

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NORTHERN IRELAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR July 29, 2001 65p



Scottish league and cup
fixture Premier verdict

FREE INSIDE 16 PAGE OLD FIRM FIXTURES MAGAZINE

IT'S BACK! CELTIC & RANGERS IN WINNING STARTS

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EXCLUSIVE



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'My spree
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EXCLUSIVE



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'UFF tried
to kill me'

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WORLD EXCLUSIVE

'I TOLD COPS ABOUT OMAGH'

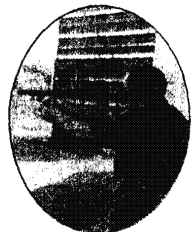
By GREG HARKIN

A FORMER agent for the British security forces has stunned the relatives of the Omagh bomb victims - by claiming he tipped off his handlers about the device **THREE** days before the blast.

The mole alleges the cops failed to act because the bomb-maker was also an informer.

The agent named the bomber and gave the location of the device - but the attack went ahead killing 29 people.

● FULL STORY PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5



REVELATIONS: Agent

**.. and that was 3
days BEFORE the
bombing, claims
top secret agent**

BOYS BUTCHERED IN HOUSE OF HORROR

FULL STORY
Pages
12 & 13

b15 - Doc NS14

3 children die in car lake shock

THREE children died yesterday after the car they were in rolled down a bank into a lake.

Two adults who were also in the car managed to escape from the vehicle.

The car sank in 20 feet of water at Arlesey Lake, known locally as the Blue Lagoon, in Bedfordshire.

It was reported that the children - aged three, five and six - were trapped in the Vauxhall Astra for more than 40 minutes as firefighters launched a dramatic attempt to rescue them.

Risked

Two firefighters risked their lives to dive into the lake wearing their regulation breathing apparatus, which is not designed for underwater use.

Once the children were brought to the surface paramedics waiting close by battled to resuscitate the youngsters, a girl aged three and boys aged five and six, before they were taken to Lister Hospital, Stevenage, Herts.

At the hospital doctors tried for about four hours to save the children before "balance communications officer" Steve Jones emerged from the building to break the sad news to the waiting media that the children had died.

Teenager is charged with OAP murder

A 17-year-old was charged with the murder of a Bangor pensioner and will appear in court next week.

Victim Frederick McMahon, 70, died on Thursday from head injuries received during an attack on Wednesday night. He was attacked in the Castle Park area of the town.

A police spokesman said a teenager would appear in Newtownards Magistrates Court.

APOLOGY David Burnside

IN our edition of June 3 this year we urged readers in South Antrim to vote for Ulster Unionist David Burnside in the General Election in a bid to maximise the pro-Agreement vote.

We now accept this was a huge mistake.

We'd like to take this opportunity to apologise to all our readers in that constituency.

Mr Burnside won the seat, thanks in part to our campaign.

We regret that error.

VOICE OF THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

Sunday People, 415 Hollywood Road, Belfast, BT4 2GU

Families must be told truth about Omagh

THERE'S no confusion over who bombed Omagh.

Real IRA warlords made and planted the device which tore the town apart and killed so many innocents on a single day.

They're the people who should be locked up for this unforgivable mass murder.

On that numbing day three years ago, brave, decent and honourable RUC officers did their utmost to help.

The darkened streets were filled with death and destruction and the panic, mayhem and grief was unimaginable.

Officers bravely did their duty in the name of humanity, and we salute them.

But everyone knows that life in Northern Ireland has never been clear cut.

And today we lift the lid on the immense allegations surfacing about what went on in the days before the single worst atrocity of the Troubles.

They make breath-taking reading and cannot be ignored.

The RUC's top mole inside the RIRA says he warned - three days before the blast - that a huge bomb bound for Northern Ireland had been made in the Republic.

But nothing was done.

Special Branch chiefs, desperate to protect their source who mixed the explosives, opted to let things ride to maintain his cover.

Devastated

The informer, who was devastated by the subsequent carnage in Omagh, later spoke to the investigating team.

And he has since talked to the Stevens' Inquiry which is investigating some of the murkier aspects of RUC intelligence work down the years.

Not only that, but another informant tipped off Gardai about the details of the car used to ferry the bomb - and they lost track of it.

The top level allegations are nothing short of astounding.

Special Branch detectives could not have known what carnage was on the way, but they must have known that a huge explosion was on the cards.

What needs to be clarified is why a risk was taken when such information was to hand.

Now, after so many people have been killed and injured, it is only right that the whole truth is told.

For these allegations, currently under investigation at the highest levels, will not go away.

It is now nearly three years since so many men, women and children were cut down in Omagh.

The people of Northern Ireland know who did that and they still long to see the people responsible arrested, charged, tried, convicted and locked up for a long, long time.

But we should also know the full truth.

If the forces of law and order let what became the tragedy of Omagh slip through their fingers, then we must know why.

There will be no calls for vengeance, only a calling for the pure truth.

And that call begins today.

OMAGH:

Top RUC officers failed to stop the bombers - in order to save the skin of their secret agent in Real IRA

RUC OFFICERS were accused last night of failing to stop the bombers who killed 29 people in the Omagh atrocity in a bid to protect a high level mole inside the Real IRA.

And the sensational allegations have been

made by a former agent in a statement to the Stevens Inquiry, the investigation headed by Met Commissioner Sir John Stevens which is probing alleged collusion between police and paramilitaries in Ulster.

