

Twelfth Incidents in Portadown

Inquiry Holds R.U.C.

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*Longest March on
The Twelfth*

Guilty of

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*"We Won't Be Bribed
By US Dollars"*

"Insensitive Reaction"

A Unionist/Orange Institution public inquiry into policing in Portadown during the period July 11-14 has issued a report which has accused the R.U.C. of "a combination of tactical errors and apparent lack of discipline on the part of the Divisional Mobile Support Unit."

The panel, meeting in Craigavon Civic Centre on July 15, consisted of Rev. Robert Coulter, chairman; Mr. Harold McCusker, M.P., Mr. Ken Watson, Grand Master of the Grand Royal Purple Chapter of Ireland; Counsellor George Savage, Mayor of Craigavon, and Alderman Ivan Davis, Lisburn Borough Council.

The report which has been forwarded to the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Most Wor. Bro. Rev. Martin Smyth, B.A., B.D., M.P. is as follows:

Introduction

The origins of the violence in Portadown between the 11th and 14th July 1986 may be traced to the decisions taken in July 1985 to ban members of the Orange Institution and Royal Black Preceptory from parading their traditional route between Portadown town centre and Corcrain Orange Hall via Woodhouse Street and Obins Street.

These decisions put a large section of the population of Portadown and district into conflict with the R.U.C. and relations between the two have deteriorated since that time. The violence which occurred in the town on Easter Monday as a consequence of banning another loyalist parade exacerbated the situation and the ham-fisted handling of the Drumcree Church Parade on the 6th July established the temper for 12th July celebrations.

Advance Notice

The R.U.C. by advertisement in the press, had given advance notice that neither Orange nor Black parades would be allowed to proceed via Obins Street in 1986. Portadown Orange District submitted notices to the local police which indicated that in the event of their eight country lodges again being prevented from proceeding along their traditional route via Obins Street, the whole of Portadown Orange District would walk to Corcrain to support them in their protest and then proceed to the town centre via Brankins Hill and Garvaghy Road.

In the meantime the Ulster Club Movement had called on all loyalists to rally to Portadown in support of the Orangemen and Rev. Ian Paisley, M.P., had also called for a massive show of loyalist strength to protest against the police decision, indicating that he intended to be in Portadown on the morning of 12th July.

(Continued on back page).

"Tell The Truth" Call To King

Mr. John Taylor (Strangford) at Westminster questioned the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what representations he has received from the Government of the Republic of Ireland arising from his interview in the "Belfast Telegraph" on Friday 4th July, and if he will make a statement on each of the issues involved in these representations.

Mr. King said that Mr. Barry expressed views on the article in the "Belfast Telegraph," and he (Mr. King) hoped in due course to be able to discuss with him the issues with which it dealt.

Mr. Taylor commented: "This is a shameful reply in which clearly Mr. King is trying to hide from the public the fact that the Dublin Government has challenged at least eighteen points made by Mr. King in his interview in the "Belfast Telegraph."

"Whilst Mr. King tries to avoid answering parliamentary replies as is once again proven by his failure to list the issues raised by the Dublin Government as requested in the above question he assists the collapse of his credibility amongst even the most moderate of people in Ulster. It is time Tom King began to come clean and tell the truth to the Ulster people. The time for double talk is over."

Refusal to Quit Homes Commended

The "Orange Standard" salutes the people of Manor Street in the Oldpark for their courageous stand during a very difficult period up to and following the 12th celebrations, and their refusal to quit their new homes under threat from republican thugs from the Ardoyne and 'Bone' districts.

The erection of a new fence is fully justified, and will give the Protestant people the security they deserve in endeavouring to maintain a loyal presence in this part of North Belfast.

Congratulations also to the Unionist politicians of every variety, and the Orange leaders for their strenuous and successful efforts to get security for the Manor Street residents.



The scene in Portadown town centre on July 14, as RUC riot police advance behind landrovers, to clear the Protestant crowds from the area, after the Royal Black Preceptories had paraded to Carleton Street Orange Hall on their return from Scarva. Photo: 'Portadown Times.'

Portadown Prepares Royal Welcome For Belfast Blackmen

Portadown, now recovering from the effects of the second successive year of turmoil over its Orange and Black parades, is preparing to give a right royal welcome to the members of the Belfast Royal Black District Chapters, who will be holding their annual Last Saturday demonstration in the town on August 30.

Its the first time since 1980 that Portadown has been host to the Black Saturday rally, and memories are still fresh of the very happy and successful day that turned out to be, as 10,000 Sir Knights and followers enjoyed a day out in the citadel of Orangeism.

No controversial route is involved in the visit of the Belfast preceptories, and officers recently paid a visit to Portadown to examine every aspect of the visit. There should be no problems, and the host District will be taking every precaution to ensure that nothing mars the big day. There will be a large number of marshals to assist those from the city in supervising the parade.

The tradition of the Belfast preceptories visiting Portadown goes back a long way — to 1924 to be exact. That was a historic

day in the history of Portadown Orangeism, and it established a strong link between the town and the city Sir Knights. All through the 1920s, the 30s and after World War II Portadown was a regular venue, and in the 1950s, the Belfast Sir Knights were visitors on half a dozen occasions.

However, there was a long break between 1958, until 1980, when the link was re-established, and Portadown is now one of the towns on the city demonstration's itinerary.

The District Chapters of both Portadown and Belfast are determined that nothing will spoil the enjoyment of the day, and to that end, it cannot be stressed too strongly that every loyalist visiting Portadown on August 30 should resolve to be on their best behaviour, for, no doubt, sections of the media will be seeking to try to blacken the image of the Institution, and of Portadown, a town and loyal people who have experienced a great deal of hardship for their loyalty in the past year.

Let August 30 be a boost for the morale of both the visiting Sir Knights, and those of Portadown and the Protestant people generally, who should enjoy a relaxing day.

'Twin' Lodges Unite at Rossnowlough

A few "twin" Lodges, both having the same Number, are in existence in different places in Ireland, but they are quite rare.

One such Number is L.O.L. 454. It is shared by Stranmillis Temperance Volunteers L.O.L., Ballynafeigh District Belfast, and Ballinakillew L.O.L., Ballintra District, Co. Donegal.

The fact was discovered when the District Master of Ballynafeigh set out to compile a History of Orangeism in that area, and the first real links between the "twin" lodges were forged on 5th July, when five brethren from the Belfast lodge travelled to Donegal to march with Ballinakillew L.O.L. 454 at the "Twelfth" in Rossnowlough.

It has become customary for the Donegal lodges to hold their demonstration on the Saturday previous to the actual 12th date. It is the only Orange Twelfth anniversary celebration held in the Republic.

Bro. Jim Cummings, Secretary of the Stranmillis Lodge, said they had had a very pleasant day at Rossnowlough and he hoped more members of their Lodge would be coming to walk with their "twin" lodge in Donegal next year.

Bro. Robert Edgar, W.M. of Ballinakillew said that the Offices and members of 454, Donegal, were delighted and honoured to have the Stranmillis 454 brethren marching with them at Rossnowlough, and they were all looking forward to many future contacts with each other.

Ballinakillew Lodge, Co. Donegal, has been in existence since 1856, and probably earlier. Its first recorded Number was 1618, and this was changed about 1880 to 1146. The Lodge's present Number of 454 was acquired in 1907. Stranmillis Temperance Volunteers L.O.L. 454 was formed in 1912, and meets in Ballynafeigh Orange Hall on the Ormeau Road, Belfast.

Armada R.B.D. Rally

Star of the North R.B.P. No. 171 at their monthly meeting completed final arrangements for the annual demonstration to Armadale on Saturday, August 9.

