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INTERMENT

Today there is widespread agreement that the introduction of internment in August 1971 was a calamitous event for Irish politics. However, at the time of its introduction, thirty years ago this week, the unionist government acted as if it was the solution to their problems. Not for the first time and not for the last the authorities in the North treated what was

essentially a political problem as a security one. The introduction of internment led to almost the complete alienation of the nationalist community from the state and ensured that there would be no early end to the troubles. This week reporter Eamonn MacDermott looks back at the introduction of internment and what it meant for the Derry community.

Unprecedented nationalist unity

"Does England really think that this morning's Gestapo type arrests will do anything but further incense the Irish people?" - Eddie McAteer

THE INTRODUCTION of internment united the nationalist community in a way that no event since has done with the possible exception of Bloody Sunday.

Any political party that wanted to retain a vestige of nationalist support had to vehemently oppose internment.

The Catholic Church came out strongly against it and many nationalists in prominent positions resigned.

Immediately following the introduction of internment the nationalist M.P.s across the North, including the SDLP, Nationalist Party and Republican Labour held a meeting in Dungannon after which they issued a call for members of the minority community holding appointed public office to give up their positions.

They also called for support for the rent and rates strike and said they would give their full support to anyone organising meetings to oppose internment.

The SDLP M.P. Ivan Cooper called on the Taoiseach Jack Lynch 'to make it clear to Westminster that internment in any shape, form or fashion would not be tolerated in any part of this island.'

Eddie McAteer, the President of the Nationalist Party, said: "Does England really think that this morning's Gestapo type arrests will do anything but further incense the Irish people?"

POLITE PRESSURE

At one of the impromptu anti-internment meetings called in Derry on August 10 Eamon McCann the political activist, told the crowd that 'polite pressure' would not end internment.

He said: "What is needed is for people to organise themselves politically and militarily, for groups to organise in their areas and to get together to set about the creation of the establishment of the alternative assembly which will take over from Stormont."

As reaction against internment continued, the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, called for an end to Stormont which he said 'appeared to be concerned only with the wishes of the most extreme elements within the unionist community.'

The head of the Catholic Church Cardinal Conway said of internment that it was 'a terrible power' to give to any political authority.

On the Monday following the introduction of internment a one day strike was called in protest and according to the 'Derry Journal' of Tuesday, August 17 'thousands of Derry workers stayed at home'.

At a meeting held in the Guildhall Square Eamon McCann told the crowd: "They have created a situation where they are not dealing any more with a handful of 'terrorists'.



CONFRONTATION. . . Rioting breaks out at the Rosemount RUC station as nationalist youths vent their frustrations on the barracks.

"Let them know we are all terrorists. We still effectively hold our area, and it will not be taken easily. If our area is taken let them know we will rise again."

The depth of anger in Derry at internment became most evident following another incursion by the British Army into the Bogside, Brandywell and Creggan on August 18.

IRA Volunteer Eamon Lafferty was shot dead as a massive force of British soldiers moved in to remove barricades.

On the afternoon of August 18 a sit down protest led by John Hume and Fr. Denis Bradley among others took place at Laburnum Terrace.

The protesters blocked the road to impede the British army moving in.

In the ensuing confrontation water cannon, CS gas and rubber bullets were fired into the crowd and John Hume, Ivan Cooper and Hugh Logue of the SDLP were all arrested.

Other reports talked of priests joining residents sitting on barricades to prevent their removal.

The invasion lasted two days and when the British army finally withdrew they failed to gain a foothold in the areas again until Operation Motorman almost a year later.

The nationalist unity created by internment was to hold for a period although as time went on it became more and more fragile and was completely shattered in March 1972 when Stormont was prorogued.



Residents of Lone Moor Road walk around bemused by the events unfolding on the morning of August 9th, 1971.

One of the last to be released

ONE OF the last people released from internment on December 5 1975 was Derry man Gerry McCartney who had spent more than a year in Long Kesh since his arrest in September 1974.

Mr. McCartney was 'on the run' at the time of his arrest and admits to have been a republican activist.

He vividly remembers his last day in Long Kesh. He said: "There had been a ceasefire in force since the beginning of 1975 and this was an issue that had led to intense debate among the prisoners."

"Releases from internment had started about six weeks after the truce but many of us felt that we were being held hostage for the good behaviour of the republican movement on the outside."

