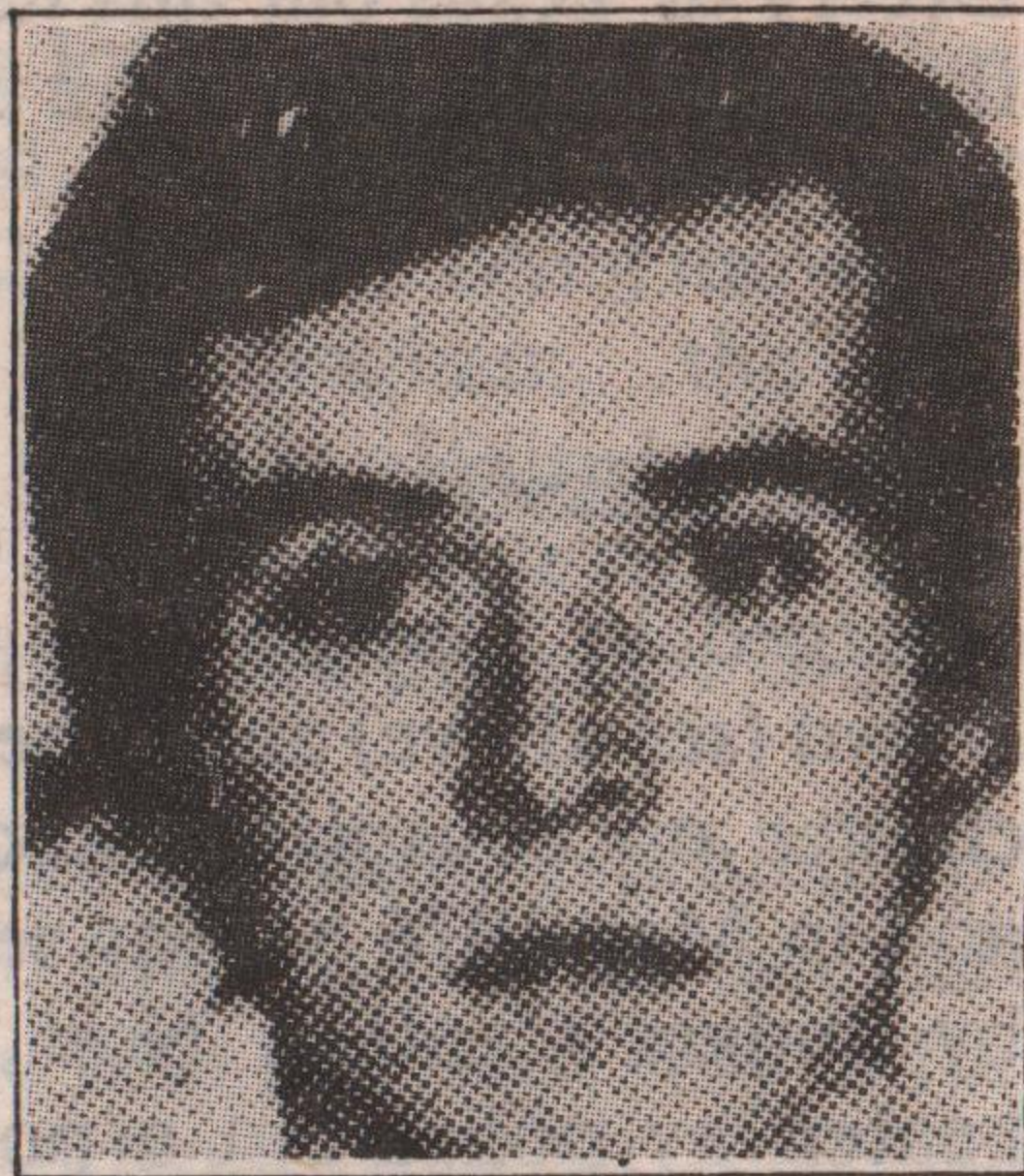
Tried and convicted on conspiracy charges in Manchester (see Byrne above), in February 1975 they were sentenced to 15 years in jail. This was reduced to 14 on appeal. Despite the circumstantial nature of the case against them and efforts by their brother, they were refused leave to appeal against their conviction and attempts to have their case reopened have failed. They have served virtually the whole of their sentences in Durham top security prison in very restricted conditions. They are still being held as Category 'A' top security prisoners.

PAT GUILFOYLE Tipperary

Tried and sentenced in Manchester with Eddie Byrne (see above) and others, he was sentenced to 15 years in February 1975. He was then retried in Birmingham with Martin Coughlan and others and again sentenced on conspiracy charges. His sentence was reduced to 14 years on appeal. Beaten by screws in Winson Green in



BRENDAN DOWD



HARRY DUGGAN



HUGH FEENEY



NOEL GIBSON



ANN GILLESPIE



EILEEN GILLESPIE

November 1974, he was refused legal aid to sue for assault. He now suffers from a form of claustrophobia as a result of beatings and his ill-treatment in jail. Attempts were made while he was in Gartree to give him the powerful disorientating drug largactil. He asked to be taken out of a noisy workshop but this was refused. His mother died after suffering severe burns in December 1977 and he was taken once only, handcuffed, to her hospital bed. In October 1978 he went on the blanket in Albany from where he was moved to solitary in Winchester before being taken to Hull. While in Winchester a razor blade was pushed under his door with a note saying: 'Next time it will be your throat'. Although his father is seriously ill, he has been refused permission to visit him.

PATRICK HACKETT Tipperary

He was arrested in March 1976 following an explosion in London which severed his arm and a leg and gave him other terrible injuries. He appeared in court in a wheel chair to be charged with Vincent Donnelly (see above) and others. At remand hearings other prisoners complained that he was being ill-treated in Brixton by screws who would set dogs on him and who threw him in and out of the van. There was also considerable delay in fitting him for artificial limbs and this increased his difficulties. His bed was taken out of the cell during the day despite the fact that he had only one leg. He was even put in the punishment block for 56 days. He was not fitted with an artificial leg until the end of 1978. He was sentenced at the Old Bailey by Judge Croom-Johnson to 20 years in May 1976 and sent to Wormwood Scrubs where he was to spend over four years.

He went on the blanket in the Scrubs with Mick Murray in February 1980. As a result he again had the furniture removed from his cell during the day and was harassed and victimised by screws. In August 1979, during the riot by the screws MUFTI squad, he was attacked and beaten, despite his crippled state.

In October 1980 he was moved to Wakefield jail where he was put into the control unit — euphemistically known as 'F' wing. On arrival at Wakefield his sole remaining personal possession, a dictionary, was confiscated. As an added torture refinement his artificial limbs have been taken away. All his bedclothes and his bed are removed from the cell from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and his heating is turned off. He has even been refused a blanket. His family have been told not to send him any more books as they are not considered to be 'official agents'; they have also been told not to send him any more newspapers or magazines. Patrick now faces the winter in barbaric conditions, having already suffered four and a half years of deprivation and harassment.

SEAN HAYES Dublin

Charged and tried with Vincent Donnelly (see above) and Pat Hackett, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of conspiracy to cause explosions in May 1976 and sentenced to 20 years. He spent a period in the control unit in Wakefield and also in local jails in solitary.

PADDY HILL Belfast

Married with eight children.

One of the Birmingham Six (see Hugh Callaghan), he was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Bridge at Lancaster in August 1975. Screws charged with beating him and the other five were acquitted and he was refused permission to sue the police whose beatings had led to four of the six making false confessions. Paddy Hill was pulled around, kicked and called a murdering bastard after police had fetched him from the Belfast ferry in Heysham which he had already boarded. 'I couldn't count the blows,' he said, 'After a while my body went numb. One of the officers gave instructions not to mark my face.' In a police car on the way to Birmingham he was whipped with the leather strap of a truncheon and

hit on the head with a revolver whose muzzle was put into his mouth. 'He told me he was going to blow my head off.'

He, like the others, was told that the lives of his wife and family were in danger and that an angry crowd had gathered outside his house. After the police attacks his ear was badly swollen, his head was sore and covered with lumps. His chest, upper arms and right hip were bruised, as were his legs. Despite this brutality he refused to make a statement. The prison doctor who gave evidence that he and the others were injured when they arrived at Winson Green was attacked and discredited at the trial. The chief prosecution witness was a supporter of the National Front and a man who had sheltered British agent Kenneth Lennon while he was on the run from an Irish jail. Paddy Hill's appeal was subsequently turned down even though the statements offered in evidence contradicted each other.

PAUL HILL Belfast

The first person to be held under the newly passed Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in December 1974 which gave police wide powers to arrest for questioning, Paul Hill also has the unfortunate distinction of serving the longest sentence of any POW in England. At his trial with Paddy Armstrong, Gerry Conlon (see above) and Carole Richardson at the Old Bailey in November 1975 for the Guildford and Woolwich bombs, Judge Donaldson ordered that Paul should spend the rest of his natural life in jail and should only be released when suffering from extreme old age or infirmity. In fact this was the second life sentence he received as in June of the same year he had been sentenced to life on a charge of murdering a British soldier in Belfast. He was taken to trial in Belfast from Brixton prison.

After June 1975 he was held in Wandsworth as a convicted prisoner. At the beginning of the Old Bailey trial he appeared late in court, very bruised around the face. Screws asserted that his injuries had been sustained

when he fell out of bed. Statements which he and his fellow accused had made while being held in conditions of total isolation, lack of sleep and food and heavy intimidation were the only evidence against them at their trial and there was no evidence of any contact with explosives. Nevertheless massive sentences were passed by Donaldson and when members of the Balcombe Street ASU later made statements exonerating them and admitting to the bombings and gave evidence for them before the Appeal Court in October 1977, the convictions were still allowed to stand.

Since his conviction Paul has spent over 800 days in solitary confinement and has spent time in every top security jail in England. He was on the roof in Hull during the 1976 protest and, after coming down, was badly beaten by screws before being moved to Leicester where he was put in solitary. In January 1977 he was still in solitary where he remained until May — a period of nine months although his period of punishment for Hull was supposed to be only 140 days. In a two year period ('75-'77) he was held in no less than 10 different jails. On arrival at Parkhurst he was advised by the governor to 'settle down' — to the rest of his life in jail presumably. He has a case against the government proceeding to the ECHR as a result of his treatment in Hull in 1976.

PAUL HOLMES Belfast

One of the 'Belfast 10' (see Billy Armstrong above), Paul was sentenced to life imprisonment on conspiracy charges at Winchester in November 1973. After his conviction, Paul, like the others, went on hunger strike for political status and repatriation. In his case however his life was quickly endangered due to a heart condition. It was in any case Paul's second experience of the horror of British imprisonment. In December 1971 he had been interned on the Maidstone and later transferred to Long Kesh. He had only been free eight weeks when he was arrested and charged with London car bombings.

