

ULSTER
MARCH AND RALLY

ON

"BRITS OUT — PEACE IN"
SUNDAY, 29th MAY, 1977
NEWRY

PARADE FORMS UP AT 2.30 P.M.
MLOUGH ROAD, NEWRY

THE

A Chronology of the Northern Ireland Conflict

TROUBLES

ISSUE 42



It can often be a contentious issue of debate of when and how Northern Ireland's 'Troubles' began, who and what is to blame, and even which event in case led us to where we are now. You can go back 30 years, or even 300 years and beyond for in reality Ireland has been engaged in conflict with England for centuries.

Therefore, in order to compile a chronological record of the modern Troubles - the term usually given to the most recent conflict, we must mark a defining point of start, which we have taken as partition itself and from which we began in. In turn again, we feel it is equally important to give you the reader some understanding why events spiralled as they did into a bloody civil war.

This is not another view of the Troubles, this has been done and redone. This is the historical recording of events compiled by people from different parts of Belfast who lived through them. Our objective as local historians is to compile what we hope will be as near as possible a definitive reference to events as they unfolded through the last three decades.

In terms of research we have used as much material as possible and from diverse perspectives. We are confident that we have covered events as they were reported at the time. If however you feel that we have either left something out or indeed got something wrong we are more than happy to hear from you. As mentioned above this series of publications is the historical recording of the Troubles and all corrections are more than welcome.

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This is designed to create a better historical understanding of what has become known as 'The Troubles.' Therefore for educational purposes you are more than welcome to use any material from them. All that we ask is that the source is acknowledged and a copy of the material sent to us after publication. We use material that has been placed in the public domain. We try to acknowledge all the copyright holders but sometimes this is not possible. If you claim credit for something that has appeared in this publication then we will be happy to know about it so that we can make the appropriate acknowledgements.

SOURCE MATERIAL USED FOR THIS PUBLICATION



IRISH NEWS
Numerous issues for period covered



NEWS LETTER
Numerous issues for period covered



BELFAST TELEGRAPH
Numerous issues for period covered



LOST LIVES
A record of all those killed during The Troubles



www.wikipedia.org

We use this site to cover major events during the Northern Ireland conflict. We recommend its use not only for local material but also for any general educational or research subject.

Monday 2nd May 1977

Three shots were fired by people throughout at a 57 year old man in Ireland. They stated the yard of a Whiteabbey bottling plant. The shooting happened at O'Kanes that the opposition was clearly shown in the public support for the Governments uncompromising stand in relation to the Portlaoise hunger strike.

The Peace Movement in Ireland launched a major campaign to try to halt the violence in Northern Ireland. The organisers pointed out that during 1977 increasingly strong opposition to the campaign of violence in Northern Ireland had been publicly expressed

The home of SDLP leader Mr Gerry Fitt was attacked by a gang of stone throwing youths who broke two windows. Damage was not serious and no one was hurt.

Two shots were fired

through the window of a house in Juniper Park, Twinbrook but no one was hurt. Later in the same street a petrol bomb was thrown at a joint army police patrol but there were no injuries and the vehicles were not damaged.

A 32 year old man from the Shankill was shot in both legs after an incident in the area.

The army defused two devices, containers of petrol linked to explosives, which were found behind the Coachman's Inn at Rathgael Road, Bangor.

In Derry the army found 3 lbs of explosives in plastic bags hidden in a derelict house at Lecky Road.

A father and son were charged with possession of arms and ammunition in a Ballymurphy Club. The men from Westview Road and Rock Grove were found with two sawn off shotguns, an armalite magazine containing six rounds and 41 rounds of other ammunition at Ballymurphy Working Men's Club on the Whiterock Road.

Wednesday 4th May 1977

Squads of police and army in full riot gear clashed with loyalist mobs in East Belfast but thousands of workers continued to ignore the loyalist strike call. Workers at Ballylumford power station threw their weight behind the strike and voted in favour of a stoppage. Transport services were affected with Larne Harbour closed and bus services off in loyalist areas of Belfast. Police drove down the Newtownards Road in land rovers four abreast to try to move

the barrels, which were blocking the road. A mob threw stones and bottles and several arrests were made. The RUC were backed up by the army.

A bus carrying schoolchildren were fired on by a gunman at an estate on the outskirts of Bangor. Three shots were fired but only one hit the bus, puncturing a tyre. None of the passengers were hurt. The attack came as the bus was being driven along Owenroe Drive in the Kilcooley estate.

Mr Edward Coleman, 23 and married with two children was shot dead. Mr Coleman who was a gravedigger from Norglen Parade had been abducted at gunpoint from his mothers home and was later found dead in a field near an electricity substation on the Glen Road. He was discovered by workmen shortly after his wife had made a public appeal for information about his whereabouts.

A blast bomb thrown on to the roof of a community shop in

Alliance Avenue, Belfast, blew a hole in the roof. No one was hurt.

Two suspect bombs found outside Mackies West Factory and the SPD factory on Belfast's Springfield Road turned out to be hoaxes.

The windscreens of two police vehicles were broken by stone throwing gangs at Brompton Park, Ardoyne and on the New Lodge Road but no one was injured.



Masked youths block the Newtownards Road during the Loyalist strike

Thursday 5th May 1977

Six shots were fired from three passing cars at a contractors premises in Coagh, Tyrone. No one was hurt. Three men were arrested later.

A 21-year-old Dunmurry housewife was remanded when she was accused of possessing four rifles; four magazines, 932 rounds of ammunition and a home made sound moderator at her home in Broom Park, Twinbrook.

A 17 year old was injured in an explosion at a filling station in Larne. A number of cars were destroyed in the fire, including a Rolls Royce. Two men, one of them armed, planted the device in an oil store.

The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on the Bit and Bridle bar in Market Square, Newry. One part of the duffle bag bomb exploded and damage was slight. The army made safe the rest of the bomb, which was planted on the counter by two men.

Two people were treated for shock after a proxy bomb attack at York Road RUC station. A milk float was hijacked at the Grove Theatre and the driver told to take the bomb to the RUC station. A police land rover took the brunt of the explosion and only superficial damage was caused to the station. An anonymous call warning of another

device proved to be a hoax.

An explosion in a power room at Richardson's plant forced the closure of the building. A 5lb bomb was smuggled into the building.

22-year-old James Green, a taxi driver from Milford Walk in Divis Flats was shot dead by the IRA as he turned his cab at the

junction of the Glen Road and Shaw's Road after being hailed by a woman. A man jumped out of a car parked nearby and shot him. Both the gunman and the woman then made off in a car. Mr Green was a former member of the Royal Irish Rangers Regiment, leaving in 1975. It was suspected that he had been named to the IRA as a British agent.

Friday 6th May 1977

A gun jammed during an attempted shooting in Andersonstown. The intended victim was driving a dumper at Gransha Park when two men walked up and drew a gun but the weapon jammed as they tried to shoot him at point blank range. The man then ran off and

jumped over a wall. The target was ex British army.

A soldier and four civilians including a nine-year-old girl were injured in an explosion in Newry. The bomb had been planted at the rear of a building in Marcus Square, and

was detonated as an army patrol passed. One member of the patrol suffered severe leg and arm injuries. Another soldier used his belt to make a tourniquet to stop the bleeding and none of the civilians were badly hurt.

A clothing firm in Belfast was badly damaged in one of a spate of petrol bomb attacks. A number of men threw petrol bombs into the Milford

Clothing Company in Sydney Street West before escaping in a car. A petrol bomb thrown into a house at Alliance Avenue failed to ignite. Two youths were seen running away.

A petrol bomb thrown into a hut at Regent House School, Circular Road, Newtownards caused slight damage.

The front door of a bookies shop at Hillhall Road, Lisburn, was scorched in a petrol

bomb attack.

A small bomb, which exploded at the entrance to a factory shop at the Lismona textile firm, Loughall Road, Portadown, caused slight damage.

A Dungannon public house was destroyed in a blaze. Two gas cylinders with wires attached were left outside the pub to hinder fire-fighting operations.

Seven shots were fired at an RUC land rover

travelling along the Falls Road. No one was hurt in the attack near the Clonard Street junction.

Two policemen were hurt when a loyalist gang stoned two land rovers at Lawther Street in the Tiger Bay area of north Belfast. Another loyalist crowd stoned two land rovers outside a club in Alliance Avenue. The police were not hurt but land rovers were damaged.

Saturday 7th May 1977

Two petrol bombs were hurled into the Coachman's Inn, Rathgael Road, Bangor after the manager and his woman assistant were dragged from the bar and beaten up. The couple were forced out of the club and put into the managers car, driven a mile and taken out of the car and beaten up. The woman suffered severe head injuries. Only moderate damage was caused to the building.

In Belfast extensive damage was caused to a paint store in Little York Street after an incendiary attack. Fires

started by incendiaries also caused extensive damage to two Omagh stores. Traffic had to be diverted away from the Dublin Road because of the huge blaze at Wilson's furniture store. Devices were also planted in two other shops in the town. One exploded causing slight damage to a furniture store in Georges Street while another at Dublin Road was found by staff and dealt with by the army.

Two shots were fired at a police patrol in the Whitewell Estate, Bangor. The shots did not hit the vehicle and



A masked youth on the Newtownards Road during the Loyalist strike

fire was not returned. A 49-year-old man was shot in the leg in Queensland Street in the Crumlin Road area. A 17-year-old Belfast

woman from Mountpottinger Road was charged with possessing a detonator and a timing power unit in Belfast.

