



INC NEWS

Freedom
Unity
Peace

Nuacht Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann

~

Saoirse

Aontacht

Síocháin

UNITED WE STAND!

No one could have imagined when the INC was formed in 1990 that we would still be in existence today. Not only are we still in business, but we have successfully adapted to a continuously evolving political environment.

Back in the 90's, we were a mass organisation with hundreds of activists and a nationwide network of branches. But by 1998 and the advent of the Belfast Agreement, many of the issues we had campaigned on, such as re-opening border roads and ending state censorship in the south (Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act), had been resolved. However, other issues such as combating revisionism and sectarianism will require eternal vigilance.

One issue which remains unresolved and which is central to our past, present and future agenda is the sovereign control of the entire island of Ireland by the people of Ireland. For various political and diplomatic reasons, many Irish political representatives feel themselves constrained from raising this issue as often or as robustly as they would wish. The INC however is under no such restraint and we will state vigorously and repeatedly that the only solution likely to bring a just and lasting peace to the peoples of these islands is a sovereign, democratic, independent and united Irish Republic.

Another aspect of the work of the INC since our foundation has been to give practical assistance and solidarity to nationalist communities in the North, around issues such as state killings, collusion and Orange marching. Our work in this area continues to this day. On October 25th & 26th, the INC will host an exhibition organised by the Belfast based *Relatives for Justice* group, highlighting the forgotten massacre of 11 Ballymurphy people by the British Army in August 1971.

The community of Ballymurphy needs and deserves our support in seeking justice for the wrong done by the British state 37 years ago. The objectives of *Relatives for Justice* have cross-party support in both houses of the Oireachtas.

Compared to those dark days of the 70's the North is now more peaceful. However, it is still far from being

at peace. Even today, there is a constant low-level warfare. Serious incidents of threats, beatings, shootings and arson, which rarely ever make it into the southern Irish media, are on-going. Much of this involves loyalist attacks against the nationalist and new-immigrant communities. There are worrying trends within nationalism also. There is the growing number of attacks against isolated rural Orange Halls, which the INC unreservedly condemns. The continuing military campaign being waged by some republicans, against the background of solid nationalist electoral support for the institutions set up under the St. Andrews Agreement, is both foolish and illogical.

This situation of small scale violence can only escalate if the present political impasse becomes total deadlock, and the aspirations of the nationalist people for tangible progress through the political process is contemptuously vetoed in the Stormont Assembly by the *Democratic Unionist Party*.

...continued overleaf

Cuireadh Speisialta – A Special Invitation

You are cordially invited to join with the families of those killed in Ballymurphy, Belfast 1971 to witness:

The Story of the Murders of 11 Civilians by the Parachute Regiment through testimony, photograph and music.

2.30pm, Saturday, 25th October 2008
Ireland Institute, 27 Pearse Street, Dublin

First told in St Mary's College in August 2007 and in Derry at the Bloody Sunday Museum as part of the anniversary events earlier this year this is a unique event and the only time that this event will be held in Dublin.

and

Legacy, Ballymurphy, August 1971 – a Photographic Exhibition by Jonathon Porter

25 – 26 October 2008
Ireland Institute, 27 Pearse Street, Dublin

The INC has from the beginning, consistently promoted and supported the Irish Peace Process, notwithstanding a number of serious misgivings that we outlined in our 1998 position document, *Critique of the Belfast Agreement*. Nationalist Ireland, for the most part, is supportive of the current policies being pursued by Sinn Féin in the 6 Co.'s, seeing national reunification as a process, rather than an event. Their policies are sane, credible and measured, taking into account national and global realities, and questions regarding balances of power.

Sinn Féin however, is now vulnerable. If it is seen as not being able to deliver the measures it claimed to have negotiated at St. Andrews, if politics, "the art of the possible", becomes impossible due to unionist obstruction, then the Sinn Féin electoral base will erode. Already, many experienced activists have abandoned the party because of this, and because of ideological differences.

Republicans and nationalists of all persuasions would be wise to avoid petty and internecine squabbling. Remember, united we stand, but divided we fall.

BREAK THE IMPASSE

Following the recent replacement of Ian Paisley with Peter Robinson as DUP leader, the potential for serious discord has emerged. The DUP feels itself electorally vulnerable to the rise of Jim Allister's *Traditional Unionist Voice*. Attempts to shore up their fundamentalist support base has led to Iris Robinson's recent outbursts as well as DUP obstruction of nationalist policies on the Irish language, the 11 +, the H-block sports stadium and the devolution of policing powers. The replacement of Minister Edwin Fooks, who attended a GAA match, with the unreconstructed bigot, Sammy Wilson, is also worrying.

To resolve this impasse the Sinn Féin leadership approached the new British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, this approach is unlikely to be successful given Brown's dependence on DUP votes to pass his 42 day terrorist detention proposal. It must also be recognised in view of Labour's recent poor electoral performance in local, London and by-elections that the return of the Tories (a party actively seeking links with the Ulster Unionists) to power by 2010 is a realistic prospect. Sinn Féin are unlikely to have any more of a receptive audience in such a situation.

