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THE MURDER OF  
MARTHA CAMPBELL  
SCHOOLGIRL

KILLER KINGS / Pt 1

REPORT BY/  
CIARÁN MacAIRT/  
PAPER TRAIL/

## IN THIS REPORT

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### **3 THE MURDER**

*of Martha Campbell,  
Schoolgirl*

### **4 WITNESS**

*To Murder*

### **5 BRITISH STATE LIES**

*1972 - 2021*

### **6 BRITISH MILITARY**

*Operation*

### **7 LOCATING V2**

*1 Kings*

### **8 NEW EVIDENCE**

*Previously Unpublished*

### **9 COMPANY WATCHKEEPER**

*Secret British Military Logs  
From the Archives*

### **10 BATTALION RADIO**

*Secret British Military Logs*

### **11 ROYAL MILITARY POLICE**

*Missing Files*

### **12 REMEMBERING MARTHA**

*by her brother, Tony*

### **13 KILLER KINGS**

*Part 1*

### **14 ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Ciarán MacAirt*

### **15 PAPER TRAIL**

*Investigates*

# THE MURDER OF MARTHA CAMPBELL



**M**artha Campbell was 13 years of age when she was murdered close to her home in West Belfast on 14th May 1972. There was no investigation.

Her murder is one of a small number of child killings during the conflict that lies unclaimed by any organisation.

In the family photograph above, taken the Christmas before her murder, Martha is the girl on the bottom left holding her dolly. Her big brother, Tony, is over her right shoulder.

Martha's family and local eyewitnesses have long believed that the British Army shot her dead, having directed fire at her from a high vantage point in the Moyard area which offered a commanding view of Springhill and Divismore, as well as protection to Henry Taggart Memorial Hall which the British Army occupied as its base in the area.

Martha was murdered as she walked along Springhill Crescent around 8:30pm.

A single bullet did so much damage that those who tried to save her thought she was hit multiple times.

The bullet tore through Martha's face, neck and upper chest. Its track indicated that Martha may have been bending forward when hit, or the bullet came from an elevated firing point to her front and right - Moyard.

Martha's friend who was walking with her - another young girl - and a local man walking towards them were lucky not to be injured or killed in the same bursts of fire. The local man who survived testified that he believed that the shots came from the flats at Moyard Park.

Springhill Crescent was in a clear and direct line of fire from the flats in Moyard, whilst other British Army units occupied and operated out of Vere Foster Primary School, Moyard Parade.

The evening before, there had been intense fighting in the area following the Loyalist bomb attack on Kelly's Bar between the British Army, Loyalists and the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Corporal Alan Buckley of the Kings Regiment was killed nearby. Sporadic firing continued that day.

Throughout the conflict, when British Army casualties mounted, local civilians paid the price for soldiers bent on revenge.

The shooting had stopped for a while, though, and Martha, her friend and the local man were the only people on that stretch of the road beside the waste ground to the back of Divismore Park.

In other words, the sniper targeted the unarmed civilians - two teenage girls and local man - deliberately.

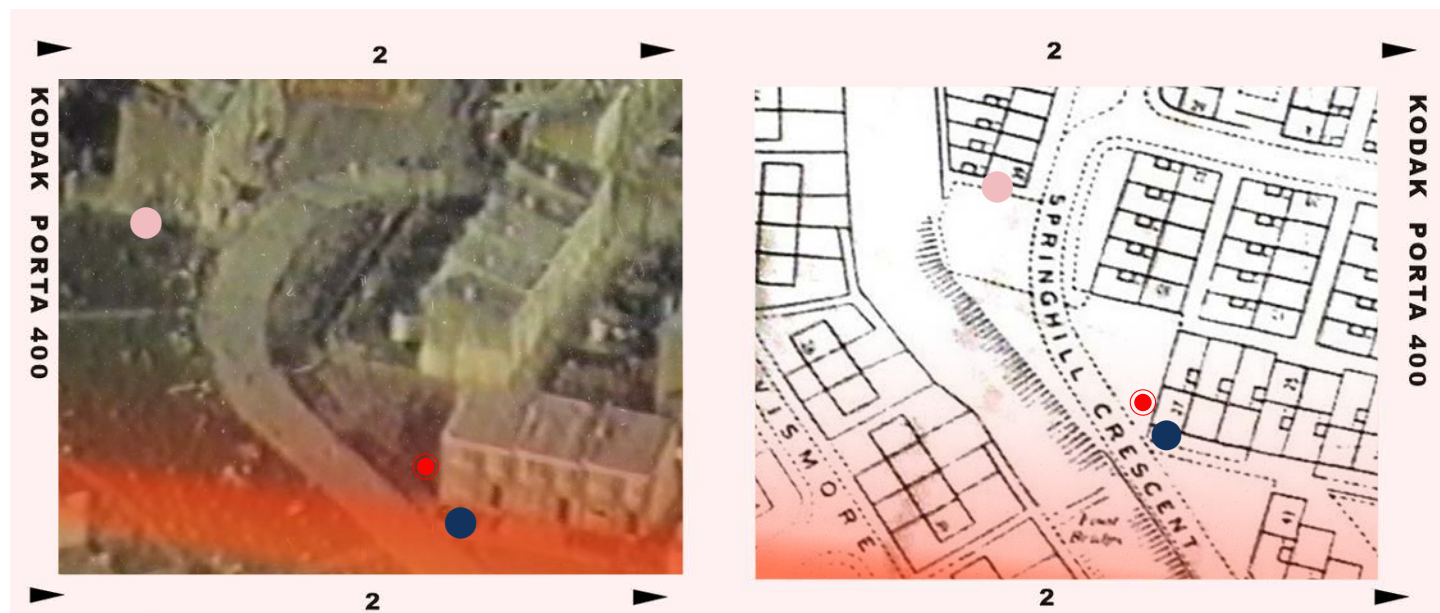
No organisation ever claimed Martha's killing although open source material alleged that a Loyalist gunman of Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) killed Martha.

Secret British military files written that horrific day in May 1972 tell a completely different story.

**Martha's murder is one of a small number of child killings during the conflict that lies unclaimed by any organisation**



# Witness To Murder



● Martha mortally wounded as she tries to reach safety ● Jeanette stays behind the high gable ● John takes refuge behind a low wall

Local man, John Miskimmon, was walking along Springhill Crescent on his way home. He saw two girls walking towards him and recognised Martha and her friend, Jeanette.

When they were twenty yards away from him, there was a burst of gunfire.

John believed that the gunman fired the shots at him from Moyard flats.

He shouted to the two girls to get down. Martha's friend Jeanette stayed at the gable wall, but Martha ran towards John, the only other person in the street. It is a natural reaction for a child to run to an adult for protection.

Local woman, Margaret Lundy looked out of her window and saw Jeanette in hysterics at the gable wall opposite her home.

John took cover behind a small wall at the end of another gable as Martha backed along the wall around the corner from him.

That was when Martha was hit in the face by a single bullet.

John reached over and pulled Martha over the small wall.

Jeanette's split-second decision to shelter behind the gable wall facing John saved her life.



The sniper had Martha directly in his sights.

The original Historical Enquiries Team review concluded "that there was no effective investigation conducted at the time" by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

It is only because of Martha's family and her older brother, Tony, who leads the family research, that witnesses were found and their testimony recorded.

