



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Declan O'Donovan .

re "Diverse

There may be
assistance .

Production "C-4

3/5/84

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF
THE IRISH EMBASSY

Doc. 1 (according to the Diverse Product.
ion unit) is nearest to a final transcript
Doc. 2 is an early version and
not as finally delivered
17 Grosvenor Place,
London, SW1X. 7 HR.

17/5

Clara Mervin Burke

30/4/84.

2/7/2/2

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N.B.
This seems true to
be a fairly correct
version of the
programme.
J

How
many
soldiers killed
since 1969

Intro: This is the most frequent image of the British Army in Northern Ireland: the soldiers on the street, the victims of arbitrary violence. But there is another side to the army's operations. In this week's Diverse Report Duncan Campbell of the New Statesman and reporter Christopher Hird piece together information about the army's intelligence operations which suggest that this part of the army at least creates victims of its own.

5 October 1974: Eugene McQuaid, mechanic from Newry killed on his motorcylce by mystery bomb.

10 January 1975: John Francis Green, IRA staff captain, shot dead near Castleblaney. Eire. Culprits never found.

00 September 1974 Columba McVeigh, aged 17, arrested for possessing ammunition. Four months in prison. Later, disappears.

11 February 1975 Christopher Mein, milkman. Shot dead by the IRA near

Dungannon.

Tragedies like these are a daily part of the war in the north of Ireland. But our investigation suggests that these tragedies are different: one way or another they are the result of illegal activities by the British Army.

~~all these people and others whose stories we will tell in this programme - have one thing in common: in one way or another, they are victims of the British Army.~~

HEADLINE: IRELAND: The Dirty War

Dorothy Mein now lives alone with her young son. She married her husband Christopher when she was twenty one. By the end of 1974 she was expecting their first child and looking forward to moving into their new home.

Then tragedy struck.

sync Mrs Mein I cant understand why anyone would do it

Christopher Mein was a protestant and his only interest was his family. He was never involved in politics and certainly had no connection with any paramilitary organisation. This made it all the harder for the family to take.

Christopher worked as a relief milkman for the Killyman Dairy Company. He was shot

here in Galbally, a predominantly, Catholic rural area. At the time his killing looked like yet another random and pointless sectarian murder. It now appears that Christopher Mein was the victim of an army operation that went wrong.

The first clue to the real story lies on this notebook kept *at the time* by an officer in the British Army.

The notebook belongs to Captain F. J. Holroyd, who had a long and successful career in the British Army. Between 1973 and 1975 he served as a military intelligence officer in the North of Ireland. He remembers the background to ~~the~~ *Mein* murder well. It all started months before, with an intelligence operation planned by one of his colleagues.

involving another civilian
sync Fred saying 'Catholic lad backed to comit offence,

but not was brought in
The boy was an impressionable 17 year old Columba McVeigh. ~~and~~ His parents remember ~~the incident with~~ the cigarette packet.

incident

sync Columba's parents 'In that hall' handed cigarette packet, and shows bullets to his sisters that evening.

As planned, early the next morning, around 6 o'clock he army arrived. Without searching the house, they went straight up the stairs and into Columba's bedroom.

sync father explaining how they searched his room and didn't tear the house apart.

Not only was Mr McVeigh surprised when the army failed to search the rest of the house, but also Columba was allowed to escape. Unusually, the army had not surrounded the house and so he simply came through the living room window, across this fence and away down this path. So far, the army's plan had worked. Columba McVeigh was a wanted man on the run.

Sync Fred IN:5.07.17

5.32.07 'with it'

.

This was an absurd plan. The IRA were never going to use their escape route to help someone like Columba McVeigh, who was not even a member of the organisation.

sync McVeigh parents saying the IRA wouldn't have him, he could hardly tell you what politics was about.

sync Fred saying the plan went wrong, put in prison, beaten up and gives list of informers, which was fiction, to save his skin.

And this brings us full circle. At the top of Columba's list was the name of the local milkman, whose round extended as far as Gallbally. But on the day the IRA came to get him, the regular roundsman had taken the morning off and Christopher Mein was shot instead.

sync Mrs Mein saying that she only keeps

going for the kid

But Christopher Mein and his family were not the only victims. Columba McVeigh disappeared when he came out of prison and has not been seen for since. But for the British army, this family would not have lost a son.

(bungled structure)

sync Mrs McVeigh saying a home destroyed and I'll never forgive them

Captain Holroyd approached us over a year ago with his allegations. As anyone would be, we were very sceptical about him and the stories he told us. So we went to Northern Ireland and did our own investigation. We uncovered events which provided a substantial amount of independent corroboration for Captain Holroyd's account.

Captain Holroyd has an impressive military record, as a career soldier. ~~Having risen from the ranks, he has served all over the world in a variety of responsible positions.~~ As an undercover intelligence operator in Northern Ireland he drew the admiration of the Assistant Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, with whom he worked.

