

Cover Sheet

No.

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[Redacted]

Noted 11/5/73

[Redacted]

400 / 72 / 245

Minute Sheet No.

ONE

1

SB report

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[Redacted]

1. Send copy to Box 500

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TN0036

[Redacted]

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TN0036

to see

3. PA

SB

20.12.72

5

A. Dickinson

for cl Supt

[Redacted]



METROPOLITAN POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH
Special Report }
}

INDEXED

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Date 19... 1972 Initial [REDACTED]

19 day of December 19 72

SUBJECT.....

Anti-Internment

League

Reference to Papers

400/72/245

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. "On Sunday, 10 December 1972, about 30 members of the Slough and various London branches of the Anti-Internment League (AIL) 'occupied' part of the playing fields of the famous Eton School as a protest against the British Army's alleged occupation of schools, football parks and other public places and amenities in the Andersonstown area of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

3. The 'occupation', which lasted from about 3 pm to 4.15 pm, consisted of about 20 of the demonstrators dressed in football jerseys over their normal clothing playing a crude form of Irish football with a semi-inflated rubber ball whilst the remainder listened to a speech by [REDACTED] over a megaphone which was directed towards the Eton schoolboys' halls of residence.

4. [REDACTED] outlined briefly the reasons behind the demonstration. He said Eton School had been chosen for the demonstration as it was 'a bastion of the privileged ruling class' of Britain and the main recruiting centre for the Tory party.

5. [REDACTED] then handed the megaphone to [REDACTED] who had been invited to speak on behalf of Jake PRESCOTT and the Stoke Newington Four and all other political prisoners both in Britain and in Ireland. [REDACTED] of Slough Anti-Internment League, spoke on the Irish situation briefly.

6. The blare of the speeches over a none too distinct megaphone eventually attracted about three members of the public and a handful of young Etonians to the scene which had been deserted until then save for the demonstrators.

7. The young Etonians were quickly besieged by the demonstrators who engaged them in argument over the Irish situation. The demonstrators, who were mainly Irish, were

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at times rather aggressive, sometimes humorous, but always pathetic in their argument about non-British interference in Irish affairs. [Privacy] of Sinn Fein was heard to say "if we the Irish want to murder each other then we should be allowed to murder each other in peace (!) without interference from the bloody British. All we want is an Ireland for the Irish". On the other hand the young Etonians gave a good account of themselves supporting the British Government's traditional policy on Northern Ireland, and although most of them were rather diminutive in stature they showed a certain amount of courage on being surrounded by a crowd of argumentative half-inebriated Irish labourers.

8. The young Etonians mentioned that they had no objection to the demonstrators using their playing fields, and as the schoolboys were tactful and did not provoke the demonstrators in any way the argument quickly developed into a normal discussion.

9. As the light faded in the late afternoon the demonstrators gradually left the playing fields for the warmth of their awaiting coach to Slough and London. They had declined an invitation by some of the young Etonians to tea at the College that evening.

10. On reflection the demonstrators considered their day's activities a major success particularly as they later learned that their 'occupation' had received some newspaper and television coverage. The truth of the matter was that the whole operation was pathetically organised and the Anti-Internment League lost over £20.

11. In spite of much publicity the demonstration was poorly supported. Many leading figures in the AIL who had promised to support the demonstration failed to appear. Even Bob PURDIE the national organiser, who had been scheduled to speak at the demonstration apparently telephoned the Slough Branch of the AIL at short notice to say that he was suffering from lumbago and would be unable to attend.

12. Submitted herewith is an issue of a leaflet entitled 'Occupied Andytown', which was produced by Peoples Democracy, London, and several copies of which were distributed at the demonstration.

13. Those present at the demonstration included:-

[Privacy]

[Privacy]

Privacy

Privacy

14. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.

7 HN299/HN342

Constable

8

Submitted:

HN294

Chief Inspector

9

A. Dickinson

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

APPENDIX to Special Branch report of 19 December 1972
concerning a demonstration held by the Anti-Internment
League in Slough on 10.12.72.

