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Details of IRA spy book inquiry given to victim

By Allison Morris

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DETAILS of a police om-budsman investigation launched on foot of claims made in a book by a former British army spy have been released to an ex-soldier who survived an IRA murder attempt.

The double agent – who uses the pseudonym Kevin Fulton – has re-fused to be interviewed by investigators from the Police Ombudsman’s Office about his claims.

Despite this, a report into the attempted murder in 1993 of a Co Down ex-soldier has been concluded.

During the inquiry investigators discovered that a “threat book” recording intelligence of an imminent IRA attempt on the former soldier’s life is now missing from police archive stores.

The Royal Irish Regiment (RIR) soldier contacted the ombudsman after reading allegations made by Fulton in the book *Unsung Hero* about his al-legal activities as a military informer.

In November 2006 Fulton was arrested at an address in south London and questioned in relation to the 1990 killings of Eoin Morley and Ranger Cyril Smith.

Detectives also questioned the self-confessed spy about the attempted murder of the former RIR man, who is from Newry, Co Down.

In February the Police Ombudsman’s Office told the ex-soldier that the complaint made by him in 2004 had been fully investigated but findings could not be released as they were linked to other investigations.

“Inevitably there is a degree of overlap between your complaint and other matters relating to this individual (Fulton),” a spokesperson said.

“Until such time that all outstanding matters have been finalised I regret to say that it is not possible to formally advise you of the outcome of your complaint.”

However, in a turnaround, the police watchdog has now released the findings of the investigation.

The former soldier had complained that he had not been informed by his superiors of a threat on his life until two weeks after the 1993 murder attempt by the IRA – when he survived a second IRA gun attack while on his way to work at the RUC station at Corry Square in Newry.

At the station he said an officer told him that “orders had come from the PIRA at Dundalk that you have to be wiped out today”.

He said he then went to Rathfriland RIR base where a captain within military intelligence told him that two gunmen had been lying in wait in the back garden of his home a fortnight previously.

He was told not to return to work at Corry Square station and that he would have to move to new accommodation.

While the police officer in question, now retired, cooperated with the ombudsman and stated that he had recorded the information in the station’s “threat book”, the book has since been “misplaced”.

A now retired British army captain also spoke to the ombudsman, though not legally compelled to do so, but

said he had no recollection of

any conversation with the former RIR soldier.

The ombudsman's office has now informed the former soldier that it has found no evidence that any member of the RUC committed a criminal or disciplinary offence in relation to his complaint.

"I am far from happy with these findings," the former RIR soldier said.

"There are more questions raised by this report than have been answered.

"This has destroyed my life, my career and my health has suffered as a result.

"It seems incredible that the book documenting my threat has disappeared and a senior army captain says he cannot recall the conversation he had with me. I'm expected to just live with that.

"My case and several others are still subject to investigation by the historic enquiries team and I can only hope that justice will be done through that process.

"What disgusts me more is that myself and the rest of the victims and their families mentioned in Fulton's book are left to get on with it while he profits from his claims."

The agent calling himself Kevin Fulton has been living in England for several years since claiming that his military handlers ditched him.

He is seeking compensation in the High Court over claims that the British army reneged on a deal to pay him.

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