



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Photos of IRA victims removed from ambulance depot



**Kitchener 'Kit'  
Johnston**

The removal of a photograph of Enniskillen bomb victims from the town's ambulance depot has sparked outrage. The picture hung on the wall of the ambulance staff rest room at the Erne Hospital site for 18 years as a tribute to Kitchener Johnston, a member of staff who was murdered in the 1987 IRA Remembrance Day atrocity, along with his wife, Jessie, a former nurse in the hospital.

Arlene Foster, DUP MLA for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said she was "disgusted" by the action of removing the photograph on the anniversary of the Remembrance Day bomb. "This decision shows a complete lack of respect for those who lost their lives in the IRA bomb. I will be seeking an urgent meeting with the Ambulance Service to discuss this decision and voice my opposition to it," she said. "I will also take the opportunity to raise my concerns about reports of lowlevel sectarianism against Protestants within the Enniskillen depot."

#### Offensive

It is understood the photograph, which had no inscription of any kind on it, was removed after a complaint by a member of staff who claimed it was offensive.

The incident provides a window into the mindset of Republicans when a simple picture of a fellow-ambulance driver, murdered by the IRA, is deemed "offensive"! SDLP MLA Tommy Gallagher said that because of community division the work place should be free from flags, emblems and party politics. "However, a photograph of an ambulance driver killed in the Enniskillen bomb in 1987 should not in any way be a cause of offence," he said. A Northern Ireland Ambulance Service spokesman said it had been made aware of an issue at Enniskillen station. He was unable to confirm whether NIAS staff had taken the decision to remove the photograph. "An internal investigation is now under way in an effort to resolve the matter," he said.