The Provincial annual parade and church service will be held in Armadale on Sunday August 3. Several candidates were elevated by the members of No. 4 Lecture Class, Partick.

New Glasgow Flute Band

A new Flute Band is being formed in Glasgow to be called the Ruchazie Unionist FB. The band is looking for members from the Ruchazie, Craighend and Garthamlock housing schemes in the city. If you wish to join or can help with tuition please write to:

RUF B c/o CFNI,
BO Box 256,
Glasgow, G13 2RL.



Two members of Derrycarne L.O.L. No. 78, Portadown, are presented with their 50 year medals. On the left, Bro. Norman Coulter, of L.O.L. No. 18 presents a medal to Bro. Thomas Robb, and on the right, the deputy district master, Bro. Roy McMahon presents Bro. Jack Robinson with his medal.

Photo: "Portadown Times."

Ligoniel Arch Opened

Saturday, 5th July, 1986, was a proud day for the Orange and Loyalist people of Ligoniel

and Ballysillan, when the new Orange Arch was officially opened outside Ligoniel Orange Hall.

The new Arch, incidentally the only one in Northern Belfast, was the brainchild of Bro. William Moody, who had spent the past year planning and making the various parts, while others who assisted included Bros. George, James and Herbie Moody, along with Bro. David Nicholl, all from Ligoniel True Blues L.O.L. 1932, assisted by Bros. Jack Magee, Billy Armstrong, Fred Rogers and Jackie Thompson from Ballysillan L.O.L. 1891. Countless others, too numerous to mention, also played their part.

Guest speakers at the opening ceremony included Bro. Hugh Smyth, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party and Bro. Alan Wright, chairman of the Ulster Clubs. The dedication was performed by W. Bro. the Rev. Martin Smyth, Grand Master.

Bro. Robert Haughey, whose invaluable assistance was greatly appreciated, cut the ribbon and declared the Arch opened.

Following this, the local lodges, Ligoniel True Blues L.O.L. 1932, Ballysillan L.O.L. 1891, plus visiting brethren, including Templemore True Blues L.O.L. 1205, along with six bands, paraded around the Ballysillan, upper Oldpark, Alliance and Upper Crumlin Road areas. On their return to the hall, tea was provided for the platform party and dignitaries by the Womens L.O.L. 15.

Longest March on The Twelfth

Ligoniel True Blues L.O.L. No. 1932 (No. 1 District) and Ballysillan L.O.L. No. 1891 (No. 3 District) must surely have the longest regular walk of all the Orange Lodges on the 12th Day, this year being no exception.

Both lodges meet at 8 a.m. at Ligoniel Orange Hall as usual, and normally wait on the arrival of any other lodge or band leaving the area, Tyndale L.O.L. No. 1869 (No. 2 District) usually being one of the participants.

At 8.30 a.m., or shortly afterwards, the mini parade moves off, led by Ligoniel True Blues Accordion Band, and a three-mile route takes them via the upper Crumlin Road, past Ardoyne, down Woodvale Road and through various side streets onto the lower Crumlin Road and to their numerous assembling points.

Thereafter they take their places in the main Belfast procession on the six mile long route to the Demonstration at Edenderry, Shaw's Bridge. On the return route, the lodges walk with their respective Districts as normal, and wait for each other at Agnes Street.

Depending on the positioning of the District Lodges, it is sometimes after 8 p.m. before they can move off, especially if they have to wait on some of the Ballysillan or Ardoyne-based bands further down the main

Belfast parade. They then make the long slow climb through North Belfast, following that morning's route in reverse.

At Ardoyne, their parade is usually barracked by hostile republican elements, but the lodges show them the contempt they deserve by ignoring their obscenities, and marching proudly on. This 12th, it was 9 p.m. before both lodges reached Ligoniel Orange Hall before dispersing, and the officers and members of both L.O.L. 1932 and L.O.L. 1891 deserve congratulations, along with their bands, for keeping this traditional route open to Orange and Loyalist parades. In doing so they must create something of a record insofar that their 18 mile route is undoubtedly the longest regularly paraded in Orangeism.

G. Hopkins

Markethill Memorial Unveiling

On Friday, September 5, 1986, Markethill District L.O.L. No. 10 will have a Memorial Stone unveiled and dedicated in the Square, Markethill.

The Memorial honours the memory of seven brethren from the District, killed by terrorist action during the "Troubles," namely Bro. R. Freeburn (L.O.L. 59); Bro. R. Walker (L.O.L. 132); Bro. M. Robinson (L.O.L. 222); Bro. R. Lockhart (L.O.L. 528); Bro. T. Cochrane (L.O.L. 620); Bro. S. Corkey (L.O.L. 620); and Bro. C. Spence (L.O.L. 1406).

The Most Wor. Grand Master, Bro. Rev. W. Martin Smyth, B.A., B.D., M.P., will perform the act of unveiling, and the dedication will be carried out by Bro. the Very Rev. R. J. N. Lockhart, M.A. Dean of Dromore, Co. Armagh Grand Chaplain.

Invitations have been extended to County Grand officers, other Districts, relatives of the murdered brethren and the ministers of the churches to which they belonged.

Brethren have been requested to assemble at Markethill Orange Hall at 6.45 p.m., and the service is scheduled to commence at 7.15 p.m.

All visiting brethren will be made very welcome at what promises to be a unique event in Orangeism.

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M. Smyth Spells Out Ulster's Desire to Be Free

We Won't Be Bribed By U.S. Dollars

Bro. Smyth said that there be those who will argue the status of Northern and therefore their citizenship has not been changed. "They will claim that Article 1 clarifies that status. Closer scrutiny will reveal a defaced counterfeit, surpassing any sleight of hand by a Ulster magician. It deliberately deceives.

NO CONSULTATION

"The very accord which was signed without consultation by the vast majority of Ulster people, Nationalists, Unionists, or whatever affirms that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland."

Nowhere in the Agreement does it state emphatically that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom which itself is left undefined in the Irish document. "We are denied the rights and privileges of full citizenship in the United Kingdom. Tom King, the Secretary of

The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Rev. W. Martin Smyth, B.A., B.D., M.P., told the audience at the Belfast Twelfth demonstration at Edenderry: "If I.R.A. terrorism has not deterred us, bribery by American dollars, or bullying to placate Barry and Hume will not change the Ulster people. We are free and will choose to be free."

State, has clearly realised the fatal flaw in the Agreement and the argument now for equal citizenship is being set aside merely as one for integration which is to be denied us.

"Article 1. (c) irrespective of hopes by Tom King that we

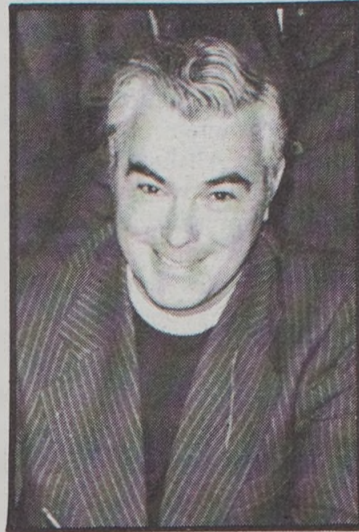
will always be Unionists only permits us to vote for a United Ireland. We are not allowed to have the rights of British subjects which permits us to hire and fire our governors in a true democracy.

"Peter Barry, unelected by anyone within the United Kingdom as a whole, joins Tom King, who represents no Ulster Constituency, to rule over us.

"It is done ostensibly openly now with releases of agendas beforehand and promised briefings and press handouts afterwards. Nonetheless the expressed Parliamentary practice of no answers concerning interchanges between officials, and the obvious discrepancies of interpretation between the joint chairmen belies the openness."

CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Bro. Smyth declared that Ulster loyalists will continue to campaign until their rights are



restored and equal citizenship within the Kingdom is granted. This is the only true path politically to peace, stability, and reconciliation.

The Government, he said must desist from more politics with their lives and livelihood. To suggest it was the instability of terrorism which jeopardises jobs was to miss the real reason. Economic folly had increased unemployment in Great Britain, and Northern Ireland follows. However, it was increased by political instability when the future of Northern Ireland was in doubt because of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Now, he said, is the time to use the Security Forces to face the terrorists positively and realistically rather than to shamefully deploy them to frustrate the democratic use of the ballot box.

Dublin made No Moves on Orange Marches — Tom King

Mr. John D. Taylor (Strangford) asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland at Westminster what representations he received from the Republic of Ireland about traditional Orange marches during July; and if he would make a statement.

Mr. King replied: "Decisions on the routes of individual marches are the responsibility of the Chief Constable. After he had made public his decision in respect of the march at Portadown on 12 July to allow a limited number of Orange Lodges, subject to strict conditions, to parade along Garvaghy Road but not Obins Street, the Irish Government communicated their strong views on that decision.

"They have made no representations about other particular routes for Orange Parades, but they have conveyed to me very clearly their views on the general issues of marches, including especially the safety of the Minority community."

Mr. Taylor said later: "This reply yet again demonstrates the double talk accompanying the operation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

"In Dublin Mr. Barry has stated that he had made representations about the Portadown marches earlier this year whereas Mr. King, by implication, totally denies this by stating categorically above that representations were only made by the Dublin Government after the decision to re-route the Orange Parade through Garvaghy Road.

"Who is telling the truth? Does Mr. King not realise that the credibility of his regime is totally lost as he tries to 'cover up' the operation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement?"

BBC Snub to Licence Holders

The controversy over the Portadown re-routings, and the civil strife in parts of the province during the "Twelfth" period tended to obscure an issue which incensed many Orangemen and their families.

It concerns the shabby treatment afforded to the Orange Institution by the B.B.C. in deciding not to transmit "live" coverage of the 12th July procession in Belfast.

The lame excuse offered by the B.B.C. that it could give better treatment in an evening edited programme, and that this would prove more enjoyable to viewers than the sight of marching lodges, just did not impress anyone connected with the Order.

Tens of thousands of viewers were disappointed, not least those loyal people who are housebound, due to disability or hospitalised. To break a link going back a quarter-of-a-century for such ridiculous reasons was deplorable to say the least.

The "live" Orange coverage had a vast and appreciative audience, and it was the one day in the year when Protestant Ulster was able to demonstrate to the world through live coverage, just how strong and how important a part Orangeism plays in the affairs of the people of this province.

The removal of this "live" coverage will not diminish Orangeism and the affection which so many Ulster people have for it, but it is a kick in the teeth for those viewers who pay their licence fees so diligently — unlike the republican element.

When one considers that so much of television is taken up by trivia, and also by undiluted muck and sordid viewing, it puts the axeing of the Twelfth coverage even more in perspective.

Brethren have already been asked to consider withholding their television licence as a protest, but an equally effective weapon would be for as many as possible to write to the B.B.C. registering their protest, and getting their families and friends to do likewise. Then perhaps next year things may be different.

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Sandy Row District L.O.L. No. 5 step out smartly at the Mini Twelfth parade on July 1. Photo: Allan J. McCullough.



STANDARD BEARER

The Twelfth and 13th in Portadown

A Prospect And A Retrospect

One of the fallacies which have dominated the reporting of the disturbances in Portadown during the first 14 days of July has been the impression that the parade of Orangemen along the Garvaghy on Sunday, July 6, was that it passed "through" a Nationalist estate. This is a blatant lie, for the simple reason that the parade used the Garvaghy Road route which is a main thoroughfare, a road used daily by through traffic and itself several yards

away from the houses. Indeed, in some cases, especially at the Ballyoran estate, the houses are a considerable distance from the roadway.

Anyone who takes the trouble to have a look at the roadway will immediately see that those who objected to the procession of Orangemen and bands had to walk several yards from their homes to the edge of the road or to the high ground overlooking it. So it is

obvious that those who shouted obscenities and fired missiles, including a dart from a crossbow narrowly missing a policeman's jugular vein, made their presence on this occasion a deliberate act of provocation and clearly intent on causing disturbance. All that those who were objecting to men return from a Church service had to do was to refrain for no more than 25 minutes on a Sunday morning. They were not precluded from attending Mass in

the local R.C. Church. In any case is it not a fact that today Mass is gradually moving from Sunday morning to Saturday evening? Hundreds of motor cars outside R.C. churches on a Saturday evening confirm evidence of this remarkable trend, all of which gives credibility to the argument that Sunday sport is of equal if not more importance than attendance at worship on the Lord's Day.

An Historic Route

The other "flashpoint", in Portadown, from the Roman Catholic point of view, is Obins Street, one of the oldest roads in the town for it alone led in olden times to Dungannon, itself a place of note in Ulster's chequered history. It was shortly after the Battle of the Diamond, in 1795, that the Orangemen of Portadown made their first appearance in regalia at morning service in Drumcree Parish Church. Why did they decide to walk

the mile long route to the church out in the country? The reason, of course, was that at that time there was no church of any kind in Portadown, Protestant or Roman Catholic. The Church of Ireland people from the hamlet of Portadown worshipped in Drumcree, up to 1826 the Presbyterians in Vinecash, until 1828; even further away, the Methodists of Derryanville until 1802, while the Roman Catholics

walked to Drumcree, this church now being abandoned and replaced by a modern church on an adjacent site. I have examined the General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland book for the Lurgan Union which embraced Portadown at that time. In it one discovers that in 1864 there were 114 houses in Obins Street. Of these 12 were listed as being unoccupied, one was vacant and No. 62 was

designated as the Wesleyan Methodist Preaching House. Using names as a reasonably reliable guide for the period it would seem that Protestant and Roman Catholic tenants were about equally divided, with the slight lead possibly in favour of Roman Catholics. The position today is that there are 95 houses in a much longer Obins Street, and that there are 216 residents entitled to vote at an election, not all of them Roman Catholics.

Housing For The Nationalists

The other areas in the Obins Street sector comprise Obins Drive, Obins Avenue and Parkside, all predominantly if not exclusively Nationalist/Republican. But the great concentration of non-Unionist population is to be found in the three estates flanking Garvaghy Road, i.e., Churchill Park, Garvaghy Park and Ballyoran Park, together with

some private development at the top of Garvaghy Road. It will be seen, therefore, that through good housing policy on the part of local authority and at a later stage, State enterprise the Roman Catholic population has undergone considerable movement to better housing conditions and leaving Obins Street itself a very run

down place. Despite all this very important provision of housing accommodation for the Roman Catholic people there is within that community a small section hell bent on causing disturbance to the Orangemen and Protestant people generally that they now feel they have a right to deny freedom to their fellow towns-

men to walk the Queen's highway for 25 minutes once a year. It is an intolerable situation and in some way it must be brought home to them that they are responsible for the upheaval in community relations and that the sooner they desist from their un-Christian behaviour the better for all concerned.

