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UK**Troops 'colluded with Mad Dog'**

Adair book claims he got tip-offs on republicans

Henry McDonald
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Johnny Adair, the exiled loyalist former terrorist, has added to controversy over security force collusion by claiming that British soldiers were a main source of intelligence for his band of murderers.

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In his autobiography *Mad Dog*, due out next month, Adair says British troops were regularly in touch with him and his 'C Company' - the Ulster Defence Association's main death squad during his terrifying reign in the early Nineties.

Adair says that on every patrol there would be at least three or four soldiers who were friendly towards him. He claims much of the information he received on republicans was passed over when his car was stopped at army security checkpoints. 'To make sure they [the squaddies] didn't get caught out, I was walked to the back of the car to oversee a dummy root about in the boot.

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'I would get to know what type of cars the republicans were driving, where they were being spotted hanging about, and if they were using a safe house.'

The former UDA commander says there was no mention of loyalists because the soldiers told him 'they knew we were on their side'.

Adair says he ingratiated himself with the troops by sending wreaths to army barracks after the IRA killed soldiers.

But he says that he played no part in the 1989 killing of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane, blaming it instead on the UDA's 'B Company', based in the middle stretch of the Shankill Road. Adair was arrested after Finucane's murder, but claims police officers treated him well because 'they were delighted that the lawyer was dead. They detested him'.

He alleges that one policeman came into an interrogation room and congratulated him and the UDA. Others, Adair claims, told him: 'It's the best hit the UFF [a cover name for the UDA] has ever done.'

However, Adair also alleges the RUC Special Branch

hated him and may have provided republicans with intelligence on his whereabouts. He survived at least six murder attempts and still has fragments of bullets in his body.

He claims that during another interrogation in Castlereagh barracks he was offered the sexual services of a female Special Branch officer, plus £45,000 in used notes, if he agreed to work for the RUC in October 1993.

Adair, who was expelled from Northern Ireland at gunpoint by the UDA, lives in exile in Troon, on the west coast of Scotland.

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