"While obviously we were glad to see the releases, they did put a strain on everyone as every time you watched someone getting out you wondered if you would be next."

He added: "By the start of December 1975 the numbers in the camp had dwindled considerably but there was no expectation that internment would end."

On the morning of December 5, Martin Meehan from Belfast, who was OC at the time, came into our hut and told us to get packed as we were going home."

"Now Meehan was a notorious joker so he was told in no uncertain terms where to go but he insisted that he was telling the truth."

"We decided to switch on the radio to hear the 10 o'clock news but discovered the power was off, then we knew something was up."

Mr. McCartney said there was a great buzz around the cage but the moment was also tinged with sadness.

LEFT BEHIND He said: "I always remember as we walked out of the cage to be released we left behind one man who had been charged with attempting to escape."

"There he was all alone in this big cage complex watching his comrades being released, it was terrible."

Six other Derry men, Jim Gallagher, Hugh Brady, John Oakley, Coleman Moore, Charlie McSheffrey and John Coyle were among the last batch to be released from Long Kesh in 1975.

At the time of his arrest in September 1974 Gerry McCartney had been 'on the

run' for a period.

He said: "Contrary to the picture painted by the media being on the run did not mean going across the border."

"I stayed in Derry and was eventually arrested coming out of a house in Creggan."

Mr. McCartney's arrival in Long Kesh coincided with a protest being mounted by the prisoners, both sentenced and interned against conditions.

This protest culminated in the burning of Long Kesh on the night of October 15 1974.

He said: "The protest seemed to have been resolved but one of the major issues was the use of British soldiers in the camp and a decision had been taken that if the British army tried to enter the camp we would burn it."

"The night of the actual burning a dispute started over of all things, a pancake."

"Somehow or other this escalated and the next thing the British army was spotted about to come in, this was the signal to burn the camp."

He continued: "We broke out of our cages and most of the internees managed to link up with the sentenced prisoners although some were caught in their cages before they could get out."

"We burnt all the huts in the cages and then set fire to the outbuildings we could reach."

"Eventually the British Army moved in and there was intense hand to hand fighting that went on for most of the night."

"They were firing CS gas and rubber bullets and they also used CR gas in an experiment."

"In the morning we received reports about men being badly beaten after being caught by the British and so we decided to fight on."

"However, prison staff intervened and eventually it was agreed that we would be allowed back to our cages with no ill treatment."

After weeks spent sleeping rough in the ruins of the cages Gerry McCartney and the other internees were moved into rebuilt huts which were actually an improvement on the old ones.

Eventually the IRA called a truce in December 1974 which was renewed in January 1975 that began the process of ending internment.

Gerry McCartney said: "I think the ending of internment was used as a carrot to try and ensure the truce held but for us in the cages it was never about us getting released there were much bigger issues at stake."

"The British may have ended internment in 1975 but they used other forms of it in the eighties when they effectively interned people for years by keeping them on remand waiting trial on the word of so called supergrass."

A meeting is held at Rossville Street on Tuesday, 10th August in protest at the actions of the previous day.



Galliagh trading bonfires for barbecues

RESIDENTS IN Galliagh are preparing to ditch the traditional August 15 bonfires and set the streets alight with a series of barbecues and parties.

The initiative, taken up last year by the Galliagh Festival Committee, is being expanded to include even more streets in the wider area.

Derry City Council, Northern Ireland Electricity, and the Housing Executive have teamed up with festival organisers to clean the area up ahead of this year's celebrations.

Community leader Oliver Green said the community in the area had come together to sideline a "negative custom" and replace it with an evening of family fun and entertainment.

"We have organised a series of events to prevent the reappearance of bonfires in the area this year."

"With the help of the council, the Housing Executive and NIE, the area will benefit from a clean up which will take place on the 13th

and 14th. The people have come up with a series of alternatives to bonfires. One of the main aims in the formation of the festival was to come up with something different to the negative custom of bonfires. There will be street parties, shows and music which will help regenerate a sense of community in the area."

But Mr. Green urged the owners of local businesses to ensure that they do not allow bonfire material to be taken or offered from their premises.

"Parents must also take a stronger, more proactive role in discouraging young people from becoming involved in bonfires. They can only be viewed as negative and damaging to the environment."