While on hunger strike he was moved to Parkhurst prison hospital and after six days lapsed into a coma. He gave up the hunger strike but in the spring of the following year went back on hunger strike with Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg, both later to die on hunger strike. His two comrades were extremely anxious about Paul's condition and eventually persuaded him to give up the strike. Michael Gaughan was killed by force feeding in June and Frank Stagg died on hunger strike in February 1976.

Paul was then moved to Gartree where he spent 161 days in solitary for going to the aid of a fellow prisoner who was being ill-treated. In September he was back in Parkhurst where he again went on hunger strike in protest at conditions there. During this time, as during the whole of his imprisonment, visits from his family were few as his mother, whose health was poor, found the journey too tiring. During the Gartree prison protest about the drugging of prisoners, Paul gave full support to draw attention to the drugging of Michael Blake. He was then charged with six offences including two charges of mutiny and wrecking prison property and given 86 days solitary. Over the past few years his health has often given cause for concern and he continues to suffer from a heart complaint. Repeated requests for transfer to a jail in Ireland to enable his mother to visit him were refused. His mother has now died and he has no visitors.

GERRY HUNTER Belfast

One of the 'Birmingham Six' (see Callaghan and Paddy Hill above), he was convicted on murder charges in Lancaster in August 1975 and sentenced to life imprisonment. After his arrest Gerry Hunter was held for three nights in police custody. He was kept awake and denied food. A noose was hung on his cell door. He was punched and kicked by a large number of police while being interviewed for 12 hours at a stretch. He was told there

was a mob outside his house and that his family would only be moved to safety if he made a statement. Nevertheless he refused to make a statement. He was subsequently beaten on arrival at Winson Green jail. Like the others his conviction was allowed to stand despite the brutality of the police and the febleness of the case against them.

BRIAN KEENAN Belfast
Married

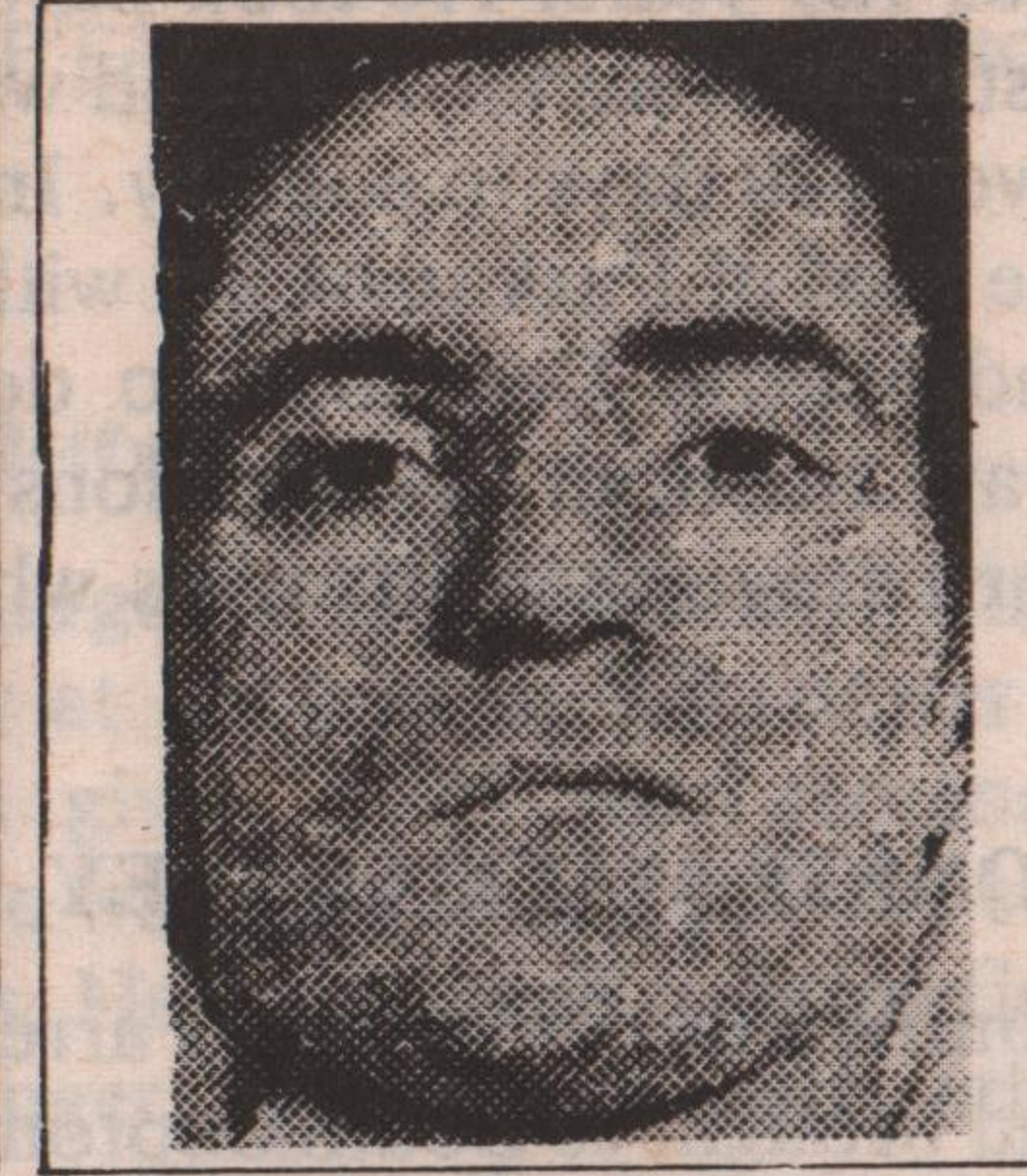
Brian Keenan was tried on conspiracy charges at the Old Bailey in June 1980 before Judge Kenneth Jones. As in the Balcombe Street case, to which the police tried to link him, the major 'evidence' against him consisted of bogus scientific 'forensic' evidence from the same police explosives witnesses who, at the earlier trial in 1977, had failed to point out that their own evidence pointed to the innocence of those convicted for the Guildford and Woolwich bombs. The other evidence against Keenan was a partly completed crossword. As in the Balcombe Street trial, the jury revealed their scepticism about the police case by staying out for the night and acquitting on two of the four charges. Their 'guilty' verdicts were 10-2 majority decisions. Nevertheless Brian Keenan, who had been brought to England after arrest in Ireland, was given an 18 year sentence and is now in the security unit of Leicester jail along with Eddie Butler and Brendan Dowd.

SEAN KINSELLA Monaghan

Arrested on Merseyside with Brendan Dowd and others in July 1975, Sean Kinsella was also badly beaten by police. He was charged with conspiracy and the attempted murder of a policeman and tried in Manchester before Judge Cantley along with Dowd, Gibson, Nor-donne and Norney. Like them he refused to recognise the court and was given a sentence of life imprisonment



PAT GUILFOYLE



PATRICK HACKETT



PADDY HILL



PAUL HILL



PAUL HOLMES



GERRY HUNTER

plus 129 years. He took part in the Gartree prison protest of November 1976 and was charged with mutiny and given 140 days in solitary. In March 1979 he went onto the roof of Parkhurst jail with Eddie Byrne, Gerry Small and Martin Coughlan to demand repatriation and to draw attention to conditions in the jail. They were supported by other prisoners who staged a sit-down strike.

RONNIE MACCARTNEY Belfast

Ronnie MacCartney was arrested in Belfast in May 1975 and brought to Southampton where he was charged with the attempted murder of a policeman. He was tried at Winchester by Judge Croom-Johnson in May 1976 and sentenced to life imprisonment. In October 1977 he, along with Paul Norney, Eddie O'Neill and Eddie Byrne attempted to escape from Wormwood Scrubs. They were attacked by dogs and three of them recaptured but there was no sign of MacCartney. He was found up a tree the next morning and spent 56 days in solitary. While in Gartree during the prison protest he came across his file which referred to him as a dangerous but intelligent subversive. It also revealed that screws had been instructed to try and break up his relationship with his fiancée.

He was moved back into Winchester in 1977 and put into conditions of extreme deprivation in a small whitewashed cell where the light was left on for 24 hours a day — a common practice where POWs are concerned. This eventually caused a deterioration in his eyesight. He undertook a no-wash, no co-operation protest and was moved to Hull when it reopened after the riot. Here, like other POWs, he was subjected to constant harassment and was eventually put down onto the block with the other POWs. In June 1980 with a group of English prisoners, he went up onto the roof on Wormwood Scrubs for 24 hours to draw attention to the brutality of the screws and conditions in the Scrubs which, in 1979, was the scene of a riot of armed MUFTI

squad officers. MacCartney's brothers were arrested and deported under the PTA when they came from Ireland to visit him.

LIAM MACLARNON Belfast

One of the 'Belfast 10' charged with conspiracy, Liam MacLarnon pleaded guilty at his trial in Winchester in November 1973. He was given a 15 year sentence. Following his conviction he was held in solitary for two years in Wormwood Scrubs. He was moved to Wakefield in 1975 and went on hunger strike there with other POWs in November 1975. This was the hunger strike that led eventually to the death of Frank Stagg. MacLarnon was moved out of Wakefield into Albany where in September he was one of the 'Albany six' (see Campbell and Byrne above) who were attacked and badly injured by screws. He had to have stitches in his face and head and these were inserted without anaesthetic. After completing the period in solitary imposed by the Board of Visitors before whom he refused to appear, he was kept down on the block under Rule 43. His family has encountered great harassment and difficulty when visiting him from Belfast. He is currently taking proceedings against the HO to the European Court.

BRIAN MACLAUGHLIN Derry

Brian MacLaughlin was arrested in Southampton and taken to Birmingham in October 1975 where he appeared in court charged with planting incendiary devices — an apparent reference to a series of incidents for which eight other prisoners had already been tried and sentenced to a total of 99 years in jail in May of the same year. He was eventually charged with conspiracy to cause explosions along with Pat Christie, David Owen and Michael Reilly. All were tried before Judge Kilner-Brown in October 1976 and sentenced to ten years. He was held in solitary for four months in Bristol following

the Gartree riot. Brian's uncle, Patrick Doherty, was murdered by British soldiers in Derry on Bloody Sunday in January 1972.

RAY MACLAUGHLIN Donegal
Married with one child.

