



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### No answers on Teebane 25 years on

(An article which appeared in "The Belfast Newsletter", January 16th, 2017)

In introducing the 'Newsletter' article let me state some truths I have often set forth over the last 40-odd years.

The party constantly calling for inquiries into the shooting of IRA men by the army and police is itself most guilty of covering up multiple murders and other acts of terrorism in which its members were involved.

One of those acts is the Teebane massacre of eight Protestant workmen at a crossroads on the main Omagh to Cookstown road. It happened 25 years ago on 17th January 1992.

No one has ever been prosecuted for the crime and yet without a shadow of a doubt Sinn Fein leaders know who was involved and equally without a doubt is that those involved in the murders were Sinn Fein party members!

Yet the party screaming for "justice" for IRA men shot while engaged in terrorism remain resolutely tight-lipped about those involved in this massacre from within their own membership!

Of course, Teebane is not the only IRA massacre for which no one has been apprehended. We could name many, but the Enniskillen "Poppy Day" of 8th November, 1987 will suffice. Eleven people (ten civilians and a police officer), many of them old age pensioners, were killed and 63 were injured as they stood at the cenotaph in Enniskillen to remember the dead of two world wars. Thirteen years later one of the injured, Mr Ronnie Hill, the headmaster of Enniskillen High School, died from his injuries, having never regained consciousness.

A 'no warning' bomb exploded in a nearby property owned by the Roman Catholic church. No one has been apprehended, indeed, there are serious doubts about whether anyone was even questioned. (**Read story here**)

IRA propagandists continue to whitewash its own history while blackening the character of that community from which most of its victims came. Sinn Fein/IRA have added crime to crime as they have sought to escape the loathing and disapprobation due to their crimes. Their leaders have masqueraded as statesmen and peace-makers before the world and they have been helped in this monstrous deception by the actions of the Democratic Unionist Party when they embraced Sinn Fein/IRA as partners in a power-sharing coalition back in 2007.

But there is a price for such wickedness. Sinn Fein/IRA will yet learn that truth as will the DUP!

"Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God," Ecclesiastes 8:12-13.

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished," 2 Peter 2:9.

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### No answers on Teebane 25 years on

Families of those affected by the Teebane massacre are "deeply disappointed" that they have no answers to their questions 25 years after the IRA atrocity, the wife of one of the survivors has said.

Jan Crawford, whose husband Gary Crawford was badly injured in the bombing, was speaking ahead of the 25th anniversary of the attack tomorrow.



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Eight Protestant workmen died and another six were injured when the IRA blew up their minibus at the Teebane crossroads between Omagh and Cookstown on January 17, 1992.



**The memorial, erected by family and friends of the victims, has been vandalised frequently by Republicans. The attempt to obliterate the names of the Protestant victims is symbolic of the IRA's wish to obliterate the Protestant population of Northern Ireland.**

The IRA attempted to justify the attack on the grounds that the men had been working for the firm Karl Construction at army barracks in Omagh. Nobody has ever been convicted for the attack.

Mrs Crawford said: "As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Teebane bombing it is deeply disappointing that the families affected still have no answers, no acknowledgement and no pension for those who were left seriously injured.

"Like many other victims and survivors my family have resisted being in the public domain in the intervening years. We desperately wanted to have a normal life and I recently applied to join the Victims Forum to do my part to support others and speak out together.

"My husband lost the opportunity to build a pension for our retirement and the least we can expect is that those in government would deliver on their promises from the Good Friday Agreement to the Stormont House Agreement, to put victims at the centre of the peace process.

"How can we expect society to move forward if we continue to let victims and survivors down?"

Kenny Donaldson, director of services at Lisnaskea based South East Fermanagh Foundation said: "The Teebane massacre was a brutal sectarian atrocity committed by fanatics who stole the lives of hard working men who were committed to doing right by themselves and their families through contributing to society.

He added: "A newfound desire must exist within the political, criminal justice and civic spheres to practically support those impacted, whether that be in responding to justice, truth and accountability for those impacted or the provision of support for those bereaved and injured as they battle daily living."