

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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## Albany Prison Riots

1. On May 20th 1983, there were violent disturbances in Albany Prison on the Isle of Wight. During the trouble a policeman was injured and parts of the prison were extensively damaged. A number of prisoners, including four Irishmen convicted of terrorist offences, carried the protest to the roof of the prison, where they remained until May 25th.
2. The four Irishmen involved were Stephen Blake, Paul Norney, Anthony Clarke, and Eddie O'Neill; all are IRA members serving long sentences and were convicted for bombing and other offences. When the protest had ended, the four were immediately re-located in other prisons in Britain.
3. There have been recent reports, as yet unconfirmed, that some of the prisoners involved in the Albany protest are to be charged with mutiny and other offences, including destruction of Government property. It is expected that the four IRA prisoners will be among those to be charged. The most likely punishment is extensive loss of remission allied to the imposition of periods of cellular confinement. The type of segregation involved is that which is covered by Prison Rule 43, which allows for 'special' and reinforced cells to house Category 'A' prisoners either under punishment or removed from association in the interest of good order and discipline. The Embassy in London has expressed concern to the British Authorities at the widespread relocation and segregation of Irish prisoners after the riots.
4. IRA prisoners have been involved in a number of roof demonstrations and as well as in the 1983 Albany protest, played a particular role in the 1975 Wormwood Scrubs Protest, the Gartree demonstrations of 1978 and 1979, the Hull Riot of 1977, The Albany riot of 1976, the Wormwood Scrubs Riot of 1975, and a number of other minor incidents.

Anglo-Irish Section

July 1983