Nearly half a century later, the family has yet to receive a proper and just investigation into the murder of Martha, and is working with the legal team at Ó Muirigh Solicitors towards a new inquest.

Truth and justice drops slow in the north of Ireland - if at all.

**"... there was no effective investigation conducted at the time"**

*Historical Enquiries Team in its original review.*



Tony Campbell, Martha's campaigning brother, featured in the Andersonstown News, May 2021

# BRITISH STATE LIES 1972 - 2021

There was no credible police investigation into Martha's murder and she would have become another forgotten victim of the conflict except for her family's prodigious campaigning and research.

In its failed report into Martha's murder, the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) alleged it had accessed "the only remaining Army records" relating to the incident.

It recorded:

*"From the papers supplied by the [British] Army to the HET review process and examination of the open source material, there is no evidence to place the Army in Moyard Park at the time that Martha was shot."  
(HET Report, p. 23)*

These are not the only remaining British Army records as Paper Trail discovered critical evidence in public records in London and via Freedom of Information battles against the British Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The MOD lied. The police and HET either knew that and buried this new evidence, or failed to find it. Regardless, the British state and its so-called investigators - up until the present day - failed Martha and her family.

This new evidence is categoric: named British Army units were indeed firing from Moyard into the very area where Martha Campbell was murdered.

The British Army units report no other firing in the area except by its own forces.

The files are so explicit that Paper Trail can not only name the British Army regiment guilty of the attack, but also which Company and Platoon.

## PAPER TRAIL INVESTIGATES

Over the last number of years and in related investigations for families, Paper Trail secured unredacted British military Brigade and Headquarters Northern Ireland files.

We also secured redacted records from British Army databases following targeted requests and hard-won Public Interest Tests.

Buried deep within these secret files is proof that British Military units were indeed positioned in Moyard and recorded shooting at a target in the area, at the time of Martha's murder.

In fact, Moyard was a jump-off point for a major British military operation to sweep through New Barnsley, across Springfield Road and into Ballymurphy that began minutes after Martha was murdered.

At 2010 (8:10 pm) the Commander of Land Forces (CLF) informed 39 Brigade Commander (Bde Comd) that the Chief of General Staff (CGS) and Secretary of State had approved an operation which we now know involved 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment enforcing dominance of Ballymurphy area following the violence which erupted after the Loyalist bombing of Kelly's Bar the day before.

Bde Comd	CLF	Approval been given by C13 and 3 of B: Must be represented as a "looking both ways" op. No running gun battle. No speculative searching or arresting. But say do hot pursuit searching. Want to avoid any unnecessary problem from op if possible.
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Orders were that the operation "must be represented as a 'looking both ways op" – allegedly not discriminating between Catholic and Protestant communities. It continued:

*"No running gun battle... Want to avoid any unnecessary problem from op..."*

Minutes later, Martha was murdered.



Martha Campbell, Schoolgirl, 13 years old

"From the papers supplied by the [British] Army to the HET review process... there is no evidence to place the Army in Moyard Park at the time that Martha was shot."

(HET Report, p. 23)

# LIES



# BRITISH MILITARY OPERATION



## Headquarters Northern Ireland (HQNI) files secured by Paper Trail record the sweep of British military units through the area.

The shock troops of 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment (1 Para) were deployed. 1 Para had gained notoriety in the area less than a year before when the regiment was involved in the Ballymurphy Massacre and the killing of 11 unarmed civilians. The regiment then killed another 14 during Derry's Bloody Sunday Massacre on 30th January 1972.

But 1 Para was not the resident battalion in the area.

The later record of the operation states at 2140 hours (9:40 pm):

"1 Para came through V2 first into New Barnsley. New B[arnsley] Parade New Barnsley Park through to North side Springfield Rd. B2 pushed through Divismore Crescent. B1 pushed through Divismore Crescent. B1 pushed through to secure Bullring. Reaction so far 15 children stoning."

The prefix B is used for airborne troops in these documents - in this instance, 1 Para. V2 is B Company of the resident battalion - 1 Kings Regiment (1 Kings).

Paper Trail targeted and secured the British military's 39 Brigade Commander's Diary for the same period to cross reference the flow of information from each regiment to Brigade HQ.

At 2030 hours (8:30pm), 1 Kings reported to Brigade that V2 was "now firing for some minutes" in the Ballymurphy area.

13-year-old Martha Campbell was murdered some time around 2030 hours (8:30pm).

2030	2R Ang	1 blast bomb at mobile Divis St.
2030	Kings	V10 now quiet - Clonard. V2 now firing for some minutes.
2032	2Para	Demo at jail. No change, rest
2033	2 Fd	Little patrolling going on. Starting soon. All quiet.
034	1Para	U 14 with us now. X
034	OP	Now at V2 loc. X

"2030 V2 now firing for some minutes. Ballymurphy"

1 Kings report to 39 Brigade at time of Martha's murder

At 2034 hours (8:34pm), 1 Para reported that Call Sign U 14 was with them and the Observation Post was now at V2 location.

The British military operation then began and 1 Para units B1 - B4 passed through V2's location and reported the reaction of the local residents as 1 Para moved through and secured New Barnsley, across Springfield Road, through Divismore and into the Bullring [see map above].

Where was V2 and its units located, though?

# LOCATING V2 1 KINGS

**1** Kings logged a report at 2110 (9:10pm) which reported that its V2 (B Company) fired two high-velocity shots at an alleged target on the Springfield Road from Moyard Park.

This connects V2 with 1 Kings again and the Moyard area albeit around 40 minutes after the murder of Martha.

It should be noted that 1 Kings does not report shots at its position or that it is "returning fire" and this would be essential information to its commanders. It only records that it is shooting at an alleged target.

2110	Kings	V2 fired 2 x HV at tgt. Springfield Rd from Moyard Pk.
2115	2Para	Coop York St clear

There then followed a retrospective report from 1 Kings logged at 2115 hours (9:15pm) alleging that V2 fired 23 rounds at a gunman in waste ground behind "Divis Park" [sic] from Moyard Parade between 2030 (8:30pm) and 2055 (8:55pm).

V2 had reported at 8:30pm that it had been "firing for some minutes" (see page 5) before this report.

Divis Park was military shorthand for Divismore Park and on the other side of the waste ground is the area of Springhill Crescent where Martha was murdered.

This alone is damning proof that B Company, 1 Kings admitted firing shots from Moyard at an alleged gunman in the exact area and at the same time that Martha was murdered.

The British Army logs do not record firing by any gunmen but its own soldiers. If V2 was under fire in the area, it would have to be reported.

The British Ministry of Defence failed to admit this to the original inquest or subsequent investigation by HET.

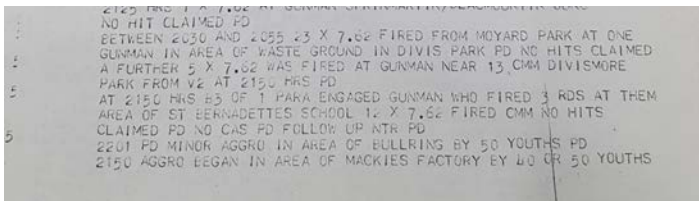
1 Kings then reported to Brigade at 2120 hours (9:20 pm) that the 13-year-old girl who was previously reported as 6 years of age, was called Martha Campbell, that she was shot in the neck at 8:30 pm but "*Circumstances not known*".