So, how else can Nationalist Ireland induce Unionist co-operation? A return to violence would be a suicidal option, pulling out of government and holding an election may have unforeseen and counterproductive consequences. If such an election allowed the *Traditional Unionist Voice* to split the DUP vote sufficiently to make Sinn Féin the largest party in the north. The possibility of a Sinn Féin first minister could prevent any Unionist support for a devolved

government. The disillusionment within the nationalist community over an effective Unionist veto on devolution could undermine the Sinn Féin leadership, the peace process strategy and increase support for militant dissidents.

Should the present political impasse remain unresolved at least three possible options loom on the horizon.

(1) Unionism should 'get over itself and realise that participation in a power sharing government, by its very nature, means that your political opponents have a right to implement policies with which you disagree. Should the electorate make Sinn Féin the largest party the prospect of a Sinn Féin First Minister is a democratic reality, which will have to be accepted – not a nightmare that must be prevented.

(2) If Unionism refuses to accept the first option and participate in good faith with power sharing and cross border institutions, the Irish and British governments should immediately implement a policy of joint sovereignty to administer the North and counteract any resistance from still un-decommissioned loyalists.

(3) If in the long term Unionism refuses to accept the democratic reality that they may play the role of junior partner in a devolved administration or indeed become a minority within the six counties we may see proposals emerging to cantonise the North on the Belgian or Bosnian model. Eastern 'Jaffastan' and western 'Taigaria' would each have a power sharing government with their own cross border bodies. In effect this would only be a transitional arrangement to camouflage a de-facto repartition, which would doom these islands to at least another century as violent and unstable as the last. This is one option all Nationalists and Republicans should be vigilant against and should oppose unreservedly, for if Unionism's conscientious objection to democracy should become a right, the consequences for all would be horrendous.

Donations Needed

Unlike the Orange Order, who recently received €1,000,000 from Minister Eamon O'Cuiv TD, we have no big financial backer to pay our bills. We only survive on the voluntary contributions of our supporters.

Please send what you can to:

**Irish National Congress,
P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7.**

All contributions will be acknowledged.

FREED MURDERER BACK ON DUTY

British paratrooper Lee Clegg was convicted of the 1990 murder of West Belfast teenager Karen Reilly, an incident that also claimed the life of Martin Peake and the wounding of a teenage girl - Markievitz Gorman - when a joint British army RUC patrol fired upon a car the three were travelling in.

Private Clegg was sentenced to life imprisonment. It had initially been claimed that the car had driven through a 'roadblock' injuring a soldier and was then fired upon. However, this was proven to be untrue and that in fact there was no 'roadblock' and that this was concocted after the shooting, including the self-inflicting of injuries on a soldier in a bid to substantiate the lie.

This was at variance with an eye-witness who refused to change his evidence despite numerous interviews by the RUC in a bid to coerce him. Subsequent to this Private Chris Aindow, who was in the patrol at the time and whom the injuries were inflicted upon, eventually broke ranks and revealed the true sequence of events - this despite the presence of the RUC on the night of the killings. This eventually led to a statement being retracted by an RUC member present that provided cover to Clegg. A prosecution became unavoidable.

After a lengthy political campaign by the British establishment and right wing press Clegg's conviction was overturned. He was reinstated back into the British army and promoted. News that he is now serving in Afghanistan has emerged.

Speaking in response to media calls about this latest development, Chairperson for Relatives for Justice Clara Reilly said:

The war in Iraq and Afghanistan is based upon self-interest, power within the region, and oil - it is not about protecting and defending human rights and democracy, principle or integrity, therefore we should not be surprised that it involves people of no principle or integrity which extends to people like Clegg.

For many of the world's neutral observers the deployment of Clegg in Afghanistan will be judged against his role in the killing of two children, Karen Reilly and Martin Peake, and the wounding of Markievitz Gorman no matter how much the British spin their version.

It is not at all surprising that the British army have deployed Clegg in Afghanistan and most likely numerous other British soldiers and former RUC personnel who were equally involved in human rights abuses in Ireland and who were given impunity.

In terms of transition it is evidentially the case that the British Army have not drawn any lessons from its campaign in Ireland despite its numerous military failings, not least the killing of hundreds of children and civilians.

One would have thought that given such a legacy that clear lessons would have been learnt. However, that would be to work on the naive premise that their involvement in Afghanistan, like that in Ireland, is one of creating peace which many in the democratic world are now realizing is not the case. As in Ireland hundreds of ordinary children and civilians have been killed by the British army in Afghanistan. This is a terrible legacy yet we only ever hear of British fatalities and casualties from the media.

