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News





Richard Moore meets Charles, the soldier who blinded him with a rubber bullet when he was 10.

THIS IS THE MAN WHO SHOT ME

DERRY MAN Richard Moore has met the man who shot him almost 35 years ago.

By Erin Hutcheon

Today for the first time Richard speaks openly to the 'Journal' about meeting the soldier responsible for firing the rubber bullet which robbed him of his sight when he was ten years-old. Their meeting will be shown in a documentary 'Blind Vision' on BBC1 on Sunday night.

"I didn't have any hatred for the man who shot me," said Richard. "I wanted to meet him and tell him that."

Richard and the soldier, identified only as Charles, met privately for the first time at a hotel in Edinburgh last year.

"I told him I forgave him," said Richard. "I like him and I believe there's value in us keeping in touch. He told me he never meant to cause the damage he did, and he never set out to blind me. I can either accept that or not."

Richard and Charles have now met several times and the Derry man has stayed for the weekend at Charles's home. The pair also agreed to be filmed together as part of the BBC documentary.

Richard Moore said he never really imagined that he would sit and have a drink with the man who shot him in the face. He was shot on the bridge of the nose on May 4, 1972, as he ran through playing fields on his way home from Rosemount Primary School. He was never told the identity of the soldier who shot him.

After the shooting, in an interview with the 'Journal', his late father Liam asked how he was supposed to tell a ten year-old that he would never see again?

At the time SDLP leader and M.P. John Hume protested against the shooting and pressed the army strongly about the regulations under which rubber bullets were to be used.

The programme shows Richard on his journey to his meeting with the man who shot him. It also follows his investigation of new technological advances which offer the chance that he could regain some sight and finally make his dreams of seeing his family for the first time come true.

He also reveals why he has now decided that his blindness is a gift and talks of his philosophy that he lives with blindness, not in darkness.

The documentary is a Hotshot Films Production, produced and directed by Brendan J Byrne.

Richard has written a book about his life which is to be published later this year.

For full story see pages 6 & 7 .

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