

WELSH MARTYRS REMEMBERED

"Class Struggle"
Correspondent

On Saturday July 4, over 300 people marched through the small town of Abergele, north Wales, in memory of two patriotic martyrs, Alwyn Jones and George Taylor who died on June 30 1969, the eve of the investiture of the so-called 'Prince of Wales', when a bomb they were carrying exploded prematurely. The remembrance of these martyrs is an annual event in Welsh political life. The late 1960s were a period of intense nationalist activity in Wales.

The march, organized by Pwyllgor Coffa Merthyron Abergele (Abergele Martyrs Memorial Committee) consisted of largely local working class people. The largest organized contingent was from the Welsh Socialist Republican Movement (WSRM). Other contingents were organized by Cofiwn (the Welsh Historical Society) and the nationalist organization, Adfer. Nationalists from Scotland, Brittany and Cornwall also attended.

Led by a lone piper and a 12 strong WSRM colour party bearing wreaths and flags, the demonstrators marched in turn to the graves of the two martyrs.

In a speech delivered in Welsh, Robert Griffiths of the WSRM called on people to celebrate the lives and remember the sacrifices of these working class socialists and patriots. He appealed to the crowd not just to be inspired once a year and to fight for the things that they believed in and fought for.

He said that we had also come here to declare that the British state had no monopoly of the means of direct action and violence. As the English ruling class is using their institutionalised and overt violence to destroy the Welsh nation and shatter the Welsh working class, they must expect a response in equal terms.

In conclusion, he called on those present to remember the sacrifices of other peoples, including the Irish hunger strikers, in particular Joe McDonnell who was then approaching the critical stage of his hunger strike. He said that the hunger strikers fought the same enemy as the Welsh people - the British state and the English ruling class.

The rally at Abergele attracted some attention in the bourgeois press. Referring to the colour party both the "Daily Telegraph" and the "Western Mail" shrieked about "IRA-style uniforms". This should be seen as an involuntary confession by the bourgeoisie of their fears of the fact that the Irish people's war of national liberation is greatly inspiring the oppressed people on the

"British Mainland", in particular Welsh working class youth. Similarly, the press refers to the spontaneous uprisings by black youth - supported by some white youths - as being "more like Belfast than Britain" and to youths wearing balaclavas in order to avoid later police persecution as "hooded IRA-style".

As British imperialism intensifies its repressive policies at

home to try and escape from its crisis, the advanced experience of the Irish people and the revolutionary road they point out will more and more inspire the working people of Britain, first and foremost the peoples of Scotland and Wales and the national minorities, in particular the black people. This is something to give the ruling class nightmares.

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the struggle! Show your solidarity!