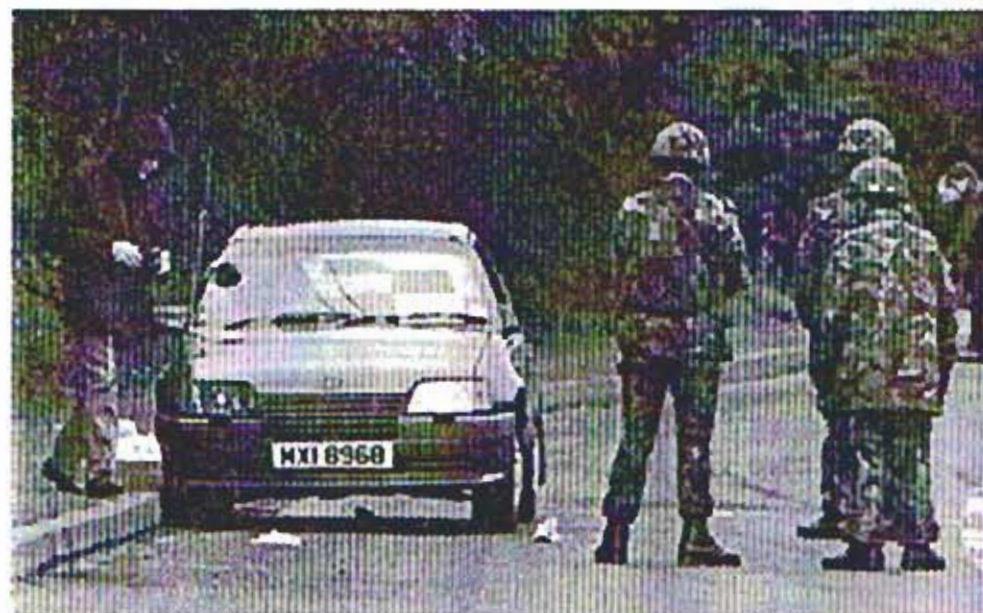
From the British point of view Clegg was unfortunate and became unintentionally entangled in the web of a criminal justice system specifically designed to convict non-state actors to the conflict. This was largely due to a civilian witness who refused to be intimidated, which in turn led to an RUC member retracting his cover statement for Clegg. The then objective was to rally the British establishment in overturning his conviction, which they eventually did.

That ruling decision was, like the hundreds of decisions regarding killings by the British army and the RUC in which there were no prosecutions, a political one.

For the people of Ireland, and in particular the community of West Belfast, we know the truth and the awful human legacy of the British army's actions of which Clegg was a part of. Indeed this community recently commemorated the brutal killings by the Parachute Regiment of 11 unarmed civilians in Ballymurphy on August 9th 1971. Lets hope that the people of Afghanistan are spared three and half decades of the British army."

For further information visit:

www.relativesforjustice.com



Left: The car in which two Belfast teenagers, Karen Reilly and Martin Peake, were murdered.

Below: Lee Clegg, now a Sergeant. "It was always Lee's dream to see proper action again and it has finally come true," said one insider. The decision to send Clegg to Afghanistan's Helmand Province was personally approved by 2 Para's commanding officer Lt Colonel Joe O'Sullivan.



McAnespie Family Welcome Findings of Historical Enquiries Team



On 21 February 1988, 23 year-old Aidan McAnespie (pictured here), from the border town of Aughnacloy, County Tyrone, was shot down and fatally wounded in broad daylight, less than 300 yards from a permanent British Army/RUC checkpoint in the town.

He had just walked through the checkpoint; on his way to a GAA match.

The family of Aidan McAnespie, who was shot and fatally wounded by a British soldier in 1988, have issued the following statement through the Derry based *Pat Finucane Centre*.

Speaking at the weekend Úna McAnespie, niece of the victim said,

"Within the last week we have had a further meeting with the Historical Enquiries Team as a follow-up to the interim report which we received earlier this year. That interim report described the officially accepted version of the incident, that the weapon discharge that led to the death of Aidan had been accidental and random, as the 'least likely' explanation.

As agreed we have now been provided with a full resolution report, which is the result of the focussed investigation. This report, in our view, is a devastating rebuttal of the British Army version of events and represents the closest that we as a family have got to the truth of what occurred that day."

The HET considered three scenarios:

1) Guardsman Holden accidentally discharged the gun in the manner described by him in his statements or in some other unknown and undisclosed circumstances.

2) Guardsman Holden deliberately discharged a burst of aimed shots at the victim or his vicinity.

3) Guardsman Holden was tracking the victim with the gun, or was aiming the gun at him, and being unaware that the gun was cocked and ready to fire, inadvertently discharging the three shots.

