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Kevin Myers: Shiners show true colours over RIR parade

Friday, 24 October 2008

All good men and women should rejoice at the decision of the Shiners to have counter-marches in Belfast to greet the return of the Royal Irish Regiment from active service in Afghanistan.

I'm only sorry that I can't be there on the street, applauding them for their honesty and their decency in revealing, yet again, what a shower of pitiful and bitter infants they actually are.

And dear God, to think republicans, not so long ago, were killing left, right and centre, and using the same moral compass that now causes them to protest at the return of Irish soldiers from UN-authorized duties fighting Islamo-fascists.

I imagine the debate preceding the decision to have counter-marches against the Royal Irish was probably conducted with the same

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intellectual gravity that the Shinners' forefathers had shown before throwing in their lot with Hitler.

What are these?

If something is Brit, it's bad. Hence the Nazi agents being smuggled into Ireland with IRA assistance: hence the IRA lighting fires on the Black Mountain to guide Nazi bombers to Belfast; hence IRA U-boat missions to Ireland — all in all, the Shinners' contribution to the Final Solution. And the Shinners can't say that all this was just part of a confused and ignorant past, because until recently, before someone cut it down, they continued to have annual commemorations at the statue of Sean Russell, the Nazi stooge who died on his way to further the aims of the Third Reich in Ireland.

Now, I confess, I'm profoundly grateful to the Shinner leadership that they've stopped killing people, even though I really don't know why they've done that, any more than I understand why they thought they had the right to start killing people in the first place. But there you are: having Shinners about the place is rather like having a demented uncle in the attic. You've no idea when he's going to stop knitting tea-cosies and instead, reach for the carving knife and resume his feud with the neighbours.

The timing and the reason are for him to decide, though not to explain; for no explanation is possible. And I have to say, that if the mad uncle in the attic is going to expend his energies complaining about Irish soldiers serving in Afghanistan, that's a considerable improvement on what he was doing before, which was murdering them in their homes.

Of course, it is irrelevant that in my lifetime there has barely been a more lawful war than that in Afghanistan: it is being fought on a UN mandate against an enemy that is an active ally of al-Qai'da. We know the calibre of this enemy; we know his project; it was encapsulated by the murder of Gayle Williams, the British aid worker who was assassinated the other day in Kabul, and by the regular murder of little girls in Helmand province who are guilty of the heinous crime of being able to spell. And of course, to remind you all, these were the fine people behind 9/11.

What I'd really, really like to do is to put some Afghan women democrats in the same room as a group of Shinners, and to get the latter to outline their position on Afghanistan to the former. Similarly, I'd love to have got the Shinners of yesteryear to sit down with a train-load of Jews bound for Auschwitz and explain to them why they supported the Nazis.

Or equally, I would love to have heard Mary Lou McDonald, MEP for Dublin, get up in the European Parliament and explain why three years ago she gave the annual oration at the statue to Sean Russell, the Nazi collaborator.

Ah well. It is not to be: alas, life is full of such little disappointments. And another little disappointment is that the general furore over the US presidential election means the US media are unlikely to notice that Sinn Fein is now taking an effectively pro-Taliban, pro-al-Qai'da stance. At least, the Shinners have sought permission from the Parades Commission to have their anti-Royal Irish march. Dissident republicans (who actually are visitors from the planet Zog) have announced that since they don't recognise the Parades Commission, they're not going to seek permission to have their Royal Irish counter-marches, and they're just going to go ahead with them anyway.

Which of course makes their marches illegal: and you can be reasonably sure that if the peelers enforce the law against the loonies from Zog, then the other Shinners, their slightly less demented cousins from Xog, will revert to type and start complaining about police brutality. But I suppose, at one level, one can understand the position the mad Zog-Xog family are in. The Provisional IRA has largely disarmed, though it prides itself on being an undefeated army: yet here the Shinners will see the British army marching through the streets of Belfast, thereby reminding people what an undefeated army really looks like, and worse, how utterly pointless the IRA war really was.