Privacy

Bob PURDIE

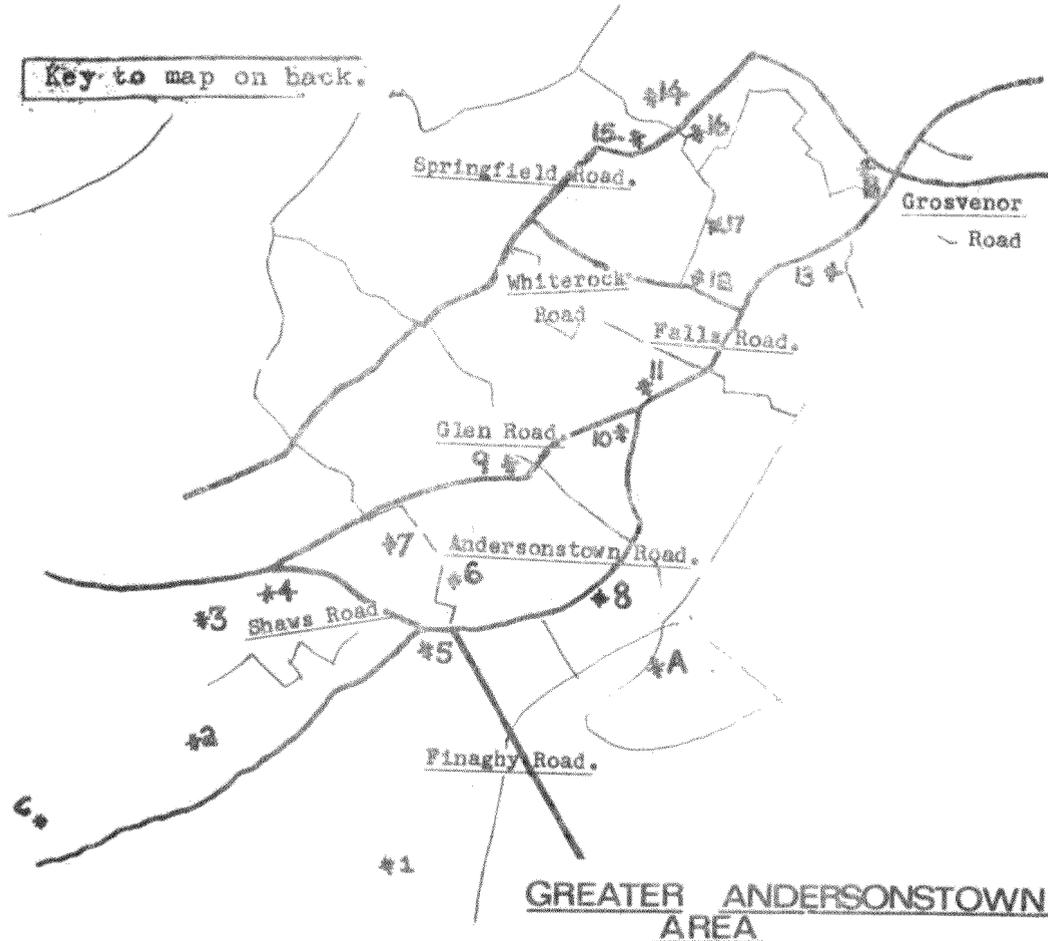
RF.405/67/82

Peoples Democracy

RF.400/69/111

OCCUPIED

ANDYTOWN



IF YOU'VE EVER OPENED YOUR DOOR AT 4.30. IN THE MORNING AFTER THUNDEROUS KNOCKING ONLY TO FIND A BRITISH SOLDIER SHOWING HIS GUN INTO YOUR BELLY, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN ANDERSONSTOWN.

Andersonstown is a huge sprawling area of overspill housing on the fringes of Belfast. It is the city's new ghetto where Catholics from the decaying 19th century slums of the Lower Falls are rehoused and where Catholic families intimidated out of other parts of the city have fled. Andersonstown proper and a number of other areas such as Ballymurphy, Turf Lodge and Beechmount have been combined into a single greater Andersonstown electoral division for local government purposes. The whole division contains 34,800 electors or about 100,000 people.

Socially, the area is extremely deprived. It is mainly working class and unemployment is very high. In Ballymurphy it is between 40% and 50% for men. The area has a very high proportion of children yet it has only one public park, one set of public playing fields and one swimming

pool (outdoors and unheated). There is no publicly provided community centre and very few halls or social clubs. For years the people of Andersonstown have been fighting for social amenities, against local authority indifference and neglect. Now they have a greater enemy to fight.

The greater Andersonstown area is bearing the brunt of British military occupation and repression in Belfast. The area contains one fifth of the population of Belfast yet the

best part of five battalions of British troops - or half their total force in Belfast - are stationed in the area. And to accommodate themselves they have established 17 different fortified posts, including 3 huge wild west style corrugated iron forts. In the process they have commandeered - and still occupy - 2 schools, the grounds of a College of Education, 2 football stadiums (one of them Casement Park, the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association in the North), 2 of the very few public halls in the area, and a number of private houses and flats. For one of their biggest forts they seized Glassmullan green, in the middle of

a densely populated estate and built their fort within 15 yards of a row of houses and when operation Motorman began they seized and occupied 2 other schools in the area which public protest has forced them to abandon.