In respect of the 'accidental discharge' theory, the first scenario, the report concluded,

"When the facts that the victim of this alleged random shot was a subject that the soldiers kept under observation, and was perceived by them as a potential terrorist suspect, are added to the equation, then the likelihood that it was a random shot is even

less. Add to this the minimum 9lb pressure required to pull the trigger and the probability of 'accidental firing' recedes further." (see HET Conclusions)

The HET report continued,

"Having weighed up these propositions and taken all the circumstances into account, none of the three scenarios outlined above can be definitively ruled out; Guardsman Holden's version of events, however, can be considered to be the least likely."

In respect of the fatal shot the HET concluded,

"...the chances of it being un-aimed or random seem so remote in the circumstances that they can be virtually disregarded."

In response Úna McAnespie said,

"As a family we feel that a huge burden has been lifted as a result of these latest findings. The claim that Aidan was killed by a ricochet bullet fired at random because a soldier had wet slippery fingers which inadvertently came in contact with the trigger and that Aidan was not being tracked at that precise moment has been firmly rebutted. The official scenario, as accepted by the British Army and the prosecution service, can be regarded as so 'remote' that it can be 'virtually disregarded'.

This investigation examined the circumstances in the context of the harassment that Aidan suffered and Guardsman Holden's perception of Aidan as the 'enemy'. The official explanation of the events of Sunday February 21 1988 have been deconstructed in their entirety. My mother, Elish, fought for 20 years to have the truth told. It was a great comfort to her to receive the interim report before she died earlier this summer. These latest findings are a lasting tribute to her efforts and a vindication of our beloved son, brother and uncle Aidan."

BACKGROUND

On Sunday 21 February 1988, Aidan McAnespie was shot and fatally wounded by a soldier firing a General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) from the permanent British army checkpoint at Aughnacloy Co. Tyrone. A Grenadier Guardsman, David Holden, was charged with manslaughter but the Director of Public Prosecutions later withdrew this charge.

Holden claimed that he was moving the GPMG when his wet fingers, which were allegedly wet from cleaning the look-out post, slipped onto the trigger, which resulted in the discharge of three shots. One of the shots struck Aidan in the back, fatally wounding him. According to the ballistic and forensic evidence,

the fatal shot was a ricochet. Guardsman Holden denied that he aimed at Aidan or was tracking him and claimed that the incident was a tragic accident.

Aidan McAnespie was routinely stopped and harassed by the British army as he passed through the Aughnacloy checkpoint on his way to work or going to the GAA club located past the checkpoint. As with many nationalists at the time, Aidan was considered by the British army to be an IRA suspect, therefore, his movements were observed and recorded by the soldiers at the checkpoint. He had made numerous complaints to the RUC about the harassment and had raised this in the media. In the minutes before the shooting there is incontrovertible evidence that he was being tracked as he walked through the checkpoint.

Guardsman Holden claimed that he moved the weapon by holding the pistol grip with a "loose grip." As he did, his finger slipped and he inadvertently pulled the trigger. The HET test fired a GPMG and found that:

"Activating the trigger required having a firm grip on the pistol grip and squeezing the trigger until it activated. It was found to be difficult and required considerable force to activate the trigger without having the hand firmly gripped around the pistol grip." Therefore, Holden's loose grip explanation contradicted the results of the practical test on the weapon.

Furthermore, the HET discovered that the gun was mounted on to a pivot, which allowed the weapon to be swivelled. Therefore there was no necessity for Holden to have his hand on the pistol grip and finger on the trigger guard since he only had to swivel the butt of the weapon on the pivot in order to reposition the weapon. In addition another soldier confirmed that he had already repositioned the weapon.

Holden claimed that his hands were still wet from cleaning the look-out post 10 minutes earlier. HET investigators have analysed the activities in the look-out post that day which showed that the cleaning was conducted by a cleaning party and that Holden had resumed look-out duty a half hour before the shooting. The 'wet hands' scenario is difficult to reconcile with the timing of the cleaning duties.

Lance Sergeant Peters gave evidence that on entering the look-out post after the shooting and asking Holden what had happened the reply was that he had squeezed the trigger.

INVESTIGATION

Holden was not interviewed by the RUC until more than 24 hours after the incident. In the intervening period he remained in military custody. There was a further 24-hour delay before the second interview took place.

The crime scene was not forensically examined until the next day and the scene was not secured in the interim. This would result in "crime scene evidence recovered being questionable" according to the HET.

FORENSIC & BALLISTICS

The gun had been dismantled and cleaned earlier that day. It has not been established why or by whom the gun was left cocked and with the safety catch off. This was totally in contravention of standing orders.

The forensic evidence concluded that a ricochet bullet, which struck the ground just directly behind Aidan before it entered his body, inflicted the fatal injury.

The weapon discharged three rounds and the fatal bullet was a tracer round. There is now no way of knowing whether the fatal bullet was the first or the last of three shots fired. Swab tests taken from the roadway no longer exist.

If the first shot fired resulted in the ricochet from the fatal strike mark then this could support the assertion that the gun was aimed at the victim or in his vicinity.

