



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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South Down Brigade Oglagh na hÉireann claims responsibility for military actions at Fathom Park and Drumalane Road area of Newry during the early hours of Monday morning, August 12th.

After de-ploting a number of Volunteers armed with impact grenades and automatic rifles to give cover on routes leading into the area, an ASU (Active Service Unit) consisting of 12 Volunteers moved into Drumalane Park and Fathom Park to carry out a punishment action against a number of identified individuals from both areas.

After searching the area without success, Volunteers entered two houses, 46 Drumalane Park and 20 Fathom Park again without locating targets. Volunteers then withdrew from the area.

While our operation was being run down and as a cover team positioned at Drumalane Road were withdrawing from their location, an impact grenade was discharged accidentally causing an explosion. The device detonated harmlessly on the roadside causing no damage.

The South Down Brigade Oglagh na hÉireann has identified a criminal gang operating an intimidation campaign in the greater Drumalane area for some time. This campaign reached a peak at 3.30 a.m. on Sunday morning August 11th when two men, one a member of Sinn Féin, the second a 17 year old Republican News Seller were beaten in their beds with iron bars by members of this gang.

Oglagh na hÉireann takes this opportunity to state publicly that our Volunteers have been instructed to take military action against the following named persons if they have not left the island of Ireland by 12 noon, Saturday, August 17th, 1991.

1. Noel McClorey, Jun., 20 Fathom Park.
2. Sean Brown, 46 Drumalane Park.
3. Hugh Brown, 46 Drumalane Park.
4. Liam Kearns, 138 Drumalane Park.
5. David Madigan, 12 Drumalane Park.
6. Gervase Henry (White), 19 Drumalane Park.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, August 11th, in Drumalane Park and Fathom Park, criminal elements sledgehammered their way into the homes of a Republican News paper seller and a member of Sinn Féin.

The paper seller, a 17 year old youth, was hospitalised, attempts having been made by the gang to break his legs with hammers and iron bars. He required 13 stitches to a head wound and had treatment for severe bruising, cuts and lacerations. While beating him with hammers and iron bars the criminals taunted the youth about his Republican beliefs.

The other man initially thought he was being attacked by a loyalist murder gang. He received stitches and had severe bruising over his entire body, and would have been even more seriously injured had he not managed to escape from his attackers.

Commenting on the attack Sinn Féin councillor, Brendan Curran said:

"In these brutal attacks in the early hours of Sunday morning, criminal elements broke into the homes of a Republican News paper seller and a Sinn Féin member and subjected them to sustained, savage and cowardly assaults.

Attempts were made to break the legs of the 17 year old with hammers and iron bars. He was attacked while lying asleep. A youth with ideals and commitment battered unconscious by criminals who have nothing to offer but pain and suffering. The second man was lucky to escape with his life having bravely fought off his attackers and escaped.

Ordinary people must recoil with revulsion at these attacks, and I join with them and share their outrage. It is clearly part of British strategy to encourage certain criminal elements in the town, give them a free rein and hope to inhibit and retard the struggle for independence, democracy, peace and justice. This will not happen for victory is assured.

I would urge the people of Newry to isolate these criminal elements and make them outcasts. They are the parasites which feed upon the nationalist community, and are the natural allies of the British occupation forces. They have no place in our midst for they are the enemies of the people. As in all other struggles for liberation, the justice of the people will prevail".