Monday 9th May 1977

Mr Robert Edward Crawford, aged 36, single and a farmer from Fyagh, Enniskillen was shot dead in Belfast. His body was found on wasteground at Forthriver Road and he was shot in the head by the UDA. He had travelled up to Belfast by bus from Enniskillen and was drinking in the Shankill Road. He had told drinkers in the pub that he had lots of money and a farm in Donegal and police suspected that he might have been mistaken for someone for Ireland due to his accent. No other motive was discovered.

A no warning bomb exploded outside Gallagher's factory in Belfast throwing the city traffic into chaos. The 2lb bomb tore a door off its hinges and shattered some windows but none of the 2500 workers were injured.

Police found an air pistol when they stopped a car at Glenville Road, Newtownabbey. In a follow up search of a number of homes, three

pistols and more than 100 bullets were found.

A petrol bomb thrown into the Albion Clothing Company on Donegall Road caused slight damage to stock.

A fire at McCormick's drapery shop on Donegall Road caused extensive damage and was started by an incendiary device.

Two petrol bombs thrown through a window of Sloan Molyneaux children's clothing firm in Sandy Row caused slight damage to stock.

A Russian made rocket launcher was found by the UDR under a hedge in a wood near Lisnaskea. The rocket launcher was the first found since 1974 and was in serviceable condition. It was found in a wooden box containing their armaments.

Incendiaries started fires in Woolworth's in Ann Street and Baird's stationery shop in Royal Avenue, Belfast. Earlier firebombs found in Woolworth's in



*The Rev Ian Paisley leaving the
Ulster Workers' Council
headquarters during the Loyalist
stoppage*

Cornmarket and a telephone kiosk in Castle Arcade was defused by the army. A bomb found in an oil depot in Omagh was defused by the army. Earlier the building and a local hotel were

searched after an anonymous telephone warning to Samaritans but nothing was found. Two shots were fired at the RUC checking out a suspect bomb under a bridge on the M2 motorway. No one was

hurt. The suspect bomb was a hoax.

A petrol bomb thrown at a UDR mobile patrol at Dundee's Cross near Islandmagee landed short and no one was hurt.

An army search party operating at Derrybroughs on the banks of the River Bann, near Portadown, found a sack containing 300 rounds of old ammunition in poor condition.

Tuesday 10th May 1977

Eighteen policemen were injured in riots in Portadown. Among the injured policemen were two inspectors, one of whom was struck on the head with a slab of paving stone in Bridge Street. The town was blocked off by farm machinery for a large part of the day and there were further disturbances in the evening during which police were stoned and a land rover was set on fire by the crowd.

Bomb blasts in Belfast exploded in a drapery shop and an electricity pylon, a filling station and the car park at Mackies. A man had a lucky escape when he handled the 30lb bomb, which had been left outside McMurrays drapery shop in North Street. The man picked up the device and threw it in the gutter; in the process he burned his hand and then kicked

the cylinder type bomb into the road. He had walked only a short distance when it went off, blowing a three-foot crater in the road and smashing glass windows in the area. Another bomb went off at an electricity pylon at Bloom field Crescent but caused no damage.

A bomb seriously damaged the West Way filling station on the Crumlin Road. It caused a serious fire and a fireman had a lucky escape when there was an explosion of fuel at one of the pumps.

A bomb, which had been left in a hijacked



The scene in English Street, Armagh, as loyalist scuffle with members of the RUC

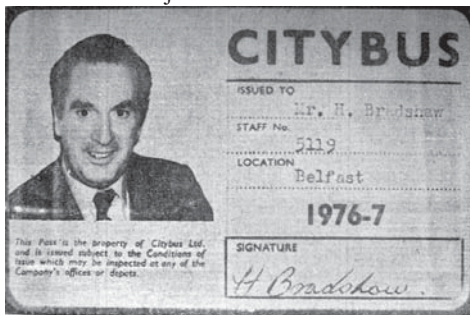
car at Mackies car park in Forfar Street, exploded as the army fired shots at it in an attempt to defuse it.

Two shots were fired at police on duty in Roden Street but no one was

hurt.

In Derry soldiers on routine patrol at Greenwalk in the Creggan area found a rifle in a house.

46-year-old Harry Bradshaw, married with five children was shot by the UDA on the Crumlin Road. Mr Bradshaw a citybus driver had stopped to pick up passengers during the loyalist strike and his death resulted in a stoppage of all bus services for three days.





Mr John Geddis on his wedding day

Mr Bradshaw lived at Woodford Park East in Newtownabbey and had been put under pressure not to work during the strike.

26-year-old John Geddis was killed in an explosion in the

Mountainview filling station on the Crumlin Road. Mr Geddis was a part time corporal in the UDR, married and a post office engineer. He had stopped there to buy petrol and his wife who was with him suffered facial injuries in the

explosion. They lived at Westway Crescent, Ballygomartin. The filling station had been ordered to close by loyalist gangs but had remained open. The UVF, UDA and Red Hand Commandos all denied responsibility for the bombing, as did the IRA.

William C Hobbs, aged 44, from Loughgall Gardens in the Monkstown Estate, Newtownabbey was killed and another man fatally injured in an explosion in a vacant house at Seagoe Gardens near his home. The two men blew

themselves up when a fire-raising mission went wrong during the loyalist strike. They were trying to set fire to vacant houses in the Monkstown estate. The explosion took place behind the front door of the house, stating a fire and as the house was vacant the windows were boarded up, trapping the men inside. The other man James Boyd McClurg escaped through an upstairs window and was found wandering across the street. Mr McClurg aged 25 and married with one child died a couple of weeks later from his injuries.

Wednesday 11th May 1977

An 18 year old soldier was shot in the back when his two vehicle patrol was ambushed at Loughgall Road in Armagh. The bullet, from an armalite rifle, passed through his shoulder.

A man was shot four times in the thighs at Lecale Street off the Donegall Road, Belfast. Three buses were set on fire in the city, one at Ormeau Road and two in Ardoyne.

An incendiary device burned a number of

jackets when it exploded in a menswear shop on Antrim Road.

A fire caused damage to the Ulster Weaving Co factory at Linfield Road, Belfast. The blaze was started when a petrol bomb was thrown through a window.

A petrol bomb thrown into a York Road garage badly damaged two vehicles.

UDR patrols in Tyrone and Fermanagh found 100lb of explosives a revolver and 20 bullets.

Thursday 12th May 1977

A petrol tanker driver narrowly escaped death in an early morning shooting (below). Gunmen pumped bullets through the

windscreen as the 36-year-old driver drove towards the M1 motorway. The shots missed the tanker driver but he was cut by flying



glass and taken to hospital. A woman walking along the Donegall Road at the time suffered from shock.

A pistol and a homemade machinegun were seized in Tigers bay, Belfast in a raid sparked by a domestic row. Police went to the area after receiving a report of a dispute between a man and his common law wife. The woman had a head injury and a bullet wound in the right hand. She had been struck over the head with a gun that then went off. As a result a number of houses at Mervue Street were searched and the

pistol and homemade machinegun were found. Five men and a woman were arrested.

Stone throwing gangs of youths attacked a policeman's home in Portadown and damaged cars belonging to two other officers. The attack happened at Brownstown as the youth hurled bricks and pieces of concrete through windows at the front. The family were asleep at the time.

A car bomb exploded 40 yards from the Ulsterbus depot in Bangor's Abbey Street. The blast also damaged

some surrounding property; the bomb had been left in a car stolen from a car park at Holborn Avenue in the town.

A fire started by an incendiary device was put out by the sprinkler system in the Bell, Logan and Carswell stationery store in Queen Street, Belfast. A small blast bomb thrown over the fence at the Irish Bonding Co premises in Severn Street caused little damage.

A 5lb bomb exploded on the railway line disrupted services between Belfast and Bangor. The track was

closed for some time and caused some blast damage to private houses in Kyle Street beside the line.

Douglas Deering aged 52, married with 3 children was shot dead in his shop on the outskirts of Roslea, Fermanagh. Mr Deering was a Justice of the Peace from Glenmount and his killing was denied by the IRA who pointed out that Mr Deering had kept his shop open in defiance of the loyalist strike. Two men pulled up outside Mr Deering's shop and went inside, firing two shots killing Mr Deering instantly.



Farmers block the Ballynahinch Road at Carryduff in support of the Loyalist strike

Friday 13th May 1977

In Lurgan a Catholic ex servicemen's club was destroyed after a firebomb attack. A drapery store on the ground floor of the building was

extensively damaged by the blaze.

An incendiary device found among groceries in Stewarts supermarket on the Crumlin Road

was later defused by the army.

There was a gun battle at the Square in Crossmaglen when an

army foot patrol came under two bursts of fire from gunmen. The fire was returned but no hits were claimed.

www.glenravel.com

Saturday 14th May 1977

An army patrol uncovered an arms cache in the Sandy Row area of Belfast. Soldiers found a Steyr rifle, a double-barrelled shotgun, 1000 rounds of ammunition and a number of other items when they searched a derelict house in Teutonic Street.

A no warning bomb caused blast damage to shops in Upper North Street, Belfast. The bomb contained 5lb of explosives and was left in the doorway of Tyler's shoe shop. No one was injured and damage was not severe.

Three shots were fired at Oldpark RUC station. They hit the front of the building and there were no injuries. Fire was not returned.

Shots were fired at an army foot patrol in the New Lodge Road area of Belfast. The incident took place at Hillman Street and fire was returned but the soldiers. There were no injuries and no hits claimed.

