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THE CASE OF DECLAN "BEANO" CASEY

Widespread concern has been expressed over the claims of Declan "Beano" Casey (published in the Daily Mirror) that, while quarter-master for the West Tyrone Brigade of the IRA, he acted as a paid informer for the RUC Special Branch for five years. He claimed that during this time he was involved in serious crime, including 14 murders, and that, despite tipping the RUC off about a number of them, they failed to intervene.

Casey, who was reportedly given a new identity and a house in Nottingham, returned to Strabane last month. He was then arrested by the RUC and later charged with the possession of two rifles and the withholding of information in connection with the murder of UDR Private David Pollock, who was shot dead by the IRA in Strabane in October 1990. On 22 June last he was remanded in custody by Belfast Magistrate's Court until 9 July, when he will make a further court appearance.

Concern in this jurisdiction has focused in particular on the claim that one of the murders in which Casey claims involvement was that of RUC Constable Samuel McClean, shot dead in Donegal in June 1987 while he was visiting his elderly parents. To date no person has been charged with that murder.

The Minister for the Environment has said, in answer to a Parliamentary Question in Dail Eireann on 22 June, that a senior Garda officer has been appointed to investigate Casey's claim of involvement in this case.

Anglo-Irish Division
6 July 1993