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Magilton to stay with Reds despite Glens approach

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Heart attack at 36, a half-marathon aged 40

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Gutsy mum's inspirational story

Adair's 'C' Company unit 'provided explosives used to kill Rosemary Nelson'

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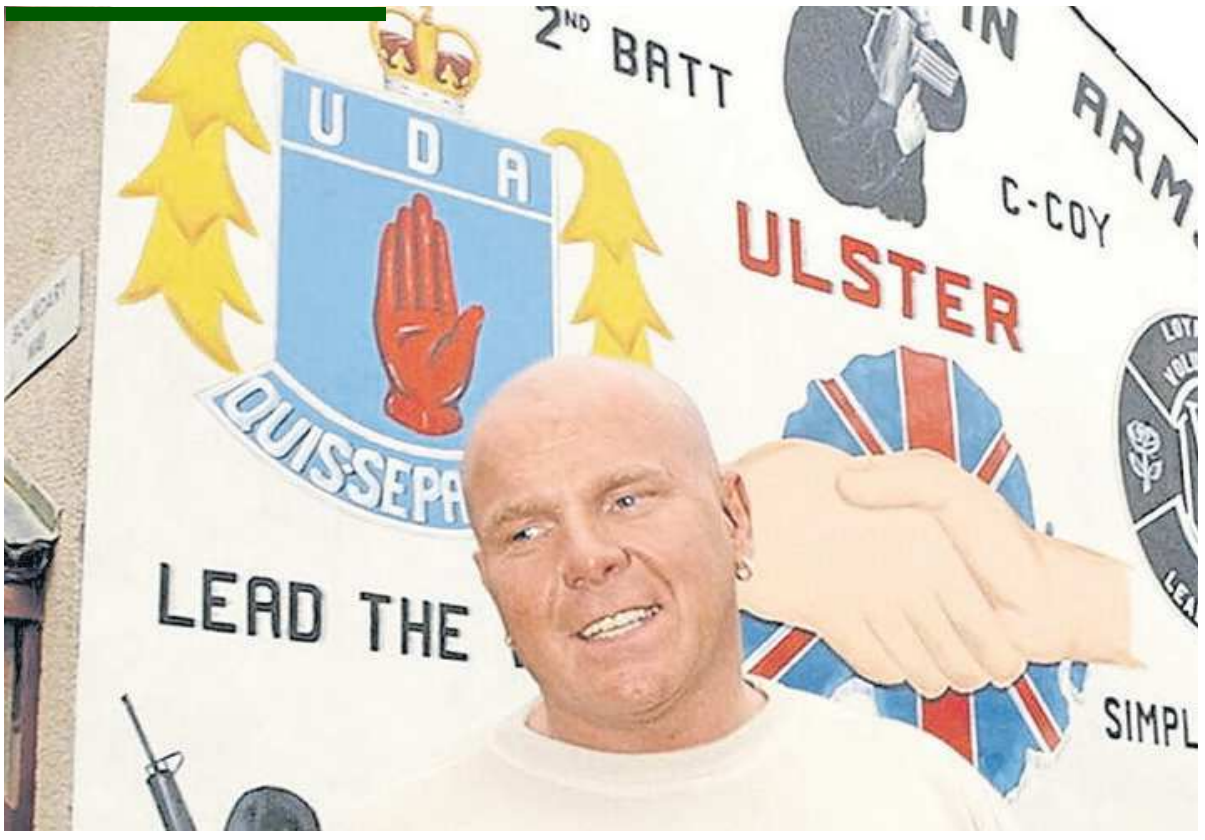

Johnny Adair led the notorious 'C' Company of the UDA before he was exiled to northern England and then Scotland

THE explosives used in the bomb that killed solicitor Rosemary Nelson were supplied by Johnny Adair's notorious 'C' Company UDA unit, a new book about the ex-loyalist claims.

The mother-of-three died after a bomb ripped through her car in Lurgan, Co Armagh, in March 1999.

A group calling itself the Red Hand Defenders later claimed responsibility for the undercar booby trap that killed the 40-year-old.

At the time of her murder Ms Nelson represented the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition, which opposed Orange Order parades going through the nationalist area of Portadown in the late '90s.