An RUC landrover was stoned by youths on the

Springfield Road. There were no injuries. Three teenagers from Tigers Bay were charged with possessing a firearm, a quantity of ammunition, a pistol and a .32 pistol.

29-year-old Robert Nairac, a soldier with the Grenadier Guards was abducted and killed after visiting a bar in south Armagh. His body has never been found and he received a posthumous George Cross. He was alleged to have functioned as a connection between military intelligence and loyalist groups, and to have been involved in numerous killings. A single man, educated at Ampleforth public school and Oxford University he is one of the most controversial and intriguing figures of the troubles. The day after his abduction the IRA stated that they had 'executed' him and that he had been killed after interrogation. The statement claimed that Captain Nairac had admitted during interrogation that he was a member of the Special Air services, a claim denied by the

army. Captain Nairac was in plain clothes but on duty and carrying a firearm when he was abducted. Traces of blood were found in his car. The windscreen, a

wing mirror, and the aerial of the unmarked car were broken, possibly during a struggle. There were dents and kicks in the bodywork of the car.

We executed SAS officer — South Armagh Provos

A 29-YEAR-OLD British Army officer who was abducted by the Provisional IRA from a public house car park and was later claimed to have been "executed" after admitting that he was a member of the SAS was on a "difficult military operation," his commander in South Armagh said last night. Search for the officer's body by hundreds of troops and police was still going on early to-day. Helicopters were being used in the big-scale operation.

Captain Robert Nairac, of the Grenadier Guards, was on a late-shifts undercover operation, which took him to the crowded South Armagh pub on Saturday night. He was armed with a hand gun.

His bloodstained, specially-equipped car was found outside the pub. The aerial and a wing-mirror were broken off.

Brigadier David Woodford, commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, which covers the entire Border area, denied that Captain Nairac was an SAS member but said he had "done" with the SAS and worked with the SAS on

Archbishop Basil Hume, of Westminster, appealed to the Provisional IRA to release Captain Nairac before the "executed" claim.

Cardinal Hume, formerly Abbot of Ampleforth where Captain Nairac went to school, said: "I am deeply saddened by the reported death of Robert. I remember him well from his school days. It makes me realize even more vividly what anguish and pain so many people have suffered in the long years of civil disturbance."

at this Province and heighten community tension," a statement said.

"The only way to call a halt to this and all other forms of terrorism is for both sections of the community to unite fully behind the police and other Security Forces."

Father Denis Paul, Dunannon, condemning the reported murder of Captain Nairac, demanded that the body be produced immediately or that the whereabouts of it be indicated. Otherwise, he said, it could only be assumed that he had been badly beaten while still alive.

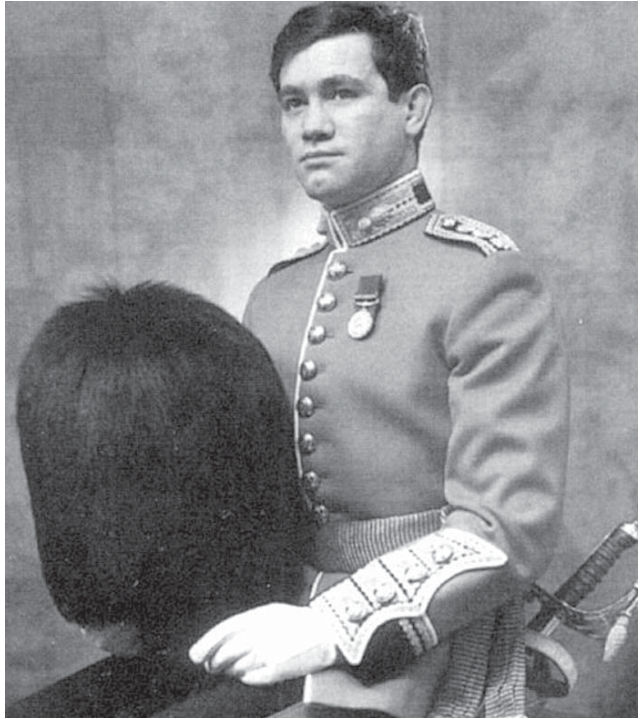


Captain Robert Nairac

Nairac was born in Mauritius. His family name originates from the Gironde area of France. His father was an eye surgeon who worked first in the north of England and then in Gloucester. He was the youngest of four children, with 2 sisters and a brother.

Nairac, aged 10, attended prep school at Gilling Castle, a feeder school for the Roman Catholic public school Ampleforth College which he attended a year later. He gained nine O levels and three A levels, was head of his house and played rugby for the school. He became friends with the sons of Lord Killanin and went to stay with the family in Dublin and Spiddal in County Galway. He read medieval and military history at Lincoln College, Oxford, and excelled in sport; he played for the Oxford rugby 2nd XV and revived the Oxford boxing club where he won 4 blues in bouts with Cambridge. During this time he was in a boxing competition which placed him against Martin Meehan, later a senior IRA commander, with whom he went three rounds. He was also a falconer, keeping a bird in his room which was used in the film *Kes*.

He left Oxford in 1971 to enter Royal Military Academy Sandhurst under the sponsorship of the Grenadier Guards and was commissioned with them upon graduation. After Sandhurst he



undertook post-graduate studies at Dublin University, before joining his regiment.

Nairac has been described by former army colleagues as "a committed Roman Catholic" and as having "a strong Catholic belief".

Nairac's first tour of duty in Northern Ireland was with No.1 Company, the Second Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. The Battalion was stationed in Belfast from 5 July 1973 to 31 October 1973. The Grenadiers were given responsibility first for the Protestant Shankill Road area and then the predominantly Catholic Ardoyne area. This was a time of

high tension and regular contacts with paramilitaries. The battalion's two main objectives were to search for weapons and to find paramilitaries. Nairac was frequently involved in such activity on the streets of Belfast. He was also a volunteer in community relations activities in the Ardoyne sports club. The battalion's tour was adjudged a success with 58 weapons, 9,000 rounds of ammunition and 693 lbs of explosive taken and 104 men jailed. The battalion took no casualties and had no occasion to shoot anyone. After his tour had ended he stayed on as Liaison officer for the replacement

battalion, the 1st Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The new battalion suffered a baptism of fire with Nairac narrowly avoiding death on their first patrol when a car bomb exploded on the Crumlin Road.

Rather than returning to his battalion, which was due for rotation to Hong Kong, Nairac volunteered for military intelligence duties in Northern Ireland. Following completion of several training courses, he returned to Northern Ireland in 1974 attached to 4 Field Survey Troop, Royal Engineers, one of the three sub-units of a Special Duties unit known as 14 Intelligence Company (14 Int). Posted to South Armagh, 4 Field Survey Troop was given the task of performing surveillance duties. Nairac was the liaison officer among the unit, the local Army brigade, and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

However, he also seems to have taken on tasks which were outside his jurisdiction as a liaison officer – working undercover, for example. He apparently claimed to have visited pubs in republican strongholds and sung Irish rebel songs and acquired the nickname "Danny boy". He was often driven to pubs by now-Conservative MP Patrick Mercer, who was then an Army officer. Former SAS Warrant officer Ken Connor, who was involved in the creation of 14 Int, wrote of him in his book, *Ghost Force*, p.263:

"Had he been an SAS member, he would not have been allowed to operate in the way he did. Before

his death we had been very concerned at the lack of checks on his activities. No one seemed to know who his boss was, and he appeared to have been allowed to get out of control, deciding himself what tasks he would do." Nairac finished his tour with 14th Int in the summer of 1975 and returned to his regiment in London. Nairac was promoted to captain on 4 September 1975. Following a rise in violence culminating in the Kingsmill massacre, army troop levels were increased and Nairac accepted a post again as a liaison officer back in Northern Ireland.

Colin Wallace, in describing Nairac as a Military Intelligence Liaison Officer (MILO) said "his duties did not involve agent handling". Nevertheless, Nairac "seems to have had close links with the Mid-Ulster UVF, including Robin Jackson and Harris Boyle". According to Wallace, "he could not have carried out this open association without official approval, because otherwise he would have been transferred immediately from Northern Ireland" Wallace wrote in 1975; Nairac was on his fourth tour of duty in 1977.

Robin Jackson was implicated in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings of May 1974, and Harris Boyle was blown up by his own bomb during the Miami Showband massacre, in which Nairac was also alleged to have participated.

Nairac on his fourth tour was a liaison officer to the units based at Bessbrook mill. It was during

this time that he was killed.

On the evening of 14 May 1977, Nairac arrived at the The Three Steps pub in Drumintee, South Armagh, by car, alone. He is said to have told regulars of the pub that his name was Danny McErlaine, a member of the Official IRA from the republican Ardoyne area in north Belfast. Witnesses say that he got up and sang a song with the band who were playing that night. At around 11.45 p.m., he was abducted following a struggle in the pub's car park and taken across the border into the Republic of Ireland to a field in Ravensdale, County Louth. Following a violent interrogation during which Nairac was punched, kicked, pistol-whipped and hit with a wooden post, he was shot dead. He did not admit to his true identity at any time.

Terry McCormick, one of Nairac's abductors, posed as a priest in order to try to elicit information by way of Nairac's confession. Nairac's last words according to McCormick were: 'Bless me Father, for I have sinned'.

An edition of *Spotlight* (NI) broadcast on June 19, 2007, claimed that his body was not destroyed in a meat grinder (as is widely believed). McCormick, who has been on the run in America for thirty years because of his involvement in the killing (including being the first to attack Nairac in the car park), was told by a senior IRA commander that it was buried on farmland, unearthed by animals, and reburied elsewhere. The location

of the body's resting place remains a mystery. Nairac is one of nine IRA victims, whose graves have never been revealed and who are collectively known as 'The Disappeared'. The cases are under review by the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains.

