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11 September 2007

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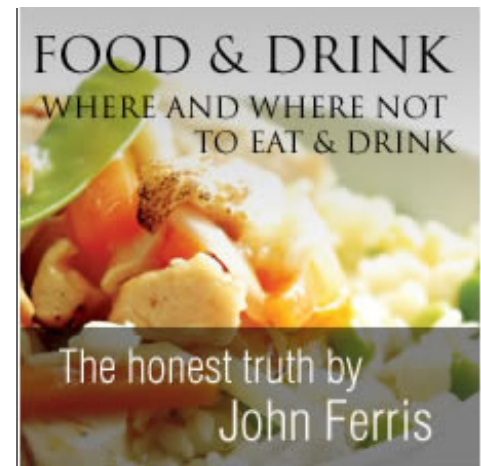
From the Balcony



A publisher's blog

By Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

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Headlines

McClatchey killed West Belfast man ten years ago



By Ciarán Barnes

Body-in-the-bin murder victim William McClatchey was a loyalist notorious UDA killer who murdered a West Belfast man 10 years ago.

The dismembered body of the 34-year-old was discovered by police in a wheelie-bin in East Belfast on Monday.

On Wednesday Mark Warwick, from Pottinger House in the city, appeared in court charged with his murder.

It has since emerged that McClatchey was a high-ranking UDA man who was involved in a series of killings during the mid-1990s.

Among these were John Slane who was shot dead at his Broadway home in March 1997, and UVF Shankill Butcher Robert 'Basher' Bates, who was murdered in June 1997.

Father-of-ten

After the Bates murder McClatchey and a UDA pal fled their homes in the greater Shankill area, moving to the loyalist Taughmonagh estate in South Belfast.

They feared that the UVF would kill them in revenge for the Bates murder. McClatchey later moved to Liverpool after the UVF wounded his friend in a gun attack outside a

South Belfast bar. He had only been back in Belfast a number of days before his gruesome murder last week.

After McClatchey's dismembered body was found in the bin, tributes were paid to him, suggesting that he was a harmless family man.

However, this has been disputed by the family of John Slane who point to McClatchey as one of the gunmen who brutally killed the Catholic father-of-ten.

John's son, Seán Slane, said: "William McClatchey was one of the UDA men who shot my dad five times as he made bottles for my baby sisters."

"The other gunman was his friend, the man who killed Basher Bates.

"I was really angry when I heard McClatchey being described as a harmless, family man.

"He was a killer, he murdered my father. People should be told what this guy was really like."

McClatchey and the second UDA man were questioned about the Slane murder, however neither was charged.

Seán said the investigation into his dad's killing was a "shambles" from the start.

"When I tried to get into the house after the shooting the cops lied to me.

"They told me my dad was on his way to hospital in an ambulance when he was in fact lying in the kitchen dead," Seán explained.

"They then told the inquest that they had recovered all the bullets. That was another lie because my brother found one lying in the kitchen."

Seán's sister, Louise Slane, said the family will now be asking Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan to probe the original RUC investigation into their dad's murder.

"Within hours of my dad getting shot we knew the names of his killers," she added.

"We want to know why McClatchey and his mate, who is still walking the streets, have never been charged.

"We still haven't lost hope, we are determined to see someone brought to book for murdering our father."

28/08/2007