Station Officer at Northland Road, John Gurney welcomed the development. "The festival will be better from our perspective as bonfires tend to tie up a lot of our operational personnel. The festival will alleviate this problem and it cuts down on damage and destruction and the pressures on our firefighters and equipment."



Oliver Green at the scene of a recent bonfire in the Galliagh area. (1008PG26)

Pre-planned and premeditated crime

A young man who was detected stealing goods from Lisnagelvin Shopping Centre was engaged in a 'pre-planned and premeditated' crime, Resident Magistrate Mrs. Bernie Kelly said at Derry Court yesterday.

Leslie Anthony Burke of 17 Creggan Heights was charged with the theft on February 14, he also faced a drugs charge on the same date.

The court heard that security staff stopped two men who had been observed stealing from a number of stores in the centre.

When the RUC arrived Burke and the other person were searched and goods valued at more than £100 were found.

Burke was also found to be in possession of a Class B drug after a joint was found on him.

When cautioned about the drugs offence, Burke replied: "It will be legal soon."

Defence solicitor, Mr. Walter Hegarty, said his client was intelligent but like many of his generation he experimented in illegal substances.

He said that the shop lifting occurred when one of his friends had a debt and it was thought the goods could be used to pay this off.

Mr. Hegarty said his client had learned a salutary lesson and that the incident would have an adverse effect on Burke's future.

He added that Burke had foolishly believed that he was bright enough to get away with the crime.

Mrs. Kelly said there were many young people who would sell their souls to be in the position that Burke was in.

She said a report prepared by the probation services indicated that he was bright and not a mediocre student but one who was confident of a university place before doing his A levels. She told Burke that his parents had provided everything for him and she asked how had he repaid them.

Mrs. Kelly said the thefts were not even for Burke himself and it wasn't even a mess he had got himself into.

She went on: "Certain persons your age believe they cannot party properly unless their brains are so messed up they don't know what day of the week it is."

She told Burke that she couldn't fine him as this would only add to his parent's burden and sentenced him to 120 hours community service.

Right 'tools' needed to combat violence

DERRY MUST have the "right tools for the job" if it is to successfully combat spiralling levels of violence in its city centre, an influential US politician told the 'Journal' this week.

Martin O'Malley, the Mayor of Baltimore - the man credited with transforming the sixteen largest city in the US - believes resources hold the key to cutting violent crime.

"Baltimore City has made huge strides in cutting violent crime, mostly within the City budget," he said.

"However, to build on these efforts, we need to have the right tools for the job. We can't do it alone. A pool of resources like this would help ensure that our efforts are not in vain."

Mayor O'Malley was in Derry on Wednesday afternoon to discuss local government reform with the City Council.

At a meeting of councillors and officers, the 39-year-old explained the potential for improvements in all aspects of city life through the implementation of tough performance targets.

He outlined details of the "CITISTAT" programme which is an accountability tool based on the "Comptat" program pioneered in the New York City Police Department (NYPD).

na', utilised computer pin mapping and weekly accountability sessions, helping the NYPD dramatically reduce crime.

It is now employed by several police departments around the world.

Mayor O'Malley is convinced that this same process can be used,

not only for crime, but for every city agency from public works to health.

In short, "CITISTAT" is how Mayor O'Malley runs Baltimore. Strategies are adopted and employed, managers held accountable, and results measured not yearly, quarterly, or

monthly, but from week to week.

Mayor O'Malley said his visit to Derry presented an excellent opportunity to share ideas and initiatives on an innovative approach to reform for local government.

"The themes and approach that we took

to improve Baltimore are universal and could easily be replicated in Derry," he said. "It is hoped that our experience and success will encourage more local authorities to see a new approach to improving their services and promote higher living standards in their area."