In November 1977, Liam Townson, a 24-year-old PIRA member from the village of Meigh outside Newry was convicted of Nairac's murder. Townson was the son of an Englishman who had married a local Meath girl. He confessed to killing Nairac and implicated other members of the gang involved. Townson made two admissible confessions to Gardaí officers. The first was made around the time of his arrest, it started with "I shot the British captain. He never told us anything. He was a great soldier." The second statement was made at Dundalk police station after Townson had consulted a solicitor. He had become hysterical and distressed and screamed a confession to the officer in charge of the investigation.

Townson was convicted in Dublin's Special Criminal Court of Nairac's murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Townson served 13 years in prison and was released in 1990.

In 1978, the RUC arrested five men from the South Armagh area. Three of them were jointly charged with Nairac's murder. One was charged with kidnapping, and one was accused of withholding information. Two other men wanted in connection with this

incident remain on the run.

In May 2000 allegations were made claiming that Nairac had married, and fathered a child with a woman named Nel Lister, also known as Oonagh Flynn or Oonagh Lister. In 2001, DNA testing revealed the allegations to be a hoax.

On 20 May 2008, 57-year-old IRA veteran Kevin Crilly of Jonesborough, County Armagh was arrested at his home by officers of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. He had been on the run in the United States but had returned to Northern Ireland under an alias after the 1998 Belfast Agreement. He was charged the following day with the kidnapping and false imprisonment of Nairac. In November 2009, Crilly was also charged with the murder of Robert Nairac at Newry magistrates' court during a bail hearing on the two counts on which he had been charged in 2008. Though the prosecution objected, bail was granted on the grounds that Crilly had met all requirements for bail since his arrest in 2008. In May 2010 a Belfast Crown Court judge ruled that Crilly could be sent to trial for the murder, rejecting an application by his lawyers that he had no case to answer.

On 13 February 1979, Nairac was posthumously awarded the George Cross.

Captain Nairac's posthumous George Cross citation reads, in part: "On his fourth tour Captain Nairac was a Liaison Officer at

Headquarters 3 Infantry Brigade. His task was connected with surveillance operations.

On the night of 14/15 May 1977 Captain Nairac was abducted from a village in South Armagh by at least seven men. Despite his fierce resistance he was overpowered and taken across the border into the nearby Republic of Ireland where he was subjected to a succession of exceptionally savage assaults in an attempt to extract information which would have put other lives and future operations at serious risk. These efforts to break Captain Nairac's will failed entirely. Weakened as he was in strength-though not in spirit-by the brutality, he yet made repeated and spirited attempts to escape, but on each occasion was eventually overpowered by the weight of the numbers against him. After several hours in the hands of his captors Captain Nairac was callously murdered by a gunman of the Provisional Irish Republican Army who had been summoned to the scene. His assassin subsequently said 'He never told us anything'. Captain Nairac's exceptional courage and acts of the greatest heroism in circumstances of extreme peril showed devotion to duty and personal courage second to none." Claims have been made abouts Nairac's conduct with regard to claims of involvement in the killing of an IRA member in the Republic of Ireland and relations with loyalist paramilitaries. Allegations were made concerning Nairac in a 1993 Yorkshire Television documentary

about the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings of 1974 entitled Hidden Hand. The narrator of Hidden Hand states:

"We have evidence from police, military and loyalist sources which confirms the links between Nairac and the Portadown loyalist paramilitaries. And also that in May 1974, he was meeting with these paramilitaries, supplying them with arms and helping them plan acts of terrorism against republican targets. In particular, the three prime Dublin suspects, Robert McConnell, Harris Boyle and the man called 'The Jackal' [Robin Jackson, Ulster Volunteer Force [UVF] member from Portadown], were run before and after the Dublin bombings by Captain Nairac."

According to the documentary, support for this allegation was said to have come from various sources:

"They include officers from RUC Special Branch, CID and Special Patrol Group; officers from the Gardaí Special Branch; and key senior loyalists who were in charge of the County Armagh paramilitaries of the day...."

It was alleged by a former MI6 operative, Captain Fred Holroyd, that Nairac admitted involvement in the assassination of PIRA member John Francis Green on 10 January 1975 to him. Holroyd claimed in a New Statesman article written by Duncan Campbell that Nairac had boasted about Green's death and showed him a colour Polaroid photograph of Green's corpse taken directly

after his assassination.

These claims were given prominence when, in 1987, Ken Livingstone M.P told the House of Commons that Nairac was quite likely to have been the person who organised the killing of three Miami Showband musicians.

Nairac was mentioned in Justice Henry Barron's inquiry into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings when it examined the claims made by the Hidden Hand documentary and Holroyd.

Former RUC Special Patrol Group member, John Weir, who was a loyalist paramilitary, claimed he had received information from an informant that Nairac was involved in the killing of Green: "The men who did that shooting were Robert McConnell, Robin Jackson and I would be almost certain, Harris Boyle who was killed in the Miami attack. What I am absolutely certain of is that Robert McConnell, Robert McConnell knew that area really, really well. Robin Jackson was with him. I was later told that Nairac was with them. I was told by... a UVF man, he was very close to Jackson and operated with him. Jackson told [him] that Nairac was with them."

In addition, "Surviving Miami Showband members Steve Travers and Des McAlee testified in court that an Army officer with a crisp English accent oversaw the Miami attack" - see Miami Showband killings - the implication being that this was Nairac.

The Barron Inquiry found a chain of ballistic history linking

weapons and killings under the control of a group of UVF and security force members, including RUC Special Patrol Group members John Weir and Billy McCaughey, that is connected to those alleged to have carried out the bombings.

These "included, in 1975, three murders at Donnelly's bar in Silverbridge, the murders of two men at a fake UDR checkpoint, the murder of IRA man John Francis Green in the Republic, the murders of members of the Miami showband and the murder of Dorothy Trainor in Portadown. In 1976, they included the murders of three members of the Reavey family, and the attack on the Rock Bar in Tassagh."

Fred Holroyd and John Weir linked Robert Nairac to the Green and Miami Showband killings. Susan McKay summarised Barron on the ballistic history of the weapons involved:

"It was probable the guns were kept at a farm at Glenanne belonging to James Mitchell, an RUC reservist... from which a group of paramilitaries and members of the security forces... carried out the massacres at Dublin and Monaghan.... The chain was unbroken because the perpetrators of these attacks weren't caught, or investigations were haphazard, or charges were dropped, or light or suspended sentences were given. The same individuals turn up again and again, but the links weren't noted. Some of the perpetrators weren't prosecuted despite evidence against them."

Monday 16th May 1977

An army bomb disposal expert was injured in a blast in Belfast city centre. Glass fragments became embedded in his arm, as he was about to tackle the bomb at the premises of D Nichol in Bedford Street. A fierce fire raged through the four-storey building after the bomb exploded.

Tuesday 17th May 1977

A car accessory shop near Belfast city centre was bombed. The explosion started a fire and three fire crews tackled the blaze, which broke out on the ground floor. No one was hurt in the attack on Barron and Brendan's premises in York Street. The area was evacuated before the bomb went off.

Three people were injured when a firebomb exploded in a fruit shop in Ardoyne. Masked men entered the shop on Ardoyne Road, forced the owner and customers into the back and planted the device. The bomb exploded a short time later, starting a fire, which destroyed the shop.

Wednesday 18th May 1977

The army acted on an anonymous tip off that Guards Officer, Captain Robert Laurence Nairac, abducted and reportedly killed by the IRA was dumped near Jonesboro. A body was found but had not been recovered, as it was believed to be wired up with explosives. 200 extra troops were drafted in for the search operation. Gunmen tried to kill a UDR man in Maghera. It happened outside the firestation at Fairhill. A number of shots were fired from a hijacked

car at the UDR man but he was not hit.

In Belfast a shot was fired at a patrol of soldiers at Glen Road. It missed and fire was not returned.

In Derry an army patrol fired two shots at a gunman at Lennan Gardens in the Creggan estate. No hits were claimed.

Two petrol bombs thrown at Brownlow Houses in Lurgan failed to ignite. A Black perceptory meeting was being held at the same time.



Farmers block the main road into Ballymena during the Loyalist strike

Thursday 19th May 1977

Soldiers fired plastic bullets to disperse stone throwing youths outside St Aidans school on the Springfield Road, which was being used as a polling station. Six shots were heard during the day at the school.

Several children playing near Suffolk primary School were treated for shock after a gunman fired one bullet at policemen leaving the school. The bullet missed the men and struck the wall of a house in Blacks Road.

Friday 20th May 1977

Fifty two year old Robert North, a reserve constable from Riverview Bungalows, Benburb, was shot by the IRA when the empty school bus he was driving was fired on at Drumlee Road, Benburb. An ex marine, he was hit in the chest but drove 600 yards to his sister in laws house before the bus crashed into a hedge. He had been a

school bus driver for two years and worked for the Southern Education and Library Board. The bus had been hit 15 times by bullets and bus drivers for the area staged a 24-hour protest stoppage after the killing. Mr North was a widower and had four children.

20 year old Daniel McCooley from Beechmount pass in

Belfast died after an altercation between civilians and soldiers in Belfast city centre. He was hit in the stomach with a rifle during the incident at the beginning of May described by the army as "violently resisting arrest" while locals claimed he was struck after intervening to defuse a confrontation between friends and some soldiers. A 20 year old soldier later charged with his manslaughter was acquitted. A policeman was injured in an ambush in Co Armagh. The constable was hit by

flying glass when two bullets smashed the car windscreen of his car. The man was travelling to Keady RUC station to work.

