

MONAGHAN BOMBING

COMMUNITY LINKS PROJECT



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The names of those who lost their lives in the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings – 17th May 1974

- Patrick Askin (44) Co. Monaghan
- Josie Bradley (21) Co. Offaly
- Marie Butler (21) Co. Waterford
- Anne Byrne (35) Dublin
- Thomas Campbell (52) Co. Monaghan
- Simone Chetrit (30) France
- Thomas Croarkin (36) Co. Monaghan
- John Dargle (80) Dublin
- Concepta Dempsey (65) Co. Louth
- Colette Doherty (20) Dublin
- Baby Doherty (full term unborn) Dublin*
- Patrick Fay (47), Dublin & Co. Louth
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald (59) Dublin
- Breda Bernadette Grace (34) Dublin and Co. Kerry
- Archie Harper (73) Co. Monaghan
- Antonio Magliocco, (37) Dublin & Italy
- May McKenna (55) Co. Tyrone
- Anne Marren (20) Co. Sligo
- Anna Massey (21) Dublin
- Dorothy Morris (57) Dublin
- John (24), Anna (22), Jacqueline (17 months)
& Anne-Marie (5 months) O'Brien, Dublin
- Christina O'Loughlin (51), Dublin
- Edward John O'Neill (39), Dublin
- Marie Phelan (20), Co. Waterford
- Siobhán Roice (19), Wexford Town
- Maureen Shields (46), Dublin
- Jack Travers (28), Monaghan Town
- Breda Turner (21), Co. Tipperary
- John Walshe (27), Dublin
- Peggy White (44), Monaghan Town
- George Williamson (72), Co. Monaghan

The views and opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or the Special EU Programmes Body.



“May 17th 1974 will long be remembered as Monaghan’s **SADDEST DAY** for centuries”

(Northern Standard 24th May 1974)

The Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project was formed in January 2014 by Monaghan native Brian Clerkin and Margaret Urwin from Justice for the Forgotten to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Dublin Monaghan bombings on the 17th May 1974. The group ran a community based project centred on the 40th Commemoration of the Dublin Monaghan Bombings. The project tried to bridge the gap between generations in Monaghan Town to preserve the stories of the 1974 bombings. On the 40th anniversary of this tragic event the project aimed to raise awareness among young people. The theme of the Project was “Building a Lasting Peace”.

The project was supported by Justice for the Forgotten and the Monaghan PEACE III Partnership. The projects main participants' came from Teach na Daoine and Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP) (Foroige). The project was also contributed to by the Justice for the Forgotten and the Old Monaghan Society.

It is very important for the people of Monaghan today to stay connected with the past, to not forget and also be aware of where their identity and history comes from and what it means past, present and future.

This project was undertaken to raise awareness for the injustices of the Monaghan/Dublin bombings for the past forty years to make sure it is not forgotten anymore and to ensure the 40th anniversary of the bombing passing and be commemorated appropriately.

Brian Clerkin (Secretary and Project Co-Ordinator Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project)

The Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project: **IN ACTION**



The main activities of the project focused on 5 workshops around the topic of the Dublin Monaghan Bombings, the Troubles and the subject of commemoration and memorials. The group composed a poem on what they had learned. The Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project attended three Commemoration events. The group attended the 40th Dublin Monaghan Bombings Commemoration in Dublin on the 17th of May, the 40th Dublin Monaghan Bombings

Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project at the Dublin/Monaghan Bombing Commemoration Memorial, Talbot Street, Dublin.

Monaghan Commemoration on Sunday the 18th of May and the 16th Omagh Bombing Commemoration on the 10th of August. The participants also attended Glasnevin Cemetary, The National Wax Museum in Dublin and Omagh Ulster American Folk Park which added to what they had learned.



Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project Participants meet Taoiseach and Mayor of County Monaghan at Dublin Commemoration Event 17th May 2014 (L to R: Brian Clerkin, Joseph Kelly, Lorna O'Leary, Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Chloe Nixon, Corey Mc Ardle, Mayor of County Monaghan Sean Conlon and Kelly Mc Fadden)



The participants' poem during the project "A Poem for Peace" was dedicated to the 40th Commemoration of the Dublin Monaghan Bombings. "A Poem for Peace" read by Joseph Kelly- Monaghan Commemoration 18th May 2014

"A Poem for Peace"

1974, Friday the 17th of May,
Nobody knew what would happen that day,
Dublin and Monaghan would never be the same again,
Four bombs, 34 dead, over 300 injured.

Loud bangs, panic, fear, worry and tears,
Physical and emotional scars for 40 long years.
The loss of innocence we can never replace,
The horrific memories we can never erase.

Forgotten, isolated, ignored and abandoned since 74,
Peace, justice and truth will prevail once more.
Many people forgot what happened 40 years ago,
But we will always remember and never let you go.

40 years on in 2014,
And still proper justice has not been seen,
We will campaign for truth and justice together,
We won't give up we will fight forever.
We demand justice for the forgotten!

JUSTICE FOR THE FORGOTTEN – Margaret Urwin

Our victims' support organisation, JFF, was formed in 1996, originally to campaign for truth and justice for the bereaved families and survivors of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings. We gradually extended our remit over the years to include the families of other bomb attacks in the Republic during the 1970s: the Dublin bombings of December 1972 – the first two car bombs in the Republic, and January 1973; the Belturbet, Dundalk and Castleblayney bombings.

We also represent the families of the Miami Showband and a number of families whose relatives were killed in single incident attacks. JFF is the only dedicated organisation working with victims in the Republic of Ireland. Our services are available to anyone bereaved or injured as a result of the conflict, regardless of political or religious affiliation. Since 2010, we have been part of the human rights' organisation, the Pat Finucane Centre, based in Derry.



Monaghan Commemoration 18th May 2014



THE DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN BOMBINGS 17th May 1974 – Margaret Urwin

In 1974 a power-sharing Executive had been established at Stormont in January, which included some Unionists, the Alliance Party and the nationalist SDLP. Hard line unionists and loyalists were opposed to the Executive, and particularly one aspect of the Agreement – a Council

of Ireland, which would give the Republic a say in the affairs of NI for the first time. The hard line unionists and loyalists were determined to bring it down. They formed a committee under the umbrella of the Ulster Workers' Council. They started a strike on 15 May 1974 and the bombings occurred on the third day of the strike. This strike did bring down the Executive, on the 28th of May, after only 14 days.

The 17 May 1974 was a fine sunny Friday afternoon with the promise of summer in the air and the possibility of a pleasant weekend. In Dublin, all the city buses were on strike; otherwise the city would have been even busier. The citizens of Dublin were going about their daily business – shopping, meeting friends, or making their way home from work. A number of young women were on their way to Connolly Station to catch trains home to various parts of the country. It was the busiest hour on the busiest day of the week. Then, out of the blue, with no warning, at 5.28 pm precisely, the first bomb exploded in Parnell Street in the north inner city.

Eleven people were killed including a family of four: a father and mother in their early 20s with their baby daughters, 17-month-old Jacqueline and 5-month-old Anne Marie; a 21 year old woman on the threshold of a nursing career; a 21 year old female civil servant who was engaged to be married; an Italian citizen who was a 38-year-old father of three and café owner; an 80 year old veteran of the First World War; a middle-aged man who had just stopped to buy petrol for his new Volkswagen Beetle; a 40-year-old father of five and a middle-aged woman whose husband, although badly injured, survived.

About two minutes after the first explosion a second bomb detonated in Talbot Street which runs parallel to Parnell Street, again in the north inner city. Fourteen people perished, including a woman of 21, who was nine months pregnant, her unborn baby also died, while her two-year-old daughter survived; a young French woman who had just completed an English course in Dublin and was about to return home to Paris the following day – her flight ticket was in her pocket; a young man of 27 who was driving past the bomb car – one of his two passengers – a middle-aged woman - was also killed and a second passenger catastrophically maimed; four female civil



Parnell Street Bomb

servants between the ages of 19 and 21 lost their lives along with five other women, three of them mothers.

