



# **NS News Bulletin**

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## **Unsung Heroes of the White Race**

**Part 5**

**Eoin O'Duffy**

The White man's fight for survival in the Third Reich was the 20th century's foremost achievement. But less well remembered was the same struggle in Ireland. The Irish people, just as every other Aryan nationality, are the blood brothers and sisters of our race. The Jews make no distinction between them and the rest of the world's Gentiles, and regard all such potential victims as only so many "goyim", a term of low contempt for non-Jews meaning "stupid cattle". As such, the Irish were no less immune from Jewish perfidy than the Germans, who found their racial savior in Adolf Hitler. So too, the best elements in Ireland looked to his ideology as the sword whereby their land could be saved from a common threat that



**Eoin O'Duffy**

menaced all mankind.

The roots of the modern Gaelic racial movement grew out of the turmoil of and disappointment with the Irish Free State, southern Ireland's republic born in the 1920s from a partial victory over foreign occupation forces; the north still remained (and remains) in British hands. But the Dublin state that resulted was rife with corruption and the collective irresponsibility which typify all democracies. The sacrifice of Irish patriots was squandered between the bickering and graft of liberals and conservatives, as they wallowed hopelessly in the throes of a worldwide depression. Out of this democratic witch's brew of political scandals and economic misery the foul stench of Marxism arose for the first time over Ireland. The formerly nationalist and heroic Irish Republican Army was infected by this illegitimate offspring of liberal democracy, while the blatantly Bolshevik Revolutionary Workers' Party hung up its red rags spattered with the Hammer and Sickle over the streets of sad Dublin.

Veterans of the 1916 and 1920s' risings to free Ireland were beaten by Communist gangs or shouted down by mobs of hysterical Marxists, who openly regarded little Ireland as merely a steppingstone for their putrid world revolution. The same pattern, of national subversion that developed in all the other European states had spread to the British Isles and was being perpetrated by the same mob of international Jews. The veterans banded together for self-protection in the Army Comrades Association. Costello, a modern historian of contemporary Ireland, described it this way: *There arose in this country a spontaneous movement to protect the rights and liberties of the people. That particular movement, spontaneous as it was, was not in any way organized, engineered or fostered by any political party or by any politicians. The A.C.A. came spontaneously into being because the government whose duty it was to safeguard the rights of its citizens were neglectful of their duty, because they thought it was in their own interests that they should overlook the hooliganism that was going on in every part of the country."*

Communist reaction was violent, but the liberal authorities, themselves bemused by the leftist virus, offered no help to the very men who had made their Irish Free State possible. So the desperate A.C.A. members looked to Germany's newly victorious Stormtroopers as an example of self-defense, and, on April 8th, 1933, the Blue-shirt movement was born in Dublin. Using Adolf Hitler's brown-shirted S.A. as a role model, the Irish troopers represented the younger (in spirit, as well as body), most radical elements in the A.C.A. Now the veterans had a fist with which to strike back. Freedom of speech for anti-Communists was instantly restored, and

instead of patriots falling victim to Red thugs, the Marxists suddenly found themselves on the bloody end of a beating. The color blue was chosen to symbolize a United Ireland, signified by the blue ocean that surrounded the whole country.

### **The Blueshirts choose their Leader**

In June, the Blue-shirts unanimously chose Eoin O'Duffy to lead them. He was the last honest man in government and his dismissal by the democratic politicians, who hated him because they could not bribe him, caused a nation-wide scandal. At 41 years of age, the sturdy, fair-haired O'Duffy was the National Police Chief and a General in the Civil Guard. In the words of Maurice Manning, a modern historian of the Blue Shirts, *O'Duffy had been a strong and very independent commissioner of police. He had a flair for publicity and had frequently been in the headlines in the 1920s. He was extremely well known throughout the country. He was a leading member of the National Athletic and Cycling Association and managed the highly successful Irish team at the 1932 Olympic Games. He had been a successful flamboyant commander during the War of Independence and had ended up as Deputy Chief of Staff and a close confidant of General Michael Collins (who led the revolt). He was appointed Commissioner of Police in 1922 and held the position of Chief of Staff of the army for a period after the 1924 mutiny. As a result, he was very widely known and seemed to be in a position of considerable independent strength.*

