

Waterside Press, Hampshire

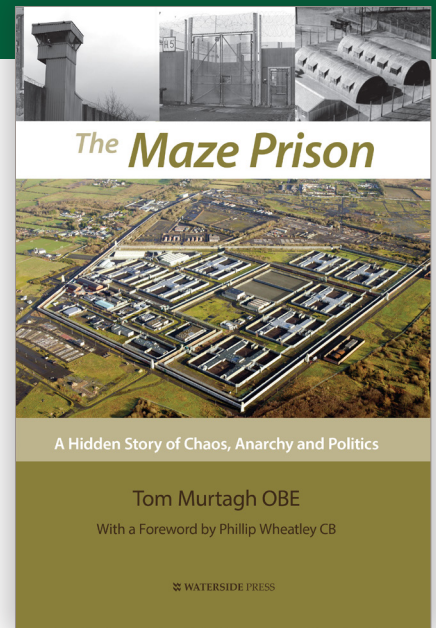
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Tel +44 (0)1256 882250, Fax +44 (0)1256 883987, enquiries@watersidepress.co.uk, WatersidePress.co.uk

Advance Information

Title *The Maze Prison*
Subtitle A Hidden Story of Chaos, Anarchy and Politics
Authors Tom Murtagh OBE **Foreword** Phillip Wheatley CB
Publisher Waterside Press
Formats Paperback & Hardback 234x156mm, 832 pages
ISBNs 978-1-909976-50-4 (Pb) / 978-1-909976-55-9 (Hb)
Price £40 (Pb) / £65 (Hb) **Rights** Worldwide
Publication 20 February 2018 **Edition** 1st
Category Prisons; terrorism; crime; politics
Subjects JKVP1=Prisons; JPWL=Terrorism, armed struggle
Who will buy it? Those interested in the Peace Process, politicians, prisons, prison officers, reform groups, researchers, social historians, students of Irish/Northern Ireland affairs and libraries.



The Maze Prison shows how an establishment built to hold those involved in terrorism, atrocities, murder and allied crimes became a pawn in the partisan conflict that was Northern Ireland. There followed a breakdown of norms, values and control as the last of these shifted from Governors to Ministers, outside officials and even prisoners. This led to the (often random) killing of prison officers and countless allegations, denials and obfuscations, as Prison Rules came into conflict with claims to be treated as prisoners-of-war or be given Special Category status. A social document *par excellence*, this stark slant on The Troubles and Peace Process cuts through the propaganda and base politics to reveal the truth about the H-Blocks, hunger-strikes, escapes and power struggles. Based on actual records and personal accounts, it challenges myths and legends to warn how easily a community can descend into what the author calls *anomie*. An invaluable record of 'one of the most dangerous prisons in the world'.

Reviews

'A must read for those interested in the legacy of our troubled past – Tom Murtagh restores the balance, exposes the truth and gives a unique insight into the mind-set of the terrorist godfathers incarcerated in The Maze' — *The Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP*.

'This is an important book' — *Phillip Wheatley CB, former Director, National Offender Management Service*.

'Gives an accurate account of events as I recall them' — *John Semple, Former Prison Governor and Deputy Director of Operations, Northern Ireland Prison Service*.

Key Selling Points

- **Includes extensive accounts of the H-blocks, hunger-strikes, escapes, power struggles, etc.**
- **A stark slant on The Troubles and Peace Process.**
- **Covers the entire life of The Maze Prison.**
- **Based on unparalleled research into official and other information.**

Author

Tom Murtagh OBE ended his long career in the Prison Service as an Area Manager in HM Prison Service having been a Governor in England and Ireland, including at The Maze during The Troubles. He is the author of *The Blantyre House Prison Affair: Lessons from a Modern-day Witch-hunt* (Waterside Press, 2007).



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