



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Mass Murderer Honoured



A photo copied off a Republican web site, depicts a baby-faced individual who was in fact a mass murderer!

A Sinn Fein parade commemorating the IRA man and “evil murderer”, Seamus McElwaine, went ahead in Rosslea in Co. Fermanagh without restriction.

Various groups representative of those who suffered at the hands of the IRA opposed the march but were unsuccessful.

It is 20 years since McElwaine was shot dead by the SAS as the IRA attempted to ambush members of the security forces.

A dozen murders

The 26-year-old was implicated in up to a dozen murders including those of Reserve Constable Ernest Johnston at Magheraveely, near Rosslea, and part-time UDR Corporal Alex Abercrombie at Kinawley. Fermanagh’s Easter Commemoration parade by republicans began at the spot where McElwaine was shot and included the laying of a floral tribute and a minute’s silence.

The DUP MLA for Fermanagh, Arlene Foster, says this “glorification of an evil murderer will have a detrimental effect on community relations.”

She and a number of other unionist politicians went to the Parades Commission, asking for the route to be curtailed.

No restrictions

However, the Commission placed no restrictions on the parade, noting in a statement it issued the “responsible and constructive approach” the organisers have taken to ensure it passes off peacefully.

In its determination the Commission referred to the views of local unionists, their political representatives and victims’ groups.

“They have expressed strong objections to the principle of the commemoration, in that they believe it is perceived to glorify the actions of an individual whom they regard in a different light as those who will support the parade,” it states.

The Commission said it was “moved” by the representations made to it and was “sympathetic to the sensitivities, pain and hurt expressed” but stuck by its original determination.



Mrs Arlene Foster

Respectful - how?

However, Mrs. Foster asked: “How can you be respectful about a mass murderer?”

Mrs. Foster said that although they had been unsuccessful in having the parade curtailed she felt it had been worthwhile from the point of view of what the Commissioners have said and the fact that they will be monitoring the parade.