

Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year

Search Site

Advanced Search

- Loadzajobs.co.uk
- Propertynews.com
- Sunday Life**
 - Home
 - News**
 - Sport
 - Features
 - Archive
- Other Services**
 - Jobs
 - Training
 - Dating
 - Gaming
 - Reader Offers
- Other Titles**
 - Belfast Telegraph
 - Ireland's Saturday Night

Sunday Life Your Life, Your Paper

Home > News

News

Former Para is haunted by horrors he witnessed

Sunday, January 13, 2008

'PAUL' joined the Parachute Regiment in 1989 and served for nine years in Northern Ireland before leaving the armed forces.

He patrolled in south Armagh and other Troubles hot-spots during his years with regiment.

The ex-para - who received an accumulated Northern Ireland medal for completing numerous tours of duty here - responded to dozens of shootings and bombings during his service.

But he told Sunday Life how the Shankill bombing in 1993 was one of the worst atrocities he witnessed.

Said 'Paul': "I saw a lot of terrible things during my time here, but the one incident that sticks in my mind is the Shankill bombing.

"We went to the area not long after the bomb exploded and it was total carnage. There were bodies and injured people everywhere.

"The only thing we could do was try and help people, and find anyone we could beneath the rubble. I will never forget that day.

"That was a massive bomb and the people who were present that day deserve great credit for trying to find survivors without thinking of their own safety."

He was also present minutes after the IRA bombed the Army's HQ at Thiepval Barracks in 1996.

Added Paul: "This was a terrible event too because no-one could understand how the IRA was able to drive a car bomb into the Army's HQ and leave the bomb.

"It's a miracle no-one else lost their life that day.

"I served in Northern Ireland during a very terrible time and although we witnessed many terrible acts, I can't get the Shankill and Thiepval out of my mind."

More articles in News

- [Jury Disservice!](#)
- [My Paddy is not an informer](#)
- [Victims fear Omagh stone will disappear](#)
- [Wife of love-cheat Kirwan stands by her man after we expse affair with leggy fan](#)
- [Sting to create buzz in Belfast](#)

Belfast Telegraph ONLINE ARCHIVE

- Search from over 400,000 articles
- Dating back to 1995

Belfast Telegraph titles

- Email Article
- Print Version
- Search

Related Articles

- [Para's UVF stab horror](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS



• © Belfast Telegraph