

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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JANUARY 1993

Patrick and Diarmuid Shields (51 and 20 Respectively) Coalisland, Co Tyrone. 3rd Jan 1993. UVF.

51 years old shopkeeper Patrick Shields and his 20 years old son Diarmuid were shot dead in their home in the townland of Lisnagleer near Coalisland around 8pm on Sunday night Jan. 3rd 1993.

As two gunmen entered the shop one of them shot Diarmuid who was working behind the counter dead, a second gunman made his way up the stairs and shot dead the father Patrick who was in bed. As he mounted the stairs Davog attempted to block his path but was shot and seriously wounded. Mrs Bridgit Shields and two children barricaded themselves in the sitting room.

The gunmen made their escape in a Mark 4 Ford Cortina car which was later found burned out a mile from the scene. It was later established that the car had been bought for cash in Lisburn on New Year's day.

In June 1994 Lawrence Maguire of Castleview Gardens, Moira, Co Armagh, was convicted of involvement in both murders and given five life sentences (including three for the murders of Charles and Teresa Fox in Sept. 1992 and one for the murder of Terence McConville in March 1992). At the same court Robin King from Lurgan and Ralph Philips from Lisburn were each sentenced to 16 years for conspiracy to murder. It's believed the second gunman was Alan Oliver.

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In court Maguire was described as "Director of Operations" for the UVF in Mid Ulster. It's known he has been one of Billy Wright's leading gunmen in the Mid Ulster Brigade over the past six to seven years. He, Ralph and King operated as a small unit within Wright's larger unit. It's reliably believed they were involved in other attacks including the murder of Thomas Molloy for which the police could not find evidence.

Following their arrest at a check-point near Loughgall, Co. Armagh, - on their way to commit a murder, - it's been rumoured that other members of Wright's unit became fearful of the same fate and subsequently curtailed their activities. It's believed - but by no means confirmed - that Alan Oliver, for instance, told Wright he believed the three guys were "set-up" and that the same fate awaited him. He was retiring, he is alleged to have said.

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FEBRUARY 1993

Thomas Molloy (32)
Co. Armagh.
11 February 1993. UVF.

Thomas Molloy, a 32 years old father of four children was shot dead through the window of his home at Derrymagowan Road, Tullyroan, near Moy, Co. Armagh on Thursday night 11 February 1993. His 14 months old son was slightly injured in the attack. The murder was claimed by the UVF.

No one has been charged but high on the list of suspects are Laurence Maguire (31) Moira, Ralph Phillips (31) Lisburn, and Robin King (28) Lurgan, the UVF unit recently jailed for the murders of the Shields and Fox families.

All three operated under Billy Wright.

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SEPTEMBER 1993

Charles Fox (63)
Teresa Fox (53)
Moy, Co. Armagh
6 September 1992. UVF.

Charles Fox and his wife Teresa, parents of six children, were shot dead at their isolated bungalow in the townland of Listamlet two miles from Moy on Sunday night 6 Sept. 1992. The murders were claimed by the UVF.

A bronze Vauxhall Chevette car believed to have been used by the killers was found burned out at Drumard Crossroads, a mile from the scene. It had been purchased in Lisburn the day before. The back door to the house had been forced open and a window in the front broken.

In June 1994, Laurence McGuire (31) from Moira was convicted of involvement in both murders and given five life sentences. As well as the Fox murders he was convicted of involvement in the murders of Terence McConville and Patrick and Diarmuid Shields.

However, it is accepted the Maguire was not the gunman in the Fox murders but supplied the weapons and the getaway car. The killer, it's reliably understood, was either Alan Oliver from Portadown, or a 28 years old UVF man, also from Portadown, called Weathered. However Oliver is the number one suspect.

The operation was planned and overseen by Billy Wright.

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OCTOBER 1993

Rory Cairns (18), Gerard Cairns (24). Lurgan Co. Armagh 28 October 1993. UVF.

Gerard Cairns (24) an his 18 years old brother were shot dead at their home near Bleary outside Lurgan, Co. Armagh on the night of October 28th 1993.

The killers entered through an unlocked back-door and shot the two men as the sat watching television. The attackers walked masked past 11 years old Roisin who was sitting in the kitchen after celebrating her 11th birthday. She thought the gunmen were family members playing a birthday prank.

A blue Talbot Horizon car used in the murders was bought at an auction in Portadown twelve days earlier. It was found burned-out a short distance from the scene at Ballylough Rd.

The murders were carried out by the Portadown unit of the UVF led by Billy Wright. So far, there is no information on who the killers who entered the house were.

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MARCH 1994

Francis Browne (37)
Portadown, Co. Armagh.
11 March 1994. UVF.

Francis Browne a 37 years old lorry driver from Obins Street, Portadown was killed when an explosives device was planted under his parked lorry in Obins St., on 11 March 1994.