Newry Will Still Be Policed

All possible words of condemnation have been expressed over the past 18 years towards those who have heaped hideous enormities on this tragic Province. Yet one must again call forth terms of absolute revulsion at the massacre of three policemen in the public streets of Newry. This atrocity is the latest in a series of dreadful deeds in the town and district of Newry and the utterances of Roman Catholic clergy and politicians in response sound just that little bit hollow when one considers the mutilation of the Protestant population in a town once known and respected for its sense of tolerance and goodwill among its people. The R.U.C. who serve there in the present hostile atmosphere have borne the brunt of the burden of keeping the peace and serving the entire community without fear or favour, and the losses they have sustained over a long

period have been terrifying. Even in the midst of their grief and shock the message comes from the Edward Street station that policing will continue to be operated. Such courage and devotion deserves the highest commendation and support from all right-thinking people throughout the stricken area. Meanwhile the expression of condemnation spoken by Peter Barry, the Eire "foreign" minister has a distinctly unsavoury ring about it, especially in the wake of the disclosure which came to light shortly after the mass murders that the car used by the assassins was stolen or high-jacked in, of all places, Mullingar, a long way from Newry. Mr. Barry's condolence and interference in security matters affecting Northern Ireland ought to be rejected with the contempt which they deserve.

Barry Has Role in North

One of the most extraordinary statements I have come across appeared in an article by Michael Toner in the "Sunday Express" of July 27, a paper noted for its useful and perceptive analysis of the Ulster Loyalist position and a fierce opponent of the IRA and all it does and stands for. Toner in an adulatory piece of writing under the heading "Does anyone really believe that Mrs. T. can take humbug in her stride?" was dealing with the disarray which marked the Commonwealth Games, and in one place where he referred to South Africa he stated "Is there anyone, even on the

crazier fringes of the Labour Party, who seriously thinks that British foreign policy should be decided by others?" Really! Is it not a fact that Peter Barry, described as Eire's "foreign" minister, does have a role in deciding just how the Loyalist people of Northern Ireland should comport themselves? The "Sunday Express" political editor ought

to have another thought on that one. It is not only Unionists who have qualms about British Government policy whatever the rights and wrongs of Britain's dealings with the African countries.

Fun boost for school

Ulidia Primary School, in Ballynaveigh, South Belfast, has been given £120 by the Orange Order to buy recreation equipment.

Belfast councillor Mr. Billy Blair said the money was handed over to the school principal, Mr. John Toy, by Mr. William Caldwell, district secretary of L.O.L. District No. 10, Mr. Tom Grant, chairman of the Orange Hall committee, and himself.

Media Interest in Portadown

During the July marching season in Portadown this year it was inevitable that there should be a huge concentration of representatives of the media. Of course, we are now in an era when trouble attracts attention more than peaceful activities. Let there be an inkling of dissent or riot in the offing then one witnesses hordes of reporters and camera carrying people descending on a town or village far from the great centres of population. And in a free society that is fair and reasonable.

But what riles those who live in these places and who will still be there when the media people have folded their tents and, like the Arabs, "silently stole away" is their absence for the rest of the year. People who reside in Portadown told me when I was there that they do not resent media people exercising their right to report and take pictures but feel that

afterwards they are generally left in isolation. For instance how many times have the T.V. cameras been to Portadown on the Twelfth and 13th before the outbreak of violence in 1985? How many times have they been to Scarva for the Sham Fight celebrations attended by 30,000 to 40,000 yearly. Of course when they did attend at these venues they were made welcome, and will be in the future if only to tell the world that Orangemen parade peacefully when not interfered with. It is a free story worth telling year after year. And Orangemen are appreciative of the valuable publicity which they receive. Perhaps closer co-operation with Orangeism at a more local level on these particular occasions would be of value in the creation of better understanding. The BBC and UTV as well as Downtown Radio might consider this as having some merit.

Royal Wedding — Eire Shows Interest

A traditional Anglican Form of Marriage surrounded by the panoply of State, as only the English and British can provide, marked the wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey on July 23. Hours before the ceremony the Queen had graciously conferred on the Prince the title of Duke of York, thus reintroducing a title which had lain in abeyance since her father succeeded to the Throne on the Abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, later the Duke of Windsor. But for us here in Ulster there was the delightful additional news that the Duke was to have two other titles — the Earl of Killyleagh and Earl of Inverness. The first of these is in recognition of the bride's close connection with the family of Ferguson who had their roots firmly fixed in Co. Down in bygone years. The T.V. coverage of the magnificent scenes at the wedding, both in the Abbey and along the processional route, was superb, reaching an audience numbering an estimated 500 million in many countries. It was a courageous decision of Radio Telefis Eireann to provide 2½ hours viewing, taken from the BBC for the citizens of the Irish Republic, and that

against the wishes of some militant republican organisation or other. Can we here discern a latent respect for the British Throne as well as a response to that natural feminine interest in weddings, whether they be in a country or village church or in the magnificent setting of an Abbey or Cathedral? Maybe after more than 60 years of Home Rule there is a yearning for the old days of pageantry and pomp which once upon a time in happier days formed a part of Dublin life. A republican mould which for long forbade recognition of anything savouring of Britishness has obviously been broken, and full marks go to those who took this monumental step for the future, untrammelled by the republican politics which have bedevilled relations between London and Dublin for almost seventy decades. The light of respect for the British Throne and Person of its occupant may have been dimmed over that period but never quite extinguished. RTE may have gone a long way towards fanning the flickering flame by its screening of this magnificent spectacle, and done much to confound those who raised their voices in opposition.

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Comment — Comment — Comment

No Justification For Violence

The most horrifying and alarming happening since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement has been the greatly increased violence of Protestant mobs.

No attempt to justify people who act so destructively and with such total disregard for law and order would satisfy those of us who condemn such attacks on persons and property as insane and inhuman, and unlikely to have anything other than a negative response from those whom they blame for an Agreement which has intensified disagreement among people who have always found it hard to live together.

Provocation is not justification for venting one's anger and frustration on available objects. It is never a good tactic to use violence to make a case. The violent will be made to suffer for their violence and in a good society they should be. Not just that they will be punished in the courts, but that they will feel the disapproval of families and friends and the community at large.

While there is no justification for violence of the kind we have had in several places it has to be accepted that such things happen for contributory reasons. The Agreement and those who signed it have many sins to answer for. But the violence has more to do with the rerouting of parades than anything contained in the Agreement. The connection between the two is the belief that Peter Barry, the Republic's Foreign Minister, has persuaded the Chief Constable and the Northern Ireland Secretary that traditional parade routes are no longer sacrosanct.

The Roman Catholic objectors have managed to deny a civil liberty to their Protestant fellow-citizens. It is ironical that those who constantly plead deprivation are themselves so anxious to deprive others of something which is meaningful to them. Their plea of a mental cruelty imposed by the triumphalism of members of the Loyal Institutions on parade is a contradiction of a liberal republicanism which talks about appreciating Orange and Protestant culture in a multi-cultural society.

Liberalism is a word with little meaning and less content in the country today. The uttering of liberal views are too often unaccompanied by helpful suggestions which would bring peace to warring factions in this polarised society. It is easy to condemn intolerance. It is hard to change the minds of the intolerant. They are never without reasons for their bigotry. And it has to be recognised that this attitude is not the monopoly of either majority or minority. It is the vice of people everywhere. It is a human failure which takes religious/political forms here and other shapes everywhere else.

It would be easy to become so pessimistic about what is happening here that we could say, "A plague on both your houses." We must not do that for change is both desirable and

possible and people can be persuaded to do and be better. To accept as inevitable the present situation with the opposing factions constantly at battle stations is to refuse to accept the Christian proposition that people must and can be changed.

We must sooner or later abandon our entrenched positions if the country is to avoid the civil war with which it has been threatened for seventeen years. To that end every encouragement must be given to people to determine to live at peace with their fellows and to respect aims and aspirations different from their own. The onus to improve community relationships is a shared responsibility in which Government and influential people have a large part to play.

The Agreement is one governmental measure which shows how lacking it is in the knowledge and understanding of people. The Secretary of State, Tom King, and the Minister for Law and Order, Nicholas Scott, have the unhappy knack of saying unhelpful things in difficult and dangerous circumstances. The often supercilious Scott by speech and manner offends many people who resent his dogmatism, insensitivity and inability, after several years, to understand the Ulster mentality, Unionist and Nationalist. His going could only improve the situation here.