John Hume, leader, SDLP, pictured at the annual Joblink award ceremony held at the Nerve Centre. Included, from left, are Philip McGlynn, Dunnes Stores, Cathy O'Neill, Altnagelvin Trust, and Lynne Pollock, Foyle Social Security Agency, James Logue, regional manager, Jeff Boucher, Foyle Meats, Terry Graham, Graham and Heslip, Lyle Simpson, Westcare Business Services, Stacey Gurney, Harry Corry, Eilish Park, Delap and Waller, Caroline Harkin, Perfecseal, and Agnes Dunne, New Print. (1008A01)



Prizewinners pictured at the annual Joblink award ceremony held at the Nerve Centre. (1008A04)



The SDLP leader, John Hume, pictured with members and staff of Joblink at the group's annual award ceremony held at the Nerve Centre. (1008A02)



SDLP leader, John Hume, pictured at the annual Joblink award ceremony held at the Nerve Centre. Included, seated, from left, are James Logue, regional manager, Anne Broughton, Qualification manager, and Sylvia Page, Training and Employment Agency. At back from left, are Margaret Quinn, Ruth Snodgrass, Louise Bradley, Lorna McCarter, Darren Geach, Eleanor Kearne, Christine Hegarty and Leeona Magill. (1008A03)

Derry, Donegal mayors plan new initiative

NEW LINKS have been forged between Derry and Donegal Town as a result of a progressive meeting held between the mayors of both centres on Wednesday last.

Mr. Alec Reid, Mayor of Donegal Town, travelled to Derry to visit his counterpart, Alderman Mildred Garfield, at the Council offices on Strand Road.

Mr. Reid described the meeting as an attempt to "strengthen existing friendships between the areas and forge new ones."

The meeting examined three key sectors where both regions have common interests and could mutually benefit from each other. Further meetings are planned for the autumn.

Tourism Firstly, tourism potential in the North West was discussed at

West was discussed. It is also proposed to enter into negotiations with Ryanair in an attempt to ferry more visitors into the region from Britain and the continent.

Potential Mr. Reid was extremely positive about the potential of package holidays in the area and said that two prominent tour operators had already expressed a keen interest in the idea.

"The North West could well be called the renewable energy centre for Ireland," said

Mr. Reid. To date, a number of projects have been initiated, which include wind turbine farms in Co. Donegal, two separate hydroelectric schemes outside Donegal Town, as well as the state of the art sewage scheme which Donegal Town is set to develop.

Both electricity and fertiliser will be generated through specialised treatment of waste.

Galvanise friendships The third focal point

of the meeting was an attempt to galvanise friendships between post-primary students in both urban centres. The Abbey Vocational School will host students from various secondary schools in Derry as well as paying a day trip to the banks of the Foyle in the forthcoming academic year.

Mr. Conor Daly, of Donegal Tourism, Claire Lundy, marketing and communications officer for Derry City Council, and Tony McGurk, the Deputy Town Clerk, also attended the meeting.

Giant's visit Lisnagelvin

Members of the Belfast Giants team including Rob Stewart, will be visiting Lisnagelvin today at 12 noon from 1 p.m. approximately.

The Giants are celebrating a major joint initiative by the supermarket chain and Coca-Cola Bottlers (Ulster) Ltd. Coca-Cola and Tesco have joined forces to sponsor the Giants' first Sekonda Superleague game of the season on September 1st and give away hundreds of pairs of tickets for the game.