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Once again I ask, hands up ANY Unionist who will accept any responsibility for the failed state, institutional sectarianism, for a first prime minister whose first act of office was to eliminate proportional representation, thereby permanently excluding the 30 percent nationalists who found themselves in a foreign country overnight As for all the bible thumpers who regularly post on these pages, where were they all this time demanding justice for their fellow citizens. I was born and reared in Northern Ireland (not Ulster, an ancient province of IRELAND) I have always considered myself Irish first. Damn all militant Republicans and militant Unionists for stealing my country from me

Posted by PD Whistle | 27.10.08, 23:47 GMT

I live in America, this will get absolutely no coverage. When there was bombing in Northern Ireland that barely got any coverage, do you really think that two days before the election they are going to cover some parade in NI. They also have no interest or even care about British soldiers. I don't ever even recall them talking about British soldiers on the news here except to point out that they lost all control in Basra and were forced to remain at the base. Whenever I read anything in the paper it was criticizing what the British soldiers were doing. When they talk about Afghanistan they do not say British soldier, they say ISAF soldiers. So get over yourself, the Americans care about the Americans. They don't even have any homecoming parades for the troops in my state. If you want to thank them you go to the airport or base for the homecoming ceremony. Whoever thought this was a good idea in a place like NI? I can watch the news here and not hear anything international for days.

Posted by TD | 27.10.08, 19:11 GMT

You don't necessarily have to support the war to support our brave soldiers who do only as instructed by a bent government. The RIR is one of the finest infantry units in the British Army with sterling performances in the last Iraq war and they should be commended for it. The IRA opposition to Northern Ireland and continued attacks against the British nation lead to the actions taken by the army and again should be commended for their actions.

EVERYONE TURN UP AND SUPPORT THE BATTALIONS, DON'T LET THEM THINK FOR A MINUTE THEIR FRIENDS HAVE DIED FOR A COUNTRY OF NATIONALISTS THAT DON'T CARE FOR THE BRITAIN THEY TAKE THEIR BENEFITS FROM.

Posted by N | 27.10.08, 16:33 GMT

I have to admit. They've really gone and put their big left foot in it! haha!

You'd thought somebody in that crowd would have had an ounce of sense to stop and think what the consequences would be.

Seems not! Brilliant Article.

Posted by Richard | 27.10.08, 14:39 GMT

I do hope that the world's cameras are indeed present on Sunday, so as to report the presence in Europe of the "Fifth Column" which Republicans are clearly proving to be in Northern Ireland. The world, and especially Irish Americans, need to see, (and wake up to the fact, also), that this is the same evil people who they support with political and financial assistance, who actively advocate the terror organisations that murdered citizens on 9/11, 7/7 London, Madrid, Bali etc. The Americans now go out of their way to help, aid, and praise their returning troops after guilt set in years after the Vietnam war era. The vile comments, ignorance towards and hatred of their own troops on return from Vietnam conflict was based on the propaganda of Viet-Cong/Communist supporters. With any luck, the true Republican agenda will be exposed for all that it is, and ever has been - ONE BIG LIE !!!!!

Posted by Davy Mac | 27.10.08, 01:59 GMT

👍 A brilliant analysis of the antics of the political reps of the Little Ireland mind set with its deformed concept of Irishness: more anti Brit than thou.

Posted by Irish sociologist | 26.10.08, 19:16 GMT

👍 Can this not be sent to all the media In the US and Canada to high light the actions of Masky. Note Maginnis and Adams are extremely quiet on this. Could it be they are concerned they might have no more freebe visits to the US

Posted by ron | 26.10.08, 12:22 GMT

👍 I am calling BS on this 'Opinion Piece'.

While the RIR rightly deserve support for carrying out their duty there can be NO defense for an illegal war in two countries where countless 10'000's of innocent people have been killed in our name supposedly on their behalf!

I would have liked to think that of anywhere in the Western World we in NI should know this approach is morally and intellectually bankrupt.

I would also like to call Myers on his blatant racist comments 'Islamo-fascists', I beleive Saddam's Bath'ist party was a secular authority! This is mis-information and something I suspect Mr Myers heard in church, it is a classic attack by association.

Sinn Fein's protest was as mindless as you would expect from the political-fascist regeme in Stormont but they still have a right to protest and that is something every right thinking person should defend.

Posted by M.Spence | 25.10.08, 22:05 GMT

👍 I'm afraid, Paul, that wor Kevin is no Ulsterman. He's a Leicester-born Irishman.

Posted by Walter Ellis | 25.10.08, 20:51 GMT

👍 Brilliant piece of writing. The truth was slammed home with a wit only available to an Ulsterman.

My only wish in this so called protest is, broadcast into America.

that

Sinn Fein have let their mask slip and shown to support Taliban fighters / Alquida terrorists

I'm certain in their present confused state Sinn Fein will recall that British and American forces are deployed in this war on terror.

I would dearly love to hear them explain their actions on CBN or Fox news.

As they say once a terrorist always a terrorist.

Posted by Paul | 24.10.08, 21:04 GMT

👍 Yeah, SF really is stuck in the past and is reluctant to accept that these are UK troops returning to the UK.

Posted by Windy | 24.10.08, 15:49 GMT

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