At the time of his Blue-shirt appointment, O'Duffy was the most famous figure in Ireland. "He had a reputation as a vigorous and competent organizer". O'Duffy's "bluff, friendly personality made him a figure in the land rivalling de Valera". On July 20th, 1933, at a meeting of the A.C.A. held in Dublin's Hibernian Hotel, O'Duffy was unanimously elected to head the organization.

O'Duffy at once transformed the Blue-shirts into the right arm of his newly created National Guard. Its declared purpose was to defend "national interests and social culture" and "obliterate all class distinctions. To promote the reunion of Ireland. To oppose communism and alien control and influence in national affairs. To lead the youth of Ireland in a movement of constructive national action and promote and maintain social order. To promote the formation of coordinated national organizations of employers and employed, which, with the aid of judicial tribunals, will effectively prevent strikes and lockouts and unanimously compose industrial differences." Membership was no longer restricted to veterans but open to "all citizens

of Irish birth or parentage"; as Manning wrote, "the only persons excluded under this heading would be Jews". O'Duffy declared that "Hitler was the greatest man Germany ever had" and promised that the Irish Blue-shirts, like the Fuehrer's Brown-shirts, "will hit back with the spirit of our race" against the common Jew enemy.

O'Duffy's combination of dynamic leadership and Blue-shirt ideology resulted in a popular explosion of nation-wide acceptance. As Manning writes. *The impact of this new movement was immediate and dramatic. Within a matter of months, it had members and branches in all parts of the state. Nothing like it had been seen before.* "Only three days after O'Duffy's appointment, Blue-shirt membership jumped by 5,000 new adherents. Yet, the National Guard, in a published article describing its aims, went out of its way to discourage clubbists or anyone who was not deadly serious about the movement: *The National Guard relies not on persuasion but on combat. It is organized for combat and it wants members who will not shrink from combat if the sight of preparedness Jails to frighten off attack.*" But such appeals to the best and toughest elements in the Irish people did not go unheard. *Side by side with this type of article,* "Manning writes, *there was the growth and spread of the wearing of the blue shirt, and soon it was a common sight in all parts of the country.*"

Support came largely from farmers, factory workers, students and, of course, veterans, all of whom comprised the human bedrock of the Irish people. Nor were the country's great thinkers left out of the National Guard. Early adherents were James Hogan, professor of history at University College, Cork, and Professor Michael Tierney, President of Dublin's University College. *Yeats (William Butler Yeats, the great and famous poet) - at heart a man of the right - as so greatly taken with him (O'Duffy) that he wrote a marching song for the Blue-shirts.* "Disgusted by the endemic corruption of democracy and angered by the threat of Marxism, they joined the National Guard in such large numbers that there were 30,000 Blue-shirts by the end of 1933. Before the close of the following year, O'Duffy had over 120,000 followers. This, in a country the size of Ireland, represented a true mass movement.

## **The March on Dublin**

Its biggest single demonstration of strength took place on August 13th, 1934. Many thousands of people had already by that time participated in National Guard

rallies across Ireland. But for the March on Dublin, no less than 20,000 Blue-shirts were gathering from all around the country. Their object was not to challenge the authorities, however, but to stage a ceremony for fallen veterans of the War of Independence. The march had only just stepped off when it was already more than half a mile long. *Uneasily aware of how Mussolini had become Il Duce, the government suspected O'Duffy might feel disposed to linger when he got as far as government buildings. Accordingly, it revived the Public Safety Act of 1931. The S-Division (police armed with machine guns and hand grenades) was set up, the military tribunal revived and the parade banned."*