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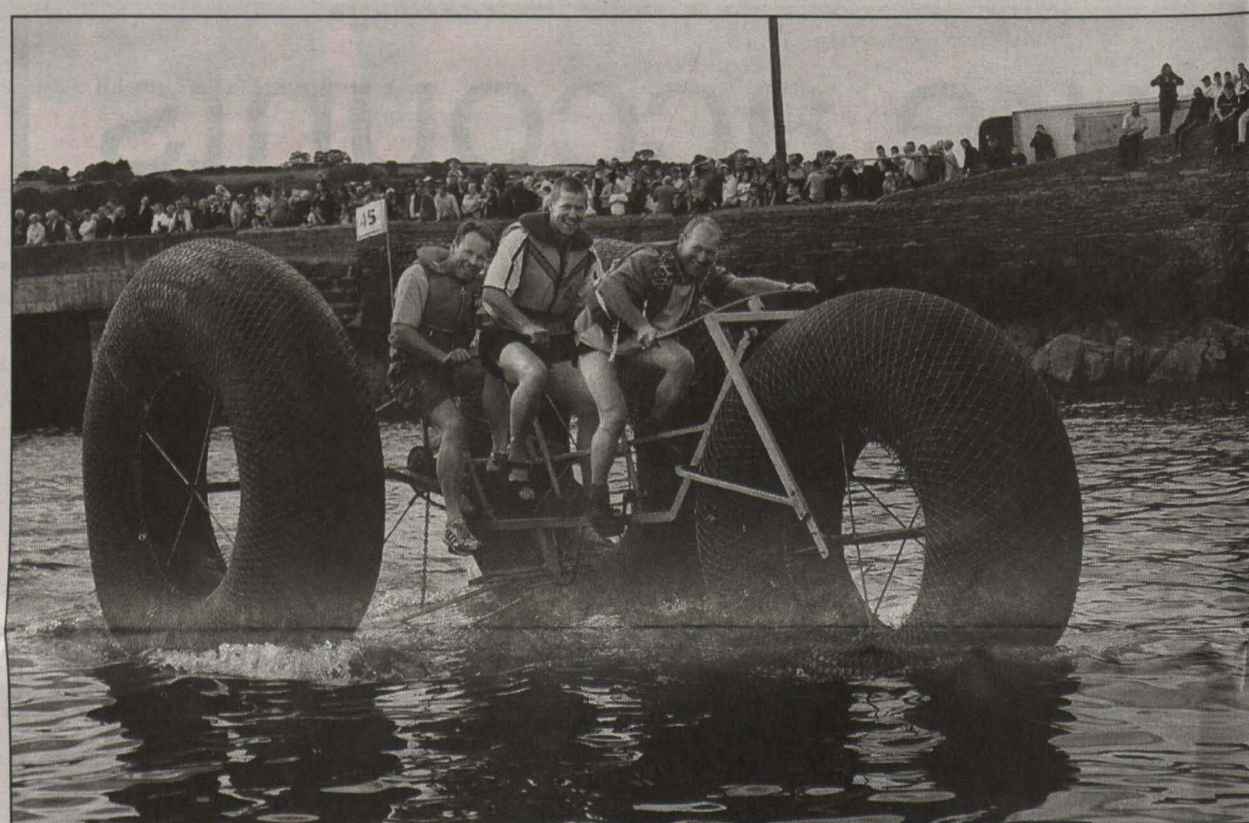
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The winners, the Hawthorn Inn, built up a comfortable lead in the early stages of the race.(1008PG3)



One of the more original designs on display at the raft race.(1008PG7)



One of the many sailing races gets under way at the Regatta.(1008PG11)



Children look on with interest at the activity during the Regatta races.(1008PG13)



The Merry Maids from Portglenone.(1008PG6)



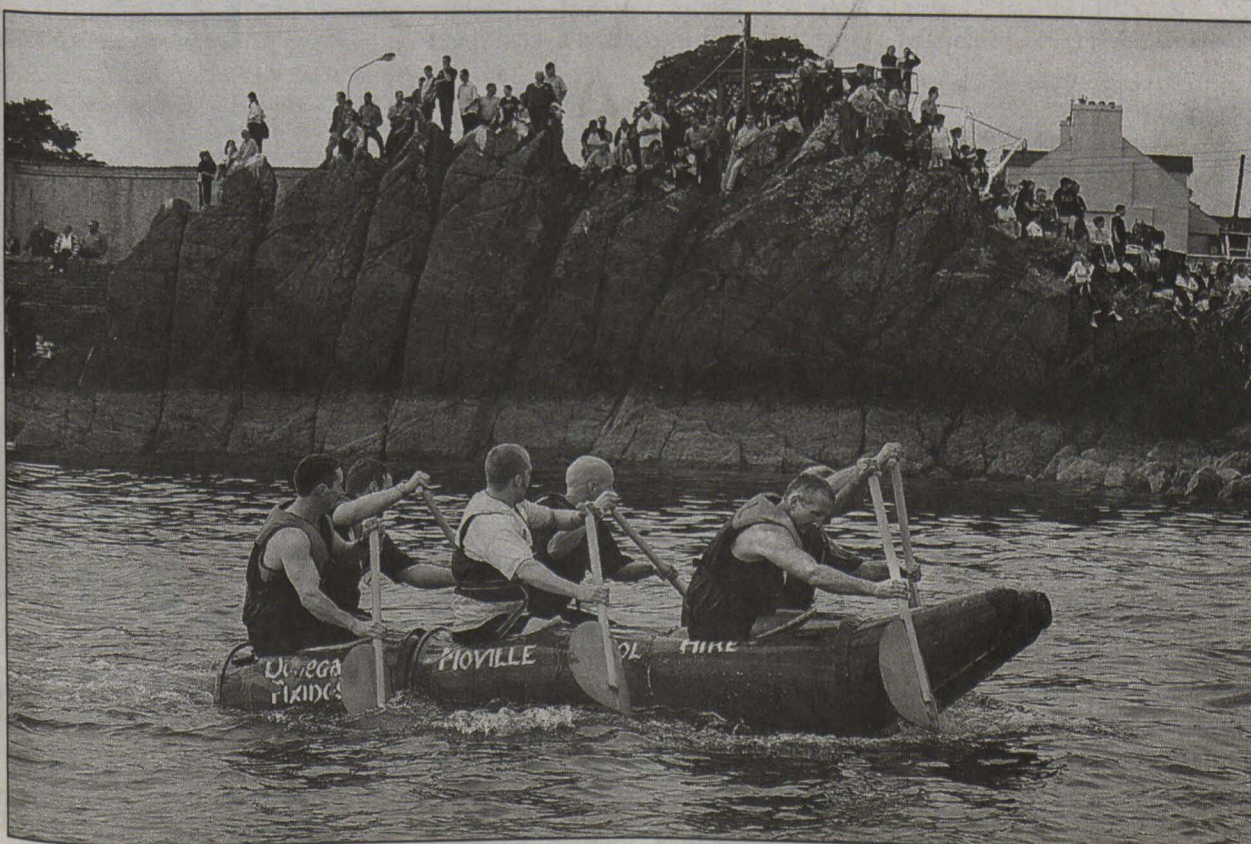
Local TD Cecilia Keaveney pushes on for the Gillan's shop team during Sunday's race.(1008PG9)