Ray MacLaughlin was arrested by police in Coventry in November 1974 following an explosion which killed James McDaid. He was charged with causing an explosion, tried in Birmingham and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in March 1975. Following the Hull prison protest of August 1976 he was beaten by screws in Hull and was then beaten again when he was moved to Wandsworth. His visits with his wife were supervised by four screws and he was not allowed to say anything about Hull or his conditions in Wandsworth. All his personal possessions including books, radio and family photos were destroyed. After spending three months in solitary he was taken before a kangaroo court where he was given nine months solitary.

After doing his solitary Ray was moved to Wakefield. His wife was constantly harassed on visits and his small son was prevented from going around the table on visits to sit on his father's lap. As a result of these conditions, he and other POWs went on a blanket protest and he was put into the control unit. He was confined to a whitewashed, soundproofed cell and did not see any natural daylight or know the time and no-one spoke to him. These conditions so severely disorientated him that after coming out of the unit it took him over a week to write a letter to his wife. Subsequently POWs in Wakefield are put into the control unit at the slightest opportunity or moved to local jails for periods of solitary in an arbitrary manner.

In June 1979 an incendiary device exploded in the education block in Wakefield and the army was called in by local police. Ray was moved out to Leeds but when his brother, who is deaf and dumb, arrived there from Australia for a visit, he found that Ray had suddenly

been switched back to Wakefield. He travelled to Wakefield where he was given only one hour's visit although he had to communicate everything by writing. In January 1980 exasperated POWs smashed up a workshop to show their disgust at visiting conditions. All of them were put in solitary and lost remission and 'privileges' — although as they had none, this made very little difference. The control unit in Wakefield, supposedly closed by the Home Office, is used to train screws as part of the HO programme to accustom them to brutality. Ray is just one of the many POWs who have been victims of this programme.

Ray is proceeding to the European Court with cases arising from the attack in Hull and the denial of access to a solicitor. Mrs MacLaughlin is taking the British government to the ECHR over the appalling visiting conditions she and Ray are made to suffer.

BERNARD MCCAFFERTY Belfast

Sentenced with Liam Baker and James Bennett following the QE2 trial in Winchester by Judge Ackner. McCafferty was sentenced to 16 years on conspiracy charges.

CON MCFADDEN Meath

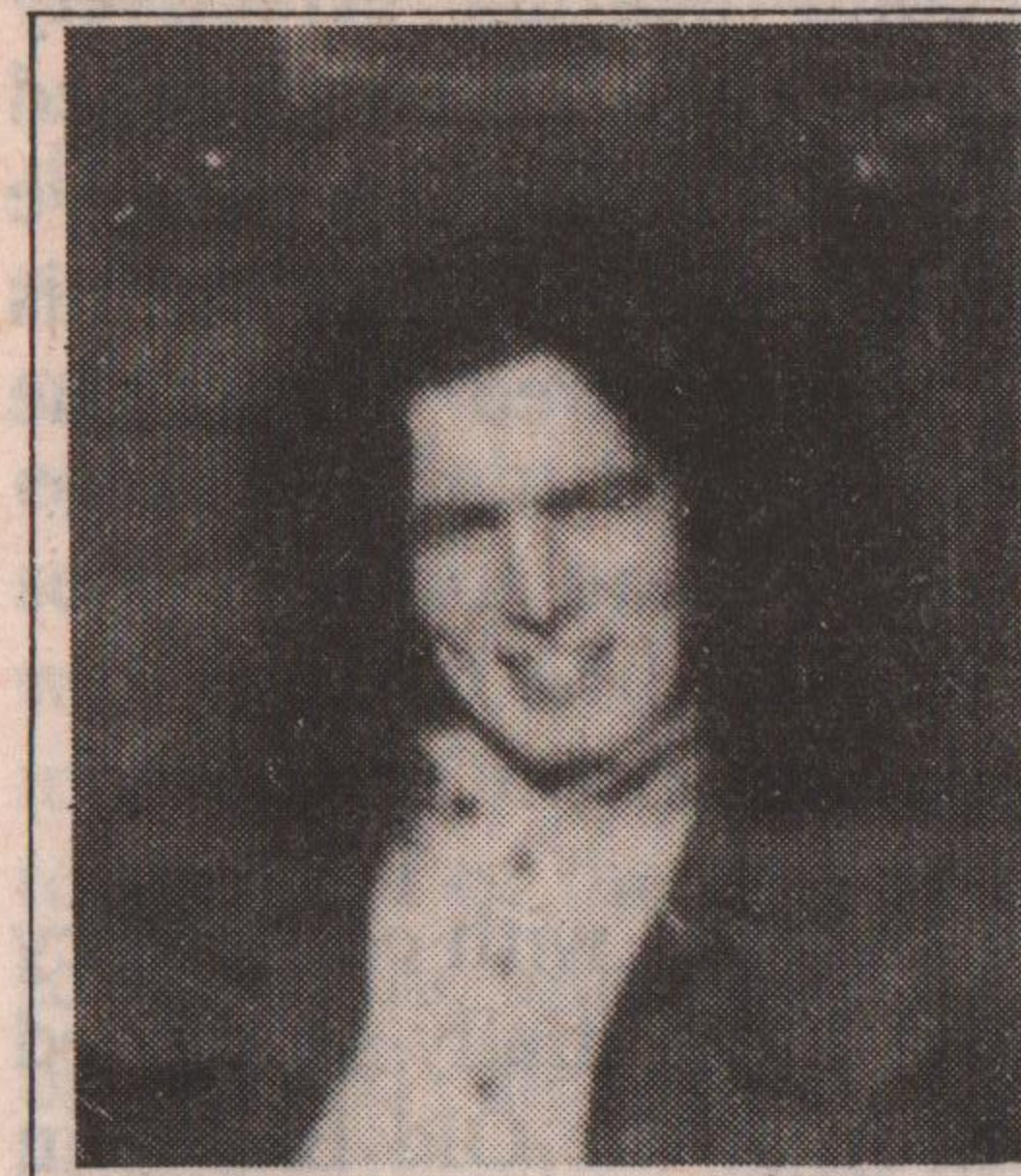
One of the 'Uxbridge 8' (see Busty Cunningham above), he was sentenced to 20 years at the Old Bailey by Melford Stevenson in March 1975 on conspiracy charges. After conviction he was moved to Albany where, in September 1976 he, like the rest of the Albany six, was set on and beaten by screws for protesting about the treatment of fellow POW Brendan Dowd. Con suffered bruising all over his body and was dragged by his hair down a flight of stairs. He was put into solitary for three months and lost two years remission. While in solitary his father died in December 1976. He was moved to Winchester where he continued to be held in solitary

under Rule 43. He was held in an empty cell with no radio, papers or exercise. His girl friend and his mother were subjected to humiliating searches when they visited him and were told that if they went to the toilet during the visit, it would have to end. Their visit was ended after only 20 minutes even though he was entitled to several missed visits. He is taking proceedings to the ECHR in relation to the assault in Albany.

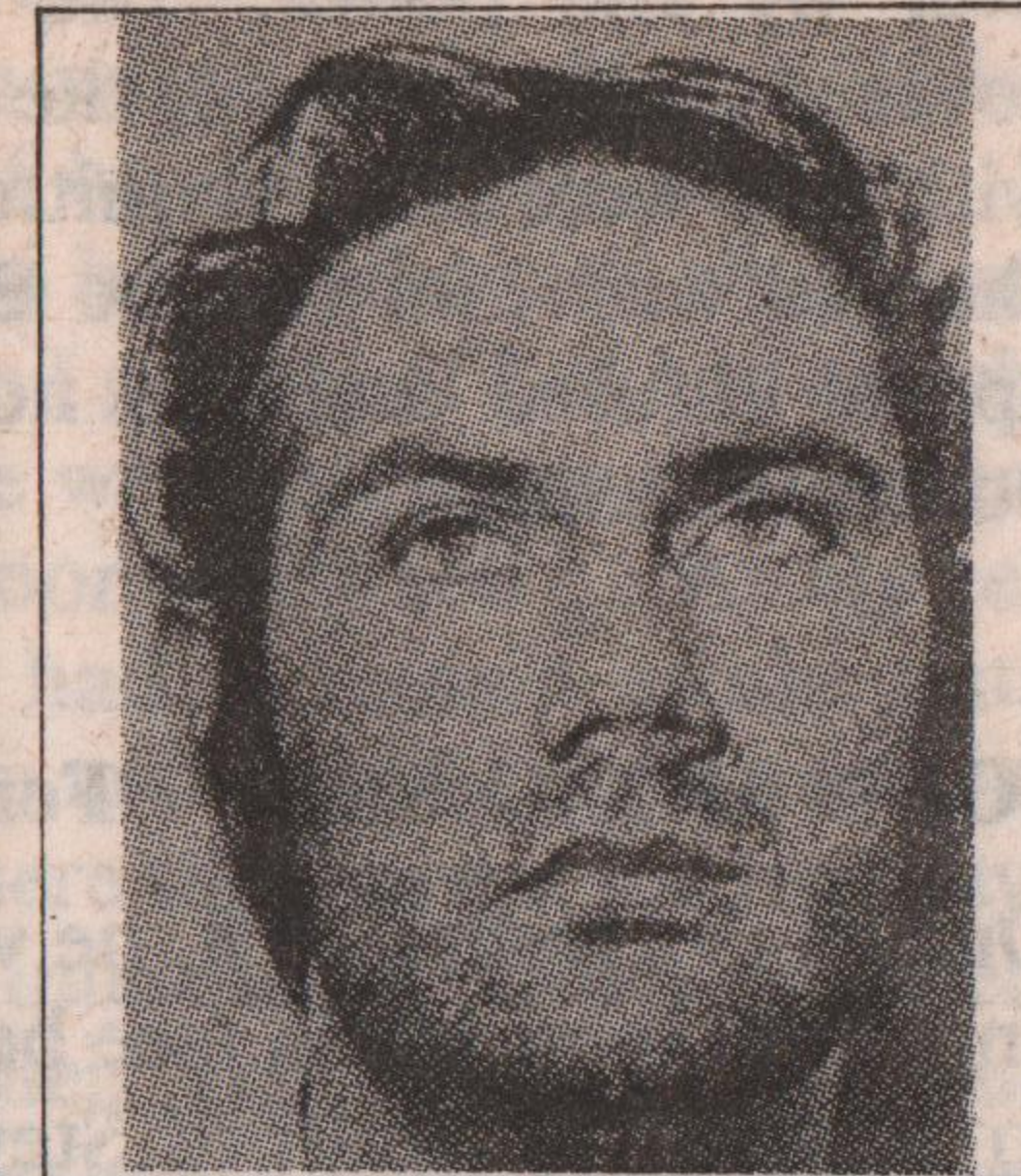
RICHARD MCILKENNY Belfast
Married with three children.