Almost simultaneously with the second bomb, a third exploded in the south city, close to Dáil Éireann, in South Leinster Street. Two women were killed – a young woman of 21 who was due to be married in July and who had written her wedding invitations the previous evening and a mother aged 51 who worked as a French polisher in the Shelbourne Hotel. At least 250 people were physically injured to varying degrees while many more were to suffer serious psychological trauma as a result of what they witnessed that day.



(Monaghan Bomb at Greacen's Bar)

About an hour and a half later, at two minutes to seven, a fourth bomb exploded outside Greacen's, a busy public house in the town of Monaghan, close to the Border with Northern Ireland. The car in which the bomb was contained had been stolen in Portadown that afternoon. A further seven people were killed – George Williamson, a 72-year-old bachelor farmer; Archie Harper, a farmer and publican, aged 73, who survived for four days; Tommy Campbell, a 52-year-old bachelor farmer; Jack Travers, who was 28 and engaged to be married – he had his own haulage business; Paddy Askin, aged 44, was the father of four young children and worked as a sawyer; Tommy Croarkin, a 36-year-old bachelor who survived until 23 July and Peggy White, the only woman to lose her life in the Monaghan bomb, was a 44-year-old mother of four who survived for a few hours after the explosion. Peggy was a housewife and worked part-time in the café section of Greacen's Bar.

Her husband, Joe, arrived on the scene immediately after the explosion. He described the bar as follows: 'I ran to the corner and saw the bar – its windows are caved in and the roof has collapsed. I knew Peggy had no chance of coming out of there.' Several more people were injured or traumatised.

A dozen injured people were detained in hospital, some of them seriously wounded. The injured were: Ronald Callan, a schoolboy, of Glaslough Street; brothers Edward and Dan McNally, who are now both deceased; John Harvey, Emyvale; David Parker, Killygoan; Jack McGlone, Belgium Park, now deceased, who owned a café beside the pub; Helen Ward, Corcaghan, Josie McCormack, Stranooten, two sisters, who were both barmaids in Greacen's; Nora and Jerome Fitzsimmons, Downpatrick. Nora was a native of Monaghan

barmains in Greacen's; Nora and Jerome Fitzsimmons, Downpatrick. Nora was a native of Monaghan and was in town visiting her mother with her young son; James Aughey, Smithborough and Loretta Connolly, St. Patrick's Terrace.

Nobody was ever charged, much less convicted for this day of carnage – the day that saw the greatest loss of life during the entire period of the Troubles. The loyalist paramilitary group, the Ulster Volunteer Force, claimed responsibility 19 years later, after the broadcast in July 1993 of Yorkshire TV's documentary: Hidden Hand: the forgotten massacre insisting it acted alone without assistance in contradiction of the claims made in the programme of security force collusion. A documentary entitled Friendly Forces, broadcast on RTE in May 1995, reinforced the findings of the YTV programme. Immediately after the bombings, the UVF had denied emphatically that it was responsible, declaring themselves appalled by the explosions.

Later evidence from whistle-blowers, the report of Judge Henry Barron's Independent Commission of Inquiry, and most recently, my colleague, Anne Cadwallader's book, Lethal Allies, pointed to collusion by members of the British security forces – the UDR, the RUC and British intelligence – in these attacks. The British Government failed to co-operate with the Barron Inquiry in any meaningful way. In his report on the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, the Judge said the value of information provided by the British was reduced because of the reluctance to make original documents available and London's refusal to supply other information on security grounds had resulted in the scope of his report being limited.

Following on from the Barron report, two Dáil motions were passed unanimously, in 2008 and 2011, urging the British Government to make the undisclosed documents available to an independent, international judicial figure for assessment. To date, the British Government has ignored these motions. This is the story of the Dublin Monaghan Bombings as told by Margaret Urwin of Justice for the Forgotten, Presentation in NYP (Foróige) Centre, Glen Road, Monaghan Town, Monaghan April 22nd 2014.