The Drumcree dispute has recently been reopened by the Orange Order, which wants to hold a parade there at the end of the month.

Ms Nelson also advocated for the family of Robert Hamill, a Catholic man kicked to death in Portadown in 1997.

Earlier this week, a public inquiry into his death listed a catalogue of police failures in the investigation into his murder.

Now, 'Enemies Within' has been written by academic Dr Aaron Edwards and focuses on the activities of former UDA/UFF commander Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair. The book, launched in Belfast last night, deals with Adair's rise to the top of the UDA/UFF in west Belfast and his eventual fall.

Now living in exile in Troon, on the west coast of Scotland, Adair has spoken extensively to the author about his time as a UDA/UFF boss.

Dr Edwards deals with claims that the explosives used to kill Ms Nelson originated with Adair's 'C Company', which was responsible for the murder of dozens of Catholics.

The book alleges that while on parole from prison in December 1998 Adair "took an inventory of C Company's arsenal".

He and others later travelled to Magilligan Point in Co Derry where two plastic barrels containing "twenty-five Uzi machine guns and a quantity of plastic explosives" were dug up.

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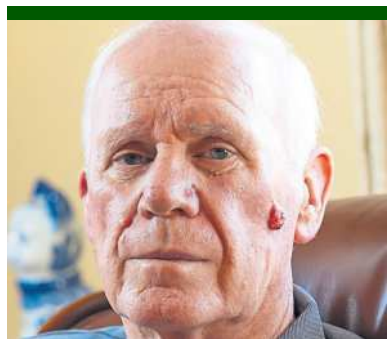

John McGahey (75) says he feels let down

Fermanagh pensioner's cancerous facial growth 'is spreading'

ALLAN PRESTON
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A FERMANAGH pensioner waiting months for skin cancer treatment says he is now worried he will have to find thousands to pay for private healthcare.

John McGahey (75) from near Enniskillen first raised his concerns with The Irish News last month, stating a growth on his face has doubled in size since he first visited his GP in March.

He has since had consultations in Derry's Altnagelvin Hospital in May, when he was told it was growing quickly and needed removed, and in June when he was informed it was a squamous cell carcinoma and that he would be called back in "a few weeks" to have it removed.

Sinn Féin MP Pat Cullen has now described Mr McGahey's wait for treatment and the lack of communication from the Western Trust as "unacceptable".

Information from the NHS states

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Solicitor Rosemary Nelson was murdered in a loyalist car bomb attack in March 1999

'Just give it to those headers in the LVF'

From P1

"Only three of the Uzis worked and the explosives were weeping," Dr Edwards writes.

"Adair immediately ordered his men to 'get rid of all the aul' shite'."

Dr Edwards records that when asked who the explosives should be given to, Adair replied, 'Just give it to those headers in the LVF (Loyalist Volunteer Force)'.

"It is believed the LVF was given four pounds of the plastic explosive and three detonators," Dr Edwards wrote.

"The same source said he believed the explosives were passed on to a man from the Castlereagh area who made the bomb that killed the solicitor Rosemary Nelson on 15 March 1999."

The book also delves into Adair's links with the LVF and his involvement in the Drumcree parade dispute.

In May 2011 the findings of a public inquiry into the murder of Rosemary Nelson were published.

In its report the inquiry referenced material not disclosed to the RUC's Murder Investigation Team by Special Branch.

This included intelligence about 'missing' UFF explosives, with an approximate date for the information being obtained given as March 1999.

"The UFF [Ulster Freedom Fighters] [redacted] have voiced concerns over the fact that their organisation cannot now account for one of their bombs," the intelligence stated.

Dr Aaron Edwards

"Although they have denied any UFF involvement in the murder of Rosemary they are aware that their 'missing bomb' may or may not have been the one under Nelson's car."

The inquiry report also provided information about the Red Hand Defenders, which claimed its first attack in 1998.

A November 1998 'source report' by MI5, referred to by the inquiry as the Security Service, provided background information about the newly formed group.

"Red Hand Defenders consist of LVF, Ulster Resistance and DUP (Democratic Unionist Party) elements," it stated.

The report included other details of the new group.