These lads try a bit of sailing themselves as they play on the boats during the Regatta.(1008PG14)



The men take the strain after the starting horn goes during one of the rowing races.(1008PG12)



The Moville Tool Hire Team going strong at the half way point.(1008PG8)



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Internment: 30 years on No turning back

THIRTY YEARS ago this week the unionist government at Stormont introduced internment without trial in yet another attempt to regain control of a political situation that had been slipping out of their grasp ever since October 5 1968. But instead of easing the situation, internment ensured that for nationalists there would be no going back to the bad old days of unionist rule.

On the morning of August 9 1971 in towns and villages across the north British army raiding parties burst into nationalist homes and dragged over 300 men away to an uncertain fate.

Brian Faulkner, the Unionist Prime Minister, had managed to persuade his reluctant security chiefs that internment was the weapon needed to crush the nascent IRA campaign.

But instead of crushing that campaign the introduction of internment ignited an open rebellion against the northern state that saw whole areas virtually seceding from state control.

In exchange for internment Faulkner had agreed to ban all marches for six months, something the nationalist population did not view as a fair trade off.

In Derry the swoops netted several local men and across the county as a whole around 60 people were lifted.

VETERAN

First on the list of any internment swoop in Derry was veteran republican Sean Keenan.

The old joke in Derry was that when the Special Branch was compiling a list of who to intern they put Sean Keenan's name at the top and then asked 'who else?'

Within a matter of hours of the swoops the names of those arrested in the city were known.

The tales of the arrest of Mickey Montgomery, Mickey McNaught, Liam McDaid, Joe McGlinchey, Peter Collins and Paddy Mullan to name but some, were soon being retold around the Bogside, Creggan and Brandywell.

The exact fate of the 16 local men arrested was also unclear and the rumours that engendered added to the palpable anger in the areas.

Soon the inevitable rioting erupted not only in Derry but across the North. In the days immediately following the introduction of internment the Stormont government was left in no doubt as to the depth of nationalist anger.

RENT AND RATES STRIKE

There were calls for nationalists to withdraw from public life. A rent and rates strike was called for and widely supported.

As local journalist Eamonn McCann reports in his book 'War and an Irish Town' support for the rent and rates strike did not represent support for any organisation, people were anxious to take any action at all to register their protest so the rent and rates strike offered one method of doing so. In Belfast and Derry prolonged gun battles

took place between the IRA and the British Army and for the first time IRA gunmen were openly seen on the streets.

Derry escaped the worst of the violence which left countless dead in Belfast including a Catholic priest shot dead by the British Army.

