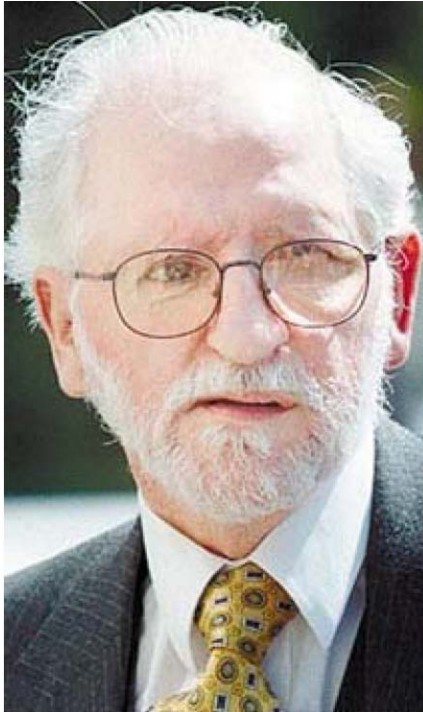




## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### The Poppy-Day Bombing — the forgotten massacre



Mr. Jim Dixon

Mr. Jim Dixon survived the IRA bombing of the Remembrance Day gathering at the war memorial in Enniskillen on November 8th, 1987. He bears to this day the scars of the terrible injuries that he suffered. He was one of more than 60 people seriously injured by the bomb, placed by the IRA in premises owned by the Roman Catholic church near to the war memorial. 11 people were murdered immediately by the bomb. One man, Mr. Ronnie Hill, was so severely injured that he never awoke from a coma and died thirteen years later.

At the time of the bombing, Rev. Ivan Foster issued a statement to the local newspaper, "The Impartial Reporter." If ever newspaper was misnamed it is this one!! It refused to print the statement because of its support for ecumenism and its efforts to minimise the disruption to ecumenical relationships within the town that the massacre might cause. Instead, it helped to publicise the statements of the late Gordon Wilson, an ecumenical Methodist whose daughter, a nurse, was killed at his side in the bombing. As we have often stated before, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson's loss of a daughter was great indeed and we have had every sympathy with them in that loss. How-

ever, the stance taken by Mr. Wilson and the views he expressed on forgiveness were unscriptural and very wrong.

#### **Aid to cover-up**

The publicity given to his views provided the atmosphere in which the police and their political masters could simply not investigate this horrific crime with any vigour, so deluded was the populace with notions of false forgiveness and false peace.

#### **No arrests**

To this day, not one person has been arrested or interviewed about the crime, despite the fact that in December 1988, we carried an article which first appeared in an English newspaper, "The Sunday Express" on November 6th, in which Chief Inspector Gerard O'Callaghan was quoted as saying that the police knew who two members of the IRA bomb team were and where they were living and how much they were receiving in unemployment benefits!! The bomb which killed the 12 people could have been assembled in the home of one of these men, said the Chief Inspector.

There has never been any church, political or newspaper campaign to have this evil conspiracy on the part of the RUC and the Northern Ireland Office investigated. The massacre is a black stain on many institutions, religious and political, and also the news media within



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our society here in Northern Ireland. Mr. Jim Dixon is calling again for a new enquiry into the 1987 atrocity. He has dismissed the original investigation as “deeply flawed” and wants a new enquiry. He says he has no faith in the new Police Service of NI, the body which has replaced the RUC and is demanding that the new investigation be carried out by the Metropolitan Police.

Mr. Dixon claims to have found evidence of a “cover up” in the investigation in that the RUC did not seek the help of the Garda, the police in the Irish Republic, in tracking down the bombers. He has received a letter from Garda Headquarters in Dublin stating that: “There is no record at Crime Branch, Garda Headquarters, of a request for assistance ever having been received from the RUC/PSNI in relation to the bombing.”