The police have the task of keeping the peace which means separating those Protestants and Roman Catholics who, given any excuse, attack each other unmercifully. In doing what has to be done to keep people within the law they have become the targets of Protestant attacks, an unusual happening, for these are people who previously supported them and the other security forces. The strong condemnation by Unionist politicians and the Orange Institution of such behaviour accords with the view of most people who resent what is being done in the name of Unionism and Orangeism. The State has the duty to quell disturbances and to arrest its perpetrators.

The police have the duty of enforcing the will of government and society in the maintenance of law and order. They must act sensitively while making due allowance for an anger and frustration which comes from decisions which are unpalatable to people who resent the loss of a freedom enjoyed by their fathers and forefathers for more than 180 years.

How the RUC resisted attempts to force a way through to places refused to loyalists is a subject for enquiry by uninvolved observers. The setting up by the Grand Master of a commission to study the Portadown situation is to be welcomed, and the report is honest and fair to all concerned.

Influential people — parents, families, teachers and parsons — must feel shattered by the violence of our society. They appear to have no influence over people who resent the authority of home,

church and state. It can be a recognition of failure that so much teaching has had so little effect on those of their care. It must mean greater efforts will be made to persuade people to recognise the norms of civilised society. If good influences fail the future for everybody is black indeed.

Much more has to be done to stop the violence which is doing so much harm to the Province.

The unbalanced reporting of events in Northern Ireland has been a problem since the beginning of the present Troubles. The media of radio and television are always likely to present the news off true. The reason is that bad news is news and the concentration on news items often gives the impression that things as a whole are as what appears in focus at a given time. Often the incident is local and exceptional. The listener and viewer has to appreciate that the small area, of media concentration is only a part, it could be a small part, of the whole picture.

The point was never better illustrated than when in a programme on Newsnight, 14 July, the Portadown situation was featured exclusively. It was Tom King who had to insist that in parts it was inaccurate and it gave a totally unbalanced picture of Ulster's Twelfth, for the Belfast demonstration, many times larger, than all the others, had gone over peaceably and happily, and on that very important fact no comment had been made.

There is no denying the unsavoury events of Portadown or minimising the hurtful consequences to the town and the Province, police and people, but there is a danger that Portadown will be seen as typical of Ulster. That would be a gross injustice to the rest of the country. To say that is not to pass judgment on the events of Portadown. There must be enquiries into them, what caused them and how they were handled by the authorities. Our intention is to support those who warn against accidental or deliberate off-balance reportage of something much larger than the featured part of it.

It has been claimed that the nature of the media with its concentration on extraordinary happenings makes it difficult for it to do other than it is doing. Many would contend that it could do very much more to explain that its presentation of an event is part of something which should be viewed on a wider screen. It is essential that listeners and viewers understand that news items in the media must be examined critically.

It is no longer sensible to believe all that one reads, hears or sees, for information is not always given fully by the media. And that is the case even when efforts are made to be fair to all concerned. Damage done by an incomplete or inaccurate description of what somebody said or did is not redressed by a correction or apology. Such a wound is not easily healed.

"No Place Like Ulster in The Whole World"

Ulsterman Noel Loney, 10 St. Mary's Rise, Breachwood Green, Nr. Hitchin, Herts, writes:

"I arrived in Ulster about 9.30 p.m. on July 10 travelling from London. There is something about Ulster . . . well there is no place like it in the whole world. It has got a loyalty second to none. You can feel it . . . the very atmosphere . . . as you meet the people coming off the plane.

"The BBC had blackened the Loyalists so much that some people were postponing their visit to a later date.

"It was great to see the flags and bunting all over Portadown, but it was very sad on the Twelfth to see the police blocking Woodhouse Street

and stopping the parade going through as they have done for 179 years. This happened because a few people complained.

"This does not make sense as Portadown is the most loyal town in Northern Ireland. I feel Margaret Thatcher will regret the day she ever stopped these lovely bands going through Woodhouse Street.

"The priceless banners and orderly people carrying them . . . and the lovely bands . . . what has gone wrong with Westminster stopping the Orangemen going through Woodhouse Street? Where would Woodhouse Street have been if William had not brought religious freedom to the British Isles?"

"After the parade in Portadown I went to Armagh and saw a massive turnout. The last time I was there was nearly 30 years ago, with my dear mother. But this year the crowds were bigger than ever.

"Because of the massive turnouts on the Twelfth week throughout the Province Ulster people said loudly 'No Surrender' to the world.

"One banner with the inscription 'No Cross No Crown' reminded me of William Penn's famous book 'No Cross No Crown.' He wrote 'Oh fellow men, may we bear the Cross, despite the shame, and go with the world's despised few.'

"It was lovely to renew fellowship with friends I had not seen for many years."

Good Wishes to Grand Secretary

Absent for health reasons from Edenderry for the first time in very many years was the Grand Secretary for Ireland, Rt. Wor. Bro. Walter Williams. There were many expressions of good wishes to him and prayers for a speedy recovery of health and strength. It would be hard to find an Orangemen more respected than Walter Williams by the brethren and the general public.

Given a special welcome there was Most Wor. Bro. John Bryans, Past Grand Master and Grand Master of the county lodge, in his 102nd year and the 84th of his membership of the Institution. Incidentally his interview on television at Clifton Street before the procession moved off was memorable for his reminiscences and the clarity and pungency with which he expressed his opinions.

John has lost none of his ability to speak out plainly on what matters to him as a deeply committed Christian who views life through the eyes of faith. He remains an example to his brethren and the many who know him and value his wisdom and sound judgement.



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See also the article in the "Newtownards Spectator" of the 29th May, 1986, under the heading "Two Queens" concerning Queen Mary the Second, the wife of King William the Third.

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Long Service Medals for Maralin Brethren



The installation of officers of Maralin R.B.P. No. 100 was a historic occasion for two reasons. Firstly it was held in the Cushnic Room in Brownlow House, and secondly because of the number of long service medals presented to some of its members.

The recipients were Sir Knts. David Mills (64 years), William Banks (54 years), James Mathers (48 years), Thomas Banks (47 years), Walter Mathers (47 years), Robert Maguire, Thomas Mills, James Dowds and James McKinley all 40 years service.

The presentations were made by Sir Knight Raymond Adams, W.D.M. of Lower Iveagh who with the help of Sir Knts. Samuel Ervine, D.D.M. and Thomas Russel, Dist. Treas. also conducted the installation of officers.

Those installed were W.M. Sir Knt. Irwin Lyttle, D.M. Sir Knt. Harry Stevenson; Registrar, Sir Knt. William McCullough (junior); Treasurer Sir Knt. David Mills, and Chaplain Sir Knt. Andrew McCormick.

SCRAP ACCORD — City Grand

Master

Speaking at Edenderry, Belfast, on Saturday, 12th July 1986, Rt. Wor. Bro. John McCrea, J.P., County Grand Master, said that in proposing this Resolution of Loyalty he realised its importance in relation to the situation in the Province at this time. Never before in the history of Northern Ireland had the loyalty to Her Majesty's subjects been so tested.

FIRST LOYALTY

"Before considering the content of this Resolution of Loyalty let me spend a short time examining the question of loyalty and the various "Loyalties" you may encounter.

In the normal context of the 12th July Resolution we would define loyalty as being faithful to one's Sovereign, but let us look also at our other loyalties. Our first loyalty as Orangemen should be to have a humble and steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, believing in him as the only mediator between God and man.

"One must have family loyalty remembering the words of the 5th Commandment — 'Honour thy Father and thy Mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.'"