One of the Birmingham six (see Callaghan and Paddy Hill above), he was arrested at Heysham in November 1974 while on his way to the funeral of James McDaid who was killed by a bomb in Coventry. In a statement about his treatment by Birmingham police he said: 'I was placed with my back to the wall. Woodwiss took out a revolver and aimed it at me. I was asked if I was going to make a statement. I said no and Woodwiss, still aiming the revolver, pulled the trigger. He was aiming at my head and the top of my body. There was a click, Woodwiss swore, half turned away and fiddled with the revolver. He took aim again and asked if I was going to sign. I refused and he pulled the trigger again. The gun went off. I had a hell of a shock, my heart jumped and I thought I had had it.'

Woodwiss fired three times. On the third occasion, McIlkenny's statement continues, 'He pulled the trigger again and the same thing happened, the report and out of the barrel came some little pieces of black stuff, something like burnt cotton ... I knew I was going to be shot dead.' Eventually, after also being punched and beaten, he signed a statement. 'At the time I did not care what I was doing.' Despite the evidence of police brutality, Judge Bridge ruled at the Lancaster trial of McIlkenny and the others that their statements should be admitted in evidence and discounted the evidence of a prison doctor who testified to their injuries. McIlkenny was also badly beaten in Winson Green jail when handed



GERRY KELLY



SEAN KINSELLA



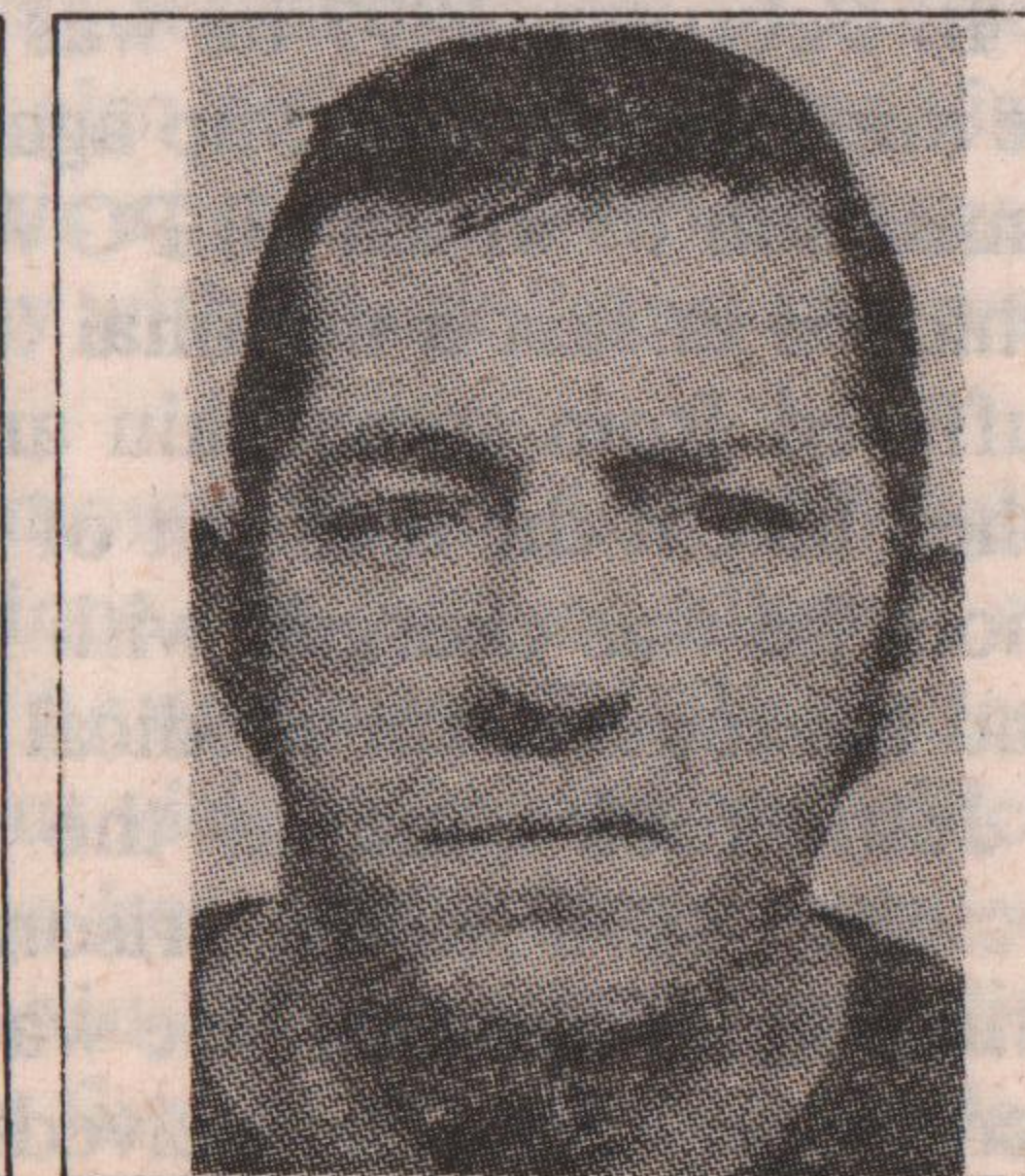
RAY MacLAUGHLIN



TONY MADIGAN



ANN MAGUIRE



BERNARD McCAFFERTY

over by the police. The second beating effectively covered up the marks of the original one. Screws charged with this were later acquitted. McIlkenny, like the five charged with him for the Birmingham bombs, had his appeal refused and has not been allowed to sue the police for assault.

JOHN MCCLUSKEY Fermanagh

One of the Uxbridge 8, he was charged with conspiracy and, like John Melia (see below) was initially sentenced to 20 years by Melford Stevenson at the Old Bailey in March 1975. His sentence was also cut to ten years on appeal when the Appeal Court discovered that he had been sentenced for an offence he had not been charged with. While in Albany in September 1976 he took part in a protest with five others about the treatment of Brendan Dowd. Like them, he was viciously attacked by screws and beaten unconscious. He was left naked in a cell all night with the window open. He was held in solitary from September 16, 1976 until February 17 of the following year. He had to have stitches put into his injuries on two separate occasions and two of his fingers were broken. He then received a letter from the HO telling him that there was 'no substance' in his 'allegations' that he had been 'assaulted' by screws.

In February 1977 he was moved to Wakefield where he immediately came up against the harassment and victimisation to which all POWs are subjected in that jail, which is in fact a national 'training' jail for screws. He suffered from some pain and infection in his feet and when he cut the toes out of his regulation prison plastic shoes he was charged with 'damaging prison property' and his request for medical treatment was refused.

John took part in the Gartree prison protest of October 1978 when prisoners published the forcible drugging of inmates. He was moved into solitary in the Scrubs and finally received loss of remission totalling 380 days i.e. more than one year added to his sentence. He was also given 85 days in solitary although he had

been in solitary since the previous year.

While in the Scrubs John wrote to the Home Office describing the infestation of his cell by cockroaches: 'I was awakened from my sleep by a cockroach which was crawling over my face. When I got out of bed and switched on the light I found there were lots more of these insects crawling around the floor of my cell ... As my cell was infested with vermin I had to remain awake until morning.' On 9 August John and Paul Norney went on to the roof of the Scrubs where they stayed for two days to mark the anniversary of internment. Other prisoners barricaded themselves in their cells in solidarity and others refused to leave the exercise yard. The prisoners in their cells were dragged out and systematically beaten and those in the exercise yard had dogs set on them. John is taking proceedings to the ECHR in relation to the protests in Albany, Gartree and Wormwood Scrubs.

TONY MADIGAN Galway

Tony Madigan appeared in court in Birmingham in August 1974 along with seven others charged with conspiracy. He was tried and sentenced by Judge Forbes in May 1975 to ten years in jail. While on remand in Winson Green in November 1974 he and the other Irish prisoners were attacked and beaten by screws. He was moved to Wakefield and was refused access to classes and gym facilities. He was also refused a private visit with his solicitor to discuss his appeal. In 1976 he staged a rooftop protest in solidarity with Frank Stagg who was dying on hunger strike.

In January 1977 he was moved to the Isle of Wight where he has remained since, in either Albany or Parkhurst. While in Albany he and other POWs undertook a no-work protest about visiting conditions which resulted in their spending the best part of two years on the block. Visiting conditions in Albany remain very difficult with often as many as five or six screws crowded into the small visiting box to 'supervise' the visit. All women visitors have to be searched by a policewoman

and are not allowed into the jail if she is not there. Although Tony was told he would be allowed to do an Open University course, a great number of obstacles have been placed in his way.

ANN & PADDY MAGUIRE Belfast

Ann Maguire, her husband Paddy, her brother Sean Smyth, her two sons Vincent and Patrick, her brother-in-law Guiseppe Conlon and a friend, Pat O'Neill, were all arrested under the newly-passed Prevention of Terrorism Act in December 1974. Ann herself was initially charged with murder in connection with the Guildford and Woolwich bombs which her nephew Gerry Conlon and three other young people were eventually sentenced for. The murder charges were later dropped but she was still charged with possession of explosives as were those who had been arrested with her. They were all held in custody but after some months Ann and her children were bailed. Repeated applications for bail on behalf of Guiseppe Conlon, already a sick man, were turned down.

The family came to trial at the Old Bailey in early 1976. They were tried before Donaldson who, in the autumn of the previous year, had tried the Guildford and Woolwich case and had handed down the heaviest sentences ever given in an English court to those framed on these charges, including Ann and Paddy's nephew and Guiseppe's son, Gerry Conlon. From the start attempts were made by the prosecution to link the two cases, although there was no evidence to link them or indeed any evidence at all, and so connect the family with the bombs. Headlines like 'Auntie Ann's Bomb Kitchen' were picked up by the British press from the prosecuting counsel Michael Havers, now British Attorney General.

The only evidence against the family was 'forensic' tests which, it was claimed, showed that they had been handling explosives. There was no sign of any explosives anywhere in or near their house and the Maguires were not politically active in any way. The specific tests

carried out at Woolwich arsenal have since been discredited. The jury were obviously bemused by explanations which would have been farcical if they had not had such tragic consequences. On 4 March 1976 all were found guilty and sentenced. Ann and Paddy were given 14 years, Guiseppe Conlon, Sean Smyth and Pat O'Neill got 12 years and the two boys 4 and 5 years.