The information was transmitted from Brigade to HQNI but recorded that the 1 Kings patrol at Moyard Parade was firing at gunmen (plural) and not a gunman.

2110	Kings	V2 fired 23 rds between 2030-2055 at gunman, Divis Pk waste ground from Moyard Pk.	HQNI
2115	2 Para	Ref 2038 shot at mobile June Townsland/Divis. Minor car treated at RHP. Pte Lambert, 3 R Anglian. Returned to duty.	HQNI
2115	1 Para	B3 going in now.	
2120	1 Para	B3 no difficulties.	
2115	2 Para	Ref 2038 shot at mobile June Townsland/Divis. Minor car treated at RHP. Pte Lambert, 3 R Anglian. Returned to duty.	HQNI
2120	2 Para	4 x HV shots heard in Pinacry area. 22 not involved. 22 not involved.	HQNI
2120	Kings	Ref RVH. 13 yrs old (previously reported 6 yrs old) Martha Campbell dead, RD, 71 Ballymurphy Rd. 3 x GBT neck 2030 hrs. Circumstances not known.	HQNI
199	2117	39 Bde	1 Kings 23 rounds fired between 2030 and 2055 at gunman on Divis Park waste ground from patrol at Moyard Parade.
		39 Bde	Re: Martha Campbell aged 13, dead.

**A** British Army Situation Report (Sitrep) written the following morning recorded that the 23 high-velocity rounds were fired by 1 Kings from Moyard Park at one gunman but no hits claimed.

1 Kings did not claim the murder of Martha even though its soldiers were the only military or paramilitary unit that its own B Company reported firing in the vicinity, never mind directly into the area where she was shot.



Both Moyard Park and Moyard Parade are recorded as firing points. This could be a simple mistake in one or the other or that B Company units were firing from two firing points - one from the flats in Moyard Park or Vere Foster in Moyard Parade.

Moyard Park was more elevated with a commanding view of much of the area below that part of the Springfield Road. It also had a clear line of sight of the whole of the waste ground.

Regardless, the secret British Army records place B Company 1 Kings in Moyard shooting at a target where Martha was mortally wounded. The British authorities had denied until this day that any of its troops were even in the area which we now know to be a lie.

Nevertheless, the alleged shooting by B Company from 8:30 pm until 8:55pm needs further examination as neither 1 Kings nor 1 Para - which is then jumping off on a sweep of the area - report any shooting at the time as we would expect.

To remind the reader, 1 Kings made a contemporaneous report at 8:30pm, "*V2 now firing for some minutes*", so this remains at odds with its retrospective report that it fired from 8:30 - 8:55pm.

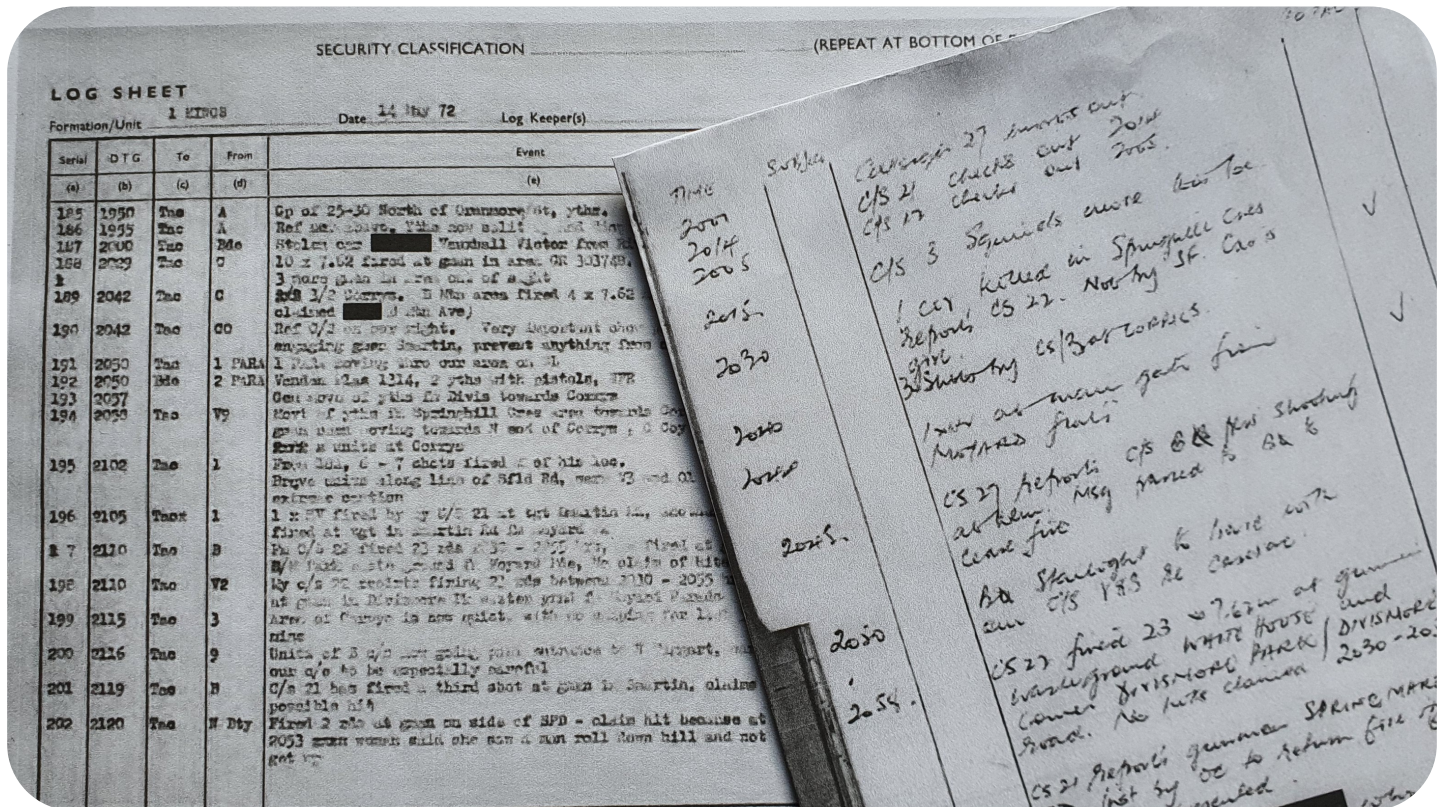
Paper Trail knew which British military documents it needed to interrogate for this information and made a targeted requested to the British Ministry of Defence.

Following the usual MoD delay and Public Interest Test, Paper Trail secured redacted Battalion and Company Watchkeeper logs which allowed us to drill down and discover new evidence as to who was shooting in the area when Martha Campbell was murdered.

Again, this new evidence proves that there was no credible investigation from 1972 until the present day and MoD lied.

Either the Police Service Northern Ireland and Historical Enquiries Team failed to find this new evidence or it found it and buried it again. Neither possibility looks good for them.





## Paper Trail publishes new evidence from British military files here for the first time.

1 Kings recorded these files at Company and Battalion level at the time of Martha's murder.

Yet again, these are British military files either missed or buried by the Police Service Northern Ireland and Historical Enquiries Team.

The 1 Kings Watchkeeper recorded a report at 2030 hours (8:30pm):

"1 civ [civilian] killed in Springhill Cres [Crescent] reports c/s 22 [Call Sign 22]. Not by SF [Security Forces]. Cas [Casualty] is girl."

