



# The Burning Bush—Online article archive

## Some items of interest from "The Burning Bush" of February 1989



Constable Stephen Montgomery

As already stated, this year will bring its witness to an end. I plan to discontinue publication from the end of February 2007. During this final year, I hope to reprint some items of interest which will possibly bring back memories of God's mercies in the past and help to inform younger readers of events that have now passed into history. *The Editor.*

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**ROMAN CATHOLIC MOB STONE DEAD AND INJURED AFTER IRA  
ATTACK ON POLICE IN TYRONE**

**26 year old policeman murdered in carefully staged ambush . . . Attempts at medical aid hindered . . . Church of Ireland Rector joins in 'cover-up' chorus.**

An IRA drogue bomb attack on a police car at Sion Mills in Co. Tyrone killed a 26 year old policeman, Constable Stephen Montgomery, from Omagh. He was married with a 15 month old baby girl. A colleague was badly injured and has lost an eye.

The attack was carefully planned and involved an elaborate hoax 'fight' in the licensed premises outside which the attack took place. A representative of the public house ran outside to flag down the police car to inform the patrol about the 'fight'. An IRA bomber, waiting on the flat roof of the public house then dropped a bomb onto the roof of the police car. The bomb exploded mortally injuring Constable Montgomery and seriously injuring his colleague.

As attempts were made to render aid to the injured a mob poured out of the disco in the public house and attacked those seeking to help the policemen. Ambulance crews summoned to the scene had difficulty getting past the mob and were delayed in getting to the scene.

### Coverup

The local Church of Ireland Rector, Rev. Raymond Thompson, joined in the chorus of excuses and attempts to exonerate the Roman Catholic community for its part in the shameful and barbaric affair.

He claimed that it was people from outside the community that had engaged in the attack. He claimed that Sion Mills was 'an integrated community'. He said that he hoped that the incident would not harm community relations.

Local Protestants however say that the Rector has got it all wrong. Those who took part in the attack nearly all came from within a two mile radius of Sion Mills which makes them



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very much part of the local community. They work and live in Sion Mills and its environs. More importantly they attend the Roman Catholic Church in Sion Mills which was mendaciously opened the next day for people to enter and pray 'for the dead and injured'.

### **Hypocrisy**

It is time this wicked hypocrisy on the part of Rome and her ecumenical allies was challenged and called by its true name. The whole business of Rome's sorrow at the murder of members of the security forces and the Protestant community is nothing more than a stage-managed charade. It is a wicked deceit in which, sad to say, many Protestants willingly play a part. Rev Raymond Thompson is but one of many clerics who lend credibility to Rome's hand-wringing exercises.

### **History**

Let every Protestant bear in mind that the perpetrators of the foul murder of Constable Montgomery will, in a few short years, be hailed publicly by all republicans as the heroes they are presently considered to be by a sizeable section of the Roman Catholic community. Such is the lesson of Irish history. The present-day heroes of the Irish Republic are yesterday's terrorists denounced by the priests and bishops of their day. The IRA leadership care little for the criticism of priests for they, unlike many Protestants, know that it will shortly change to praise. They know the shallowness of the abuse heaped upon them by their fellow Romanists.

### **Ballot box**

Let every Protestant also bear in mind that the sorrow of Romanists and their angry denunciations of the IRA never last as far as the ballot box. This year's local government elections in the Sion Mills area will doubtless bear this out. Again let it be borne in mind that the Roman Catholic Church refuses to excommunicate these people that they would have us believe they utterly repudiate. On the very weekend of the Sion Mills murder an interview with Cardinal Thomas O'Fee was printed in a Dublin newspaper. He said in answer to the question: "Would the excommunicating of the IRA not have at least a symbolic effect?" he replied; "I'm doubtful even if it would have a symbolic effect or value. You must balance the pros and cons. I'm always mindful of the influence or effect it would have on relatives, friends and families. That must be taken into consideration." The Cardinal clearly is more concerned with the possible offence given the families of IRA members, were he to excommunicate them, than he is with murderers being given the blessing of his church!

### **True gauge**

What he is saying is that members of his church, whose goodwill he values, would be annoyed with him should he excommunicate the murderers of Protestants. We do not doubt that there is genuine sorrow felt by individual Roman Catholics at such



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atrocities, but generally speaking, that community's attitude can be best gauged from the words of the Pope's confidant and the leading Roman Catholic in Ireland, Cardinal Thomas O'Fee.