However, the HET has since discovered that the forensic report gave no consideration to the possibility that the fatal ricochet was a result of the first shot discharged from the weapon. The forensic scientist did not test the strike marks on the road to ascertain which were the result of tracer bullets-a test which would have been evidentially important.

It should be noted that there is clear evidence that the Guardsman had Aidan, whom he considered to be a suspect, under close observation as he passed through the checkpoint. However at the moment of discharge Holden claimed to have been physically repositioning the weapon. In other words he claims not to have been aiming at or tracking Aidan when the shots were fired.

The HET report noted:

"An impartial and independent observer must question the likelihood of an accidental random discharge striking the roadway only a few feet behind what would be from the vantage point of the machine gun post a miniscule figure at a distance of 283.4 meters. The statistical odds, as outlined by Independent Ballistic expert Keith Borer, are strongly against the accidental discharge theory." For further information visit:

www.patfinucanecentre.org



HET CONCLUSIONS (*unedited*)

This review into the death of Aidan Martin McAnespie has been examined against the below factors:

The original case investigation

Exhibits records

Ballistic evidence

Family concerns

Intelligence records

Analysis of available evidence

The HET concludes that, on the basis of the available evidence: -

Aidan McAnespie died as a result of being struck by a high velocity bullet, which ricocheted from the roadway a short distance behind him and was fired by Guardsman David Holden from a General Purpose Machine Gun located in an upper Sanger nearly 300 metres away.

Guardsman Holden has already been interviewed, arrested and charged with manslaughter, although the charge was withdrawn by the DPP at the time, and this review has found no legal grounds or new evidence to justify re-interviewing him or for submitting a file of evidence for reconsideration by the PPS.

The HET has considered the accounts given by the witnesses, in particular the soldiers involved. There are three possible scenarios;

1. Guardsman Holden accidentally discharged the gun in the manner described by him in his statements or in some other unknown and undisclosed circumstances.
2. Guardsman Holden deliberately discharged a burst of aimed shots at the victim or in his vicinity.
3. Guardsman Holden was tracking the victim with the gun, or was aiming the gun at him, and being unaware that the gun was cocked and ready to fire, pulled the trigger, inadvertently discharging the three shots.

There is little doubt that, as a young British soldier in control of a lethal weapon, with a person he considered an IRA suspect in his sights, Guardsman Holden would have felt some antipathy towards the victim; the evidence does not definitively rule out an accidental discharge, but nor does it preclude the possibility that Guardsman Holden deliberately fired the gun at the victim.

It was also suggested in the interview with Guardsman Holden, and is a possibility, that he had been tracking the victim with the gun, or had the gun aimed at him, and had pulled the trigger, unaware that it had been left cocked, resulting in the discharge. The issue of the remains of a dust cap, still in place when the weapon was fired, may support this contention. He denied this account, however.

The accidental discharge version is based on the statement of Guardsman Holden, supported to some degree by the findings of Forensic Scientist and Ballistic expert, Gary Montgomery. The evidence of a ricochet was also used to support this version.

This formed the rationale for the subsequent decisions made by the SIO and his senior officers to recommend no prosecution and possibly then the decision by the DPP not to prosecute.

The opinion of Mr Montgomery, an experienced Forensic Scientist and ballistic expert, undoubtedly warrants serious consideration; however, the HET must assess it on the basis of it being an opinion and, like any opinion, open to debate and challenge.

From a critical (and the family, perspective) it could be argued that his findings were too readily accepted by the police and not subject to any other expert scrutiny until Keith Borer's submissions in 1990.

He bases his opinion on his expectation that the three bullets fired would have struck in the same area if the weapon had been deliberately discharged from a firm firing position. Yet whilst one

of the bullets struck below and to the left of the victim, the other two bullets struck, more or less, in the same area.

Given it is unknown, and likely to remain unknown, exactly under what conditions or circumstances Guardsman Holden fired the weapon, except for his version of events, then Mr Montgomery's conclusions are arguable and, to some degree, based on assumptions made from the circumstances explained to him; for example, he does not appear to have been invited to consider whether a 'surprise firing' resulting from the soldier 'tracking' Aidan with the weapon, unaware that it was cocked, might account for the spread of strike marks.

If the nearest/lowest strike mark (KD 1) resulted from the first shot fired from the gun, it would to some degree support the contention that the gun was not aimed at the victim.

However, if the first shot fired, resulted in the ricochet from the fatal strike mark (KD 2) then this could support the assertion that the gun was aimed at the victim or in his vicinity.

In Mr Montgomery's report, the possibility that the fatal ricochet was as a result of the first shot discharged from the weapon is not examined.

The evidence of the fatal shot being a ricochet is also used to support the accidental discharge version, which is perceived by the family as ruling out the other options; yet an aimed shot, directed close by the target, could also have resulted in an unplanned ricochet with catastrophic consequences. This does not seem to have been considered.

