



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Republicans' Firebomb Blitz



Newry fire.

The Real IRA, one of the two main dissident republican factions active in Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility for firebombing shops in Newry, close to the Irish border.

The blazes caused tens of millions of pounds worth of damage in the early hours of Wednesday, August 9th. The organisation said it had left six incendiary devices in stores owned by "British" companies, including MFI, JJB Sports and Carpetright, and claimed to have left explosive devices near the main Belfast-Dublin rail line. The Real IRA was the or-

ganisation that bombed Omagh in 1998, killing 29 people.

Another firebomb attack, this time in Dungannon, destroyed two tyre depots.

Up to 10 staff may lose their jobs at the two tyre stores.

Firefighters were called to the blazes at Scotch Street and Ballygawley Road just before 05.00 am on August 16th. Both fires were brought under control and residents who were moved from their homes were able to return.

It is estimated the damage caused by the fires was £500,000.