In July 1977 all were refused leave to appeal against conviction. The Appeal Court upheld the validity of the forensic tests even though they had been carried out by an 18 years old apprentice and the evidence afterwards destroyed so that no cross-checks could be made. Pat O'Neill, who had been in the house at the time of the arrests to leave his children with Ann Maguire while his wife was in hospital, had his sentence cut to eight years and was released after serving two thirds of his sentence, as were the boys. Subsequent attempts to have the case reopened have so far failed despite the fact that Guiseppe died in prison protesting his innocence in January 1980.

Throughout their imprisonment Ann and her husband have been able to see each other only for very limited periods. At one stage four visits a year with each other were established — this is the normal number allowed per year when both husband and wife are in prison — but a vicious press campaign resulted in these visits being cut to twice a year. This allows them only a total of four hours a year together. Their daughter, who is being looked after by relatives in Belfast, has been refused financial help to make the journey to visit even though she is so young she has to be accompanied by a relative. Ann and Paddy have also been held in jails widely separated from each other and from Sean Smyth so that relatives visiting them all have to make a massive cross-country trek. Ann's visits are so strictly supervised that they have to be booked weeks in advance. Of the 15 Category 'A' prisoners in the women's wing in Durham, Ann is the only one to have closed visits.

JERRY MEALEY Dublin

One of the Luton Three (see Campbell above), Jerry was charged with conspiring to rob 'persons unknown' and sentenced at St Albans by Judge Willis in 1973 to 10 years imprisonment. All three were refused leave to appeal despite the role played by Kenneth Lennon as an agent provocateur. While on remand in Leicester, Jerry managed to give the then Tory Home Secretary Robert Carr a punch on the nose during his tour of inspection. He took part in the protest in Gartree in October 1978, after which he was held in solitary in Wormwood Scrubs and Leicester. While in the Scrubs in December '78, he staged a one-man protest to coincide with a PAC picket. As punishment for his alleged role in the Gartree protest he was given an additional month's solitary and lost 440 days remission. On 10 October 1980 he was given leave to appeal to the High Court against this loss of remission.

JOHN MELIA Meath

One of the Uxbridge 8, John Melia was tried for conspiracy and causing explosions at the Old Bailey before Melford Stevenson and sentenced to 20 years in jail in March 1975. This was reduced to ten on appeal.

ANDY & PADDY MULRYAN Dublin

Charged along with other members of the Uxbridge 8 with conspiracy, they were tried at the Old Bailey before Melford Stevenson and each sentenced to 20 years in jail in March 1975. From then until late 1980 both brothers were held in separate prisons and not allowed to see each other. In October 1978 Paddy saw his father for the first time for four years in the Scrubs but was forced to refuse his last visit because of harassment from screws who tried to strip him before the visit. Now both brothers are on the block in Hull following a bogus helicopter escape scare used by the Home Office as a

cover for a joint screw/police/SAS operation.

JAMES MURPHY Belfast

James Murphy was arrested twice in London under the PTA before being arrested a third time in February 1976 and charged with conspiracy. The charge against him alleged that he had conspired with Joe O'Connell, one of the Balcombe Street four (see below). When he came to trial in March 1977 the evidence against him was a letter neither written by him nor to him which had already been used as evidence in the Balcombe Street trial and given wide publicity. The trial of James Murphy and Tony Cunningham who was tried with him was remarkable for the fact that the prosecution interpreted the conspiracy law in an entirely new way. At his appeal in November 1977 James Murphy's lawyer pointed out that the letter used to convict him, the so-called 'Dear Joe' letter, was written and received *before* the time during which the police alleged he had conspired with Joe O'Connell. It should therefore have been ruled inadmissible at trial.

The Appeal Court actually conceded that an important legal point was at issue but then refused the appeal and allowed his ten year sentence to stand. In October 1979 he was refused leave to take his case to the House of Lords. Since his imprisonment James Murphy has made many efforts to get his union, the T&GWU, to take up his case since he was arrested at work and one part of the case against him involved an alleged theft from his workplace which he denied. The prison have in fact refused to allow him to be visited by a union representative.

MICHAEL MURRAY Dublin

Married with six children.

Michael Murray was tried and sentenced twice for the same conspiracy charges. In May 1975 he was tried and

sentenced in Birmingham by Judge Forbes to 12 years in jail along with seven other defendants. In August 1976 he was tried and sentenced at Lancaster on conspiracy charges after the trial of the Birmingham six and given nine years along with Michael Sheehan (see below). Michael Murray had already been assaulted in Winson Green in November 1974. He was moved to Leicester after sentencing where he was told that his visitors would have to give one month's notice of intention to visit. In March 1976 he was moved to Parkhurst where he was attacked on arrival, beaten and put into solitary on the block where he remained for two months.

Eventually he was moved to Wakefield where he was placed in the control unit of 'F' wing for ten months. In the early part of 1979 he was moved to Wormwood Scrubs and there he went on the blanket in protest at his prison treatment and demanding repatriation. He has been on the blanket ever since. In October that year other POWs reported that his morale was high but that he was suffering from the effects of massive periods spent in total isolation. Although he was joined on the blanket by James Bennett and Pat Hackett when they were in the Scrubs, the POWs were kept isolated from each other. Mick Murray is now in Hull where he remains on the blanket.

STEVIE NORDONNE Louth

Stevie was tried in Manchester in May 1976 along with Brendan Dowd, Paul Norney, Sean Kinsella and Noel Gibson. He, like the others, had been beaten by police after arrest, in an effort to obtain confessions. All refused to recognise the court and Judge Cantley sentenced Stevie to life on 55 counts and 129 years in jail. Two police 'investigations' later exonerated the police of assaulting the prisoners. In September Stevie was put in a control unit in Wakefield and suffered severely from blackouts and dizziness as a result. He has never really recovered from the experience. The cell was padded and Stevie had to tear foam rubber off the walls in an at-

tempt to keep himself warm as it was unheated. During his 56 days there no-one spoke to him and he himself had difficulty in speaking when he came out. His food was served at different times of the day so that he did not know what the time was. There was no window in the cell — only a perspex block. He is taking proceedings to the ECHR because he was refused legal aid to sue the police for assault.

PAUL NORNEY Belfast

Paul was charged with Brendan Dowd and others with conspiracy and attempted murder and was tried with them before Judge Cantley in May 1976 when he was sentenced to life and 66 years. In October 1977 he, along with Ronnie MacCartney, Eddie O'Neill and Eddie Byrne attempted to escape from Wormwood Scrubs and he was given 56 days solitary — as a prisoner serving life he could not lose remission. In 1978 he was put in the control unit in Wakefield. During his three years in Wakefield he spent nearly two thirds of the time in solitary in the control unit. He has not been allowed association with other prisoners since 1977 but despite this, despite being forced to wear a distinctive uniform, having his clothes taken from him every afternoon until the next morning, he has fought these attempts to wear him down. In August 1980 he and John McCluskey demonstrated on the roof of Wormwood Scrubs on the anniversary of internment, against the continued British occupation of the Six Counties and the treatment of Irish POWs in English jails.

JOE O'CONNELL Clare

One of the four members of the ASU captured after the Balcombe Street siege (see Butler, Doherty and Duggan above) in December 1975. He was held on remand for 13 months before coming to trial in January 1976 at the Old Bailey before Judge Cantley. While on remand in

Wandsworth he, like the other three, was treated as a convicted prisoner, made to wear uniform and refused association with other prisoners. At their trial all four refused to plead on the grounds that they should also have been charged with the Guildford and Woolwich bombs and that the jury chosen to try them had been pre-selected by the police. Joe's counsel pointed out that Cantley himself had been on one list of 'targets' which was part of the evidence against them and requested that he disqualify himself but the judge refused. Throughout the trial he tried as hard as he could to thwart the prisoners' strong political defence.

At every opportunity the prisoners exposed police duplicity and the cover-up over Guildford and Woolwich. Commander Jim Nevill, then head of the Bomb Squad, told the court that he did nothing when the ASU told him their responsibility for the Woolwich and Guildford bombs, for which others had already been convicted. The prisoners presented no defence but Joe O'Connell read a statement from the dock on behalf of them all. In the statement Joe pointed out the hypocrisy of the refusal by the British to admit that those fighting for the freedom of Ireland are soldiers, not criminals: 'We say that no representative of British imperialism is fit to pass judgement on us, for this government has been guilty of the very things for which we now stand accused. This government carried out acts of terrorism in order to defend British imperialism and continues to do so in Ireland. We have struggled to free our country from British rule. We are patriots.'

The statement also highlighted the way in which the police had tried to cover up the frame-up of those convicted for the Guildford and Woolwich bombs by a manipulation of 'expert' evidence. The statement concluded with the words: 'As volunteers of the Irish Republican Army we have fought to free our oppressed nation from its bondage to British imperialism of which this court is an integral part.' The prisoners then left the dock. The jury, obviously impressed by what they had heard, returned 'not guilty' verdicts in no less than 22

out of the hundred counts. All four were sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that they serve no less than 30 years while the jury showed obvious signs of unease. In October 1975 O'Connell, Butler and Duggan along with Brendan Dowd gave evidence at the appeal of Paul Hill and others convicted of the Guildford and Woolwich bombs but this appeal was turned down. The appeal judges even descended to making anti-Irish jokes.

After conviction Joe was moved first to Walton, Liverpool, where he was assaulted by another prisoner soon after arrival. The Home Office then moved him to Armley, Leeds, after leaking a sensational story about guns being found in Walton. From Armley he went to the top security unit in Parkhurst where he has remained ever since under conditions of such tight security that he has three screws accompanying him everywhere. He continues to fight a system in Parkhurst which is psychologically designed to make the prisoners 'manageable'.