This report is written by the Company Watchkeeper at the same time as B Company (V2) reports that its soldiers were "now firing for some minutes" in the Ballymurphy area.

There is no other shooting reported by the British Army in this area at the time except these shots fired by B Company, 1 Kings.

The 1 Kings' Watchkeeper then recorded a retrospective report at 2058 hours (8:58pm):

"c/s 22 [Call Sign 22] fired 23 x 7.62mm at gunman waste ground WHITE HOUSE and corner DIVISMORE PARK/ DIVISMORE ROAD. No hits claimed 2030 - 2050"

The fixed call signs used by the British Army allows us to pinpoint 5 Platoon, B Company, 1 Kings as being the specific British military unit that reported the death of Martha Campbell and firing from its position in Moyard into the area where she was murdered.

The Kings Regiment only reported firing from its positions, though - none of its units recorded that it "returned" fire. If they were returning fire, it would be recorded to alert Command and neighbouring units of the danger.

In fact, at 2045 hours (8:45pm), the Watchkeeper logs a report of one British Army unit firing on a B Company unit, and a message is sent to cease fire (p. 9).

The denial of 5 Platoon, B Company, 1 Kings that the British Armed Forces did not kill Martha Campbell rings hollow especially as the British Ministry of Defence has denied it was in Moyard at all, never mind firing into the area where Martha was mortally wounded

1 Kings' Battalion logs which Paper Trail also secured for the period do not record B Company/V2's shooting leading up to 2030 hours but does record its retrospective report at 2110 (9:10pm):

"My c/s 22 [Call Sign 22] reports firing 23 rds [rounds] between 2030 - 2055 hrs at gmn [gunman] in Divismore Pk [Park] waste ground from Moyard Parade."

The following Log Sheet records a report from the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) to the Tactical Headquarters of 1 Kings:

"civ cas [civilian casualty] Martha Campbell, 13... schoolgirl (RC) [Roman Catholic] GSW [gunshot wound]... neck badly damaged, child admitted to RVH at 2040 [8:40pm], was shot thro [through] neck at 2030 (8:30pm)..."

You can read this critical new evidence from the British military documents on the next pages.

The British state lied to the family then and has maintained these lies since.



# COMPANY WATCHKEEPER

2014		C/S 21 checks out 2014	
2005		C/S 12 checks out 2005.	
2015		C/S 3 Squirrels were hit to	
2030		1 car killed in Springfield Cns Reports CS 22. No by St. Cao's girl.	✓
2040		3 Shirts by CS/Barber's.	
2040		1 car at main gate from MOTARD fruit	✓
2045		CS 27 reports C/S B&K per shooting at him. Msg passed to B&K Clear fire	
2050		B&K Straight to have with an C/S V&B & Caserac.	
2054		CS 27 fired 23 @ 7.62m at gunner Wardland WHITE HOUSE and Corner DIVISMORE PARK / DIVISMORE Road. No hits claimed 2030-2050.	✓
2059		CS 21 reports gunner SPRINGMARTIN RD. inst by OC to return fire if good tgt presented.	
2100		From [REDACTED] who received anon telephone call as follows "This is VANGUARD we have 100,000 armed men - we are going to burn you out"	
2104		CS 21 @ 7.62m at gunner in SPRINGMARTIN RD.	✓
2106	From Main Gate	1 @ 7.62m fired by Sniper 1 re Sniper in DIVISMORE PARK.	✓

# BATTALION RADIO

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION				(REPEAT AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)		Army Form: BSB 1st of 50
LOG SHEET						
Formation/Unit 1 KING				Date 14 May 72	Log Keeper(s)	Sheet No. 11
Serial	DTG	To	From	Event	Action	Sign
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
185	1950	Tao	A	Op of 25-30 North of Greenmore St, ythas.		
186	1955	Tao	A	Ref 2nd 2000. Ythas now split up and May used		
187	2000	Tao	Rde	Stolen car [redacted] Vauxhall Victor from Riverside Pk area	Days info	
188	2029	Tao	C	10 x 7.62 fired at gun in area GR 103740. 1 hit claimed	Side info	
189	2042	Tao	C	3 more gun in area one of eight		
190	2042	Tao	CO	Ref 1/2 Coy. B Mtn area fired 4 x 7.62 at gun. No hit claimed [redacted] B Mtn Ave		
191	2050	Tao	1 PARA	Ref 0/3 on our sight. Very important other personnel, engaging gun Martin, prevent anything from our WST		
192	2050	Rde	2 PARA	1 Para moving into our area on OL		
193	2057	Tao		Vandalism 1214, 2 ythas with pistols, WTR		
194	2058	Tao	V9	Gen save of ythas in Rivis towards Comps		
195	2102	Tao	1	Most of ythas in Springhill area area towards Comps OF, also gun now moving towards N end of Comps, 1 Coy act, have 2nd 2 units at Comps	EXASPELANT	
196	2105	Tao	1	From 121, 6 - 7 shots fired at his leg. Bravo units along line of 8th Rd, were V3 and OL to exercise extreme caution	1/3 1 01 info	
197	2110	Tao	B	1 x HV fired by my 0/3 21 at Sgt Martin Rd, another 1 x HV fired at Sgt in Martin Rd on road	Side info	
198	2110	Tao	V2	Pa 0/3 21 fired 20 rds at 20 - 2055 hrs. - fired at gun W/1000 mts. toward St. Marys Rd, No claim of hit	Side info	
199	2115	Tao	3	My 0/3 21 reports firing 20 rds between 2100 - 2055 hrs at gun in Rivis area. No claim of hit	Side info	
200	2116	Tao	9	Area of Comps is now quiet. with no activity for last 5 - 10 mins		
201	2119	Tao	B	Units of 3 0/3 are going past entrance to N. Mart, warn our 0/3 to be especially careful	Warned	
202	2120	Tao	N. Dty	0/3 21 has fired a third shot at gun in Martin, claims possible hit		
				Fired 2 rds at gun on side of SPD - claim hit because at 2053 gun went out one saw a gun roll down hill and not get up		

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION				(REPEAT AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)		Army Form: BSB 1st of 50
LOG SHEET						
Formation/Unit 1 KING				Date 14 May 72	Log Keeper(s)	Sheet No. 12
Serial	DTG	To	From	Event	Action	Sign
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
203	2121	Tao	RVE	civ was Martha Campbell, 13, 17 Baphy Rd, schoolgirl (10) GSW to neck, 3 entry, one exit, neck badly damaged, child admitted to RVE at 2040, was shot three neck at 2030 in 8th Ave. brought in by [redacted] Knight of Malta Ambulance, Sultan St Red Station		
204	2125	Tao		0/3 21 fired another rd at gun in Martin Rd/B Mtn June		
205	2126	Tao		On Mayard Rd		
206	2128	Tao	C	0/3 32 fired one more rd at [redacted] B Mtn Ave		
207	2130	Tao	9	Sgt [redacted] 1 PARA, talking to people on 8th Rd, reckoning that these people intend to come to the Oak and give them rock all	Side info	
208	2130	All Stas	Tao	Comps is not to fire from now on as it is dangerous, own the likely to be hurt.	0/3 3 act	
209	2135	OL	9	Be particularly careful not to fire at own the		
210	2135	Tao	3	Try to get gun [redacted] B Mtn Pk by hot pursuit into hse		
211	2141	Tao	3 Coy	Pa OP at Comps. 3 - 4 ythas stolen red Cortina, last seen pushing it down Martin Ave trying to start it	Side info	
212	2142	Tao	3	Hot pursuit going in at [redacted] B Mtn Park, and [redacted] B Mtn Ave	Side info	
213	2144	Tao	C	0/3 32B reports woman in Whitebrook area hanging dustbin lids to warn others that B 0/3 is in area	Side info	
214	2145	Tao	2	40 - 50 ythas various ages stoning pressed steel building (Mickies), next section has been brought to standstill	Side info	
215	2152	Tao	9	0/3 23 reports he fired one x HV shot at [redacted] Divisore Pk	Side info	
216	2156	Tao	1	Pa Mayard Pk area	Side info	
217	2105	Tao	2	The Bravo units are now moving into area of St B School and Pull Ring	Side and Coys info	
218	2205	Tao	RUC	Highfield area quiet in reasonable humour, one or two obstructions, one at High Park, locals agree they will remove these and return the bus soon	Side info	
				Ref my shots report at 2142 hrs. Wrong. Should read 5 shots fired by my 0/3 22 at [redacted] Divisore Pk.		
				Shooting incident in area of Milligowrie St/2d Church. Amb has been called to car in area. OL investigating.		