O'Duffy's peaceful intentions were obvious, but his demonstration was all the excuse the liberal-conservative politicians needed to outlaw the movement. He simply changed its name to the Young Ireland, which was almost immediately banned, but just as quickly resurfaced as the League of Youth. Finally, after another establishment effort to dismantle the movement in the courts, it emerged as the United Ireland Party, the Fine Gael. The title was chosen from a term that came up at the Irish Race Convention held at Paris, in 1923. All Blue-shirt organization was maintained throughout these name-changes, as the democratic government maneuvered to criminalize O'Duffy's followers. De Valera announced to the Irish senate, the Dail, *We are not going to permit people to parade in uniform. That is definite. When it comes to that stage, we believe it has come to a dangerous stage and it is the duty of the government to step in. The government will use all the forces at its command to prevent it. "*

O'Duffy's statement was a strident reply: *We are a legal body. The dress we wear is legal. It is almost incredible that a government could be so blinded by hatred of their political opponents as to ban a body whose every activity is open to the fullest investigation, and every objective of which is honest and good, while it allows two Communist headquarters to remain open in Dublin and every variety of Communist activity to be carried on throughout the country. There is nothing illegal about the Blue-shirts and no ban or ordinance can make it illegal to wear one!"*

In spite of the government's hypocritical attempts at banning Fine Gael, it mushroomed almost overnight to become the second largest political organization in Ireland. The System's obvious and hysterical efforts to single out for criminalization the one movement which gave hope to Ireland, created a deliberate shift in popular feeling. Even those otherwise honest persons not entirely in agreement with Blue-shirt ideals were appalled by de Valera's self-evident tyranny. Manning writes, *Indeed, the formation of this party - and certainly the manner in which it*

*was formed - owed much to the government's decision to ban the National Guard. It began to look as though the government had seriously miscalculated by its decision to ban the Blue-shirts, for instead of weakening O'Duffy, he now emerged at the head of a united opposition party, and instead of crushing his movement, it now had a new and strengthened position as part of a much larger organization."*

While Fine Gael candidates were being legally elected to the Dail, liberal-conservative politicians put aside their "fundamental differences" with communist thugs to make common cause against the Blue-shirts. Without provocation, the police raided and closed down the United Ireland Party's headquarters building, in Dublin, just as a Fine Gael member was abducted from his home and beaten to death by I.R.A. Reds. Hugh O'Reilly, the first Blue-shirt martyr, died, significantly, on the 18th anniversary of Mussolini's March on Rome, October 29th. The following summer, S-police opened fire on unarmed Blue-shirts, killing an 18 year old comrade. Manning writes, *The action of the Special police in firing on the crowd was later severely censured by Mr. Justice Hanna of the High Court, who described them as 'an excrescence upon that respectable body' (The Civic Guard). The Cork shooting aroused tremendous Blue-shirt indignation throughout the country. The youth of the dead man, the dramatic nature of the whole incident and the excessive and arbitrary manner in which the police had reacted, all combined to raise Blue-shirt anger to a new level. The city and O'Duffy's graveside oration had all the elements Of an emotional clarion-cry to Blue-shirts to intensify their resistance."*

During an extraordinarily violent battle that erupted at a U.I.P. rally in Tralee, bombs exploded, cars went up in flames and O'Duffy himself received a nasty wound by a Red wielding a hammer. But the Blue-shirts gave far more than they got, as they began beating the Marxists in and out of the I.R.A. toward well-deserved extinction. An indication of Fine Gael's widening popularity among the Irish masses appeared during the national elections, when it won second place in its very first senate race. Throughout 1935, despite everything the system and the communists could throw at them, the Blue-shirts were marching from success to success, until their progress began to attract notice beyond Irish shores. On August 19th, O'Duffy was visited by Terje Ballsrud, the leader of Norwegian fascism, and on December 15th, Blue-shirt officials represented Ireland at the International Fascist Congress, in Montreaux, Switzerland, with comrades from Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Lithuania, Greece, Rumania and Switzerland. Manning writes that O'Duffy "regarded his election to the Labor committee of the International Fascist Congress as a major honor."