The army worked for 3 hours to destroy an incendiary bomb planted in a Belfast city centre hardware shop.

They blew up the bomb in Potts and Houston's in Union Street with a controlled explosion. The blast started a blaze but damage was not serious. The bomb planted by two men contained 3lb of explosives and was attached to a tin of petrol.

Saturday 21st May 1977

The Midland Hotel in Belfast was damaged when two bombs exploded in the reception area. Fire swept through the building on the ground floor and five fire crews battled to bring the flames under control.

Four men from Belfast were charged with possessing ammunition in the city. All four were charged with possessing 274 rounds of ammunition in suspicious circumstances.

A policeman was injured in a gun attack in Andersonstown. He was grazed in the leg after one shot was fired at the land rover he and four other policemen were in. He was released from hospital after treatment. A car drew up beside the

vehicle at Hillhead Park and the shot was fired.

Two shots were fired into the living room of a house in Carrickfergus. The incident happened in Sunningdale Crescent and two spent cases were found at the scene.

The owner of the house and his wife and seven children were in bed when the shots were fired and no one was injured.

Christopher Shaw, aged 63, married and a personnel officer was shot in the head and chest when he answered a knock at the front door of his home in Fitzwilliam Street in the university area of Belfast. Mr Shaw who died at the scene had been watching television with his wife. Two youths were seen

running from the scene. A former RUC sergeant Mr Shaw had left the police in 1967 and worked for a large building contracting firm. It was believed that Mr Shaw was killed

not because he was a former policeman but because his firm had defied the orders of Protestant paramilitary groups to close down during the loyalist stoppage.

Monday 23rd May 1977

A 50 year old man was shot in the hand and elbow when he answered a knock on the door of his home at Slatt, near Ballymena.

No one was badly hurt in a bomb attack on a prison officers home, but the man, his wife and two children were treated for shock after the attack on the Whitewell Road. There was no warning and extensive damage was caused to the outside of the house and windows in others opposite.

Three incendiary bombs were found in

Etams fashion shop in the centre of Belfast. They were all defused.

An incendiary device exploded inside a bag of clothes bought in Edams shop. The device went off in an upstairs room at the house in Grange Park, causing extensive damage in a bedroom.

At the Glenowen Inn on the Glen Road, customers were cleared out after a small package was discovered. The army dealt with it, but it turned out to be a hoax.

A small bomb partly exploded at the corner of Bryson Street on the Newtownards Road, Belfast. Damage was minimal. Bombers attacked the customs post at Mullin, Fermanagh, but the device was defused. In Newtownhamilton a burst of gunfire was heard but the target was not known.

Tuesday 24th May 1977

An Andersonstown woman narrowly escaped injury when a shot fired at a passing army patrol struck the table where she was sitting. A gunman armed with a high velocity weapon fired two shots at the patrol in Glassmullin Gardens. One shot went through the front door of the woman's home and travelled along a passageway and hit the table. It then ricocheted off a wall behind her but

she was not hurt. A bomb exploded in a garage in Belfast city centre. The 10lb bomb, which went off in the Chichester Street area, started a fierce fire and the building was completely destroyed.

A 30 year old radio engineer from Surrey Street in Belfast was charged with being in possession of a rifle and ammunition at Ballyutoag near Templepatrick.

Wednesday 25th May 1977

A man was found shot in the thigh in Elmfield Street in the Ardoyne area.

A number of shots were fired at the army base at Musgrave Park

Hospital. Windows were broken but no one was hurt. The army stated that the shots were fired by a gunman in a car on the M1 motorway.

Thursday 26th May 1977

A soldier and a male nurse were shot in a corridor of the RVH in Belfast.

The gunman came up behind the soldier and shot him in the shoulder and stomach. One of

the five shots fired hit a male nurse who was walking down the corridor. Another bullet lodged in the wall. The soldier was a member of a liaison team from the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Friday 27th May 1977

A man was shot in the Shankill Road. The 31 year old man was hit as he and another man were leaving a Jumna Street social club. Three shots were fired from a car as it drove past. The man was hit in the cheek. The other man was not hurt.

A policeman was hurt by flying glass when a gunman opened fire on a police land rover. A woman constable was treated for shock after the incident on the Springfield Road. The police patrol returned fire but no hits were claimed.

A customs post on the Derry to Donegal border was destroyed in a fire thought to have been caused by a petrol bomb.

In Craigavon workmen working at Legahory discovered 27 rounds of .38 ammunition in a shed at the rear of a vacant house.

A 31 year old housewife from Westrock Drive was charged with possessing a Remington rifle and 70 rounds of assorted ammunition under suspicious circumstances.

Saturday 28th May 1977

Five bombs fired in a cross border IRA mortar attack on Warrenpoint docks sunk in Carlingford Lough. The bombs fell short of their target and splashed into the water. The attack was launched from Omeath near the village at Drummallagh where the Garda found a launcher and two unexploded mortars which were later defused by an army explosives team.

A man was hit with a

rubber bullet during an incident involving soldiers in Derry. Three was a struggle between two soldiers and the man at a checkpoint at Ferryquay Gate and during it a round was fired, hitting the man on the head.

Five men appeared at Newry Courthouse on a charge of murdering Grenadier Guards Captain Robert Nairac after he disappeared from the car park of a bar close to the border.

Sunday 29th May 1977

Mr Rowland Hill aged 66, married and from Chief Street in the Crumlin Road area, died in hospital from injuries he received during a shooting in Ewarts Social Club at Summerdale Park. Four men, associated with the UDA burst into the premises and made 30 customers lie on the floor while they raided the tills. When the gunmen became aware that a meeting was being held in the next room they fired through the partition wall and hit Mr Hill who was attending the meeting.

Monday 30th May 1977

Mr Malachy Gregory aged 39 from Finaghy Road North was shot dead at his office in College Square North (right) as gunmen attempted to force their way in to shoot a UDR man. Mr Gregory, a catholic was married with 8 children and worked as a surveyor.

Two gunmen wearing wigs and false moustaches entered the offices but the screams of a secretary alerted the men upstairs. The UDR man, a 49 year old major, blocked the door but was shot through it, and Mr Gregory was hit by several bullets as he came down the stairs. He died almost immediately but was heard whispering prayers as he lay dying.

Troops found arms and bomb making equipment near the Co

Antrim village of Portglenone. Soldiers in the 1st Royal Hampshire Regiment found four rifles, 274 bullets and the bomb making material hidden in an earth bank two miles south of the village.

Three policemen and a policewoman were treated for shock after a bomb attack on a prison officer's home. The bomb exploded on the windowsill of the house at Hatton Drive, off the Woodstock Road, as police were clearing the area. The prison officer his wife and two children who were in the house at the time escaped without injury. A small fire started after the explosion caused extensive damage to the house.

Five fires in shops in

Belfast and Enniskillen were caused by incendiary devices. Two shops, a carpet store in Belmore Street and a hardware shop in Cross Street were destroyed by fire. A fireman was injured

while tackling the blaze at the carpet store. An incendiary device exploded in a drapers shop in Church Street while it was being searched by the owner. There were also firebomb attacks on a



furniture store in Shore Road and a wallpaper and paint store in Middleton Street. Seven fire engines from Enniskillen, Clogher and Lisnaskea were called out to fight the fires, which could be seen for several miles around the town. A fire in a hairdressers' in Donegall Square east, Belfast did not cause much damage.

One man was shot by a number of men who grabbed him at Stanley Street off the Grosvenor Road. At Lady Street two men were shot in the legs in a derelict yard and another man was shot at Norfolk Drive off the Glen Road. The army fought a brief gun battle on the south Armagh border. Several gunmen using automatic weapons, fired 100 bullets at a foot patrol three miles f r o m Newtownhamilton. Fire was returned but no casualties were reported on either side.

A quantity of explosives and ammunition were found on a beach at Bank Quays near Larne by two youths out for a walk.

Tuesday 31st May 1977

The RUC uncovered 23 weapons including 13 rifles, nine pistols, a rocket launcher and 1300 rounds of ammunition during planned searches. Twenty-three pounds of explosives were also found.

A policeman was treated for shock after a blast bomb exploded on the roof at the back of Mountpottinger RUC station. The bomb was thrown on the roof. The army found four rifles, 274 bullets and bomb making

equipment near Portglenone.

A UDR patrol found a .22 pistol in good condition lying in a field near Coalisland.

The police in Belfast found an arms cache near the Sydenham by pass at the rear of the Oval Football ground. The find included a .303 rifle, 586 rounds of assorted ammunition, a weapon cleaning kit and an oilcan. The items were wrapped in two black bags and were in good condition.

MARKETS RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE ask—

Where is
Terance (Cleaky) Clark
 28 days solitary — then vanished without trace
 IS HE STILL IN LONG KESH!
 If England gets away with this, it will be YOUR SON or
 YOUR HUSBAND next.

ULSTER EXECUTIVE SINN FEIN
MARCH AND RALLY
 ON
 "BRITS OUT — PEACE IN"
 SUNDAY, 29th MAY, 1977
 NEWRY
 PARADE FORMS UP AT 2.30 P.M.
 at CAMLOUGH ROAD, NEWRY
 PROMINENT SINN FEIN SPEAKERS
 We call on all who want Peace with Justice
 and British withdrawal to support this Rally

Wednesday 1st June 1977

The army fired on a gunman in the New Lodge area of Belfast but did not claim to have hit him. A patrol reported seeing the gunman lurking in an alleyway. A soldier fired a single round at him. The army defused an unexploded mortar bomb in Warrenpoint, following an IRA attack from the Omeath side of the port.