*specific
Grueker*

Captain Holroyd's disillusionment with the Army started in 1975 when he was suddenly removed from his post because of alleged mental instability. Captain Holroyd has persistently denied this and has managed to get all references to his mental condition expunged from his confidential army record. But the experience ~~has~~ made him revise his opinion of some of the

*for right you have had to
get his alleged involvement*

army's intelligence operations;

In the cases which we investigated, we have found that such activities can, and do, increase the cycle of violence; and we have discovered occasions where they have lead to the unnecessary death of civilians. What were these activities?

sync Holroyd saying he was aware of illegal activities

One activity which was clearly against the law was the attempt to kidnap ~~people~~ *people* living here in Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. *(a man)*

FTC 5.01.48 (this is where it all happened, paid for by the Brits.)

Synch Holroyd. I remember... the cash... etc

We have managed to trace one of the men actually involved in the attempt to kidnap Seamus Grew. Although ~~wanting~~ *wanting* to talk to us, he confirms Holroyd's account, on all the important matters of detail. *(valuable)*

Synch O'Hara. 'yes I did it, Brits supplied photos, etc, meeting in car park etc,.

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Synch Holroyd (15.18.35) Whats the matter with that,.....chaos, international sovereignty, Libyans, etc.

that ~~the~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{has} ~~the~~ ^{the}
~~that army~~ ^{came} ~~the~~ ^{the}
~~book~~ ^{to} ~~actually~~

Newry, in the south of the six counties is set in the hills near the border with the republic. ~~It is also where the~~ Holroyd alleges ~~the army~~ booby trapped the contents of an IRA arms store, ~~which is covered.~~

Synch Holroyd. McQuaide story.

We have been to Newry to check Holroyd's story and this is the man to whom he must be referring. Eugene McQuaide who was killed in a motor cycle accident.

McQuaide age

According to eye-witnesses his bike appears to have blown up. At the time, his death was a mystery but Holroyd helps to explain it. This is the road - the main A1 between

Newry and the border -where the road block Holroyd refers to must have been set up.

FTC Hird saying this is the spot where he died. Very dangerous for all concerned. Amounts to summary execution.

But Captain Holroyd also makes an even more serious allegation about an army officer with whom he worked.

sync Holroyd telling how British army officer murdered a republican south of the border. Hird says who was the republican. He says John Francis Green. and Robert Nairac.

John Francis Green was a leading member of the IRA, who had escaped from internment in Long Kesh and in 1975 he was living south of the border.

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Robert Nairac was a captain in the SAS, who was murdered by the IRA in the spring of 1977 and hit the headlines after his death when he was awarded the George Cross, the highest peacetime gallantry decoration.

sync Hird saying what details makes you think that Nairac telling the truth. Holroyd says all the details.

Some which

We returned to the scene of Green's killing to investigate and reconstruct Nairac's account and found that it fitted virtually all the known facts, including ~~these~~ ~~which~~ had not been made public.

previously

On the night of January the tenth three men drove to one of the many unofficial crossing points like this which lie along the invisible border between the north and south. Green did not live at the remote farmhouse but somehow the assassins knew that he would be there.

As Nairac told Holroyd, the house was two or three miles south of the border and is at the end of a succession of country lanes with high hedges.

Nairac's account is impressively accurate on important details of the killing itself, which we have established independently to be correct. The assassins used two pistols in the killing; kicked down the farmhouse door and emptied both guns into their victim after he had fallen.

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Confirming Holroyd's story is very difficult. Nairac is dead: no-one has ever been charged with Green's murder and the police file is still open. There are discrepancies on matters of detail. For example, the cartridge case was on Green's chest, not his forehead.

And we have discovered one piece of evidence which, on the face of it, seems to rule out Nairac. One of the guns used - a Star pistol - is known to have been in the hands of protestant extremists and was subsequently used in the Miami Showband killing, in which five people - including two of the terrorists - died. But the second gun, a Luger, has never been traced.

And where is the photograph which Nairac gave to Holroyd, claiming it was taken at the time? The Royal Ulster Constabulary are holding this as part of the investigation they are making into Holroyd's allegations. We have established that the picture was taken shortly after the murder and that it is not an official police photograph.

sync Hird to Holroyd : surely people do not take such photos. Holroyd says they do.

None of this finally proves that Nairac was involved but how is the astonishing accuracy of his story to be explained? The only alternative is that he was told about the killing by someone else and then repeated the story to Captain Holroyd.

sync Holroyd saying youy had to be there

sync Holroyd saying he wasnt a fantasist.

(10)

So three questions need answering:

Where did Nairac get the photograph of Green's body

How was he so well informed about the details of the murder?

How did the killers know that Green was at the farm that night.

cut in — This is the most telling point.
Remember Green was paying a brief visit to the farm. In such a fiercely republican area only two groups of people could have known that he was going there. The first are other senior republicans. But we know they did not kill him because of the weapons used. The only others are those with access to high level intelligence about Green's movements: the security services.

Neither the RUC nor the Ministry of Defence can comment publically on any of Holroyd's allegations until the Director of Public Prosecutions has considered the RUC's report.

Many people will consider such events an inevitable -sometimes desirable - aspect of a war against terrorism.

sync Holroyd saying quoting Frank Kitson saying that army must not behave illegally. IN 15.14.11 'if you work within QUT 15.15.12 'Their presence 24 hours a day'