Monaghan Bomb Damage



Monaghan Bombing Memorial Plaque, North Road, Monaghan.



**MONAGHAN BEFORE
THE BOMBING**



**MONAGHAN AFTER
THE BOMB**

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE BOMBING

The project aimed to reach out to different generations and their memories of the events of the 17th of May 1974. The group got three responses from Georgina Kent, Austin Mc Ardle and Enda Galligan. This is the first time that these memories have been shared or recorded publicly. The first testimony was sent by email, the second was a face to face interview and the third was given as part of a presentation. The fourth recollection was a poem found during research for the project. Here are their memories of what happened and how it affected their lives:

Recollections of the Bombing Page

- Dorinda Mc Cormack Page 15
- Georgina Kent Page 16
- Austin Mc Ardle Page 17
- Enda Galligan Page 18



View of Greacen's Bar after the Monaghan Bomb

Dublin and Monaghan Bombings (10th Anniversary)

The bomb, the scare, the confusion
The scream for help to be heard
The bodies among the debris
Each one in turn to be gathered

The sirens, the lights, the panic
In both those towns that day
Poor Dublin and poor Monaghan
To suffer in such a way

The way they suffered has broken our heart
To you dear God we pray
And we hope that all their souls
Entered heaven that day

That tragedy 10 years ago
Has made us bring to mind
The victims of that bomb
The others left behind

*Dorinda Mc Cormack, (Monaghan)
10th Anniversary 1984*

Georgina Kent – 12 years old

My name is Georgina Kent (nee Parker). This is my memory of the 17th May 1974. My sisters and I attended a children's meeting in the Gospel Hall on the North road at 7.00pm on Friday nights. That night we were collected as usual, going past Greacen's we saw Daddy's car outside. We were just in the hall at five to seven when there was a loud bang and a light bulb smashed to the floor in the hall.



Roof Damage to Greacen's Bar after Monaghan Bomb

We didn't know what had happened then someone said "it must be a bomb". A man called Joe Fisher came running up to the hall shouting "get the children out of there because there was a bomb at Mc Glone's cafe and there maybe another". We were put in a car to take us home but we had to take a couple of different routes to get there. They got us home and we ran in to my mother telling her about the bomb and that we had seen Daddy's car outside Greacen's. We told her Daddy probably couldn't get home because it was difficult for us.

Later my father's sister and mother's brother came to the house. Mammy knew something was wrong. We were very frightened. My Aunt and Uncle took Mammy to see Daddy. I think it was about 2 weeks later Mammy took us to see Daddy. I hardly knew him he was covered in cuts with orange colour around them. He could hardly walk and was on a frame. I wanted to run away from him, he frightened me. He was one of the last ones to leave the hospital. The one thing I also remember was there was a black bag in the corner of the kitchen with a terrible smell of burned rubber. It was put outside. It was Daddy's clothes he was wearing when the bomb went off. I can still remember that smell today. Dad's injuries were permanent he had no sense of smell and his balance was badly affected. My mother took pieces of glass out of him for years after.

Georgina Kent

Austin Mc Ardle

It's like a video playing in my head and it is 40 years ago. I was coming home from work in a car just before 7pm. The car came down Mill Street and stopped just at the junction. I saw two blue flashes that hit Black's and hit Kearns's corner as it was known then. I jumped out of the back seat and as I was jumping out of the back seat, a car engine or something like that landed beside me. I fell across the footpath of what is now O' Hanrahans Travel on top of someone. I got up and I went on ahead over to where the bus was.

The bomb car was behind the bus so I went on over to the front of the pub and somebody shouted "There is another bomb". Everybody started to run away from the pub again but there were people coming out. I remember two brothers that were in the pub they came out and they were badly injured and a car was used to take them up to the hospital. That's the first thing they used as an ambulance.