Thursday 2nd June 1977

Mr. Samuel Derek Davison, aged 24 and married, a constable in the RUC who came from Donegal was one of three RUC officers killed when three IRA gunmen ambushed their patrol car. The other two officers were Kenneth Norman Lynch aged 22 from Donemara and Hugh Martin aged 58 and married with 7 children from Stewartstown. The gunmen each armed with an armalite rifle came from behind a hedge on a lane at Ardboe and fired on the police vehicle, which then crashed. A further 20 shots were fired into the car and the officers' bodies were found by a passing motorist. A bottle of orange and



Hugh Martin



Derek Davison



Kenneth Lynch

some sandwiches were later found where the gunmen had waited for the police car. Reserve Constable Hugh Martin died only a quarter mile from where he had been brought up in County Tyrone. An army patrol was

attacked when they tried to arrest a man in the Turf Lodge estate in Belfast. A crowd of 100 pelted the patrol with missiles, including a meat cleaver, hammer, chisel and part of a bedstead. The patrol fired a number of plastic

bullets to disperse the crowd. The trouble flared when the patrol tried to detain a man who according to an army statement had been abusive to a soldier. The man also tried to take some of the soldier's equipment

form him. A number of shots were fired at a house in Carrickfergus but no one was injured. The shots were fired by a gunman in a passing car. A man, his wife and their son were asleep in the house at the time.

Friday 3rd June 1977

A soldier was injured when an army patrol was fired on. He was a member of a two-vehicle patrol that was attacked near Granville, Dungannon. A burst of gunfire was aimed at the patrol, and the soldier was grazed on the head and arm by a bullet. Soldiers fired three shots at the gunmen, but claimed no hits.

In Belfast a man was taken to hospital after being kneecapped in the Andersonstown area. He had been shot in the knee.

A fire started by a bomb caused extensive damage to a commercial building housing several small companies in Amelia Street. Two men, one of them armed, held up staff and planted a bomb on the first floor of the block. They gave a five-minute warning and the bomb exploded 6 minutes later. An RUC man was treated for shock after the explosion.

A blast bomb, which was thrown at the rear of Andersonstown

Police Station, caused minor damage but no one was injured.

The RUC found two .38 pistols along with some bullets above the 42 Club in Silverstream Road. Later a fire gutted the club.

There was a bomb attack on the alcohol

section of Powell's supermarket at Monaghan Street, Newry. A man walked into the shop and planted the bomb on the counter, giving staff a five-minute warning before running out. The area was cleared and the fire was started when the bomb went off 15 minutes later.

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Saturday 4th June 1977

A man was shot in the thigh after a high-speed chase in Belfast. The shooting happened after the RUC spotted two men in a car speeding along the Shankill Road. As they abandoned the car one fired at the following policemen. Fire was returned and later an 18-year-old man was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound.

A firebomb exploded in Newry. A man with a handgun planted the

bomb in a shopping bag in an off license in Monaghan Street. The device exploded 15 minutes later causing little damage.

In Portadown a device was found in David Robinson's men's outfitters in West Street. The army defused the device and later also defused a cassette type incendiary found in Creighton House furniture shop in Church Street, Enniskillen.

Monday 6th June 1977

The RUC found rifles when they stopped a car at a road check near the M1 motorway. The find, made at a spot check at the Sprucefield roundabout near Hillsborough, included six .303 rifles and three boxes of ammunition. In the car at the time were a 30-year-old man and three children and a 35-year-old married woman and her daughter.

Gunmen and members of the army and RUC were involved in a five-minute gun battle at Forkhill in South Armagh. No members of the army or RUC were injured and no hits were claimed by the return fire.

A UDR patrol found 13 lb. of explosives in a wood four miles from Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh.

Wednesday 8th June 1977

Gerald Tucker, a part time lance corporal was shot dead by the IRA as he finished work at the RVH. He had just left the hospital morgue

when two gunmen fired him on. He was hit on the head and died a short time later. Mr Tucker was 37, single and worked as a

hospital porter. He lived with his widowed mother at Ainsworth Street in the Shankill Road area and was posthumously awarded the Queens Jubilee Medal. An armalite rifle and a revolver were used in the shooting.

A RUC detective was shot in the back at Andersonstown RUC station as he returned to the station in a land rover. The gunmen fired using high velocity weapons,

A 10lb bomb in a holdall was left at the Strathmore Inn in north Belfast. The pub was cleared and when the bomb exploded it started a huge fire,

which badly damaged the building.

A soldier was injured in a blast bomb attack at Norglen Parade in the Turf Lodge area. During a follow up operation soldiers were confronted by a mob and one was hit in the face by a brick. The soldier caught up in the blast bomb was treated for shock.

An army patrol was fired on at Glenalina parade in Ballymurphy, one shot was fired and fire was returned.

In Strabane soldiers manning a vehicle checkpoint were attacked. Several shots were fired but no one was hurt.

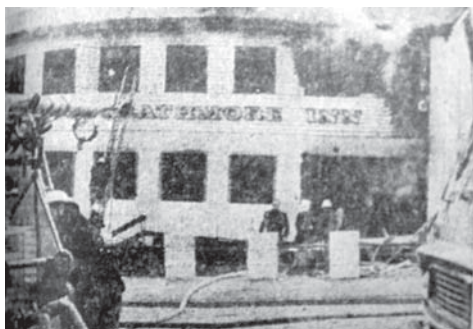
Thursday 9th June 1977

Police were fired on when a mobile patrol went to investigate a broken down container lorry near the M1 motorway. The incident happened in the Donegall Road, Falls Road area and when police arrive don the scene, a number of youths ran off. Shots were fired and the RUC land rover was hit. Fire was

returned but police claimed no hits.

The army found a .303 rifle in a stolen car at Glen Road, Belfast. Two people were arrested.

A 25-year-old woman from Gypsy Street in Belfast was charged with having explosives under the stairs of her home during a police search.



IRA bomb attack on the Strathmore Inn on the Cavehill Road

Friday 10th June 1977

A prison officer was attacked in Belfast and had the letters UDA scratched on his chest. The officer was assaulted when he walked along Landscape Terrace near Crumlin Road Jail.

Gardens, Monkstown. Two teenage girls sitting in the room were not injured. No motive was discovered for the attack.

Five shots were heard near Kennedy Way in the Andersonstown area but the target was not known. Security forces were not involved.

Two shots were fired into the front room of a house in Loughgall

Saturday 11th June 1977

A 16 year old Strabane youth was charged at a special court in Omagh with gathering and communicating information about the security forces which might be of use to others and with having in his possession numbers of vehicles used by he RUC. He was also charged with being a member of the Fianna na h'Eireann. Gunmen took over a

Belfast couples home for two hours before firing shots at a joint RUC army post. Three men and a woman took over the house at Doon Road in the Lenadoon area. The house overlooked the post on the Stewartstown Road. A number of shots were fired at the base but there were no hits and fire was not returned. A police vehicle had just entered Doon Road at

the time of the shooting and it was at first thought that this was the target but later it emerged that the shots were aimed at the Woodburn post.

In Lisburn firebombs started blazes in two shops in Bow Street. The first outbreak was spotted at the Model Furnishing Co. The first floor was severely damaged. Cassette type incendiaries started the

fire. A number of unexploded devices were also found on the premises, which were dealt with by the army. A short time later a smaller blaze started in Wings boutique but damage was slight.

In Derry troops found 153 rounds of assorted ammunition in a garden shed in the Bishop Street area. The ammunition was in poor condition.

Monday 13th June 1977

An incendiary device damaged the Spar supermarket in the centre of Newry. The bomb, which was planted inside the building, went off during opening hours and the area was cleared. Damage was

slight.

The IRA released a statement threatening to kill civilians working in RUC stations. They stated that civilians would be 'treated as RUC personnel and will be executed accordingly'.

Tuesday 14th June 1977

Three masked men, one armed with a handgun burst into Stafford's shoe shop in Union Street, forced staff to lie on the floor and then planted two small bombs with petrol cans attached. The bombers then made off on foot. The area was cleared and the army called in. The first device went off

30 minutes later with the second exploding 3 minutes later. The bombs started a fire, which did not cause much damage as the fire service was on standby. A shot was fired at members of a RUC mobile patrol as they examined the scene of a road accident at Galvally near Pomeroy. No one was hurt and fire was not returned.

Thursday 16th June 1977

A bomb started a fire when it exploded in a block at Donegall Lane, Donegall Street. The target was Ahmed's cash and carry, which sold jewellery and clothing. Also damaged was MacCartans bookmakers. The bombers planted the device in the building and ran off giving a warning. The area was cleared and the bomb exploded 20 minutes later.

A bomb attack on the army observation post at Ardoyne went wrong when instead the bomb destroyed a family home and a derelict house next door. The bombers fired 7 shots at an army observation post on the roof of another derelict building on the other side of the family home. The explosion caused blast damage to many houses in the street but no one was hurt.

Friday 17th June 1977

Incendiary devices exploded in the headquarters of the Housing Executive causing widespread damage.

Key documents filed in the building were destroyed in the huge fire at the premises at College Square.

A 26-year-old man from the Shankill area was arrested and charged with three murders and one attempted murder.

