



Afterlives: The Hunger Strike and the Secret Offer That Changed Irish History (Paperback)

By Richard O Rawe

The Lilliput Press Ltd, Ireland, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. By July 1981 four republican hunger strikers had already died in Long Kesh Prison. A fifth, Joe McDonnell, was clinging to life. To outsiders, Margaret Thatcher appeared unbending; yet, far from the prying eyes of the press, her government was making a substantial offer to the prisoners. On 5 July this offer was given to Gerry Adams in Belfast, and relayed to the prison leadership. In this important sequel to the bestseller Blanketmen , O Rawe documents the four-year war of words that followed. He interviews former members of the IRA Army Council who claim that a five-man committee led by Adams had control of the hunger strike, keeping the Army Council in the dark about the British governments offer. He uses contemporary records to show that Thatcher had approved the offer but that Gerry Adams and the committee had replied it was not enough , telling the hunger strikers that nothing was on the table . The prison leadership accepted the British offer, but six hunger strikers went on to die. O Rawe asks: why? This hidden history, using contemporaneous photographs, pinpoints the...



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