There were pints of Guinness just sitting on the top of the bar. Everything else was madness but I can remember the pints of Guinness on top of the bar and the Cafe was on fire. All the windows were blown out of the Post Office too and I could hear the telephonist screaming. There was a big full pane of glass stuck in the back wall at the Bank of Ireland, stuck right in the joint between the two stones. There was a heavy smell of cordite, I only found out what cordite was afterwards and with the smoke and everything it was just total mayhem. Everything was upside down. I was in total shock.

I couldn't eat for two or three days after. I just couldn't think straight or eat anything. I was totally shocked and was lucky I wasn't killed. It was not good for a 15 year old I can tell you. When I was about 16 or 17 my health suffered the doctor told me it was as a direct result of the bomb. It was something that niggled at me all the time. For about a year later I couldn't go into closed places. I couldn't go into a hotel toilet or anything like that I was just always wary of a bomb and things were still hot and heavy at the time. We are lucky more people weren't killed in Monaghan. A bus saved my life 2 minutes earlier and we would have been right in the middle of it. People need to be aware of what happened in their town. The bomb seems to be brushed under the carpet.



Roof Damage to Greacen's Bar after Monaghan Bomb

Austin Mc Ardle

Enda Galligan



Enda Galligan addresses Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project, Monaghan NYP Centre, Glen Road, Monaghan.

On Friday evening 17th May 1974 just as the final credits were rolling on the popular soap opera television show “Crossroads” around 6.58pm there was a BOOM! There was a huge thump on the window behind the television as if somebody had smacked it. I knew there was something wrong. I ran out of the house and all the neighbours were coming out of the houses shouting “What was that?” I could see this puff of smoke coming over the horizon rising up in the air. I jumped on my bicycle and peddled into town my mother came behind me shouting for me to come back. I didn’t listen and went into town. When I got to Heaton’s Corner there were no guards, no nothing it was absolute pandemonium. I could cycle right up to where the bomb went off. There were lots of people in town still living who remember it just like I do. It’s not talked about. There are a lot of people who have stories who never shared them and that’s understandable. It’s just as if it never happened.

Enda Galligan

CONCLUSIONS:

In 2014 we the “Irish people” should be saddened and burdened by the memory of what happened 40 years ago. The Dublin Monaghan Bombings have been called “Ireland’s 9/11”, “the blackest day in the history of Ireland” and “Ireland’s darkest day” but yet so much information remains unknown about the events. It has been allowed to slip from the national consciousness and people’s minds. The duty falls upon the Irish people to seek the truth and justice as the media, the government and the tools of the state have failed the people.

Understanding our past is important to shaping our future. Peace and peace building must be a part of that future. Peace is a long hard journey but it is filled with hope that one day things will be better. Our violent past should inspire Irish people to take on the important work of peace building to ensure such a terrible event never happens again and our best chance of achieving this is giving our young people a clean slate with which to work. The capacity of young people as agents of peace is infinite. The impact of young people at commemorative events gives hope and reinvigorates people. If we invest in our people we can hope they never repeat the mistakes of the past. If we can build a wider knowledge on both sides of the border and promote a better understanding of community and knowledge of what happened in the past it will help greatly in creating and establishing peace.

Project Participants Conclusions:

- “We need truth and we need justice”
- “People have forgotten about the bombs and what they did to our people”
- “We must tell the story of the people who died we must talk about the bomb and share the truth we must tell people what happened”
- “We must use the media and social media we must spread knowledge, information and the facts we have about the bomb”
- “The day Dublin and Monaghan people will never forget and should never forget”
- “34 people died in one day which made it “The single worst day of killing during the Troubles”

Most of the photos and stories recorded in this booklet have never been seen or shared before. Some of the personal recollections of the bombings in this booklet have been dormant for over 40 years.

Remember we can all do our part to help raise the profile, share the story and seek the truth! The campaign for truth and justice begins with knowledge, publicity, information sharing and awareness.

Go on Facebook:

Follow it, Share it, Tag it, Like it and Spread it.

Go on Twitter and use the # hashtag:

#Justice for the Forgotten #time4truth #DublinMonaghan #JFTH

Thanks and Dedications

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- Old Monaghan Society- **Enda Galligan**
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Monaghan Bombing Community Links Project

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