The fact that the bullet struck the roadway only a metre or so behind the victim at a distance of 283.4 metres from the firing point, does not add any great weight to the view that the shooting was accidental and conversely could indicate that the gun was deliberately aimed towards him.

An impartial and objective observer must question the likelihood of an accidental, random discharge striking the roadway only a few feet behind, what would be from the vantage point of the machine gun post, a minuscule figure at a distance of 283.4 metres. The statistical odds, as outlined by Independent Ballistic expert Keith Borer, are strongly against the accidental discharge account.

When the facts that the victim of this alleged random shot was a subject that the soldiers had kept under observation, and was perceived by them as a potential terrorist suspect, are added to the equation, then the likelihood that it was a random shot is even less. Add to this the minimum 9lb pressure required to pull the trigger and the probability of 'accidental firing' recedes further.

Having weighed up these propositions and taken all the circumstances into account, none of the three scenarios outlined can be definitively ruled out; Guardsman Holden's version of events, however, can be considered to be the least likely.

The HET cannot judge, on the available evidence, whether the shot was fired deliberately or unintentionally. The fact that the dust cover was in place, and the possibility that the weapon may well have been left cocked without the knowledge of Guardsman Holden, may support the view that the actual discharge was unintentional. However, the chances of it being un-aimed or random seem to be so remote in the circumstances that they can be virtually disregarded.

This leaves the option of a deliberate shot, or the option that Guardsman Holden was 'tracking' Aidan with his weapon aimed, and was unaware that the weapon was cocked when the trigger was pulled.

The family believe that it was a deliberate shot, either to kill Aidan or aimed nearby to scare him.

In the final analysis, the HET is of the view that, whatever the truth of the matter in this case, it is unlikely that the GPMG was discharged in the circumstances, or in the manner, described by Guardsman Holden.

Irishmen In British Uniforms

On August 7th 2008 the *Irish Times* carried a letter written by me under the heading "*Irishmen in British Army Uniforms*".

What prompted me to write this letter was a weekly column in the *Irish Times* written by a Lt Paddy Bury, a British soldier from Co. Wicklow, who had been sending dispatches from Afghanistan describing in detail the activities of his regiment in Helmand Province. (I wonder if he is pals with Sergeant Lee Clegg, who is also stationed there?)

Lt. Bury is a member of the British army's Royal Irish Regiment. I took the view that the *Irish Times* was not entitled to name the weekly column "An Irish Soldier's Diary". The subsequent response on the letters page of the *Irish Times* has been quite extraordinary. To date, some ten weeks after the letter first appeared, it is continuing to generate controversy and much needed debate.

The letter drew a sharp response from Irish Independent columnist Kevin Myers, who described my correspondence as unkind, unseemly, ungracious and ungenerous. Mr Myers, apparently, draws no distinction from or between soldiers from the British army and the Irish army. Myers regarded my censure of the *Irish Times* article referring to a British soldier as an Irish soldier as "these exacting terminological niceties". I wonder if those Irishmen in German uniforms who served with the Waffen SS during the Second World War should also be regarded as Irish soldiers?

The debate generated by the letter was not confined to Ireland. The *London Times* commented on the matter. In an article entitled "*Irish recruits sign up for British Army in cross-border revolution*", penned by their Ireland correspondent David Sharrock, about the increase in recruitment of "Irishmen from Southern Ireland" into the British army, thereby reviving a military tradition between the two islands, Sharrock commented that despite my view that to refer to an Irishman in British uniform as an Irish soldier "was an affront to those who fought, many making the ultimate sacrifice, to free this country from British rule", other correspondents to the *Irish Times* sought a more nuanced approach to Ireland's relationship with its neighbour, not least through the links being forged by service in a British regiment.

May I suggest to Mr Sharrock and his readers in the *London Times* that there are other ways to forge a better relationship between these two islands other than by Irishmen serving in British regiments.

For instance, perhaps Britain might stop hindering the investigation into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings and a multitude of other atrocities perpetrated by members of the British security forces, either directly or by their proxy agents. The British government still refuses to co-operate with requests to release documentation, which could identify and convict those responsible for mass murder in Ireland, citing 'state security' as their reason. This behaviour is most certainly not the actions of a friendly neighbour.

In addition to the attack by Kevin Myers, two retired Irish army officers were scathing of my remarks. These attacks brought to mind a decision to install a stained glass window in honour of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, a British Army regiment, in the Garrison Church, Cathal Brugha barracks in 2002. The window was dedicated in memory of all Irishmen

who fought for freedom in the Great War. It should be remembered that while Irishmen in British army uniforms were fighting for small nations in the First World War, other Irishmen in British uniforms were kicking in doors and terrorising people on this island for daring to seek the same freedoms from their imperial colonisers.

Despite the fact that Ireland's National Day of Commemoration is held annually in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on the Sunday nearest July 11th, the anniversary of the date in 1921 that a truce was signed ending the War of Independence, I note that a 'Remembrance' concert has been arranged for Cork City Hall on November 8th.