"Loyalty must also be expressed in a person's place of work both to the employer and fellow employee. Loyalty as Orangemen must be to our Lodge and the Institution at large as we are all members of the Loyal Orange Institution.

"Loyalty requires fidelity! Fidelity in essence is honesty. There has been a distinct lack of honesty surrounding the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and as Orangemen we cannot be expected to give carte blanche loyalty to a Conservative Government who have not been loyal to Northern Ireland.

"Honesty is part of the character of the Ulsterman and he can always recognise honesty. Our Ulster/British way of life has taught us to be honest in our dealings, and to respect the Throne and Person

of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second.

"The most honest statement to come from the Secretary of State or indeed any Northern Ireland Government Minister over the past year came from N.I. Secretary of State Mr. King on the occasion of the visit of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson to the Province last month. Mr. King's reported words were:—

'This is what Northern Ireland is about — loyalty to the Crown and affection for the Crown, and that is what is real. What you have already

will extend to a Conservative Government who imposed an Anglo-Irish Agreement on this Province against the will of the majority in the Province. Indeed how can we be loyal to a Government who lack honesty in their dealings and before the Prime Minister signed the terrible deal failed to consult the elected representatives of those most affected by the Anglo-Dublin Accord?"

Bro. McCrea said that as Orangemen they respected their obligation and remembered that the honour of their Sovereign and the good of their Country shall be the

I.R.A. should be the prime objective of the Government."

He went on to recall that the visit of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson brought much joy to Northern Ireland, and as Orangemen they prayed God's Blessing upon them on their forthcoming marriage. The Sixtieth Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen brought much pleasure to people throughout the World. The radiance and example of the Queen Mother had been a great credit to the Nation. The Prince and Princess of Wales had been unstinting in their service with many overseas visits, and he hoped the day will not be far distant when together they will visit Northern Ireland.

He also commended the work of Princess Anne as she gives leadership in the Save The Children Fund. As Orangemen they respected the work of Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, and every member of the Royal Family. "We remain faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen as we will to her Protestant successors."

ULSTER'S SACRIFICE

A few days ago on July 1, he said, many people gathered throughout the Province to remember with dignity and with gratitude, Ulster's loyal sons who were killed at the Battle of the Somme. At the foot of most Cenotaphs is this inscription — "we will remember them" or "Lest we forget." In this Province we will remember them, but has Mrs. Thatcher forgotten the contribution of Ulstermen and women who volunteered in two World Wars. Many of them to pay the supreme sacrifice. Lest we forget — we will never forget those Loyal Sons of Ulster. "There is still time for Mrs. Thatcher and her Government to see the error of her ways and take steps to restore democracy to Northern Ireland to achieve peace — stability and reconciliation. Pray God they will so do."

The Twelfth at Edenderry

The service of thanksgiving was conducted by W. Bro. Rev. Victor Ryan, B.A., County Grand Chaplain. The Lesson was read by W. Bro. Rev. William Hoey and the sermon was preached by W. Bro. the Rev. Jack Nolan on the themes of the second Resolution on the Faith with particular reference to the work and worth of William Tyndale, the first great Bible translator and the place of the Scriptures in Orangeism and Protestantism generally.

The chairman for the public meeting was W. Bro. William Murdie, D.C.G.M., and the speakers to Resolution One and Three were the County Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. John McCrea, and the Grand Master of Ireland, Most Wor. Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, B.D., M.P.

seen — the reception at the City Hospital and other engagements — is tremendous loyalty to the Crown.'

DEVOTION TO THRONE

"This was both an honest statement and indeed a very accurate statement. We do not need Tom King to tell Ulster people of their loyalty. Loyalty of the Northern Ireland Royalists in relation to our devotion to the Throne and person of Her Majesty cannot be questioned. Our loyalty is the same today as it was yesterday, and will be the same in the days to come.

"But I must point out to the Secretary of State that this does not mean that our loyalty

motives of their actions.

He challenged the Secretary of State to spell out clearly his obligation and explain the motives of his actions in relation to the Anglo-Irish deal. The only honest answer was to scrap the Agreement and talk with the elected representatives of the people of Northern Ireland excluding Sinn Fein, "who I remind you are still the political wing of the enemies of Ulster.

"The battle with the I.R.A., as we have seen over the last few days is not yet won and with the abolition of the Agreement we need a commitment to eradicate terrorism. The total defeat of the

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Gift For a "Star" Treasurer



Wor. Bro. John Davison (right) receiving his gift from Lay Chaplain, Bro. Stewart, as the W.M. Bro. Albert Taylor looks on.

A very pleasant surprise awaited Wor. Bro. John Davison P.M. on attending the meeting of his Lodge, The Star of Bethlehem L.O.L. No. 971 on Tuesday evening, 17th June, in the Belfast Orange Hall, Clifton Street.

He was guest of honour at a social evening and the recipient of a beautiful inscribed carriage clock by the brethren on retiring as Treasurer after serving that office for twenty-five years.

The lay chaplain, Wor. Bro. L. P. A. Stewart, P.M., making the presentation, spoke in glowing terms of the dedication of W. Bro. Davison to the great Christian principles of the Loyal Orange Institution and of the exemplification of these in his daily life. The Lodge had benefited greatly

from his wise counsel and from the efficient manner in which he had carried out his duties over many years.

Other brethren also expressed their appreciation and wished Bro. Davison, and his wife and family circle every happiness in the future.

Wor. Bro. Davison, in reply, said it had all been a labour of love. He thanked the brethren for their tangible token of esteem and for their good

wishes. He assured the Officers and brethren that his retirement from office did not mean retirement from membership. He valued his Lodge membership very highly, and as long as he had health and strength he would continue to attend the meetings whose fellowship he greatly enjoyed.

Rewards For Long Service

Rathfriland Black District Chapter No. 7 at their installation of officers honoured their outgoing treasurer, Sir Knight Samuel McConnell, who served for 18 years in that office, seated second from left, and also their outgoing W.D.M. Sir Knight Stanley Priestley.

Officers installed were: Sir Knights Wm. J. Young, W.D.M.; Gavin Hughes, D.D.M.; John Watson, Lay Chaplain; Robert Hanna, District Registrar and Aubrey Stewart, District Treasurer.

Sir Knights Sydney Wilson and James Carlisle were the installing officers.



G.M. Attacks Churchmen's Pious Reaction

Speaking in Clabby, Co. Fermanagh, at the unfurling of an Orange Arch in memory of his murdered predecessor as M.P. for S. Belfast, the Rev. Robert Bradford, the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, B.A., B.D., M.P., Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland said that four years after the brutal murder of a fine Christian, a beloved Orange brother and an excellent constituency M.P. Ulster people were still being sickened by the pious denouncements from churchmen when terrorists strike.

HEIRARCHY AND DIVORCE ISSUE

"What a difference when the Republic of Ireland holds a referendum on a limited form of divorce. Then the Roman Catholic heirarchy fires all its guns, peddles doubtful propaganda and blatantly warns any of its members who dare to

divorce that they will not have a second marriage sanctioned.

Bro. Smyth added had the time not come for that church to be as direct with those who break the commandments which deal with the sanctity of life and property—"thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not steal."

"Since many Roman Catholics actively break those by their membership of the IRA and politically by voting Sinn Fein should the same discipline not be used? Certainly the same kind of PR campaign should be mounted in the cause of civilisation, if not in the name of Christ whom they profess to serve.

"If there were questions as to why Ulster says 'No' to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald has now had them answered by his own referendum. No matter how apologists may deal with the votes the referendum

reaffirmed Ulster's view that the Irish Republic may be alright to visit for a short holiday but is not a place they would choose for citizenship. Without marked improvement in their Constitution and attitudes, the Republic certainly does not merit pass marks for good neighbourliness."