# ROYAL MILITARY POLICE

**The Historical Enquiries Team report is blunt:**  
**"There was no Royal Military Police investigation"**  
(p. 9).

It continues:

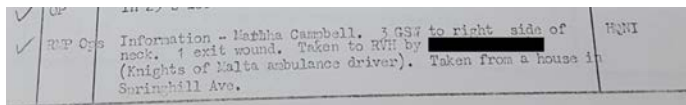
*"It is difficult to imagine that a child could have been shot dead in the street, and no investigation of the killing took place."*

Unfortunately, it is not difficult for far too many families in our community to imagine that no investigation into a killing took place - especially if the British armed forces were the culprits.

Nevertheless, Paper Trail discovered reports from the Royal Military Police to 39 Brigade Headquarters which were then passed to Headquarters Northern Ireland.

The Royal Military Ops Room reported to 39 Brigade at 2358 hours (11:58pm):

*"Information: Martha Campbell. 3 GSW [gunshot wounds] to right side of the neck. 1 exit wound. Taken to RVH by [REDACTED NAME] (Knights of Malta ambulance driver). Taken from a house in Springhill Avenue."*



A [Lieutenant] Colonel Thomas received similar information at Headquarters Northern Ireland nearly two hours before that, though. Again, it was incorrect as a single devastating shot hit Martha and caused all that damage:

*"Col Thomas. Re 13 [year old] girl. 4 bullet wounds neck and shoulders 2 small exit one larger one. 4th bullet may [maybe] Knights of Malta told to go to a house."*

In the British Army, the "Col" abbreviation is either Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel and, in this case, we believe the latter.

A Lieutenant Colonel JF Thomas served as the Deputy Provost Marshal at HQNI from April 1970 to July 1972. In addition, he was also the Commanding Officer of 1st Regiment Royal Military Police (1 RMP) and was actually called the "Father of the Regiment" as he served as CO of 1 RMP since its formation.

So, aside from the assessment in this curt report, what is very important is the rank and regiment of the officer in receipt of the information about the victim as he is the highest-ranking officer of 1 RMP.

I believe that British Army commanders knew right away that its Army was guilty of murdering Martha Campbell and the incident could have such serious ramifications that the CO of 1 RMP at HQNI was briefed directly within an hour and a half of Martha's death.

Regardless, the British Ministry of Defence and Historical Enquiries Team's denials that any Royal Military Police investigation took place remain dubious and require proper interrogation.

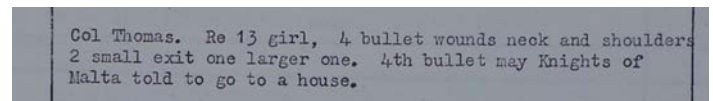
Paper Trail submitted a targeted request for information to the British Ministry of Defence in 2020 for the Royal Military Police's Special Investigation Branch files recording its investigation not only of Martha's murder but also its investigation into scores of other shootings by 1 Kings that weekend (from 13-16th May 1972).

An RMP investigation should be activated in the event of every British Army shooting and 1 Kings was involved in hundreds that weekend.

We alerted MoD to the fact that we had archival proof that Lt. Colonel Thomas is named and RMP Ops reported to 39 Brigade.

In late February of 2021, the British Army wrote:

*"... we were unable to locate... Royal Military Police Special Investigation files for Martha Campbell and other shootings involving 1 Kings during 13 - 16 May 1972."*



This investigative failure has impeded the family's search for truth and justice for half a century.

In 2009, the then Chief Constable of Police Service Northern Ireland, Matt Baggott, wrote to Martha's brother, Tony:

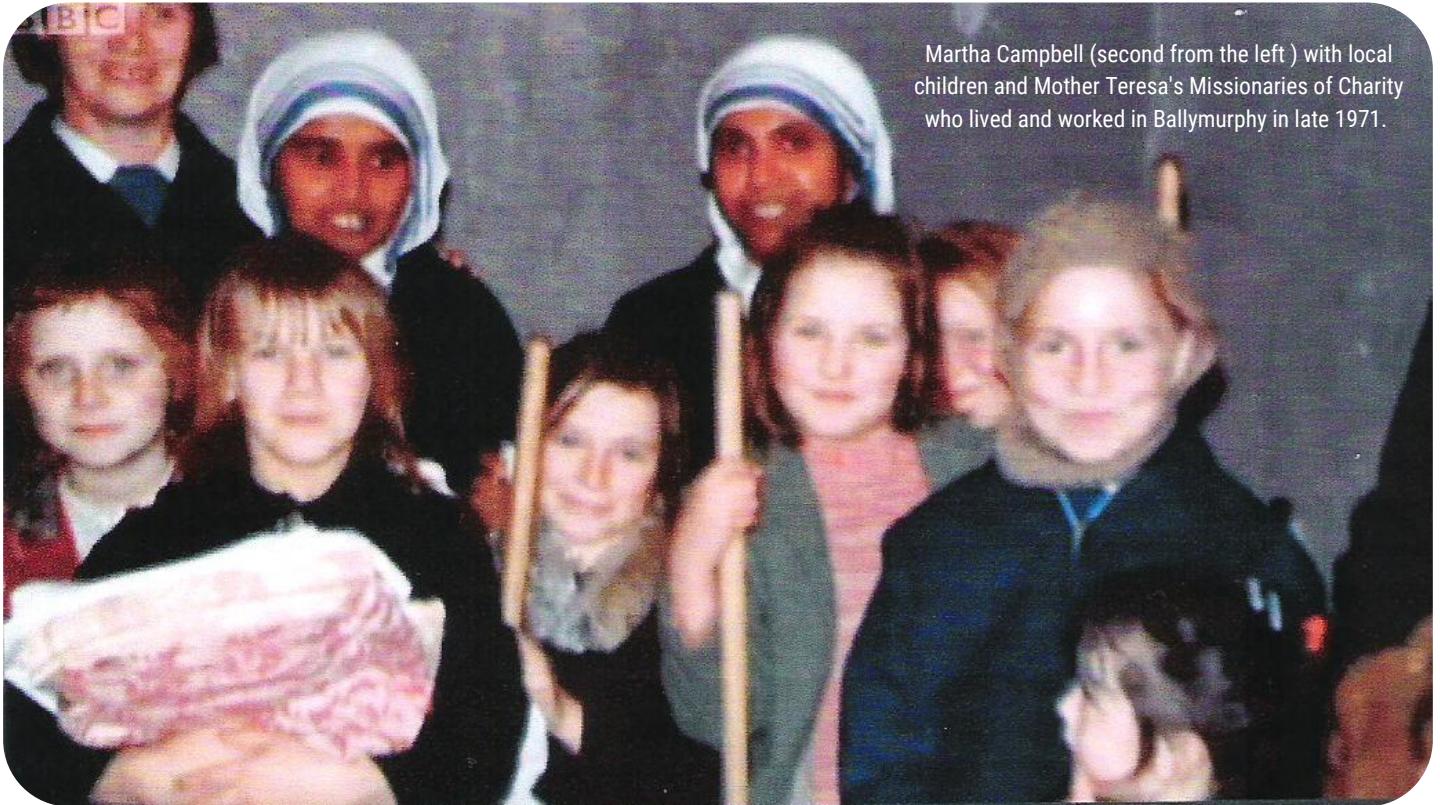
*"As a police team, HET tries to uncover any new or remaining evidential opportunities... The HET undertook a comprehensive search for information and documents in the Police Estate and in other organisations. I note from the HET report that despite these efforts, no records exist to show whether any significant investigation took place into Martha's death. The report offers some explanation and context but sadly with the passage of time and without further information it is impossible to take this investigation further."*

