



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Loyalist feud brings death to streets of Belfast



UFF and UDA gunmen put on a show of firing weapons in a public display at a 'day of celebration' on the Shankill Road in Belfast in the wake of the prisoner releases. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Frank McCoubrey, came under criticism for his presence on the platform behind the gang. He claimed he did not know the gun display was going to take place. Later that evening, a series of gun attacks by UDA/UFF men on their loyalist rivals, the UVF, left seven people wounded. The UVF retaliated by murdering two leading UDA Masked UFF and UDA gunmen fire their weapons atmen two days later. a rally in Belfast

One man who featured prominently in the whole activities was convicted leading UFF man, Johnny Adair. He was one of those released under the terms of the 'Peace Agreement.' He had been sentenced to 16 years after admitting a charge of directing terrorism and received a concurrent sentence of seven years for membership of the UFF.

There were persistent calls for his re-arrest and his imprisonment to finish his court sentence. Most persistent were those supporters of the 'Agreement' who saw their brain-child being exposed for the undemocratic blunder that it was. Adair was arrested by the RUC and put back in prison. But while he was an evil individual and undoubtedly a promoter of the internecine loyalist 'turf-war' with racketeering and drug-peddling the real issue at stake between the warring terrorist factions, he was a gormless idiot who could not refrain from basking in the limelight of his notoriety. His re-arrest will not solve the problems generated by the release of terrorists. Far more dangerous are those much more sophisticated criminals within the republican camp whose activities are the real threat to the future of Northern Ireland. Released IRA men are swelling the ranks of The Real IRA, the dissent group responsible for the 1998 Omagh bombing which killed 29 people and two unborn babies. They will not be re-arrested. The political consequences of such an act would derail the Blair plan for reuniting Ireland and so will not take place. The jailing of Johnny Adair, on the other hand, will give Peter Mandelson, the sodomite Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, an opportunity to thump his chest and proclaim his indignation and determination to maintain law and order. In truth, what has taken place in the wake of the season of anarchy in loyalist west Belfast is but more of the trickery that brought the 'Peace Agreement' into existence in the first place.

Beware Ulster! It's happening again.

The vehicle pictured is that in which Jackie Coulter, a senior Ulster Defence Association member, and Bobby Mahood were shot dead as they sat outside a betting shop on the Crumlin Road in north Belfast on Monday, August 21st. These murders were followed the next day by that of UVF supporter, Sam Rocket. There is little sign of the loyalist feud ending.