Remembering The Somme

The annual Somme (1st July) anniversary parade was held in Castledearg under the auspices of the Killen District L.O.L. No. 12.

The parade led by Kirlish Pipe Band halted at the War Memorial while wreaths were laid by Bro. Noel Buchanan, Kirlish L.O.L. 380, on behalf of the District and W. Bro. Billy Donnell on behalf of the Royal British Legion (Casltederg Branch).

Derg Orange Service

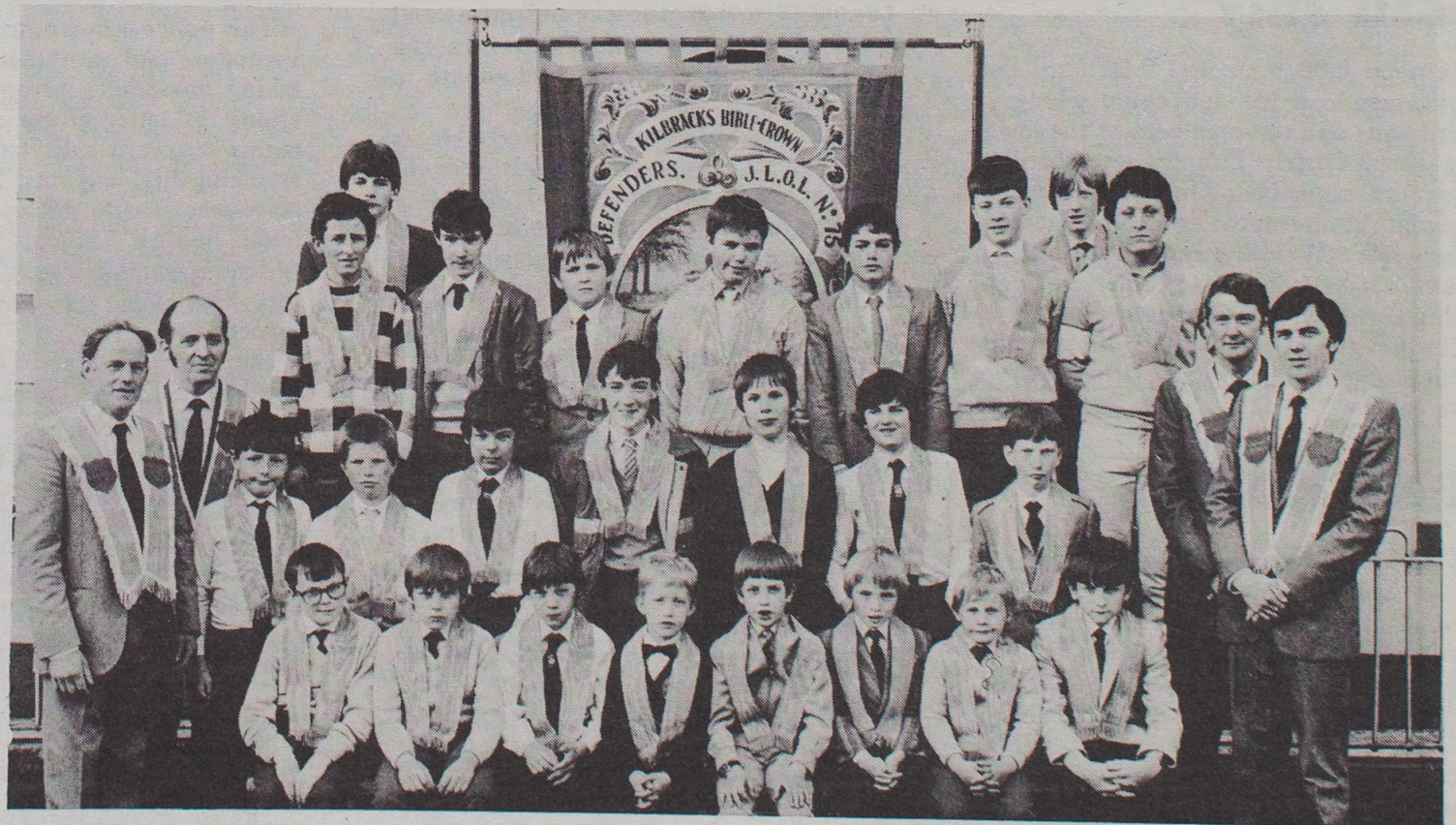
Killen District L.O.L. No. 12 held their annual anniversary service in Derg Parish Church.

The parade was led by Lislaird Pipe Band and was headed by the District officers. The guest preacher was W. Bro. Canon Fred Baillie, Chaplain of Co. Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge.

Castledearg W.L.O.L. were also on parade.

The collection for the L.E.M.O.S. was taken up by the visiting brethren—W. Bro. William J. McFarland, secretary of Donaghianie L.O.L. 934; Bros. William Jeffery, Edeberry L.O.L. 1016, Jack Lowry, Drumlegagh L.O.L. 626, David Lecky, Drumlegagh L.O.L. 626, Bro. Addison Stevenson, Tubrid L.O.L. 200, and Norman Stevenson, Tubrid L.O.L. 200.

Members of the recently formed Kilbracks Bible and Crown Defenders Junior Orange Lodge, from Markethill, with their new banner following the unfurling ceremony. Photo: "Portadown Times."



Dublin and Wicklow L.O.L.

★ ★ ★

Annual Church Service

will be held on

Sunday 28th September
at 3.20 p.m.

In the Irish Church Mission

28 Batchelor's Walk, Dublin, close to O'Connell Street Bridge.

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South of England District Black Chapter No. 11

Annual Church Service and Parade

Sunday 7th December 1986

At St. Anne and St. Agnes Church, Gresham Street, London.

Assemble at 11.15 p.m. (behind Smithfield Market) and parade through London, via St. Pauls to Church.

Preacher: Sir Knight Pastor

Maurice Lawson (District Chaplain)

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Portadown Twelfth Inquiry

(Continued from
front page).

Top Level Discussions

Simultaneously, discussions were taking place between Rev. Martin Smyth, M.P., G.O.L.I., James Molyneux, M.P., Harold McCusker, M.P. and senior officers of the R.U.C. which clearly established that the Obins Street ban would not be lifted nor would the whole of Portadown Orange District be allowed to proceed to the town centre by way of Garvaghy Road.

Eventually on 11th July it was agreed by the R.U.C. that they would allow the eight country lodges, accompanied by Portadown District Officers and three lodges from the town, with three bands, which normally accompanied the country lodges, to proceed from Corcrain Orange Hall via Brankins Hill and Garvaghy Road to the town centre. This was accepted by Portadown Orange District at 9.00 p.m. on 11th July and they issued a statement accordingly.

Shortly thereafter the Ulster Clubs and Rev. Ian Paisley, M.P. issued statements in support of this decision and indicated that it was not now necessary for anyone to come to Portadown the next day.

Petrol Bombings

Although this decision had overwhelming support it did not satisfy everyone, nor did it prevent an outbreak of severe violence at Edgarstown which involved petrol bombing and the police firing an excessive number of plastic baton rounds into the crowds gathered at the bonfire.

It should be placed firmly on the record that the first petrol bombs were thrown by republicans from the Obins Street area and there was taunting and provocation from republican sympathisers who had taken over vacant property at Obins Street overlooking the site of the bonfire.

12th July

Between 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. the Orangemen from the eight country lodges, their bands and the members of the town lodges with District Officers assembled at Corcrain Orange Hall. One Lodge refused to accept the alternative route and decided to assemble at Woodhouse Street to join the parade as it made its way to Carleton Street, having traversed the Garvaghy Road.

The entire parade passed off without incident either at Garvaghy Road or the town centre.