RIOTING

In Derry some of the heaviest rioting took place around the Rosemount RUC barracks and one soldier was seriously injured and five more slightly injured by gunfire on August 9.

But the political ramifications of internment were of much more lasting significance.

The introduction of internment without trial resulted in the almost complete alienation of the nationalist community from the state.

In Derry this was translated into the virtual secession of the Bogside Brandywell and Creggan which became no-go areas where the British army could only enter in force and even then they faced massive resistance.

The no go areas lasted until July the next year when they were only retaken by the British army mounting the biggest military operation since Suez.

Bloody Sunday in Derry also followed from internment with the march that day being organised as part of the ongoing series of demonstrations against the practice.

Internment itself was to last until 1975 when it was phased out as part of the British Government's plan to normalise the situation here.

HELD WITHOUT TRIAL

By the time it had ended thousands of men and women from across the North had been held without trial for periods ranging from weeks through to years.

The initial internment swoops were used by the Stormont regime to arrest not only republicans but anyone who opposed the Northern state so political activists of all hues were arrested.

However, in later years the vast majority of those being held in Long Kesh or Armagh Prison were involved in the conflict in the North.

Within days of the introduction of internment the ranks of the IRA were swollen by a glut of recruits anxious to fight back against the Stormont regime.

Far from bringing the IRA campaign to an end the injustice of internment ensured that it received a major boost.



John Hume addresses a peaceful sitdown protest against the introduction of internment at Elmwood Terrace.

Torture accounts added to anger

THE ANGER felt in nationalist areas after the introduction of internment was intensified when reports began emerging from the camps of the routine brutality and systematic torture of some of those arrested.

Of most concern were reports that a group of internees had been singled out for intense interrogation.

This concern reached a stage that the British government were forced to hold an inquiry into the reports. That inquiry reached the incredible conclusion that while ill treatment had taken place it did not constitute torture as those inflicting it did not take any pleasure from it.

Derry man Michael Montgomery, who had been arrested from his Iniscarn Road home on August 9 was one of those singled out for the special treatment.

In an account smuggled out shortly after his arrest Mr. Montgomery, who has since died, recounted what happened after his arrest.

After being taken out of his house in his underwear he was named, addresses, photos were taken by soldiers and policemen and a medical examination. We were then moved down the compound and I was put into a hut on my own.

"After a while, I don't know how long, I was taken for questioning by two plainclothes members of the RUC. They asked my name and address and questioned me about the Republican movement. I refused to answer questions until I saw and if I refused to answer questions they could get me put away for three or four years. I refused to answer any questions.

"One of the plainclothes men said to me: 'How would you like it if someone came to you and said my son or wife has been killed?'

HELICOPTER

Mr. Montgomery's statement added that eventually he and other prisoners were taken by helicopter to an unknown destination.

On Tuesday night members of the RUC and military tried to keep them awake by rattling batons alongside the hut they were in.

"About 4 a.m. we were awakened to be given food which consisted of tea, beans, sausages and a piece of bread", the statement added. "After this we were handcuffed and bags put over our heads and we were put into a helicopter and again taken to an unknown destination.

"Then I was brought and spread-eagled against a wall. I don't know how long I was standing in this position but my hands went numb and I fell against the wall, hitting my head in the fall. Some

men pulled me to my feet and started massaging my hands.

"Then I was again spread-eagled against the wall and the same thing happened again. My hands went numb and I fell again.

"I remember waking up on the ground as I was being thrown around like a rag doll. My head was banged on the ground. I was lifted roughly. I was set down on the ground and my head was pushed forward and my hands were thrown up towards my shoulders.

"Then my arms were pulled sharply back and I felt knees in the small of my back, being used as a lever to pull my arms back. Then a sharp object like the end of a brush-pole cut sharply into my back.

"I was then rolled over the floor again and my head hit the ground again. I must have passed out for I woke up with a doctor examining me. I shouted out for a drink of water."

His statement continued: "Although I knew there were people in the room nobody answered me or gave me water. I was then picked up and spread-eagled against the wall. I could no longer stand by myself so they held my hands against the wall.

"I was held up off the ground so that I was forced to stand on my toes.

"I was near total collapse when I was hit in the stomach and I fell to the ground again and was rolled back and forth over the ground, with my head hitting the ground regularly.