The events committee and the Royal British legion under the auspices of the Lord Mayor Brian Bermingham will be hosting a night of nostalgia and song. What next? An events committee to oversee and plan a night of song, dance and nostalgia to commemorate the Black and Tans or perhaps even the Auxiliaries?

— Tom Cooper
Cathaoirleach

Captain James Kelly Honoured

The 1916-21 Club commemorated its former president Capt. James Kelly by unveiling a plaque in his home town of Bailieborough, Co. Cavan on the 19th July 2008.

The ceremony was performed by the current President of the Club Seán O'Mahony. Among those present were his wife Sheila Kelly and many other members of the extended Kelly family.

In the course of his remarks O'Mahony outlined the circumstances that catapulted Jimmy Kelly on to the national stage in the events that became known as the Arms Crisis. Although nearly 40 years ago now it was not just a traumatic time for Kelly but for many nationalists in the 6 counties area who were being terrorised by Loyalist mobs accompanied by the police force – the RUC and its auxiliaries the B Specials.

Kelly though was a loyal Army Officer and informed his superiors throughout of his intelligence duties and O'Mahony said that he had no doubt that Kelly would have laid down his life in defence of his oath to the Constitution and his service. Nevertheless he was charged before the Courts with other where all charges were dismissed but his career was destroyed, just like the French case of Capt. Dreyfus. Kelly was sacrificed by Politicians who were pre-occupied with saving themselves or pursuing other agendas.

Kelly, however was a resilient man and he pursued a career as a publican, provincial newspaper publisher, writer of several books, both fiction and non fiction. He was an artist in woodcarving and he became involved in politics when he was elected to the Ard Chomhairle of Fianna Fáil.

Just before he died he then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern issued a limited apology to Kelly but it was a pity he did not go the whole way, but as everyone knows the state always protects its functionaries, and political class.

O'Mahony concluded his remarks by asking Taoiseach Brian Cowen to finally put this matter to bed, because this issue was not about money but about honour and justice.

Toradh Chonradh Liosbóin: Díoltas na "Loo-Lahs"?

"For the first time, Europe has a shared Constitution. This pact is the point of no return. Europe is becoming an irreversible project, irrevocable after the ratification of this treaty. It is a new era for Europe, a new geography, a new history."

– Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Príomh-Aire na Fraince, 7/10/2004.

"Is ón bpobal, faoi Dhia, a thagás gach cumhacht riara. idir reachtaíocht is comhallacht is breithiúnas, agus is ag an bpobal atá sé de cheart rialtóirí an Stáit a cheapadh, agus is faoi dheoidh atá gach ceist i dtaobh beartas an Náisiúin a shocrú de réir mar is gá chun leasa an phobail."

– Bunreacht na hÉireann (alt 6i)

Nuair a bhí Bunreacht na hEorpa scríofa ag uasaicme pholaitiúil na mballstáit (agus a maorlathas san áireamh), le díomas na ceannasaíochta shocraigh Jean-Pierre agus a chairde "snas an daonlathais" a chuir air trí reifreann a cheadú do chosmhuintir na Fraince. Tháinig "Loo-Lahs na Fraince" amach ina sluaithe agus chaithheadar uathu bunreacht nach raibh uathu chor ar bith, óir bhíodar sásta go maith leis an mbunreacht a bhí acu cheana féin. Ina dhiaidh sin arís, creid é nó ná creid, rinne "Loo-Lahs na hÍsiltíre" aithris ar "Loo-Lahs na Fraince" agus dhiúltaíodar siúd don bhunreacht chéanna. An raibh ceannairí polaitíochta, maraon le maith agus móruaisle na dtíortha neamhspléacha, daonlathacha úd sásta le "léiriú an daonlathais" ag a saoránaigh féin?

Ní raibh ná baol air! Bhí alltacht orthu agus ar uasaicme pholaitiúil Aontas na hEorpa (A.E.). Thuigeadar, a dúirt siad, go raibh "éigeandáil" ar fud na hEorpa ach go nglacfaidís "deis macnaimh" chucu féin sula "rachaidís ar aghaidh leis an bpróiseas".

Is cuimhin liom bheith i mo sheasamh san RDS, aimsir Chonradh Nice, nuair a bhí na vótaí fós á gcomhaireamh taobh thiar díom. Ba léir ag an bpointe sin go raibh an bua ag lucht Níl. Chuir TG4 agallamh gearr ar urlabhraí an rialtais, Pat Carey T.D., Fianna Fáil. D'fhógair Pat, gan anáil íorónta a tharraingt, go mbeadh ar phobal vótála na hÉireann "vótáil arís roimh dheireadh na bliana"! Cé nach ag deireadh na bliana sin a bhí sé, bhí Nice 2 ann mar sin féin (mar a bhí réamhinste ag an Uas.Carey ar an lá stairiúil san breis agus bliain roimhe sin) Seans gur cuimhin leat féin, a léitheoir, cén leithscéal a thug uasaicme na Poblachta do Nice 2. B'é "snas an daonlathais" an uair úd ná gur "tír an-bheag í Éire" agus go raibh "líon na vótóirí an-íseal" an chéad uair!