## **The Blue-shirts banned**

With prestige growing both at home and overseas, O'Duffy and his legions of followers seemed destined to achieve ultimate power in Ireland. But at an outdoor rally in Westport the blue-shirt movement came to a sudden end. As Manning tells it, *A double cordon of police surrounded the platform and two lorries of military in war equipment were stationed outside the police barracks. Other groups of police turned away all those who were wearing blue shirts. In O'Duffy's absence, the main speaker was Fitzgeraldtenney and he approached the platform at the head of a procession of over 60 (Blue-shirt) horsemen. The meeting started and after about half an hour, O'Duffy slipped in to the edge of the crowd, where he was at once hemmed in by the police. A scuffle followed and he was rescued by a group of his supporters and borne shoulder-high to the platform, where he began to speak. He had not completed his first sentence when he was arrested by the police superintendent, who climbed onto the platform after him. Surrounded by a large force of police, O'Duffy was brought to the police barracks and lodged under heavy guard. The meeting meanwhile continued amid scenes of utter pandemonium. A shower of bottles and stones descended on the platform and the remaining speakers were unheard above the deafening noise. Before the meeting ended, two prominent supporters of O'Duffy were arrested for wearing blue shirts and lodged in custody with their leader."*

The Westport police-riot was the murder of free speech in Ireland. De Valera's criminalization of Fine Gael had come to pass. Just being a Blue-shirt was against the law, and anyone who, in any form of manifestation, attempted to express a Blue-shirt opinion was arrested. Under the heavy hand of such unrelenting tyranny, literally thousands of U.I.P. officers and supporters, even sympathizers unaffiliated with the organization, were taken into custody. Nor were the accusations against these adherents of a minor kind. Commandant Ned Cronin, O'Duffy's second-in-command, was charged with sedition. After months of incarceration, he was found not-guilty but charged again, this time with "membership in an illegal organization". The judge informed the court that if Cronin publicly denounced the Blue-shirts, all charges against him would be dropped. Without a moment's hesitation, the Commandant chose imprisonment. O'Duffy was held under a number of preposterous charges, none of which could be made to stick by even the most vindictive prosecuting attorneys. But upon his release, he found that the United Ireland Party had been effectively decapitated, its leaders still in jail and their legal status reduced to "members of a criminal organization", association with which

was subject to imprisonment. The tyranny masquerading as a democracy had fully exposed itself, but the movement could no longer survive as a public phenomenon and its adherents refused to follow the real criminals of the I.R.A. by becoming underground terrorists.

## **"We went to Spain"**

The story of the Blue-shirts might have ended with the Westport arrests, but, in July, 1936, a representative of General Francisco Franco met secretly with O'Duffy in Dublin. Franco wanted to know if the Fine Gael leader would be interested in raising a contingent of comrades to fight the Communists in the Spanish Civil War. O'Duffy leapt at the opportunity. Defying the government, he made a public appeal for support and formed the Irish Volunteer Brigade. *The response, he said, was so prompt, so generous and so spontaneous that I can only regard it as a mandate to go ahead with the organization of the Brigade.* Within a week, he had 5,000 men at his command. The following week, another thousand joined up. Still, the democracy hesitated to interfere, because public opinion in Catholic Ireland was so overwhelmingly in favor of the Nationalist cause in Spain that even the most anti-Blue-shirt politician was afraid to publicly criticize O'Duff's efforts.

Accordingly, he sailed to Spain on September 21st, soon after arriving to meet with General Mola, Commander-in-Chief of the Nationalist forces, and Franco himself, who, together with the Irish leader, personally witnessed the liberation of the Alcazar, the heroic fortress that had held out for so long against Republican siege. Thus inspired, O'Duffy returned to Ireland with Franco's personal assurances that training, supplies, uniforms, weapons and a ship to take his Blue-shirts to the Spanish battlefields would be put at his disposal. Meanwhile, the Dublin government passed a "Foreign Enlistment Act", which outlawed the Irish Volunteer Brigade. Undeterred, O'Duffy proceeded as planned, but under the added hardships of working in secret. The democratic authorities sabotaged his efforts whenever possible, but eased up on him when they learned that Irish Communists were being recruited to join the Spanish Republicans; if they allowed their darling Marxists to go to Spain while preventing the Blue-shirts from going too, they must appear as the rank hypocrites they were. As a sour grapes government politician said, *The government is hardly likely to invoke the Foreign Enlistment Act against General O'Duffy and his merry men, as they probably realize that Spain is the most suitable place for our Irish Don Quixote. The Spanish Civil War would at least have served some useful purpose if it enabled us to get rid of some of our*



