

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

A saloon from Swatragh?

nicarfinder.co.uk
Driven by the Belfast Telegraph

ADVERTISEMENT

Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year

Search Site

Advanced Search

- [niCarFinder.co.uk](#)
- [Loadzajobs.co.uk](#)
- [Propertynews.com](#)
- [Belfast Telegraph TV](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
- [Ads For Free](#)
- **Belfast Telegraph**
 - Home
 - News**
 - Local & National
 - World news
 - Politics
 - Environment
 - Education
 - Letters
 - Opinion
 - Technology
 - Breaking News
 - Business
 - Sport
 - Health
 - Features
 - Columnists
 - Entertainment
 - Homefinder
 - Weather
 - Archive
 - Calendar 2008
 - Telegraph Travel
 - Shopping Directory
- Inside Belfast
 - Jobs
 - Training
 - Dating
 - Casino
 - Bingo
 - Reader Offers
 - Diners' Club
- Services
 - RSS
 - Media Kit
- Other Titles
 - Sunday Life

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local & National](#)

Local & National

Omagh bomber grinned at me, key eye-witness tells High Court

Thursday, April 10, 2008

One of the Omagh bombers "grinned" at a woman as he abandoned a car bomb about six feet away, a court heard yesterday.

In a statement read out during day three of a landmark civil action at Belfast High Court, Elizabeth Buchanan, said she "caught eye contact" with one of the men as he walked away from the maroon Vauxhall Cavalier that exploded causing the single worst atrocity of the Troubles.

Twenty-nine people including a woman pregnant with twins, were killed and 200 others injured by the 500lb blast on August 15, 1998.

Families of some of those killed are suing five men they believe were behind the attack in the first civil action of its kind.

Michael McKeivitt, Seamus Daly, Seamus McKenna, Liam Campbell and Colm Murphy all deny any part in the massacre.

In a statement read by Brett Lockhart QC, Mrs Buchanan said the man who was a passenger in the maroon Cavalier appeared "calm and relaxed" as he walked away from the vehicle packed with explosives. She described him as a "good looking man" in his 20s, about 6ft with short dark neat hair, a long face and a clear complexion.

She had been in Omagh and was parked outside SD Kells shop and had an unobstructed view of the men who left the bomb about six feet away.

The driver, who crossed in front of her, was said to be in his mid 20s, slightly heavy build, about 5ft 9ins tall and with dirty fair neat hair. He was clean shaven, had sallow skin, a natural tan and a "serious expression" as he looked down Market Street.

She said both men seemed to be in a hurry, appeared "very neat" and looked like soldiers.

Mrs Buchanan left Omagh about half an hour before the bomb exploded.

One of Northern Ireland's top forensic scientists was called to give evidence yesterday.

Dennis McAuley, a lead forensic scientist of 32 years experience told the court that forensic teams sifted through 13 skips and 28 bins and assorted bags of debris from the explosion and recovered parts of the bomb.

About 180 fragments of shrapnel such as metal, plastic, wood, wire glass and stone were recovered from 60 injured people. Much of this came from the car which was blown to pieces and embedded in the people closest, it was claimed.

He also said the 'Coupatan' timing devices used to detonate the Omagh bomb were used to cause at least 15 other explosions in Northern Ireland in 1998.

Also in the witness box, police sergeant, Robert Leonard, said a bogus company with an address and bank account in Dundalk placed a one-off order for 480 Coupatan timers.

The long-awaited civil case is being presided over by Mr Justice Morgan and may take eight weeks to complete.

It is expected that lawyers acting on behalf of the families may make an application to hear evidence from more Gardai officers when they transfer proceedings to Dublin.

At hearing.

- Email Article
- Print Version
- Search
- +Most Emailed
- +Most Read

ADVERTISEMENT

Don't Miss . . .

City Guides

Send us a review for the chance to win a free flight



Video: Stadium debate

Your views on the proposed national stadium



I'd love to be like Jordan

But what does daddy think of Laura's ambitions?



Sounds of summer

Has the Glastonbury Festival lost its mojo?



Numbers up

Watchdog exposes the surveys that don't add up



Kylie on cancer

My breast cancer was misdiagnosed by first doctor



Like Viagra for your brain

Brain enhancing drugs are the latest legal fix



'The Hannibal Lecter of golf'

Lawton: Tiger Woods is out to devour opposition



US Masters: Hole-by-hole guide

Click here to download our guide in pdf format



Last post

More articles in Local & National

- [University degrees are a waste of time - damning verdict of British students](#)
- [Sweet victory: teacakes to cost the taxman £3.5m](#)
- [Bank of England cuts rates to 5%](#)
- [Rising euro hits cheap holidays](#)
- [Clinton: Gerry Adams kept the faith](#)



close

ADVERTISEMENTS

NEW



tv

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

LoadzaJobs.co.uk
Your search ends here

ADVERTISEMENTS

Cinema Listings



[Click here](#) to find out what's showing at a cinema near you

BELFAST TELEGRAPH


ADVERTISEMENTS


World in Pictures


2008
[January](#)
[February](#)
[March](#)


2007
[Jan & Feb](#)
[March](#)
[April](#)
[May](#)
[June](#)
[July](#)
[August](#)
[September](#)
[October](#)
[November](#)
[December](#)


Video

Video: Titanic town
 Ship's Belfast beginnings celebrated in exhibition

BT Woman of the Year
 Applauding Ulster's most exceptional women

Omagh blaze tragedy
 Special report on Northern Ireland's worst house fire

Belfast Telegraph Property Awards
 Celebrating excellence at the inaugural awards gala

Best view in town
 Special multimedia report on Belfast Wheel

In Pictures . . .

News
[Paisley quits](#)

[Victoria Square](#)
[Building collapse](#)
[Ulster Fry event](#)
[The Twelfth](#)
[Bull Run](#)
[Award-winners](#)
[Flooded Ulster](#)
[Sunny Northern Ireland](#)
[Devolution Day](#)
[Assembly Elections](#)
[Maze tumbles](#)
[Blair quits](#)
[Last watchtower](#)
[Carrick-a-rede](#)

Events

[St Patrick's Day](#)
[Derry Xmas](#)
[Boss is back](#)
[Xmas: what a turn on](#)
[Property Awards](#)
[50 Cent](#)
[Enrique Iglesias](#)
[Halloween](#)
[Fantasy Fest](#)
[Rolling Stones](#)
[Oxegen 07](#)
[Beach Party 07](#)
[Balmoral Show](#)
[Razorlight](#)
[St Patrick's Day](#)
[Mardis Gras](#)
[Justin Timberlake](#)
[Brit Awards 07](#)

Sport

[N Ireland v Georgia](#)
[Spain 1 Norn Iron 0](#)
[Win over Denmark](#)
[Windsor win](#)
[Golf: Rory McIlroy](#)
[British Open](#)
[Copa America Final](#)
[N Ireland v Sweden](#)
[Six Nations](#)
[World in Sport](#)