SHANE PAUL O'DOHERTY Derry

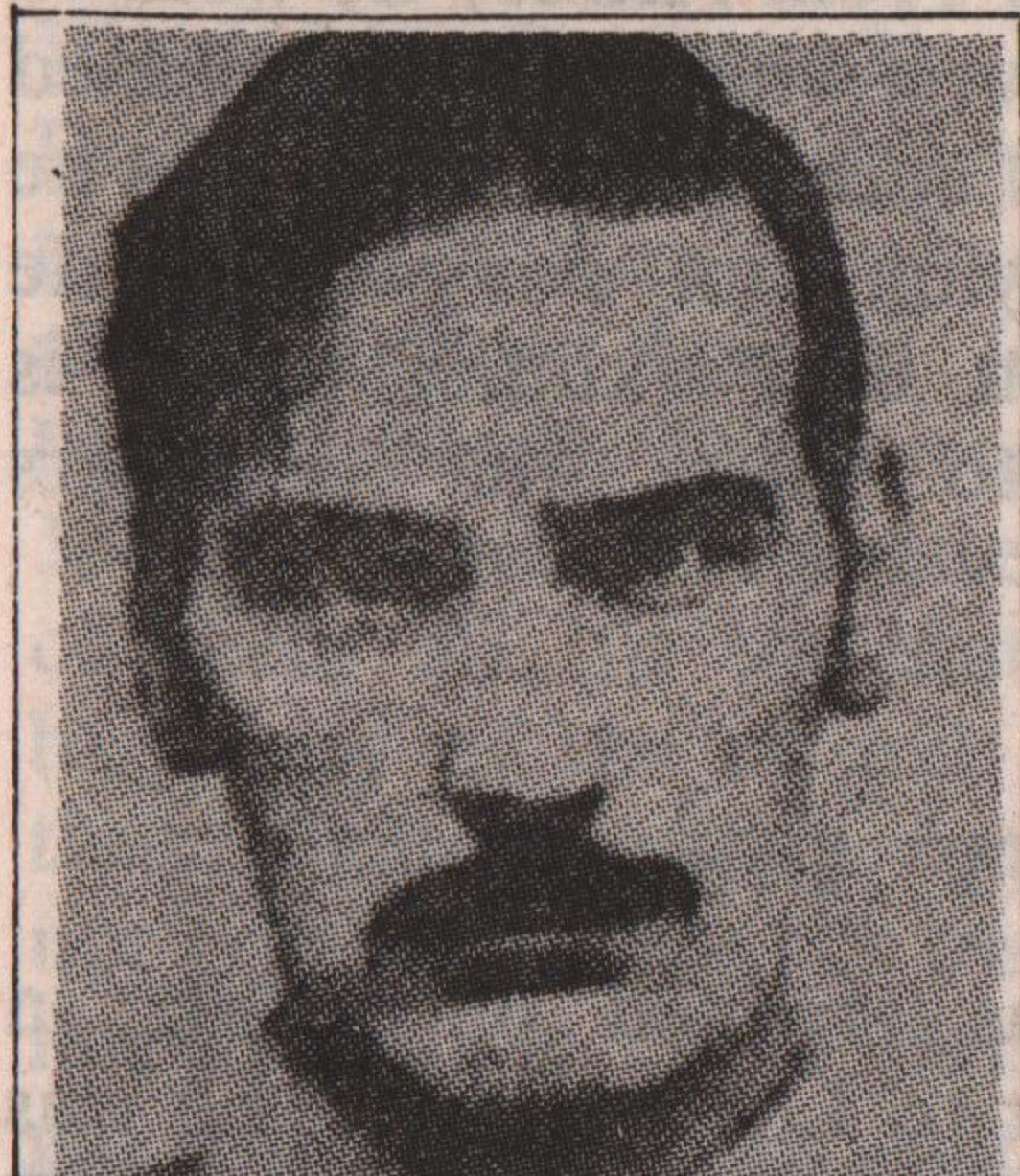
Shane Paul O'Doherty was arrested in Belfast in September 1975 and brought to London where he was charged with sending letter bombs through the post. These letter bombs had all allegedly been posted in Ireland so the legality of trying him in London for an offence which had been committed in Ireland was, from the start, dubious. At his trial in September 1976 he refused to recognise the court. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and immediately went on the blanket in Wormwood Scrubs demanding a transfer back to Ireland from where he had been kidnapped. He stayed on the blanket for over a year during which time his health deteriorated due to lack of exercise and fresh air and the prison diet. Eventually he gave up the protest.



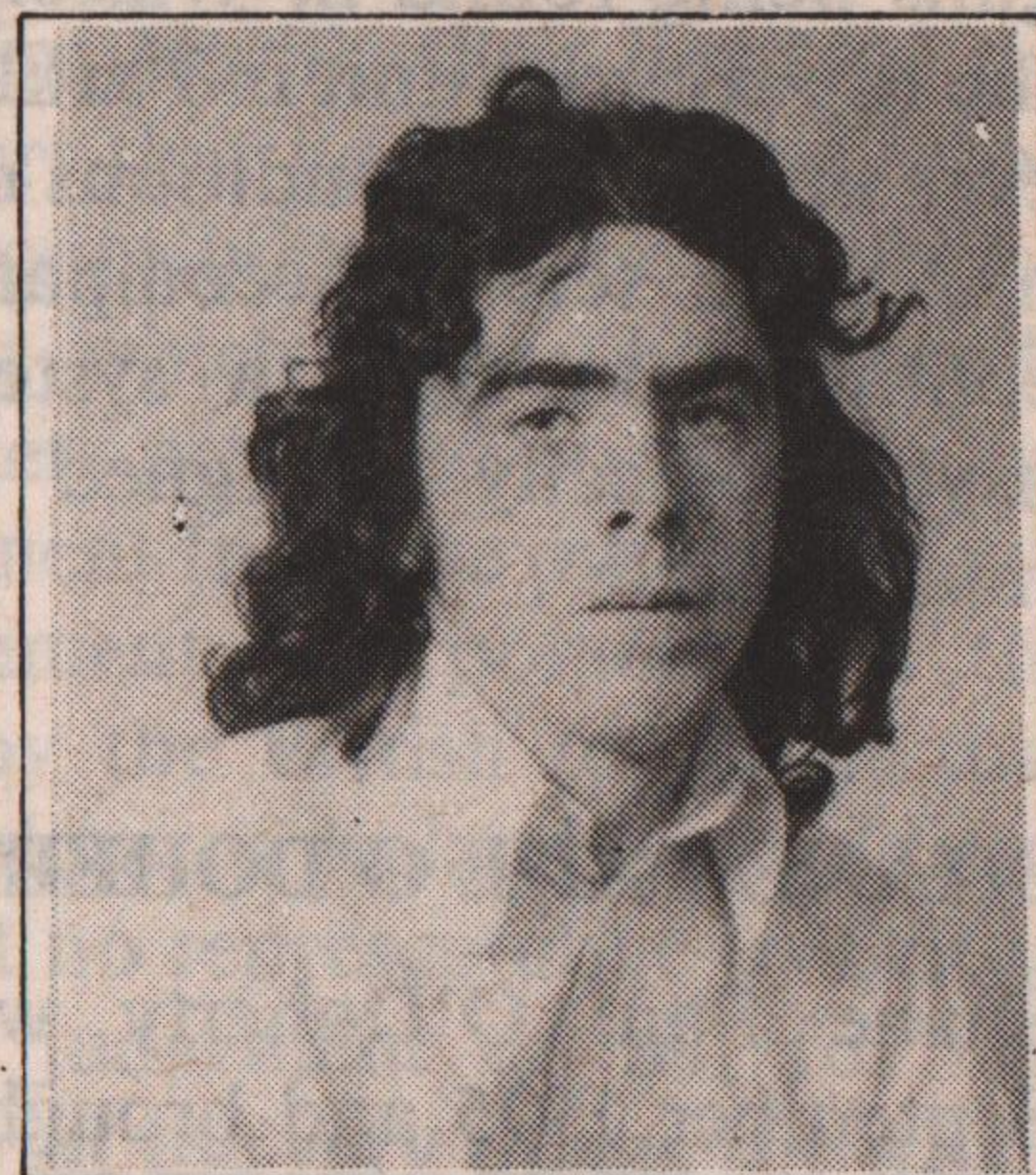
RONNIE MacCARTNEY



NOEL McILKENNY



JERRY MEALEY



STEVIE NORDONNE



JOE O'CONNELL



SHANE O'DOHERTY

EDDIE O'NEILL Tyrone

One of the Uxbridge 8, he was sentenced to 20 years in jail by Melford Stevenson on conspiracy charges in May 1975. In Wandsworth, where he was first held on remand, his property was destroyed and his glasses broken; he was held in solitary and forced to strip before and after each visit. In October 1977 he attempted to escape from the Scrubs with Ronnie MacCartney, Eddie Byrne and Paul Norney. After punishment for this he was eventually moved to Gartree where, in July 1978, he took part in a rooftop protest demanding political status and repatriation. In May 1979 he was suddenly rushed to Parkhurst prison hospital on the Isle of Wight suffering from severe symptoms which included blinding headaches which had persisted for two years, insomnia, partial blindness and partial paralysis.

It was eventually discovered that these symptoms were the result of the way Eddie had been treated as a prisoner on the 'E' list i.e. one considered likely to escape. The light had been left burning in his cell night and day, his cell was frequently searched, usually at night. Each night he was made to strip off and leave his clothes outside the cell. Eventually he became totally unable to sleep and began to suffer the symptoms of a victim of the 'sleep torture' condemned by the European Court of Human Rights when used as an interrogation technique in the Six Counties following internment. The authorities in Gartree refused to take him off the 'E' list and he eventually developed alarming symptoms which only abated somewhat after his transfer to Parkhurst.

In August 1979 Eddie was moved to Winson Green where he was put in solitary under Rule 43. At night he was again made to leave his clothes outside the door. At the time of the explosion that killed Lord Mountbatten, three screws entered his cell in the early morning and gave him a severe beating. They made no attempt to disguise their appearances. Eddie complained both to the governor and the prison doctor. The doctor refused to examine him and the governor charged him with assaulting screws for which he lost 140 days remission

and was given 56 days in solitary. When he announced that he would take the matter up with his solicitor he was charged with making false and malicious allegations against a prison officer and he was again sentenced to loss of remission and solitary. When he was granted legal aid to contest this blatant frame-up the HO quickly returned the lost remission claiming that it was a 'procedural error'.

DAVID OWEN Wales

Tried in Birmingham in October 1976 on charges of conspiracy with Brian MacLaughlin, Pat Christie and Michael Reilly. He was sentenced to ten years by Judge Kilner-Brown.

BILLY POWER Belfast

Married with two children.

One of the Birmingham six, he was beaten by police to make him confess to the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974 and eventually signed a statement thinking that he could withdraw it later. Describing his treatment at the hands of the police over a three day period he said that he was held in a small dark room with no light and no window. He was punched and kicked in the head by five policemen. He was spreadeagled against a wall with his hands up while a policeman attacked him shouting, 'You'll never have sex again.' He agreed to make a statement. 'I could not take any more beating. They were going to throw me through a window. I really believed my wife and children were in danger.' Like the other statements in this case, the one by Power was contradictory. Nevertheless at his trial on charges of murder in Lancaster in August 1975 it was allowed to stand and evidence of police brutality was discounted by Judge Bridge. The screws who attacked Billy and the other five in Winson Green were acquitted when they came to trial.

MICHAEL REILLY Dublin

Married.

Tried with Brian MacLaughlin, David Owen and Pat Christie on charges of conspiring to cause explosions, he was sentenced in Birmingham in October 1976 to ten years in jail. After conviction he was held in solitary for eight months in Wandsworth and his wife was refused permission to visit him on the grounds that she was not on his 'approved list' of visitors. He, like other prisoners in Wakefield, went on the blanket in September 1978 in protest at conditions there.

