



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Police fail to catch Omagh bombers



A weeping police chief, Det. Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson, outlined to a news conference the progress made by his men, after three months of investigations into the Omagh bombing which killed 29 people as well as two unborn babies and left 250 people injured, some very seriously maimed for life. The clear impression gained by reporters was that while the police knew the identity of the bombers, they had not enough direct evidence to secure a conviction.

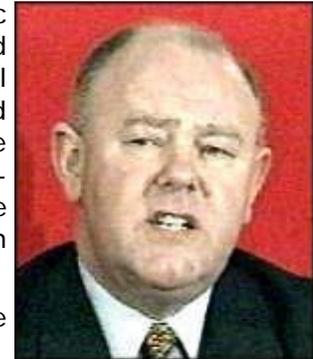
Some 11 people were arrested in Northern Ireland and 31 in the Irish Republic in connection with the crime.

The police chief appealed for witnesses from the Roman Catholic community to come forward with the vital evidence that was needed to secure a conviction. He promised any potential witnesses that full confidentiality would be guaranteed. The press conference was told that the car used in the bombing was stolen in Co. Monaghan, in the Irish Republic and then moved to the "bandit country" of South Armagh. It was seen in Cullaville and Crossmaglen. From there, the car with a 300lb primed bomb was brought to Market Street in Omagh, some 30 minutes before it exploded.

Of the 3,300 murders by paramilitaries in Northern Ireland, some 66% remain unsolved.

In 1987, the IRA murdered 11 Protestants and injured over 60 in a no warning bomb attack upon those attending the wreath-laying ceremony at Enniskillen's war memorial. No person was ever as much as arrested and interviewed for that crime. The silence of those members of the Roman Catholic community, who know the identity of those guilty of such crimes as those in Enniskillen and Omagh, is an indication of the bitterness to all things British that exists within the hearts and minds of some. There are those in Omagh and other republican areas who are prepared to stifle their conscience and conceal those guilty of a massacre of innocent victims, many of whom were Roman Catholics.

Meanwhile, the fund for victims of the Omagh bombing seems to be losing favour with the general public, despite the plethora of 'big names' from the world of show business lending their support. The manager of the fund, Mr. Brian Oliphant, has been reported as saying that money is not flooding into the fund as it was. It is far, far short of its target of 12 million. One wonders if the general public are not just a little bit fed-up with the pilgrimage of those celebrities who see such events as just another means of getting their names in the headlines yet again!



Det. Chief Superintendent
Eric Anderson