

'kill' ops to be scrutinised

Links to 14 other controversial killings

Ministry of Defence documents reveal that some of the soldiers involved in the operation that led to the deaths of Daniel Doherty and William Fleming are linked to 14 other controversial killings during the Troubles:

IRA members Declan Martin (18) and Henry Hogan (21) were shot dead after a gun battle with undercover British soldiers near the village of Dunloy in Co Antrim in February 1984.

It has been claimed members of 14th Intelligence Company were involved in the shoot-out.

Republicans later claimed that the men were surrounded by the SAS before being shot dead, while people said they heard a man calling for help before being "finished off".

Undercover British soldier Paul Oram also died in the firefight. It was reported he had killed IRA men George McBrearty and Charles Maguire in Derry in 1981.

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Brothers Michael Devine (22) and David Devine (16) died alongside Charles Breslin (20) after an SAS ambush in a field near Strabane in February 1985.

All three were members of the IRA and were making their way to an arms dump after a planned attack on the security forces was abandoned. Captain Simon Hayward, also believed to have had a role in the ambush that killed Daniel Doherty

and William Fleming, was identified by Fr Raymond Murray in his book *The SAS in Ireland* as a 'liaison officer' between the SAS, MI5 and the RUC.

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Civilians Peter Thompson (21), Edward Hale (25) and John McNeill (42) were shot dead outside Sean Graham's bookmakers shop on the corner of Belfast's Whiterock and Falls Roads in January 1990.

The three men were in the process of robbing the bookmakers when they were targeted by undercover British soldiers.

Members of the 14th Intelligence Company were carrying out surveillance in the area at the time. Some believe the men were being watched by the security forces and were deliberately targeted.

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IPLO member Martin Corrigan (25) from Armagh was shot dead by undercover soldiers as he prepared to attack an RUC reservist in April 1990.

He was the only member of the IPLO to die while taking part in paramilitary activities during the Troubles.

Another man who was with him was arrested.

As a 17-year-old Mr Corrigan saw his father Peter Corrigan, a Sinn Féin activist, shot dead by the UVF.

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Strabane man Alexander Patterson (31) is believed to have been shot dead by the SAS in the village of Victoria Bridge during an INLA gun attack on the home of a UDR member in November 1990.

It was later reported that Mr Patterson was an RUC informer who had tipped off security forces about the attack.

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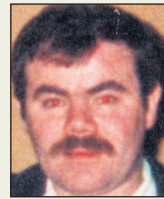
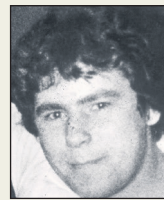
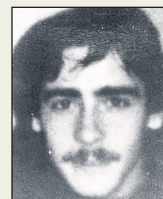
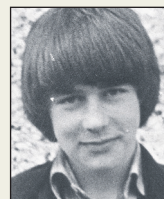
Lawrence McNally (38), Peter Ryan (37) and Tony Doris (21) were shot dead by the SAS in the village of Coagh in Co Tyrone in June 1991. It is believed the three IRA men were making their way to carry out an attack when they drove into an ambush.

The car the men were travelling is reported to have been hit by up to 200 rounds, with the gunfire continuing for 10 minutes.

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While the majority of those killed in suspected SAS attacks have been republicans, the fatality list also includes UVF man Brian Robinson who was shot dead by British army special forces in north Belfast in 1989.

His killers, which included a woman, are believed to have been members of 14th Intelligence Company. Robinson was hit dead minutes after he had shot and killed Catholic man Patrick McKenna close to his home in Ardoyne.



■ DOCUMENTS:

Top from far left, Declan Martin, Henry Hogan and Charles Breslin; centre from far left, Michael Devine, David Devine and Lawrence McNally; bottom from far left, Peter Ryan, Tony Doris and Brian Robinson

Suspected ambush role

Connla Young

A BRITISH army officer suspected of being involved in the operation which led to the deaths of Daniel Doherty and William Fleming is also thought to have had a role in a second ambush that saw three IRA men killed.

Captain Simon Hayward has been linked to the SAS killings of brothers Michael Devine (22) and David Devine (16) alongside Charles Breslin (20) in a field on the outskirts of Strabane in February 1985.

The Life Guards officer has strongly denied involvement in the ambush. Documents obtained from the Ministry of Defence show that a trooper identified only as 'Soldier F' in the Doherty and Fleming case is also listed as an 'LO' in the Strabane attack.

The term 'LO' is believed to mean 'liaison officer'.

In his book *The SAS in Ireland*, Co Armagh-born priest Fr Raymond Murray refers to reports in British newspapers in the late 1980s claiming that Simon Hayward was a liaison

officer between MI5, the SAS and the RUC's undercover unit known as E4. Claims about his involvement in secret British army operations in the north emerged during his 1987 trial for smuggling 50 kilos of cannabis into Sweden.

He was subsequently sentenced to five years in prison and released in 1989.

According to the reports from the time, Hayward "masterminded" the Strabane ambush and organised surveillance on the IRA men.

It has been alleged the alleged shoot-to-kill operation was set up following a tip-off from an IRA informer to the RUC. The information was then passed on to Hayward.

However, in his own book published in 1989, Hayward said he was posted to the north twice, in 1982 when he was attached to the Coldstream Guards as company operations officer during a four-month emergency tour to south Armagh, and in 1985 during a two-year posting to British army headquarters in Lisburn.

He denied being a member of the SAS

and playing a role in the Strabane ambush, claiming he was only posted to the north in June 1985 – several months after the deaths.

Documents obtained by solicitor Fearghal Shiels from the Ministry of Defence provide details of a total of 13 soldiers involved in the Doherty and Fleming ambush.

The papers confirm that three of those soldiers, including the man suspected of being Hayward, were involved in the Strabane operation. The documents also give details of any subsequent criminal or disciplinary action taken against the soldiers involved in the Doherty and Fleming killings.

However, that information is omitted for soldier F – believed to be Captain Simon Hayward.

Mr Shiels said that if suspicions around Hayward are confirmed he should not be afforded further anonymity.

"He has already been named and if that name is accurate clearly this soldier is in the public domain and doesn't require his anonymity to be preserved," he said.

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