CAROLE RICHARDSON London

Carole Richardson was sentenced to indefinite detention after being tried with Paul Hill, Paddy Armstrong and Gerry Conlon on charges of murder in connection with the Guildford and Woolwich bombs (see Armstrong and Hill above). Despite the fact that O'Connell, Dowd and others gave evidence at her appeal that they had carried out the bombings and despite the fact that she had an almost water-tight alibi for the night of the Guildford bomb, in October 1977 the Appeal Court upheld her sentence. She is now in the women's security wing of Durham jail where, because of her age (17) at the time of the offences for which she was sentenced, she is facing a period of detention 'at Her Majesty's pleasure'.

PETER SHORT Belfast

Tried in Winchester with two other men who were acquitted on charges of contravening the Firearms Act, he was sentenced to ten years on 8 November 1974. In early 1976 he went onto the roof at Wakefield with Tony Madigan in solidarity with Frank Stagg, then dying on hunger strike. He was moved out of Wakefield to Gartree and then in January 1977 taken to Winson Green. Eight police cars accompanied him, he was badly assaulted on the way and told he would be thrown out of

the moving car and shot while 'attempting to escape'.

GERRY SMALL Belfast

Remanded in Winson Green in November 1974 he, like 13 other POWs, was attacked and beaten by screws. He came to trial with seven others, all charged with conspiracy, and was sentenced in May 1975 to 12 years. In March 1979 he took part in the rooftop protest at Parkhurst and was given 120 days solitary.

SEAN SMYTH Belfast

Married with four children.

Sean Smyth is Ann Maguire's brother (for details of trial see Maguire above). He was living in her house at the time of the police arrests and was subsequently framed with the rest of the family. He was sentenced to 12 years and had his appeal refused. His family find it very difficult to travel from Belfast for visits and he has always been held in jails a long way from his sister and brother-in-law.

PETER TOAL Belfast

Married.

Tried and sentenced with Brian MacLaughlin, Pat Christie, David Owen and Michael Reilly on conspiracy charges. He was sentenced to ten years in October 1976 by Judge Kilner-Brown.

JOHN WALKER Derry

Married with six children.

One of the Birmingham six, arrested and framed for the Birmingham pub bombs of November 1974 (see Paddy Hill, Hunter, McIlkenny above). Like the other five he was beaten by police and forced to make a false 'confes-



BILLY POWER



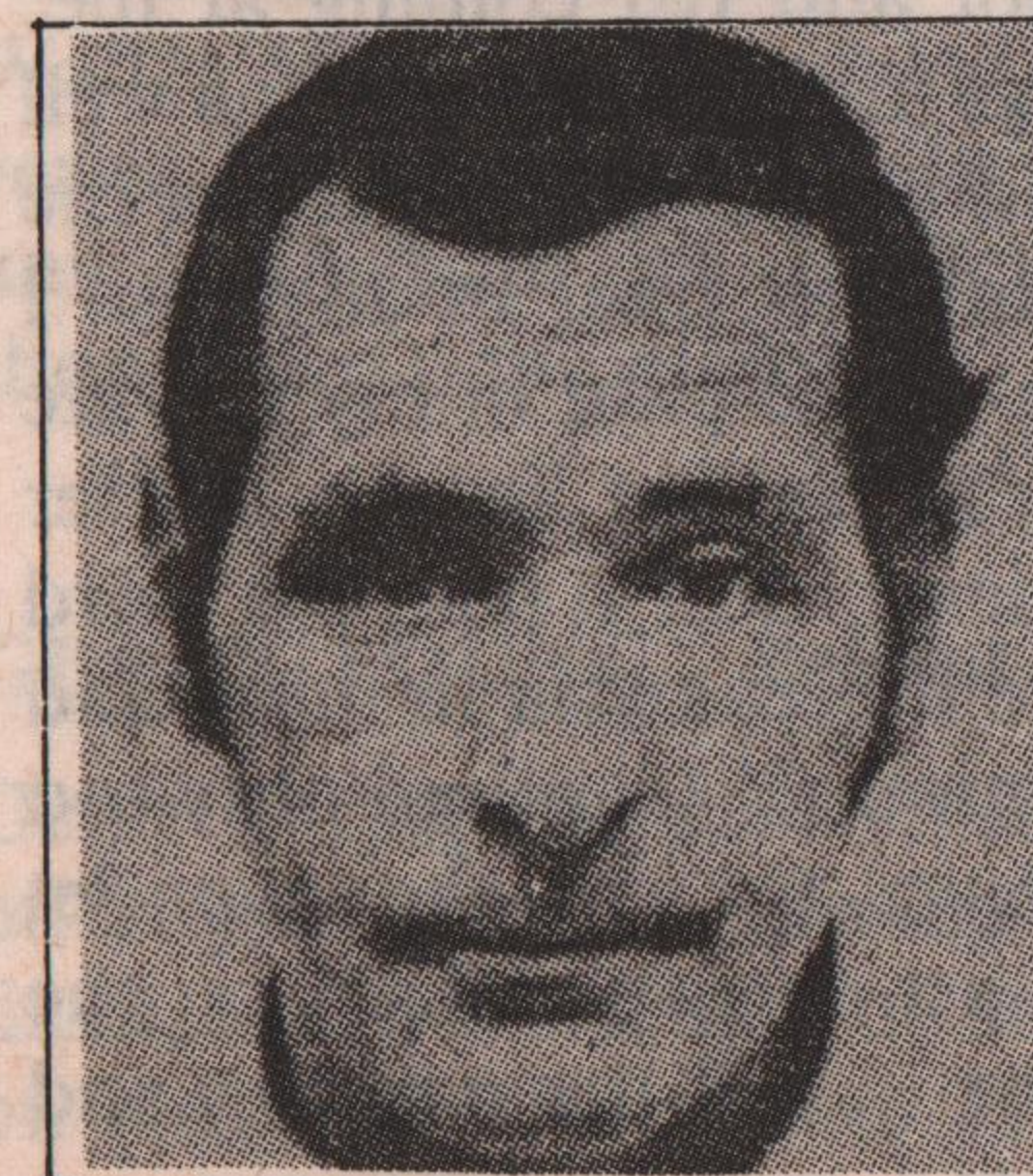
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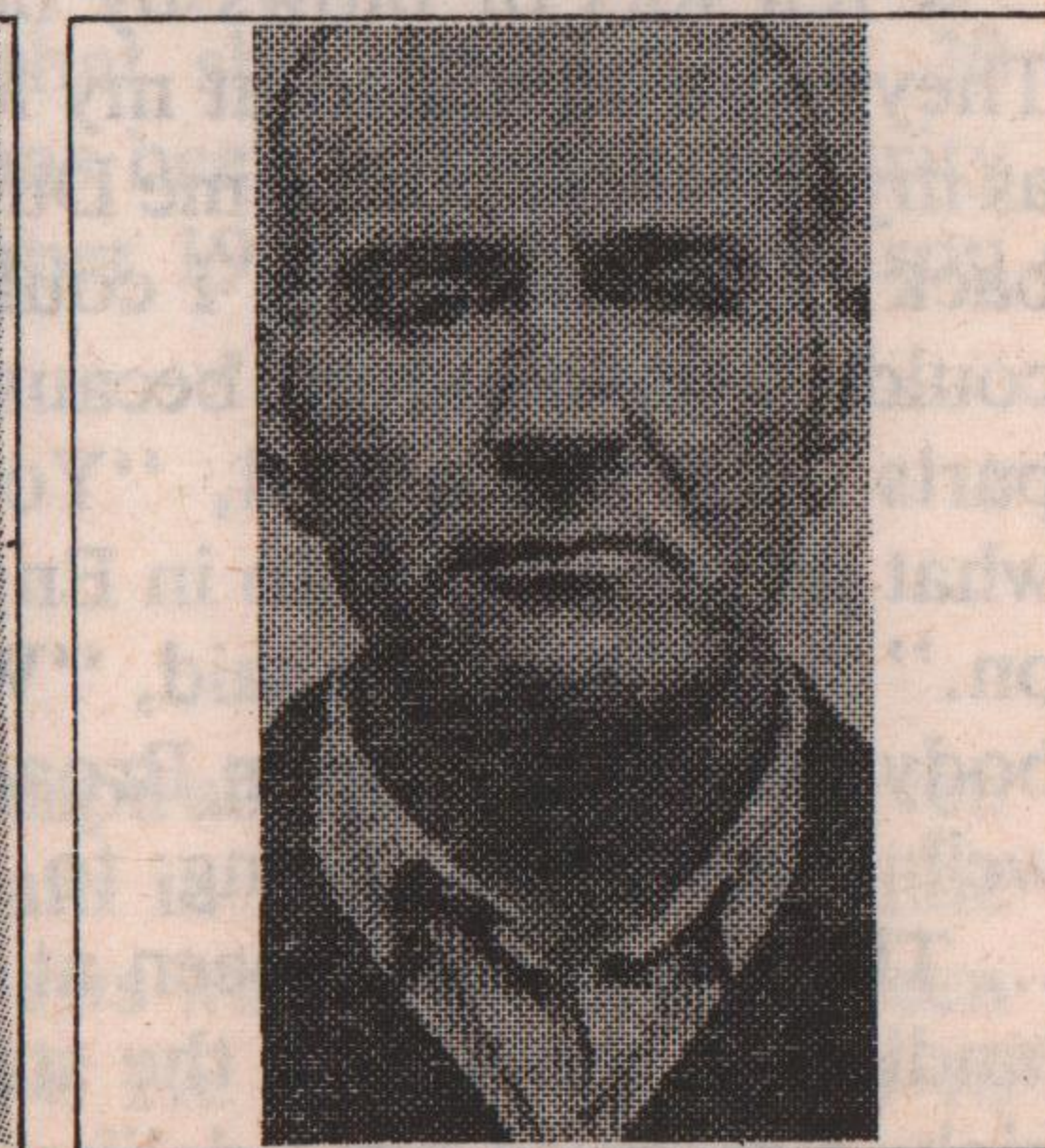
MARION PRICE



CAROLE RICHARDSON



PHIL SHERIDAN



JOHN WALKER

sion'. He was punched, kicked in his private parts and told that his house was being wrecked. After being beaten until he lost consciousness, he eventually made a statement but the beatings continued right up to the gates of the jail. He was kicked out of the van, landed on his face and lost five teeth. 'I ached all over from top to bottom. I was in a bad state. My back was killing me, my foot was swollen, I could hardly walk, my ulcer was nearly killing me. My head was aching with thumps and punches.' In fact when he signed his statement his hand had to be guided by a detective because it was shaking so much.