**"No records exist to show whether any significant investigation took place into Martha's death."**

Chief Constable Matt Baggott, 2009



# Remembering Martha



Martha Campbell (second from the left) with local children and Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity who lived and worked in Ballymurphy in late 1971.

**T**ony Campbell, Martha's older brother, curates the family's moving, commemorative website [www.martha-campbell.com/](http://www.martha-campbell.com/). He writes about his sister below.

Martha was 13 when shot dead and I was 14 so both of us were still at school. She was a typical 13-year-old doing all the things 13-year-olds do.

Martha was a thoughtful and helpful girl willing to do good where she could. She helped Mother Teresa's nuns when they were living in Springhill and supporting our community.

On the night Martha was shot dead, I was in our house, it started filtering through that Martha had been hit but the first reports were that it wasn't too bad.

Our dad quickly made his way to the RVH hospital to check on her condition but it took a while as there was still sporadic trouble in the area. There was no transport so he had to walk.

When he returned home, our house was packed. I still remember the reaction.

Someone hesitantly asked him how was Martha and my daddy's face turned white. "She's dead," he said.

Everybody in the house burst into tears and there were screams of disbelief.

There was trouble in the area throughout the days of Martha's wake with Saracens racing up and down the street.

Martha's coffin was open, and only for a small plaster on her cheek where there was a bullet wound, it looked like she was asleep.

Many people died just before Martha's death and many soon after. There were few press reports on her death.

That is why I said for many years that Martha was a forgotten victim.

Our mother was visibly heartbroken and I don't think that she will ever get over Martha's death.

When she is asked by many people how she feels about the person who killed Martha and the fact that no one has admitted the shooting, she says that she doesn't expect to find out or get to the truth but whoever the person is they will have to meet God and God will judge him. I think her faith has helped her cope.

We all believed it was the British Army who murdered Martha.

"Martha was a forgotten victim"

Tony Campbell, Martha's Brother

Now we have the evidence that the British Army was firing shots from Moyard flats at the time Martha was murdered, the family now have hope of getting the full truth.

For me the resounding criticism of the British Army and Ministry of Defence is that they knew what happened and covered it up for nearly 50 years.

The inquest shortly after Martha was killed did not hear this evidence; no investigation took place; no forensics or ballistics reports were provided; Martha's case was just shelved as unsolved.

At the very least now, we demand a new inquest as our family has a right to the truth. Together with our solicitor, Pádraig Ó Muirigh, we will be petitioning the Attorney General for a fair and just investigation.

# KILLER KINGS

PART  
ONE

Over the last number of years, Paper Trail has researched the Kings Regiment and its four-month tour in West Belfast in the summer of 1972.

The murder of Martha Campbell, schoolgirl, and the subsequent cover-up were no aberrations, unfortunately. Her murder was but one of a number of killings committed by Kings Regiment which were subsequently covered up by the British Armed Forces.

Not one of the Kingsmen have faced justice.

This report is the first in a series of reports into Britain's **Killer Kings**.

As well as discovering new evidence in files in the National Archives, London, Paper Trail has fought lengthy information battles including public interest tests and complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Much of this new evidence will now be heard in new inquests.

## KILLER KINGS

Paper Trail has linked many killings perpetrated by the same regiment including:

- James Bonner, 25th June 1972
- The Springhill / Westrock Massacre, 9th July 1972
- Thomas Mills, 18th July 1972

The Springhill / Westrock Massacre is notable because of the scale of the killing as well as the extent of the cover-up.

The British Ministry of Defence (MOD) had denied it knew which regiment was involved in the killing of the 5 victims, including 3 teenagers, a family man and the local priest.

Paper Trail proved this was nonsense using MOD's own files.

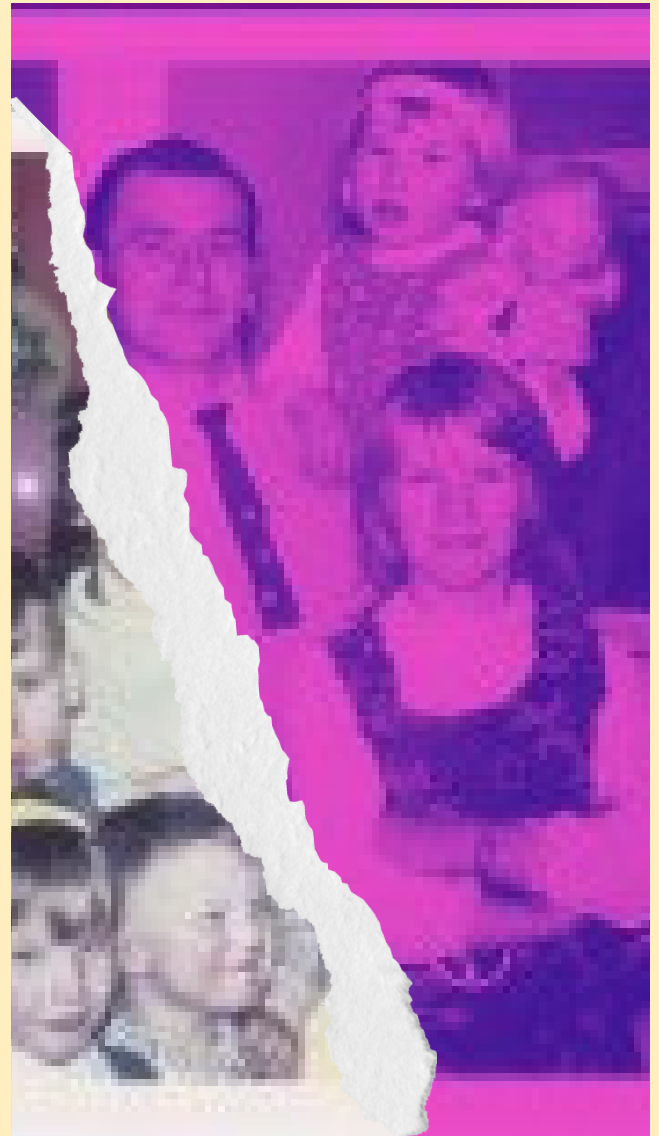
Paper Trail has also discovered Kings Regiment collusion with Loyalist paramilitaries and cover-ups including the Kelly's Bar Massacre of 13th May 1972.