The informer is the same person exposed by Sunday People last year as a cop killer.

Now using the pseudonym Kevin Fulton, he was the republican responsible for the murder of Constable Colleen McMurray in Newry, Co Down, in 1992.

Atrocity

Her colleague, Constable George Slane, who lost his legs in the same blast, accepted the George Cross on behalf of the RUC from the Queen last year.

We understand that Fulton has told the Stevens team about events in the run up to the August 1998 bombing of Omagh which left 29 people dead in the worst single atrocity of the Troubles.

One piece of information - if true - leaves police officers accused of the most amazing blunder of the Troubles.

Fulton told Stevens detectives that he called his RUC Special Branch handlers three days before the blast which ripped apart the centre of the Co Tyrone town.

And he claims he told those handlers where the 'mix' for a massive car bomb was being made.

Sunday People can reveal for the first time today that Special Branch allegedly failed to act upon that information because the man 'mixing' the device is the security force's top mole inside the dissident terrorist group.

The allegations will stun relatives and friends of those who died in the Saturday afternoon bombing. A bizarre twist in the case has confirmed the RIRA informer's role.

Security sources who helped the BBC's Panorama programme Who Bombed Omagh? gave journalists details of mobile phone calls made before

EXCLUSIVE By GREG HARKIN

and after the blast.

They did not however tell Panorama that one call was made to the bomb maker.

That was yet another attempt to protect their informer.

Another incident prior to the bomb confirms Fulton knew that a bomb was being prepared.

In his efforts to infiltrate the Real IRA Fulton told dissident leaders he could organise a publicity stunt aimed at undermining support for the pro-peace Provisional IRA.

He had arranged for a 'show of strength' in south Armagh featuring heavily armed dissidents.

But journalists were told that the stunt had been cancelled because

'something big is going down this week'.

In Omagh weeks after the blast Kevin Fulton again spoke to the RUC - but this time not to the Special Branch handlers he knew only by code names.

Instead he went to Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson, the man heading the inquiry into the carnage.

Warnings

Fulton told him about his warnings prior to the bomb and agreed to accompany Anderson and other investigating detectives on a journey into the Republic of Ireland - and specifically to the Co Louth farm where the bomb was made.

Anderson hit the headlines in 1994 after catching the loyalists responsible for the Greysteel bar massacre. The trip has been privately confirmed and was approved by Gardai south of the Border.

The top cop, who retired earlier this year, wanted to see where the bomb was put together.

Fulton pointed out the building where the bomb was made and once again identified the experienced bomb maker who had quit the Provos to join the dis-



INQUIRY: Eric Anderson

'WE ALWAYS THOUGHT

THE TRUTH

ON TARGET: Kevin Fulton pictured in Thailand on a Branch inspired propaganda stunt



FINAL MOMENTS: An unsuspecting member of the public poses for a picture beside the deadly car bomb



CARNAGE: The huge blast ripped through the centre of Omagh, leaving the dead and injured in its wake



ing of the Good Friday Agreement.

We understand Stevens Inquiry detectives were stunned by Kevin Fulton's testimony.

He says however that he didn't know the real names of his Branch handlers, though security sources say files should be able to identify them.

Fulton, an ex-British soldier who had infiltrated republican paramilitary groups for 20 years, was said to be personally devastated after Omagh.

He was furious the bomb and its maker had not been intercepted.

We understand that Irish police - the Gardaí - were also informed in advance about the car used to ferry the device to

Omagh.

Fulton was not the informant on this occasion.

Security sources have however confirmed that the maroon Vauxhall Cavalier used by the bombers was identified - but lost - by Gardaí in the days before the attack.

An all-Ireland alert on the vehicle, stolen in Carrickmacross two days before the bombing, was issued.

Checked

Every Cavalier fitting that description was checked and double checked at army and police checkpoints in the hours leading up to the bomb.

One senior security source told Sunday People: "These are

devastating allegations.

"Fulton worked inside the IRA for the security forces for two decades so he knows his stuff.

"He knew something big was happening in the days before the Omagh bombing and what's more he told the security forces - and journalists - about it.

"There is no suggestion whatsoever that he knew where the bomb would end up or when.

But surely the security forces in the Republic could have monitored the movements of the bomb maker had they been told in advance.

"Perhaps the mix could have been seized at the point where it was made.

"It could be

that none of us will ever know the answers to any of these questions.

"Nothing should take away from the basic fact that evil terrorists were responsible for the atrocity at Omagh.

"But these are serious allegations and someone must explain them."

Last April when Sunday People revealed that Fulton had developed the horizontal mortar used to kill Constable

McMurray and maim Constable Slane, Fulton insisted he only did so to protect his role inside the IRA.

He continued to work inside the Provisional IRA and the Real IRA until recently, carrying out black propaganda stunts at the behest of his handlers.

One stunt involved him posing for pictures on a Cambodian tourist rifle range and then passing off the pictures as IRA men on training exercises.

The move was a bid to sow further dissent inside republicanism.

Now he has quit his home in Newry and hopes to start

a new life abroad.

Friends say he has accepted he can never return to Northern Ireland.

"Kevin gave everything he had on the Omagh bombers to the police before and after the attack," said one pal.

"He has risked his life to save others.

"But in the case of Omagh it didn't work."

Last week his family home in Newry came under attack. Those responsible broke every window in the house.

THAT THEY WERE HIDING SOMETHING' - OMAGH RELATIVE PAGES 4 AND 5