"I was then grabbed by the shoulders and dragged along some long corridor with a concrete floor. I was brought into a room where a man with an English accent asked me: 'Do you want to speak to someone?' I said that I wanted to speak to my wife or a priest.

PRIEST

"The man said: 'There is no priest here'.

"The room where I was beaten about had the constant noise of what sounded like compressed air being released. I was brought back and made stand against the wall again but I couldn't do so, and so I was rolled about the floor again with the usual results.

"Then my arms were dragged back again and the sharp object was put in my back again. I was dragged along the floor and made to lie on the edge of a bed with people sitting on my chest. I have a back complaint and this was so painful that I passed out.

"I came round again with the doctor examining me. I could hear music in the background. After the examination I was brought back into the room. Two men were sitting at the table in plain clothes. They began to question me again. I remember answering them.

"I cannot remember what I said. I was taken from this room to a cell where there was just a mattress on the floor.

"When I was thrown into the cell I passed out and woke up freezing. I was taken back to the men for questioning. I don't know how many times this

happened.

"In the cell I could hear music in the background - military bands, Republican songs and American marches. I began to want to hear these sounds. I began to want someone in the cell with me. I thought of conjuring up people in the cell with me.

"All this time I remember the music in the background. I began to depend on the music. When it stopped I felt that I was cracking up. When the music was back on again I didn't give a damn if I lived or died. I started to conjure up my children in the cell with me.

"My hood was still on. I didn't dare take it off because I was afraid of getting another beating. I felt a mug being put in my hand but I couldn't hold it so it was put to my lips. I was also given a slice of dry bread and it was also put to my mouth.

"After that someone came in and asked me if I was alright. I was also asked, did I want tea or coffee. They brought me coffee and the hood was taken off. The man was a plainclothes officer of the RUC, and he offered me cigarettes, which I took. Then he left me and came back some time later.

"He asked me if I wanted something to eat. He brought me stew, which I could not eat. He said: 'You will have to eat. You haven't eaten anything since you came here'.

FLYING

Mr. Montgomery's statement went on: "He then brought me coffee and said 'You will soon be flying back to Ireland'. He brought me out for a wash and shave. When I was brought back to my cell he brought me another mug of coffee and more cigarettes.

"Then he brought me in the clothes which had been taken off me and asked me to sign for them. The list I had to sign for was hand-written. I was then brought in to a doctor, who examined me. I was then taken out again and photographed in the nude.

"After this the hood was put back on again and I was out in a lorry and taken a short distance. Then I was led to a helicopter and when it landed the hood was taken off and I was lifted out and taken to Crumlin Road Gaol in a Land Rover.

"In the gaol I asked a warder what day it was and when he told me it was Tuesday I felt I must have cracked up on the day I was held.

"During my captivity in the mystery place I got bread and water two or three times and after my interrogation I was offered stew, tea, bread and coffee. At one time I was brought in sugar puffs."

Mr. Montgomery's statement added: "One of the tortures I remember was having my testicles rubbed along the ground by soldiers' boots. I was in a boiler suit and when I sat on the floor my testicles were exposed. Another torture I remember was soldiers making me do the splits until I fainted. This happened a number of times. There were whole days which were a complete blank to me. I do not know how many times these tortures took place."

Derry death

Among the hundreds of Derry men interned in Long Kesh, one man never came home.

Jim Moyne, from Cable Street, had been interned since 1973 and on the night of January 13, 1975, while being held in Cage 8, he took an asthma attack.

Despite repeated appeals from his comrades for medical assistance, the authorities were slow to answer.

Finally, in desperation, the prisoners broke down the door of the hut Jim was in and carried him out on a trolley.

However, their attempts were too late and Jim died that same night.

This was the second death of an internee in a matter of months.

Following the burning of Long Kesh in October 1974, the internees were being kept in makeshift conditions in the rubble of the camp.

A number of prisoners in Cage 5 began to dig a tunnel using the wrecked cage as cover for the debris thrown up.

However, on the night that the prisoners tried to escape through the tunnel, everything went tragically wrong.

The internees were spotted emerging from the tunnel and Hugh Coney, from Coalisland in County Tyrone, was shot dead.

The rest of the internees were later recaptured.



British soldiers try to prevent local people getting through from Westland Street to Lone Moor Road.