Responding to the accusations a PSNI spokesman stated: “The investigation into the murders of the victims caught up in the Enniskillen Bomb in 1987 is continuing. Part of this investigation has involved liaison and co-operation with the Garda Síochána in seeking to identify the terrorists responsible for this atrocity and other terrorist incidents in County Fermanagh at that time.” According to Chief Inspector O’Callaghan, the suspects were known to the police seventeen years ago.

### **The lies very obviously continue!!**

Mr. Dixon says that he has no confidence in the current investigation. He contrasts the millions being spent on the Bloody Sunday Enquiry with the “paltry” sums made available to investigate the 1,800 unsolved murders in Northern Ireland. He accuses the Government of showing neither quality nor fairness nor natural justice in its approach. propaganda “Propaganda and publicity are dictating how justice is administered in Ulster,” he maintains. “I think that the so-called Peace Process, which is built on the back of lies and deception, cannot afford to have the truth brought out, and nothing can stand except that it’s built on truth and justice, and there’s certainly no justice in the way victims have been treated and the families of the bereaved have been treated. There’s 12 families have lost their loved ones and there’s been nothing done to find those that did these dastardly deeds,” he claims. “It’s well known who carried out the bombing in Enniskillen. It’s well known who they are and where they are. But seemingly the British Government is not concerned about justice for the victims of the Enniskillen Bomb. The Government does not want to rock the political boat which means that we are denied justice and we will not lie down to it any longer,” he states. Asked if he was surprised by the contents of the letter from Garda Headquarters, Mr. Dixon replies: “It’s what I expected but I’m surprised to get it so blunt.”

### **Amnesty**

“They talk about amnesty. How can you have an amnesty for murderers? That stands justice on its head. Justice is prominent, even if it’s only for historical reasons,” he adds. “When you destroy justice you destroy the backbone of society and give evil men prominence in the country,” Mr. Dixon concluded.

### **Statement issued by Rev. Ivan Foster immediately after the Enniskillen bombing**

“Much has been said about the Enniskillen Massacre. Strong words of condemnation have



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been quite rightly used. Sadly, an examination of many of the statements shows a total lack of understanding of what it is that the Ulster Protestant is facing. The whole tragic affair could have been avoided had the premises containing the bomb been properly searched before the parade. The bitter anti-police feelings within the Roman Catholic Church, which, in past years, showed itself whenever the building was searched before the Remembrance Day ceremony, caused senior police officers in Enniskillen to forgo the search this year. I was contacted by a member of the RUC and asked to make this known as the Chief Constable's statement was a cover-up. The decision not to search the building is an example of the continual capitulation to Roman Catholic Nationalism which has enabled the IRA campaign to continue until now. Effective measures against the terrorists are curtailed because it would bring a storm of protest from the Roman Catholic Church. Consequently, Protestants must live and die with tragedies like Sunday past. It is forgivable, therefore, if a person views a little sceptically the sympathy of those who in different circumstances would have been crying 'police harassment.' As a Gospel Minister who longs to see his country return to the paths of true Biblical righteousness, I have watched with grieved heart the exploitation of this terrible tragedy by the ecumenical clerics in Enniskillen. That which should be used to turn the people back to the God of the Holy Scriptures is instead being used to advance unity with Romanism. Is it not ironic that the Church of Rome, whose intransigence and anti-police feelings are largely to blame for the bomb not being detected, should now be a trustee of the fund established to help the victims of the bombing? Surely Enniskillen Protestants are not so deceived as to not see this deceit. The fact that Mrs. Thatcher is to be brought to Enniskillen further emphasises this deception. Can the grieving and the injured from Sunday's bombing be comforted by a Prime Minister whose policy has been one of totally ignoring the community which was bombed and who is actively engaged with Dublin in subverting the constitutional rights of that same people? My prayer is that the message of the terrible events of Sunday 8th November will indeed prove to be a catalyst, as referred to by the Bishop of Clogher, but, unlike him, I wish to see the people turn to the God of the Bible and not to the false god of ecumenism. Let every one who fears God read Amos chapter 4 verses 6 to 13 and heed the message of the bombing."

*Ivan Foster.*

(A [full article](#) on the bombing may be viewed on our web site)