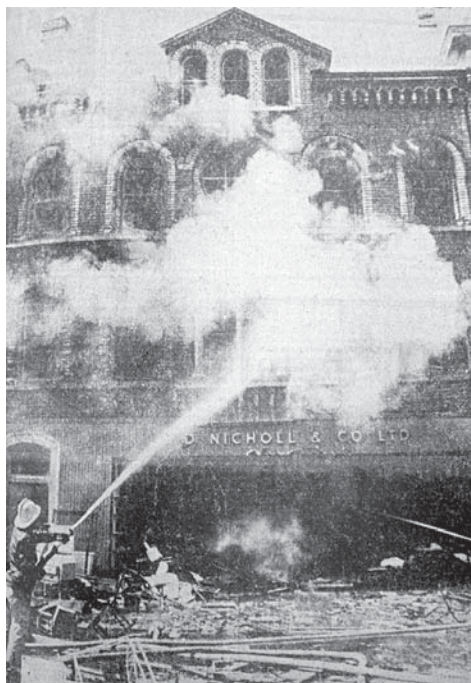
A 21-year-old man of Derryvarren Road in Coalisland was charged with the killing of three police officers whose patrol car was ambushed in Tyrone in May 1977.

The army uncovered a huge landmine hidden

at the side of a border road. The device, 150lb of home made explosives packed into three beer kegs, was ready for detonation. Wires led from the bomb buried in the bank of the road at Killeen in south Armagh, to a firing point. An army bomb disposal expert defused the device.

A bomb was hurled into the forecourt of a Belfast garage but was neutralized by the army. The 14lb bomb was thrown from a brown car into Wilson and Leepers filling station in Bridge End.

The army defused an incendiary device found outside derelict garages near Dunmurry.



Nicholls Auction Rooms which were destroyed in an IRA firebomb attack

Saturday 18th June 1977

The Provisional IRA issued a statement warning of their determination to smash the Republic and turn Ireland into a socialist republic. They warned that the IRA dream of an "Eire Nua" could only be achieved by the extension of the armed struggle in the South.

A police patrol came under sniper attack in west Belfast. The land rover was hit three

times on the passenger side as it reached the junction of Falls and Whiterock. None of the policemen in the vehicle were hurt and they didn't return fire.

There was a mystery shooting in the Andersonstown area when the police went to the Blacks Road area after reports that a shooting had occurred. They found a number of empty shells but no target was found.

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Sunday 19th June 1977

Robert Walter Whitten aged 73 and a local magistrate died after being fatally injured in a shooting in Portadown on March 1st 1977. Mr Whitten was the brother of a former Unionist Party Convention

member and the intention was to kill both brothers in the attack. Mr Whitten came from Thomas Street in Portadown and was married. He was a member of the Prince of Wales Orange Lodge.

Monday 20th June 1977

An attempt to blow up Fortwilliam golf club was foiled when the bombers panicked and made off. The youths with an apparently empty club bag tired to get past the security guard but when he noticed that the bag was unusually heavy they ran off. They sped off in a blue car, which was later found at Castleton Gardens. The army

carried out four controlled explosions on the vehicle and successfully dealt with the bomb, which contained 4lb of explosives.

Soldiers found 180 bullets, three detonators and a quantity of blank ammunition and empty cartridge cases in the Shantallow area of Derry.

Tuesday 21st June 1977

In Tyrone a UDR patrol found 60 rounds of assorted ammunition in a pond near Ballygawley. The army defused an incendiary device at the Housing Executives headquarters in College

Square East. A community centre at Olympia Drive in Belfast was destroyed by an incendiary device, which started a blaze, which swept through the building. No one was injured.

Wednesday 22nd June 1977

John Wesley Milliken, a prison officer from North Belfast was shot dead by the IRA as he finished work at

Crumlin Road Prison and walked along Cliftonpark Avenue, on his way to his home in Brucevale Park off

Duncairn Avenue. The gunman got out of a car and shot him in the head and chest at close range and Mr Milliken died in hospital an hour after being shot. The car used in the shooting had been hijacked in Butler Street in Ardoyne and was later found in the Oldpark area. Mr Milliken was a principal officer in the prison service and all prison visits and food parcels were suspended until after his funeral as a mark of respect from his fellow officers.

It was claimed by north Belfast MP John Carson that businessmen had placed contracts to have their premises bombed so that they could claim compensation.

Soldiers uncovered an arms cache in the Tiger Bay area of Belfast. They found a submachine gun, two homemade pistols and more than 500 rounds of assorted ammunition in a derelict house.

A Belfast supermarket was bomb in the Oldpark area of north Belfast. Stewart's supermarket was not badly damaged when the small fire started after the explosion.

In Omagh police examined three revolvers, a rifle and 494 rounds of ammunition, which were found in the Crevenagh Road area.

Three guns were found by children in a shed at Campsie and the fourth was found by soldiers who carried out a follow up search. All the weapons were in good condition.

A 20-year-old man of St Mary's Villas, Newry was jailed for three years for possessing firearms and ammunition found near his home. He pleaded guilty to possessing two .303 rifles, an air pistol, a .22 pistol and over 100 rounds of ammunition.

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Thursday 23rd June 1977

The UDA claimed that it had been approached by unscrupulous businessmen to bomb their premises. The UDA denied that they had been involved in any type of contract bombing but alleged that other loyalist groups "may have acted in consort with some firms for financial gain".

The Provisional IRA issued a statement that if the army pulled out of the Royal Victoria Hospital attacks on the complex would end. The statement from the Belfast brigade was one of many issued in the row over security at the hospital.

Three police officers were injured in an attack on Ahoghill RUC station. The local sergeant was entering the station to talk to a man and a woman reservist who were on duty there when a gunman burst in after him and opened fire. The 48-year-old sergeant was shot in the left side and lost two fingers. The 33-year-old woman constable was shot in the left arm,

hand and hip, and the other officer, aged 30, was hit in the left hand and right leg. The gunmen also sprayed the outside of the post with bullets. An armalite rifle was used.

Two shots were fired through the window of a house in Ahoghill but no one was injured.

Two soldiers were injured when a bomb exploded in a hijacked van on the Dundalk Road. The soldiers had just been left off by a Saracen armored car and were preparing to set up a checkpoint when the van blew up. The soldiers were badly shaken and received burns to their faces, bodies and arms. They were taken to Musgrave Park hospital by helicopter. After the blast the Saracen collided with a car on the road. The van that contained the bomb had been hijacked at Culloville, two miles away and the driver held captive for some time before being released unharmed. The IRA admitted responsibility for the attack.



IRA firebomb attack on the Cliftonville Bowling Club



Bomb attack on the Mountainview Filling Station, Crumlin Road

Friday 24th June 1977

Shots were fired into a house in Ahoghill as gunmen again took to the streets of the Co Antrim village.

In Belfast an army foot patrol was shot at in Glenveagh Drive in the Suffolk area. A soldier received a gunshot wound to his ankle. Fire was returned but no hits were claimed.

An army observation post in Alliance Avenue came under fire from a gunman. Shortly afterwards a gunman was seen and troops

opened fire but no hits were claimed.

A gunman fired on a van driving down the Falls Road. As the van reached North Howard Street 8 shots were fired, six hitting the van. The driver was not hit. A 28-year-old man was found kneecapped outside Corpus Christi Church in Ballymurphy. Several burnt out incendiary devices were found at oil storage tanks at McMullen and Grahams shop at Teemore near Derrylin.

Saturday 25th June 1977

An 18-year-old girl of Jamaica Street in Belfast was charged with causing three bomb blasts in Belfast city centre.

A 22-year-old Dungannon man was charged with possessing a bomb and being a member of the IRA.

Monday 27th June 1977

The army blew up a suspect transistor radio that had been carried from the Radio Rentals shop in Shaftesbury Square but it turned out to be a false alarm. Staff in the shop spotted the radio and raised the alarm. It was carried to Albion Street where it was dealt with by the army.

bomb and when the constables were searching the area a device went off.

Two cassette type incendiary devices started fires at the Silver Grill Restaurant in Cornmarket. A fire broke out causing extensive damage.

Three policemen escaped injury when a bomb went off at hardware premises on Townsend Street as they were checking out a bomb warning. An anonymous caller had said that there was a

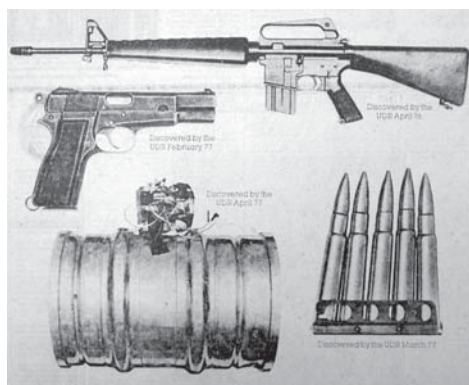
An incendiary exploded at Cliftonville Bowling Club causing roof damage.

A 36-year-old man was shot in the right leg after he was grabbed by two youths at Innisfall Walk in Craigavon.

Tuesday 28th June 1977

Mr Gerald McCullough, aged 25, was found dead in a field off Cemetery Road, Antrim on July 14th 1977. He had gone missing on 28th June and had died from head injuries. His body had been concealed with

branches and twigs and cows trampling the hedges uncovered his body. A man out walking his dog spotted the body. Mr. McCullough a Catholic labourer from Moss Park in Antrim had been last seen by his sister in



IN THE UDR, YOU MAY ALSO DISCOVER A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF.

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But you will find out when you go through 12 weeks' hard training with the UDR. Or when you're faced with your first bit of action.