Ach, aisteach go leor, is í An Fhrainc an tír is mó san A.E. agus bhí líon na vótóirí an-ard nuair a diúltaíodh do Bhunreacht na hEorpa ann. Tar éis don uasaicme pholaitiúil an "deis macnaimh" a ghlacadh, d'athraigh an maorlathas líne nó dhó agus thugadar ainm nua don cháipéis, Conradh Liosbóin. Díreach cosúil le Nice 2 in Éirinn, bhí Bunreacht na hEorpa 2 ag lucht na Fraince agus ag lucht na hÍsiltíre ach le difríocht mhór amháin, ní bheadh vóta ag an bpobal uirthi chor ar bith. B'é "snas an daonlathais" do thíortha neamhspléacha, daonlathacha an A.E. ná nach raibh gá le reifreann ar Chonradh Liosbóin mar ba leor vóta pairliminte an uair seo (cé gur admhaigh na polaiteoirí ag an am geéanna gur mar a chéile nach mór an dá cháipéis). Mar is eol dúinn go léir anois, diúltaíodh do Chonradh Liosbóin sa tír seo, an t-aon tír "neamhspléach, daonlathach" as na 27 tír san A.E. inar reachtáladh reifreann. Throid Comhaontas na Síochána is na Neodrachta (C.S.N./Pana) mar bhall den bhfeachtas Níl san eagraíocht Campaign Against the EU Constitution (C.A.E.U.C) ina raibh 15 grúpa

éagsúla ar an "Eite Chlé" Rinneamar ár ndícheall le chéile. Throidamar, dar linn, ar son an daonlathais in Éirinn agus san A.E., ar son Ceart agus Cóir do chosmhuintir na dtíortha san A.E. agus in aghaidh míleatú an A.E. Glacdh "Loo-Lahs" orainne agus ar na heagraíochtaí go léir sa bhfeachtas Níl. Tar éis an toradh, táthar ag glaoch "Loo-Lahs" ar shaoránaigh na Poblachta seo a thug a dtuairim i reifreann daonlathach mar nár thugadar an freagra a bhí ón uasaicme pholaitiúil, eacnamaíoch agus shóisialta. Níl sé gealtach chor ar bith go mbeadh ceannasaíocht Fhianna Fáil, Fhine Gael, Páirtí an Lucht Oibre, na PDs, Ibéc, Ictu, Icmsa, *Irish Times* is araile ar an taobh chéanna gan amhras, agus tá mé lán dáiríre faoi sin. An chéad rud a rinne Taoiseach na tíre seo tar éis an toradh ná chuir sé glaoch ar Manuel Barroso, Uachtarán Choimisiúin an A.E., chun a rá leis NACH raibh deireadh le Conradh Liosbóin (Bunreacht na hEorpa 2).

Táid anois ag glacadh "deis macnaimh" chucu féin sula dtéitear "ar aghaidh leis an bpróiseas"! An seanscéal arís. Beagbeann ar mhuintir an A.E., beagbeann ar dhaonlathas, ar neamhspléachas ná ar fhlaithéis; beagbeann ar shíocháin ná ar leas an phobail, tá faoi "Olagarcacht an A.E." Impireacht úmua domhanda a chruthú ar a son féin agus ar son lucht an rachmaís Eorpaigh. Chuige sin, beidh orthu an Daonlathas a scrios nó, ar a laghad, snas de shaghas a chuir air ionas nach mbeidh éifeacht ar bith ag baint leis (mar a léiríodh le Conradh Nice agus le Bunreacht na hEorpa) Níl meas madra ag uasaicme an A.E. (ceannairí na hÉireann san áireamh) ar a muintir féin mar níl sé ar a gcumas glacadh le bunphrionsabal poblachta, gur "ón bpobal...a thagás gach cumhacht..." Tá sé ráite arís agus arís eile ag móruaisle an A.E. go bhfuil futhu structúr Eorpach a chruthú (Impireacht A.E.) a mbeadh a "saoránaigh sásta bás d'fháil ar a son" Caithfear na daoine seo a stopadh. Caithfear cur ina gcoinne, go daonlathach síochánta. Tá an olagarcacht díomasach agus is gar an díomas don díth céille!

– Feargus Mac Aogáin,
Coiste Náisiúnta C.S.N./Pana.

INC Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 29 November 2008

@ 12pm

Club na Múinteoirí

36 Parnell Square, Dublin.

Speakers: Fionnbarra O'Dochartaigh
(Captain Kelly Justice Campaign),
Robert Ballagh, Finian McGrath TD

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