In many of its killings, the Kings Regiment never admitted that its soldiers were the shooters and even blamed local paramilitary organisations.

The British Armed Forces denied bereaved families and injured victims truth and justice over the past half century.

Paper Trail is working with some of the victims and survivors of these attacks and will publish its findings to mark the 50th anniversary of the Killer Kings' tour of duty in West Belfast.

"The murder of Martha Campbell, schoolgirl, and the subsequent cover-up were no aberrations... This report is the first in a series of reports into Britain's **Killer Kings**."





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



CIARÁN MacAIRT AT A PROTEST IN SCOTLAND

**C**iarán MacAirt is author of the critically acclaimed book, *The McGurk's Bar Bombing*. His grandmother, Kathleen Irvine, was murdered in the attack and his grandfather, John, badly injured.

His second book, *Trope: Essays and Articles*, is out now, with all proceeds going to the charity, Paper Trail.

Paper Trail (Legacy Archive Research) is a registered charity that offers free and independent advocacy and training to victims and survivors of the conflict in Ireland and Britain. It is also a social enterprise that offers specialized legacy archive research to the legal profession.

Ciaran MacAirt is founder and manager of Paper Trail.

Paper Trail evolved from forensic research into his own grandmother's murder during the conflict and his support of other families who lost loved ones or who were injured.

MacAirt is also an activist with the families of the Time for Truth Campaign which demands that the British and Irish Governments:

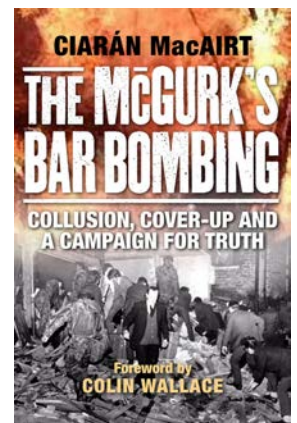
- (1) Implement and properly resource the Stormont House agreement;
- (2) Fund the court's legacy inquests as set out by the Lord Chief Justice Declan Morgan;
- (3) Properly resource the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

## BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

### THE MCGURK'S BAR BOMBING

On December 4th 1971, pro-state, British extremists of the Ulster Volunteer Force planted a no-warning bomb on the doorstep of a family-run bar in north Belfast, killing 15 men, women and children; before the families had buried their loved ones, the British state buried the truth. Ciarán MacAirt's grandmother was one of 15 civilians murdered in the McGurk's Bar Massacre.

His painstaking, meticulous research has uncovered historic documents hidden in archives which cast a cold light on collusion and cover-up by the State. It is a paper trail that goes to the highest levels of the Government, police and military and proves that society must learn from the lessons of the past. Foreword by Colin Wallace.

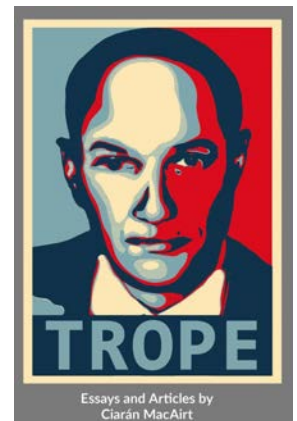


### TROPE: ESSAYS AND ARTICLES

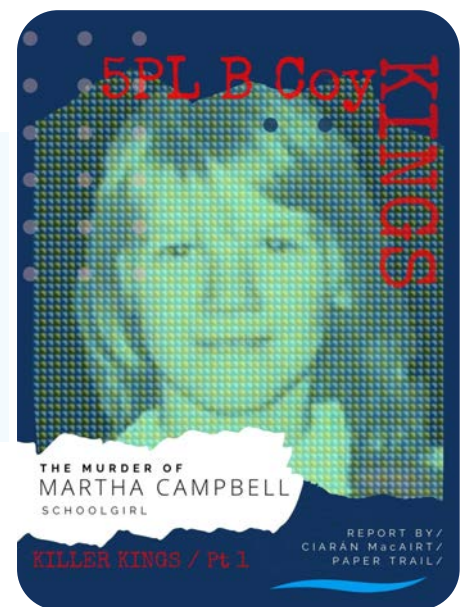
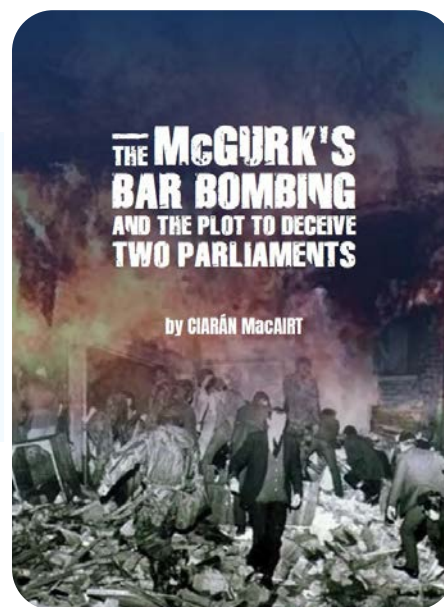
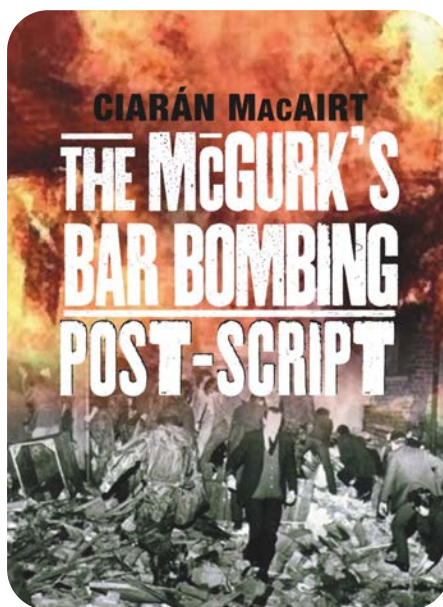
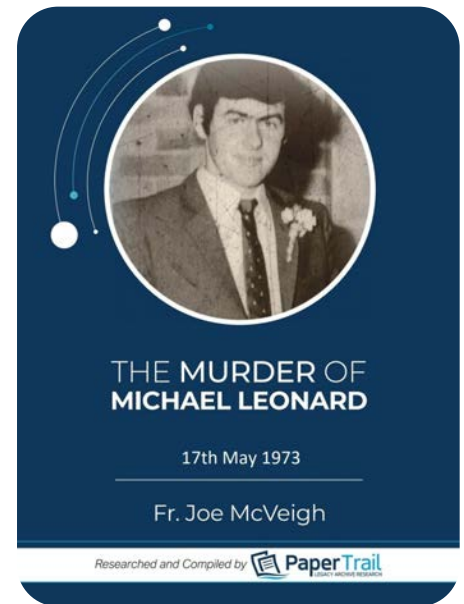
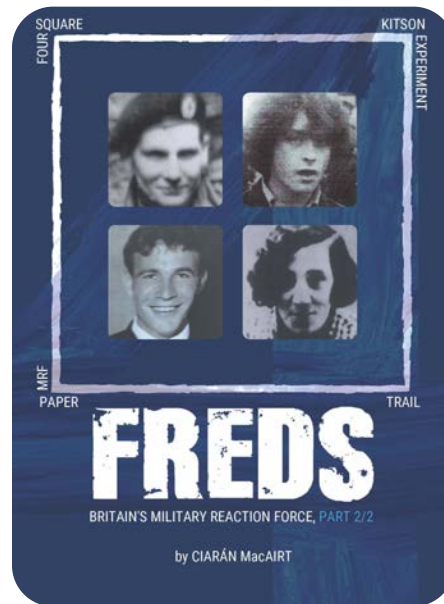
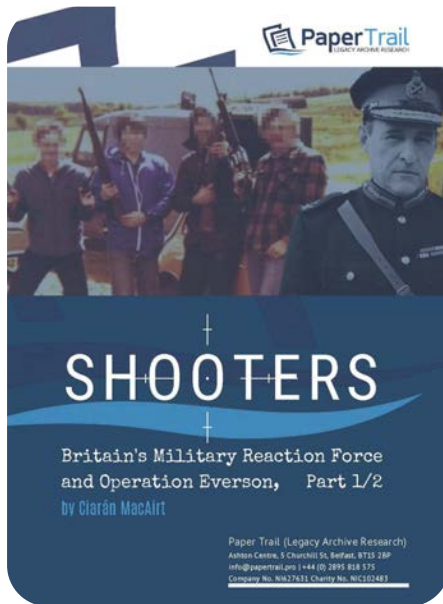
One recurring theme of this collection by Irish author, Ciaran MacAirt, is that war is a dirty business and we are diminished by the death of each and every victim.