Land Rovers

However, almost immediately after the parade had arrived at Carleton Street a number of police landrovers proceeded very slowly from West Street. A few women stopped them at Woodhouse Street by standing on the road. After a short discussion with the officer in the leading vehicle the convoy reversed slowly to West Street. This incident triggered the first hostile reaction of the growing crowd at Woodhouse Street and contributed to the agitation later when the Orangemen arrived at the town centre on the way to Armagh.

At approximately 10.20 a.m. the parade left Carleton Street, proceeding to the War Memorial where a wreath was laid. By this time a considerable crowd had assembled at Woodhouse Street and the sound of the parade on the move signalled the throwing of bottles by a small section of the crowd at the police barrier in Woodhouse Street.

When the band leading the Orangemen came to Woodhouse Street the crowd refused to allow them to continue. The band turned into Woodhouse Street and played the National Anthem. This token protest seemed to defuse the anger of the crowd and



Portadown Ex-Servicemens Lodge, headed by their Colour Party, march down Garvaghy Road on the morning of the "Twelfth," as police prevent republicans from neighbouring

estates from coming in contact with the Orange parade. Garvaghy Road was agreed on as an alternative route to the "Tunnel," following intensive talks between Orange leaders and the R.U.C. Photo: "Portadown Times."

the parade was allowed to continue, each lodge and band arriving at this point turned into Woodhouse Street and after a brief stop continued with the parade as arranged. The Orangemen were treated to a succession of taunts and jeers by a few people, but the majority of the crowd applauded them.

Town Calm

After the last lodge had made its protest in Woodhouse Street the crowd dispersed peacefully and the town centre was completely calm.

The town remained quiet during the rest of the day and from about 4 o'clock onwards spectators started to gather to await the return procession. These consisted of families and friends of the Orangemen and other supporters who would have traditionally gathered in the town to enjoy the parade.

A very large crowd of people assembled, no doubt relieved that the tension which had gripped the town the previous week, had been dissipated. They were to have a long wait because transport difficulties prevented Portadown Orange District returning from Armagh at their usual time.

However, with the exception of the small group at Woodhouse Street they remained remarkably patient and in good humour.

Eventually the Orangemen assembled at Brownstown Road and made their way to the town centre along the traditional route. The only discordant note came from a small group of drunken teenagers who barracked the District officers from the footpath in West Street.

As the head of the parade emerged from West Street the police landrovers in Woodhouse Street slowly made their way up to the junction with Market Street. This manoeuvre heralded a fresh spate of bottle throwing and verbal abuse at the police.

Parade Impeded

When the parade reached Woodhouse Street attempts were made to impede its progress and to use it as a shield for further assaults on the police line. However, determined efforts by the District Officers, assisted by sympathetic bystanders ensured that the parade was able to proceed. Although Orangemen continued to be abused by this vociferous minority, the bulk of the crowd supported them.

Regrettably, the evidence suggests that whilst some Orangemen allowed themselves to give vent to their natural anger and frustration at the police pressure in Woodhouse Street they were incensed and provoked by certain policemen using filthy language and challenging them to "have a go." The frequent use of "Orange bastard" and worse have been reported too often to us for us to ignore this evidence.

The parade then proceeded normally via Market Street, High Street, Castle Street, Bridge Street and back to High Street. At this stage people became aware of the movement of landrovers along Market Street from Edward Street in the direction of the Church. A few minutes later the same vehicles turned, and against the normal traffic flow, and at a reckless speed, taking account of the circumstances, drove into the parade.

TUNNEL IN VISION 99 YEARS AGO

Extract from the "Portadown News"
July 14, 1887

In the House of Commons on Tuesday night Dr. Tanner asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if it is a fact that on Sunday, 10th July, a number of Orangemen from Portadown proceeded to Drumcree Church near the town, whether they marched through a Catholic quarter of the town protected by police, whether during the service a portion of the congregation who came out indulged in a wanton and cowardly attack on the orchard of a respect-

able farmer named Patrick O'Connor, whether he was not subsequently attacked by the mob and severely injured, and why was it that the police escort did not intervene to preserve law and order, and prevent the attack.

The Chief Secretary said he had called for information from the locality but had not yet received it.

The "Portadown News" commented: "Whoever got Tanner to ask the question has had the best of the Cork man."

The police protection and the attacks on O'Connor are entirely mythical. The respectable body of Orange-

men who participated in Divine Worship on Sunday completely ignored Mr. Patrick O'Connor's apple garden and they certainly did not inflict the slightest injury upon the person of that individual.

As to the police protection, the ideal is ridiculous. The only business which the few extra police had to discharge was the surveillance of the Tunnel rowdies who fling stones from behind the walls.

The Orangemen require no protection in the Tunnel or in any other part of Portadown, a fact which Dr. Tanner's informants know right well.

Orangeman Hurt

In the process one of the vehicles almost ran down a woman with a child in a pushchair and in another incident an Orangeman had to leap onto the bonnet of one to avoid being run down. In no circumstances should this be construed as an attack on the vehicle. The incident was witnessed by a journalist who thought the man would be killed. In fact, he suffered multiple fractures to his foot.

This police action outraged Orangemen, spectators and trouble-makers alike and, taking immediate advantage of the situation, the latter group quickly turned a landrover on its side, setting it alight and attacking the occupants. The parade by this stage was grossly disrupted. At least one lodge fled by Thomas Street to escape, whilst the leading lodges, unaware of what was happening, proceeded to Carleton Street.

Immediately police in full riot gear were deployed across the carriageway in front of the burning vehicle and opened fire with baton rounds into crowds of totally innocent bystanders — in fact in the opposite direction to where the trouble-makers had been located. Eventually, because of the good sense of the Orangemen, some semblance of order was restored and the remaining lodges made their way to Carleton Street.

"Brutal Force"

The police proceeded to clear the streets using brutal and totally unnecessary force, ignoring the pleas of elected representatives and clergymen alike. The police continued to clear the crowd from Market Street and back along Church Street to the junction with Carleton Street. A number of baton rounds were needlessly fired into Carleton Street inflicting injury on at least one totally innocent person.

Conclusion

The afternoon parade of Orangemen returning from their Demonstration in Armagh was orderly and in generally good mood as it entered Market Street and approached the Woodhouse Street

junction. The main throng of spectators were stretched on either side of the parade from here to Castle Street.

Good Humour

Despite a long wait the vast bulk of those attending were in good humour and consisted of family and friends of those on parade. A small section of the spectators, mainly teenagers, were assembled at Woodhouse Street, where they engaged in intermittent violence against the police line. This took the form of verbal abuse and bottle and beer-can throwing with occasional physical assault with bare hands.

This violence could in no circumstances be described as riotous or uncontrollable and was, in fact, restrained by Portadown District officers with the assistance of bona-fide supporters while the parade passed by.

There was, therefore, no need to display large numbers of armoured landrovers and police with highly visible riot gear in the vicinity of the parade. The movement of the police vehicles back and forth along the parade route between Edward Street and William Street on the return leg, was totally unnecessary.

Draconian Attitude

Their reckless disregard for spectators and Orangemen alike as the head of the parade reached the section between Edward Street and Thomas Street, was the cause of the only really violent incident of the day — the overturning of the R.U.C. landrover and the attack on the occupants.

The reaction of the police thereafter was draconian and insensitive, totally out of proportion to the scale of the problem. It represented a gross misinterpretation of the composition and nature of the spectators and as a consequence has alienated another large number of law-abiding citizens who would previously have been supporters of the R.U.C.

It is with regret that we conclude that a combination of tactical errors and apparent lack of discipline on the part of D.M.S.U. personnel created a totally unnecessary crisis in Portadown on the 12th July 1986.