Or when you're sent to patrol the border like most men who join us, you'll probably surprise yourself.

You'll find you've got reserves of energy you never dreamed were there. You'll find yourself doing the right thing, because you've been trained to.

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the town in the afternoon of the 28th June. The police saw him later that evening under the influence of drink and late on the evening of the 28th June a man who lived close to the cemetery reported what appeared to be a drunken brawl during which Mr.

McCullough was kicked to death by a former member of the UDR.

Police had a narrow escape when gunmen attacked their patrol car on the M1 motorway near Lurgan. Twenty shots were fired at the

car from two positions but only one bullet struck the vehicle. The RUC patrol had gone to the motorway after a report that a car had broken down. The patrol became suspicious when they approached the car parked on the hard shoulder and the gunmen opened fire. Police returned fire but no hits were claimed.

Military police who went to a bonfire at Anderson Street were stoned by a crowd of youths and the fire brigade was also attacked.

Wednesday 29th June 1977

Michael Harrison was a private from the Light Infantry 3rd Battalion and was from Dinnington in Sheffield. He was one of two soldiers killed in an IRA ambush on an army lorry and land rover as they turned into North Howard Street, Belfast. The other soldier killed was 18-year-old Private Richard Turnbull who was from Gosborough in Yorkshire. Private Turnbull was hit in the head during the IRA ambush. A regimental padre, and their commanding officer were wounded but not seriously. They had arrived in Belfast on the 27th June on a four-month duty tour.

A number of loyalist remand prisoners at Crumlin Road Jail refused food as a protest against restrictions since the killing of a prison officer. A 21-year-old man from Norglen Parade in Turf Lodge was charged with having bomb-making material at his home. A bomb factory was uncovered in the Duncairn area of

Belfast after a joint police army patrol noticed a young woman acting suspiciously. They searched a white plastic bag she was carrying and found three incendiary devices.

In a garage in Ponsonby Avenue, Belfast, the RUC found 59 detonators and in a follow up search at the garages the detonators were found in a car, which had traces of explosives in the boot. A dozen cassettes, four made up incendiaries as well as wire and tools were also found.

A prison officer shot and wounded a man who tried to kill him and afterwards a trail of blood led to Ardoyne. The officer was in his home at Oldpark Road when two youths pulled up on a motorbike. One of the youths drew a gun and the prison officer drew his handgun and shot one of the attackers. They ran off dropping the gun and also leaving the motorbike.

Two shots were fired at an army mobile patrol in the Oldpark Road but no one was injured.

Soldiers shot dead in ambush

TWO soldiers were shot dead by a Provisional IRA gunman in a daylight ambush in Belfast yesterday — less than 30 hours after arriving in Northern Ireland.

Last night a Church of England padre was fighting for his life in the Royal Victoria Hospital after being shot three times in the same attack. The padre underwent an emergency operation and was described as being "very seriously ill".

The gunman fired at the patrol as it returned to the third Battalion Light Infantry's new base at North Howard Street, off the Falls Road.

The regiment's Commanding Officer, Lt Col

Padre and colonel are wounded

John Hambley, who arrived in Ulster on Tuesday, was injured in the ambush.

But he returned to duty after hospital treatment for a flesh wound to his arm.

The attack happened as a four-man Army patrol, bound by a Land Rover, was about to turn off Falls Road

A gunman fired from Ross Street, killing one soldier in

the rear vehicle, the four-man lorry, severely and injuring one of the four passengers inside.

Two of the occupants in the Land Rover or front were injured and one died later on his way to hospital.

In spite of the suddenness of the attack, a soldier in the rear vehicle managed to return several shots but did not

claim any hits.

The wounded padre — who was shot three times in the upper part of the body — was in civilian clothes and was wearing a clerical collar. He was named as the Rev. David Hewitt.

The two soldiers who died were named by the Army as Pte Richard Turnbull, of Gosborough, North Yorkshire and Pte Michael Harrison, of Dinnington, South Yorkshire.

The battalion took over responsibility for the Falls Road area at noon on Tuesday.

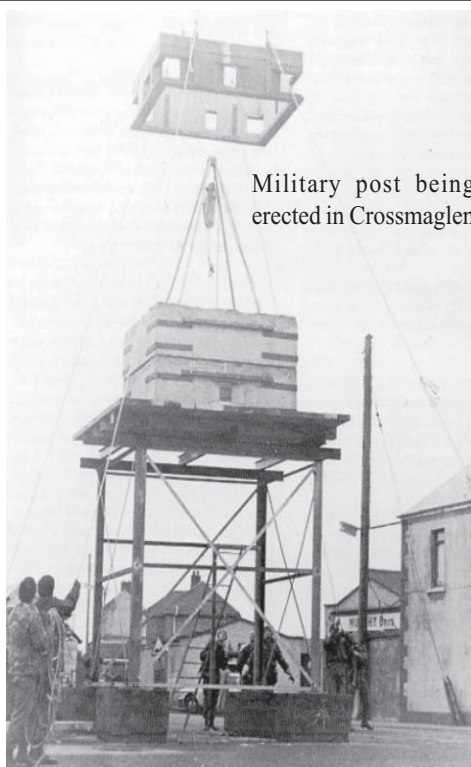
Meanwhile, there was serious rioting in Turf Lodge last night.

A Klan Farm spokesman claimed that it was sparked off when the Army closed a licensed club.

Thursday 30th June 1977

There was a riot in the Turf Lodge area after soldiers raided a republican club and detained a number of

people. A hostile crowd gathered and the army fired three rubber bullets to disperse them.



Military post being erected in Crossmaglen

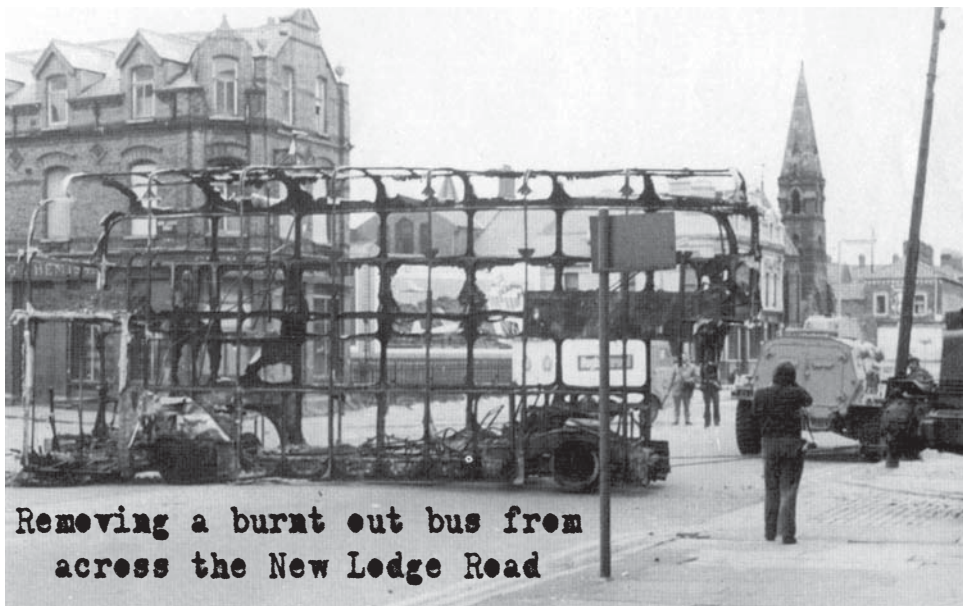
The Troubles in Pictures





**British Army helicopter flying over Belfast's
City Hall**





Removing a burnt out bus from
across the New Lodge Road



British troops
searching houses in
Belfast

It is with regret that we have to announce that this is the last issue of *The Troubles* in this format. Over the past year the sales have been continually going down and have now reached a point where it's actually costing us money to produce the publication.

All is not lost however and the conflict will be covered in exactly the same way in our re-launched *Belfast Magazine* the first issue of which will be available from December and then every month. The first part of the magazine will be of local historical interest and the second part will contain exactly the same layout as this publication covering each month of the conflict. Unfortunately the publication is only available in Belfast and for those outside the city we recommend you take a subscription by filling in the form below.



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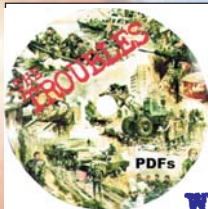


MURDERS, GHOSTS AND BODYSNATCHERS

This Halloween weekend the Glenravel Project will start a new tour which will explore the darker side of Belfast's history. The city centre tour will meet at the City Hall then begin at Castle Junction where all the horrific executions took place and we will look at the gory details behind a few of them. Then we will tell a few of the ghost stories from that area such as the tragedy which occurred in the Lucifer Match Factory and Smithfield Mill before moving on to the old Victorian red light district and exploring what life was really like there. We will look at the popular bar room activity where bets were taken on killing rats with bare teeth as well as some of the 'dreadful' crimes which saw some of the areas residents being transported. There will be more murder stories as well as the sad ghost story telling the fate of the Five Mary's.

From there we will move to Academy Street where the lodgings of most of Belfast's bodysnatchers were situated. We will hear the tales of how they robbed the local graveyards of corpses and why they tore the teeth from the heads. We will then cross to the site of the infamous Hundon's Entry which was so notorious even the police refused to go in.

If interested contact us ASAP as places will be booked up pretty quick especially on Halloween night. The total cost is £7 per person and will include a fascinating DVD looking at the darker side of Belfast's history. To book your place you can call the Glenravel Project on 90310859 or book online at www.toursofbelfast.com



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