"The main body of personnel within the RHD was from the LVF," it stated.

"There were a few people in Belfast who had joined with a number in mid-Ulster in forming the group."

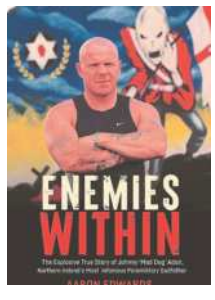
Another report dated November 19 1998 stated "the RHD rather than being any type of formal organisation comprised a small opportunistic group of loyalist dissidents largely based in Belfast".

In 1999 the Intelligence Review Committee (IRC), a "forum in which specific decisions were taken on priorities and requirements for the various intelligence agencies" in the north provided more insight into the RHD.

Minutes of an IRC committee meeting in February that year state that the RHD name was being used by other loyalists.

"Meanwhile there appears to be two elements to the RHD; there is a small number of individuals (based in South Antrim/North Belfast area) who we assess to be core members of the RHD but who have been inactive for several months," the records state.

They add that "separately the RHD name appears to be being used as a flag of convenience by numerous militant loyalists – including members of the UDA acting without leadership sanction – to claim intimidatory attacks against Catholics."



Enemies Within by Dr Aaron Edwards is published by Merrion Press and is available to buy now

TDs call on international footballers to follow Sheeran support acts and speak out on Palestine

MÍCHEÁL Ó SCANNÁIL

OPPOSITION TDs have praised the courage of Ed Sheeran's supporting acts for dropping out of the remaining Loop Tour dates, calling on Irish footballers to take a similar stand.

The Republic of Ireland are set to play a Uefa Nations League fixture with Israel on October 4 in Serbia. The game is to be played behind closed doors amid the prospect of major protests and calls for a boycott.

Speaking outside Leinster House, as the Dáil returned from the summer recess, People Before Profit TD Ruth Coppinger said the Irish players should show solidarity with Palestine and take a stand against Israel's ongoing military operations in the Middle East.

"I hope the Irish players look at this, see the massive support in Irish society and internationally," she said.

"Those small acts of solidarity, which are extremely brave, have an impact already. The whole world is now looking at Palestine.

"The next week, it is really decision time for the players, and the whole country will get behind you, like they've gotten behind these artists, who are paying a price, but also are gaining a huge following."

Sinn Féin's Louise O'Reilly shared similar thoughts, putting the onus on the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to make a decision for the players. She said: "There's a very important lesson for the FAI actually, if they're willing to listen.

"There's a lesson for the FAI to listen to what it is that people want. They want to stand against genocide. They want to stand on the side of the oppressed people of Palestine."

Irish singer Aaron Rowe, US musician Finneas, who is Billie Eilish's brother, Danish singer Lukas Graham and Sheeran's tour band Beoga all posted on social media that they had withdrawn from his tour, after Macklemore was removed from the shows over comments he made about Gaza.

Ed Sheeran

People Before Profit leader Richard Boyd Barrett said he would use the Dáil's resumption to pay tribute to the artists.

"They have taken a really extraordinarily principled and brave stand against the genocide and for the right of people to speak up freely against the genocide that has been committed against the Palestinian people," he said.

"They are going to pay a price for it. But they've taken a brave and principled stand, and they deserve great credit.

"You compare that to our government that refused, for example, to support the campaign to stop the game to boycott Ireland's football match with Israel.

"We'd like to see the Irish government show the same backbone and principle, and have the same courage and selflessness."

After the fallout from Macklemore's tour removal, Ed Sheeran wrote in a statement, "I am appalled by the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

"The suffering and pain caused on both sides is a human tragedy. There are too many wars across the world causing immeasurable pain, none of which should be tolerated."

Labour TD Ged Nash criticised the singer's statement, and said his decision was commercially minded, rather than moral.

"I was extremely disappointed. This is a matter of conscience, and it would seem to me, without knowing all of the details on the face of it, it seems that maybe a commercial decision was taken by Ed Sheeran to continue his tour."

People Before Profit's Ruth Coppinger, Richard Boyd Barrett (centre) and Paul Murphy speaking to media at Leinster House in Dublin yesterday
PICTURE: BRIAN LAWLESS/PA