Besides depriving the people of Andersonstown of their open spaces and recreation facilities the British Army subjects them to a constant campaign of harassment and intimidation. The area is constantly patrolled with helicopters, armoured cars, saracen armoured personnel carriers, pigs and small tanks armed with a 108m.m. cannon as well as patrols in jeeps and foot patrols and the notorious plain clothes army units. The troops are armed with rubber bullet guns, S.L.R.'s and General purpose machine guns. The army have tried to carry out a house to house census in the area demanding details of everyone in the house, including their religion and persecuting those who refuse to co-operate. They constantly raid every pub in the area taking out all the customers and forcing them to stand in front of saracens while hidden informers identify them. Every night some 30 or 40 men are arrested.

OCCUPIED ANDYTOWN cont/d.

taken to army posts for "screening" - a process which may involve savage beatings and always includes intensive questioning about personal details and political views.

About half the male population of Andersonstown have been arrested, questioned or had their house raided by the British army in the past 3 years and there is hardly a family which hasn't been affected. Over one third of the men interned in Long Kesh are from the Greater Andersonstown area. In 1972 alone, at least 5 unarmed men have been murdered by British troops in the area.



When people in Andersonstown talk about the British Army of Occupation it is no idle slogan, it is the literal truth. Andersonstown today is as brutal and effectively occupied as Warsaw was during the 2nd World War. But the people have not been cowed. Andersonstown has staged some of the biggest protest demonstrations against British imperialism that have been seen in N. Ireland. During one meeting young people turned on an armoured saracen at the very gates of Casement Park Army post. Andersonstown today still provides the hard core of resistance to British rule. We will keep it up until we've built a Socialist Republic.

THE BRITISH REGIMENTS OCCUPYING ANDERSONSTOWN AT PRESENT ARE:-

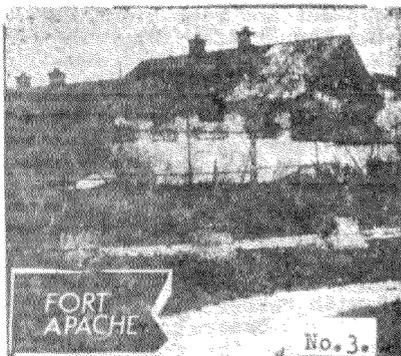
- 1ST BATTALION PARACHUTE REGIMENT - The Bloody Sunday Murderer
- 1ST BATTALION ROYAL GREEN JACKETS AND GREEN HOWARDS.

THE BRITISH ARMY POSTS IN THE GREATER ANDERSONSTOWN AREA ARE

1. BLACK'S ROAD POST - former Youth Hostel.
2. WOODBOURNE HOUSE POST - burnt out Hotel.
3. LENADOON POST (A) - two commandeered houses,
4. LENADOON POST (B) - two commandeered flat blocks.
5. SEVERAL DUG OUTS AND OBSERVATION POSTS IN THE GROUNDS OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.
6. SLIEVEGALLION FORT - massive fort built on open space.
7. ST. GENEVIEVE'S SCHOOL - partly occupied as an Army post
8. CASEMENT PARK - Main GAA stadium in the North and Social club commandeered by Army.
9. FORT MONAGH - Church Hall, school playground and large open space all included in an Army fort.
10. ANDERSONSTOWN RUC BARRACKS - occupied and fortified by Army.
11. ANDERSONSTOWN BUS DEPOT - partly occupied by Army
12. McRORY PARK - another GAA ground occupied by Army.
13. BROADWAY POST - disused mill and part of Royal Victoria Hospital occupied by Army.
14. BLACKMOUNTAIN POST.
15. HENRY TAGGART POST - former school and church hall.
16. JAMES P. CORRY'S - observation posts in a timber yard.
17. ST PETER'S SCHOOL, BRITTONS PARADE - occupied by Army.

THE FOLLOWING POSTS ARE ON THE FRINGE OF THE AREA:

- A. MUSGRAVE PARK - Military Hospital and Army Post.
- B. SPRINGFIELD ROAD - RUC barracks and major Army command centre.
- C. CLOONA HOUSE - residence of British Army GOC Gen. Tuoz.



Printed and published by PEOPLES DEMOCRACY LONDON.

FREE THE PEOPLE

All enquiries to P. Doherty, 34 Dalston Lane London E.8.