On arrival at Winson Green Walker's ordeal was not over. He, like the other five, was attacked and beaten by screws which effectively covered up the original beating. It was when Walker had to be helped into court that publicity over the treatment of the six began. At the trial in Lancaster in August 1975 the statements were ruled as admissible evidence and their appeals were subsequently turned down. They were refused leave to sue the police. Screws charged with their assault were acquitted. In Hull Walker was again attacked and beaten by screws following the Hull prison protest in 1976. In a statement he said: 'Dudding was still holding me and I felt a kick right between my legs ... the kick got me right between the top of my legs and believe me I was in terrible pain.'

'I felt lots of blows by boot and fist coming at me. They were all aimed at my legs and lower body, as well as my chest. All this time Dudding was holding me at the back of my neck and I couldn't get free. In any case I couldn't have moved because of the pain in my private parts ... A voice said, "You're on the list no matter what prison you go to in England, they'll pass the word on." Another voice said, "We'll break you in mind and body. You'll end up in Broadmoor." I realised only too well that I was going to have to run the gauntlet ... There must have been at least twenty officers on the landing at the top of the stairs ... All the punches and kicks I received were deliberate.'

ROY WALSH Belfast

Married.

One of the Belfast 10 (see Billy Armstrong, Brady, McLarnon, Holmes above), Roy Walsh was tried in Winchester in November 1973 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He, like the other nine convicted prisoners, went on hunger strike demanding repatriation. He was force fed in Wandsworth and forced to abandon the hunger strike. In November 1975 he spent thirty hours on the roof of Wormwood Scrubs with Martin Coughlan and Stevie Blake in protest against screened visits and the refusal of educational and recreational facilities to POWs. In March 1978 he attempted to escape from Parkhurst with Noel Gibson and was given 56 days solitary.

JUDITH WARD Stockport

Judith Ward was arrested in February 1974 and charged with the M62 coach bomb. She was tried for murder in Leeds in October 1974 and in addition to the M62 charges was charged with bombs at a defence college in Buckingham and one at Euston station. Police were forced to admit at her trial that her 'admission' contradicted their own evidence. Nevertheless she was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Waller who recommended that she serve at least 30 years. Since conviction she has been in the top security unit in Durham jail. In October 1975 she won a prison short story competition.

GERRY YOUNG Belfast

Gerry Young was tried on conspiracy charges with seven other prisoners in Birmingham in May 1975. He, like them, had been beaten by screws while in Winson Green on remand in November 1974. He was sentenced to 16 years but this was reduced to 14 years on appeal.



**ROBERT WALSH
STEPHEN BLAKE**



JUDITH WARD

Appendix I. Explanation of terms

Control Units.

Segregation units developed during the Tory administration of 1970-74 and introduced by the Labour Government Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins in the summer of 1974. Two such units modelled on the West German 'silent cells', were constructed at Wormwood Scrubs and Wakefield. Because of widespread campaigning against their use, only the later unit was officially opened. The Wakefield unit was forced to close in 1975, though both units have continued to be used for segregation under Rule 43, without the Control Unit regime. Many more similar cells are now used in most prisons.

Visiting conditions.

The prison rules specify one half hour visit a month by close relatives or friends known to the prisoner before conviction. Normally visits, at any rate for long term prisoners, are considerably longer and fortnightly. This variance though, typical of all prison rules, permits the Home Office to employ its double standard technique — cause any trouble by standing up for your rights or those of others and the Rule Book can be thrown at you. This can be developed further, by allowing visits only behind glass, with prisoner and visitor surrounded by screws, by denying physical contact between a prisoner and his children, by refusing admission to particular visitors and by body searching visitors including women and children. Irish prisoners and their families are no strangers to such practices.

Category 'A'.

Prisoners are classified into five security categories, ranging from 'D' for prisoners thought suitable for open prison conditions, to 'A' for those considered highly dangerous to the public or the state. Currently, such prisoners are dispersed amongst selected Category 'B' prisoners in seven top-security 'Dispersal' prisons. Their movements around the prison are closely controlled and they are accompanied at all times by a document like a passport, on which prison officers sign them over to each other as if they were so much baggage. All Irish political prisoners are in Category 'A', and there is strong evidence that the category is subdivided into 'Cat. 'A'' and 'IRA Cat. 'A''.

Category 'E'.

This is not strictly a category in the same sense as those above. A prisoner attempting to escape, or thought to be attempting, is given the 'E' classification, forced to wear special clothes with bright yellow patches, and subject to a special watch. It does not affect the prisoner's 'A' or 'B' status. It usually means that the prisoner will only get visits behind glass.

Rule 43.

This, the most sinister and open-ended of all prison rules, permits prison governors to segregate prisoners "in the interests of good order and discipline". It requires no report, no charge, and is not considered a punishment. It can therefore not be appealed against. Such an order must be notified to the Board of Visitors, and sanctioned by them every 28 days. In practice this can be continued indefinitely and there are many instances of prisoners languishing for years in solitary confinement under this ruling. A subsection of Rule 43, not to be confused with the above, allows for the voluntary segregation of prisoners, usually grasses and those convicted of offences against children, from their fellow prisoners. Though segregated, they are rarely in solitary or denied association with each other.

Solitary confinement.

Officially this does not exist because the Home Office has given it a different name, 'Cellular Confinement'. It can mean anything, from being locked in your own cell and not allowed to mix with other prisoners, to being shut up in a 'strong box', a tiny cell with a concrete stool and a chamber pot as the only furniture. Bedding is thrown in for the night and taken away again in the morning. Solitary confinement can be given as a punishment by the Governor or by the Board of Visitors, or it can be invoked under Rule 43.

Appendix II. Prisons in England

ALBANY

'Dispersal' prison for top security (Cat. 'A' and Cat. 'B') prisoners. Built in the 1960s on the Isle of Wight, where it adjoins and interconnects with Parkhurst prison. Centrally controlled electronic locking and unlocking of cell doors. Like all top security prisons it has closed circuit television monitoring of movements within and around the prison, double security walls, dog patrols. Shares with Gartree, also built in the 1960s, the distinction of being the most riot prone of English prisons. Notorious for its widespread use of control-drugs by the prison medical service.

PARKHURST

'Dispersal' prison (see above). Victorian, with brick walls and timber roof structure and landings. Undergoing major redevelopment following repeated breakouts onto roofs and the setting fire, last year, of one wing. Prison doctors, responsible for some of the most vicious

control drugging in any English prison. Contained, for several years, a special psychiatric wing and also a small Special Security Block. Noel Jenkinson was amongst the prisoners held there. Prison now down to a fraction of its normal complement because of reconstruction.

WORMWOOD SCRUBS, London

One of the largest British prisons. In fact it is four prisons within one outer perimeter. Each has its own distinctive regime. A-wing for newly convicted prisoners, usually on first offences. B-wing for newly convicted young prisoners awaiting allocation to borstals. C-wing, medium term training prison. D-wing, top security 'Dispersal' prison. For 18 months the prison has been in turmoil, with a blurring of the purposes of C and D wings and a consequent accumulation of many different causes of tension. In 1979 D-wing was the scene of a peaceful sit-down demonstration at which the MUFTI squad made its violent public début. The prison is currently undergoing many changes: borstal prisoners have been removed to Chelmsford so that B-wing can take the overflow of remand prisoners from Brixton, and the prison hospital is being closed for rebuilding.

GARTREE, near Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

See also under Albany. Another largely drug-controlled prison. Scene of a major riot in October 1978, in protest at the drugging of a young black prisoner. Three of the prison's four wings taken over and badly damaged. Only recently reopened. A new segregation block, linked by tunnel to the prison hospital, was probably intended to be the third of the Control Units.

LONG LARTIN, near Evesham, Worcestershire.

'Dispersal' prison, built at the same time as Albany and Gartree. Centrally controlled electronic locking and unlocking of cell doors. Generally recognised as the most 'relaxed' of the Dispersal prisons, though behind the scenes there is much unpleasantness.

WAKEFIELD, Yorkshire.

Another multi-prison, rather like Wormwood Scrubs. Several different regimes, including Lifers' Allocation Unit, a Rule 43 Unit (housed in the old Control Unit), and a Dispersal prison. A Victorian building. Also contains the central Prison Officers' Training School.

HULL, north east coast.

Victorian 'Dispersal' prison. Scene of the most spectacular of English prison riots in 1976. Wide press coverage with photographs of prisoners — black, white, Irish and English — linking arms on the prison roof, which they held for several days. Widespread public campaigns led to exposure of the brutal aftermath of the riot, and to the subsequent conviction of 8 prison officers on charges of conspiring to assault prisoners. Present use a little uncertain though it seems to be becoming, more and more, a punishment prison.

STRANGWAYS, Manchester.

Victorian local prison. Very big, very overcrowded, very unpleasant. Strangeways POA branch chairman is Brian Baldwin, notorious for National Front and Column 88 connections. Also the scene of the short-lived breakaway prison officers' union, the Prison Force Federation, which wanted to organise on more traditional trade union lines and was vigorously opposed by Baldwin and his men.

WANDSWORTH, London.

Not a 'Dispersal' prison, though its D-wing has a Category landing. Very tightly controlled prison with a minimum of facilities and no evening association between prisoners. A purposely hard regime operated by some of the worst prison officers in the business. Widely used as a punishment prison, also as the London allocation prison for newly convicted prisoners who have served previous sentences — presumably intended to remind

them how unpleasant prison can be before sending them on to serve their sentences elsewhere.

ARMLEY, Leeds.

Victorian local prison, squalid and depressing and similar to those already mentioned. Houses more prisoners than any other prison in the country, in grossly overcrowded conditions.

LEICESTER

Victorian local prison. Smaller than most. Boasts a remarkable main gatehouse complete with castle fortifications and portcullis. Contains, like Parkhurst and Durham, a Special Security Block. These were brought into use pending the preparation of the seven 'Dispersal' prisons to deal with Category A prisoners. Like similar expedients they have remained in use ever since, offering 'prisons within prisons' with all the opportunity for unpleasantness that that implies.

Further Reading:

Irish Voices from English Jails; Writings of Irish Political Prisoners in English Prisons. Published by PAC.

Irish Political Prisoners in England; Special Category 'A'. Published by Sinn Fein.

The Irish Prisoner magazine; issues 1, 2 and 3. Published by PAC.

The Irish Prisoner newspaper. Published quarterly by PAC.

Sir Michael Havers Bomb Kitchen; The case of Annie Maguire. Published as a supplement by *The Irish Prisoner* newspaper.