A number of months later Thomas Irwin (24) and Maurice Nicholl (37) both RIR soldiers based at Drumadd Bks. in Armagh were charged with involvement in the murder. Irwin was also charged with involvement in a number of other attacks including the attempted murder of a couple at Blackwaterstown in Nov. 1993 and an attack on workmen at a building site in Keady as well as an attack on a woman in Armagh in June 1995.

At the time of writing both men are awaiting trial in Crumlin Road prison Belfast.

The murder of Browne was organised by Billy Wright and carried out - it's understood - by Joe Browne, a UVF man from Lurgan.

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MARCH 1994

Terence McConville (43)
Portadown, Co. Armagh.
29 March 1992. UVF.

Terence McConvelle a married man with children was shot dead when a gunman broke into his home at Bann St, Portadown around 4am in the morning on March 29 1992. As the gunman approached McConville tried to protect himself and was first shot in the knee - obviously to demobilise him.

In June 1994 Laurence Maguire, Lisburn, was convicted of the murder.

The attack was planned by Billy Wright and was carried out by Maguire.

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MAY 1994

Gavin McShane (17)
Shane McArdle (17)
Armagh City.
18 May 1994. UVF.

Gavin McShane from Keady and his friend Shane McArdle from Markethill, two 17 year old students , were shot dead while playing an amusement machine at A-2-B Taxis at Lower English St., Armagh on May 18, 1994. Both youngsters were students at Armagh College of Further Education.

McShane died instantly and McArdle died a short time later in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital. Both were shot with a revolver. A taxi driver, Malachy Donnelly, a man in his 40s was wounded in the arm. Eye witnesses say the weapon jammed after the students had been shot, almost certainly preventing further loss of life.

Despite intensive police enquiries over the last year no one has been charged with the murders. Eye witnesses say the attack was carried out by a lone, unmasked gunman, with blonde hair who walked calmly from the scene afterwards. It's not known of course if the attackers hair was dyed or if he wore a wig. Eye witnesses say they would easily identify the man again.

Information from a number of sources - including sources within the UVF - say the murders were carried out by Alan Oliver from Portadown. The night before a group of men - one with "longish blonde hair" - were seen emerging from Billy Wright's flat in the Corcraine areas of Portadown. It's reliably believed now that this was the unit which carried out the murders.

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MAY 1994

Rose Anne Mallon (70)
Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.
May 1994. UVF.

Rose Anne Mallon, a 70 years old woman was shot dead in her sisters home near Dungannon, Co. Tyrone on May 8 1994. A car used in the attack was found abandoned a mile from the scene. It was bought earlier in Downpatrick, Co. Down.

A number of days earlier a group of boys playing near the house disturbed a number of men acting suspiciously at a disused nearby house. No one has been charged with the murder.

According to reliable sources, the murder was planned by Billy Wright and was carried out by Weathered (see previous page). Little is known about this guy save that he lives with his mother in a housing executive house in or near Fitzroy Avenue in Portadown. His father, who is separated from his mother, now lives in Scotland. It's not certain if he is of Scottish origin.

The same sources say Weathered is a highly unstable person who is anxious to prove Wright that he can "do the business" better than anyone who has gone before him, (see O'Hagan murder).

In recent times, a new nick-name - "THE DOG" - has emerged in Portadown. It's not certain if this refers to Weathered or Oliver or even to a further new name on the scene called Woods.

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AUGUST 1994

Kathleen O'Hagan (38)
Omagh, Co. Tyrone,
7 August 1994. UVF.

Kathleen O'Hagan a 38 years old pregnant mother of five children was shot dea by a gunman who broke into her house as she lay sleeping on the night of Aug. 7t 1994, near Omagh, Co. Tyrone. The car used was bought in Antrim in June. was found abandoned a mile away.

According to UVF sources the murder was carried out by Weathered fro Portadown and planned by Billy Wright. No one has been charged.

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JUNE 1990
OCTOBER 1990
NOVEMBER 1990
OCTOBER 1991
JANUARY 1993
AUGUST 1994

Patrick Boyle (60) shot dead at Annaghmore, Co. Armagh on June 4 1990. Two sons wounded.

Frank Hughes (61) Moy, Co Tyrone, found shot in his burned out taxi cab on 24 October 1990.

Malachy McIvor (42) shot in garage at Moneymore, Co Tyrone, on 8 November 1990.

Sean Anderson (32),shot in car at Pomeroy, Co Tyrone, on 25 October 1991.

Martin McNamee (25) killed by booby-trap bomb at house near Cookstown, Co Tyrone, on 28 January 1993.

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Martin L'Strange (36) shot in printing works at Lurgan Town Centre, Co Armagh, on 11 August 1994.

- **The above six murders have gone relatively unnoticed, but it is reliably believed that Billy Wright and his unit were involved in all of them.**

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