*wild men of both varieties."*

Thus encumbered by the sometimes meddling authorities, O'Duffy was able to successfully transfer only 700 of the more than 6,000 men who applied to join the I.V.B. After only a month's training by the Spanish military, they were sent to the front at Ciempozuelos, where they engaged in months of bitter trench warfare, exposed as much to enemy fire as harsh winter conditions. On March 13th, however, the volunteers "went over the top" and on to an offensive that sent the Marxists reeling. But I.V.B. casualties were heavy, too. The Spanish campaign was the Blue-shirts' Last Hurrah. Having been outlawed in their own country, they got off a parting shot at the Old Enemy and sanctified Iberian soil with the blood of Irish self-sacrifice. As O'Duffy wrote, *Our little unit did not, because it could not, play a very prominent part in the Spanish Civil War, but we ensured that our country was represented in the fight against World Communism. We have been criticized, sneered at, slandered, but truth, charity and justice shall prevail and time will justify our motives. We seek no praise. We did our duty. We went to Spain!"*

### **The Last of the Blue-shirts**

When the Brigade returned home, the Second World War was only a matter of months away and Ireland's position of official neutrality made suppression of the Blue-shirts all the easier and more effective. Now any work undertaken on behalf of the movement would of necessity be clandestine. On February 3rd, 1939, O'Duffy was contacted by Oscar Pfaus, a German agent, who, in the event of war with Ireland's old nemesis, Great Britain, wanted to contact Irish elements sympathetic to the Third Reich. O'Duffy became an intermediary between Pfaus and the few closet- nationalists remaining in the I.R.A. So secret were these negotiations that virtually nothing of their success or the lack thereof has survived. However, a strange clue to war-time German-Irish relations surfaced during 1944, when a U-boat was sunk by British naval forces in the mid-Atlantic. Among the floating debris was the body of an officer in the I.R.A.

That same year, O'Duffy's health gave way and, after a lifetime of dynamic service to his race, he died on November 30th. He was 52 years old. Although the Blue-shirts had ceased to exist as an organization for almost nine years, his death was a terrible shock to the Irish people. Popular feeling was so widespread and intense, the government felt pressured to grant him the final honor of a state funeral. So, in the middle of a racially suicidal war to "save the world from fascism", thousands

of people filed past the body of the Blue-shirt leader, their right arms extended in the Hitler salute as a final tribute to Eoin O'Duffy. The Irish irony of his funeral impressed the late General's old comrades with the irrepressible power of the ideology for which they had fought in the thirties.

The national unity and social harmony aimed at by the Blue-shirts was to be denied Ireland in all the decades following their demise. For the last 50 years, the Irish people have seen the rift between north and south become a worsening wound in the side of their country. A sea of blood continues to gush over the land from the horror that Belfast has become. Fear and profound animosities comprise the legacy of the Blue-shirts' banishment. I.R.A. terrorists continue to kill and maim, while the liberal-conservative politicians still talk and talk. Meanwhile, an invaluable White people despairs for the future of its children.

Although the Blue-shirts are long gone, they are by no means forgotten. Their blood and their energies impacted the Irish landscape, and, just as deeply, the Irish race-consciousness. O'Duffy and his legions are not only part of the nation's history; they belong to the bigger picture of the international White man's resurgence movement begun by Adolf Hitler and carried on to this hour. But the time is coming when their banner will be lifted once more from the dust of the past by new hands. Then Ireland will live again, after long years of death. The ghosts of history will be reborn and the songs of the Blue-shirts will.



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