Another is that behind the horror, behind the terror, are human love stories but those who are left behind are starved of truth - the very basic, human need to know what happened to their loved ones.

MacAirt is an award-winning writer and human rights activist. These essays and articles represent a personal journey and find him trudging from the killing fields of World War 1 to the back-streets of Belfast where death-squads roamed. Foreword by Fr. Seán McManus.







Visit the Paper Trail website ([www.papertrail.pro/books](http://www.papertrail.pro/books)) to read and download our other ground-breaking reports for FREE.

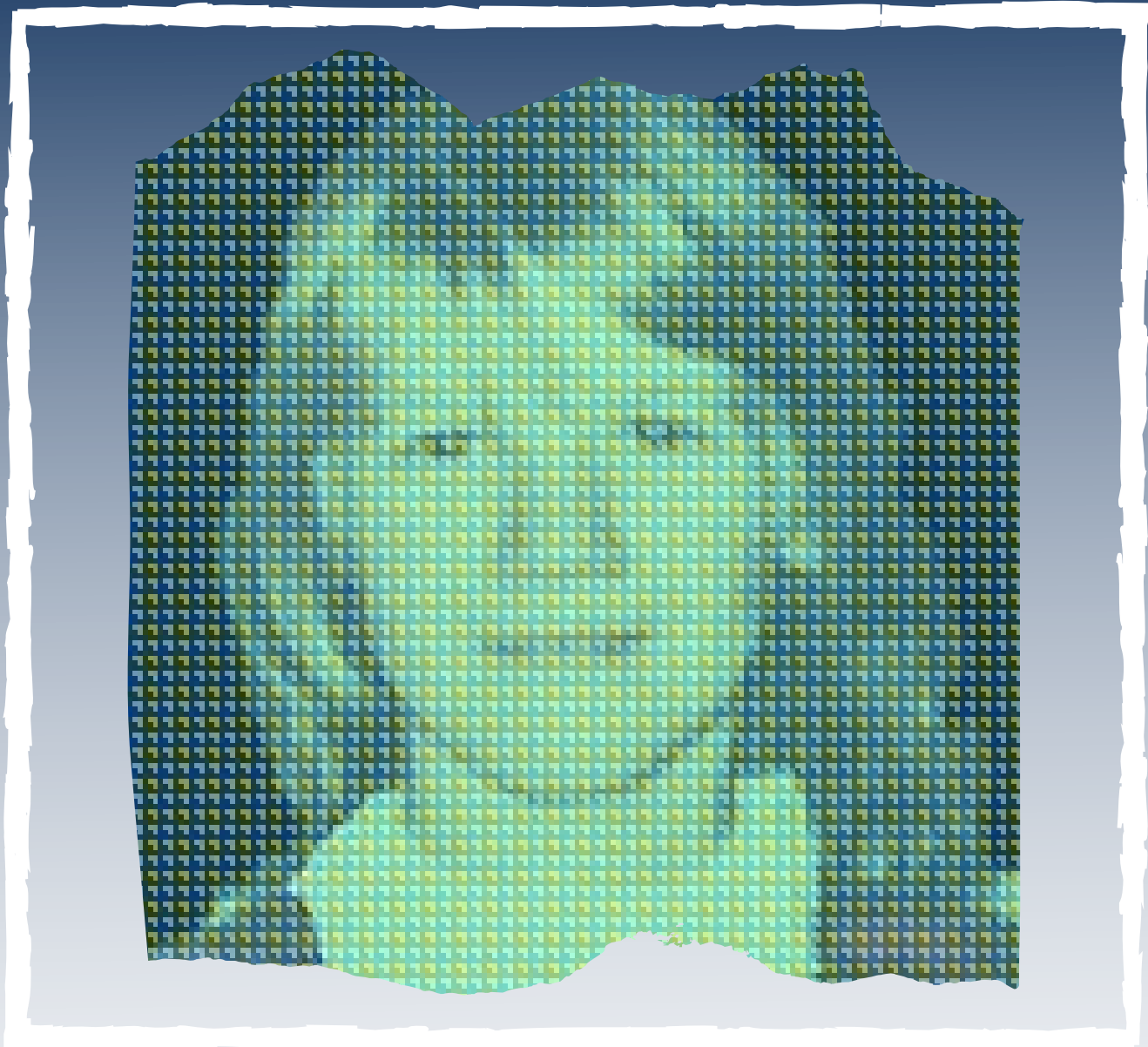
Following years of research and work with families, these reports have made national news, and led to historic investigations and legal cases.

The reports include proof that Britain's covert killer gang, the Military Reaction Force, was behind a number of murders and attempted mass murders although the police has yet to bring a single British soldier of the unit to justice. All of the victims were unarmed civilians.

You can also read about the Murder of Michael Leonard by the police who then covered up his murder, lying to his family, the Coroner investigating his murder, and the Irish government. This was written by Fr. Joe McVeigh, a cousin of Michael, with research by Paper Trail.

Author Ciarán MacAirt has also published supplementary research to his critically acclaimed book on the McGurk's Bar Bombing.

Visit [www.papertrail.pro](http://www.papertrail.pro) and leave your name and email and we will email our latest reports and research articles. Make history. Follow the Paper Trail.



# THE MURDER OF MARTHA CAMPBELL

## SCHOOLGIRL

### KILLER KINGS / Pt 1

REPORT BY /  
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PAPER TRAIL /



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**Peace**   
Northern Ireland - Ireland  
European Regional Development Fund

**VSS**  
Victims & Survivors Service

Paper Trail is funded by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), and Victims and Survivors Service. As a registered charity, we offer free advocacy and training to victims and survivors of the conflict in the north of Ireland. Make History... Follow the [Paper Trail](#).