



Infamous Death-Squad Killer Dies

Taff's secretive Military Medal was for nefarious murders in Northern Ireland

By Ciarán MacAirt

AN INFAMOUS killer, wanted in connection with a series of murders and attempted murders of Irish civilians in Belfast in 1972, has died. Clive Graham Williams, or Taff as he known to his fellow gang members, died just before Christmas.

Despite proof of their involvement in serial murders and attempted murders, the British courts brought neither Williams nor any members of his gang members to justice.

The reason is simple. They had a licence to kill; and killed Irish civilians for the British state.

Clive Graham Williams was a leading member of Britain's Military Reaction Force (MRF), an extra-legal, covert, offensive British Army unit which stalked the streets of Belfast in the early 1970s.

In 2020, I collated archival evidence from secret British military logs which proved that Williams and his death-squad were guilty of a litany of unprovoked and vicious attacks on unarmed civilians, including young teenagers.

I presented this evidence in a report for the charity Paper Trail (Legacy Archive Research) which we then submitted to an independent investigative police team working under former English police Chief Constable, Jon Boucher.

Only in June 2020 did the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) refer files on seven former MRF soldiers to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) although the British justice system has failed to hold any to account yet.

Williams' name had to be on one of those files as I proved he was directly responsible for several

serious shooting incidents, but he has escaped justice once and for all. He goes to his grave with many of the UK's secrets regarding its dirty war in Ireland.

That suits the British government and its armed forces but leaves victims and survivors bereft of truth and justice.

Clive Graham Williams (British Army number 24031479) received a decorated soldier's funeral, having risen to the rank of Major following an exchange with the Royal Military Police (RMP) in Britain and the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police (RACMP) in the 1980s.

Lieutenant Colonel Craig Kingston of the Australian Army gave a coffin-side oration at Williams' funeral:

"Taff has many RMP highlights and the most notable being the award of the Military Medal when serving... in Northern Ireland in the 1970s. Today's not the occasion to detail the circumstances of how Taff was awarded the Military Medal, however it is the day to detail why a

Military Medal is bestowed on an individual. It is awarded to personnel for bravery in battle, for acts of gallantry and devotion, to duty under fire... Taff did not speak often about his medal and many who knew him in later years had no idea about his past, such as his humility".

Normally, the circumstances of the award of such a prestigious Military Medal would be the centre-piece of any British military commemoration, but, as I discovered over a decade ago, Williams' Military Medal was recorded in the London Gazette of 3 October 1972.

The reason for Lieutenant Colonel Kingston's tasteless nudge-nudge-wink-wink about Williams' MM citation may be because it covered the period when Williams and his death-squad were shooting unarmed civilians on the streets of Belfast.

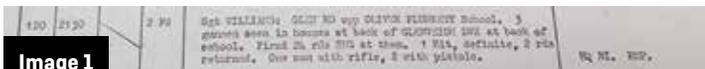
Williams did not talk about the circumstances of his MM as it would have left him open to prosecution for serial murders and attempted murders.

In my published research, I redacted his name and the other MRF shooters named in the files to ensure I facilitated the work of the families' legal teams.

On 6 May 1972, then Sergeant Williams is named in relation to a report of the MRF sighting and firing upon 3 alleged gunmen beside Oliver Plunkett School in West Belfast. That area of Glen Road was a favoured hunting ground for Williams and his death squad.

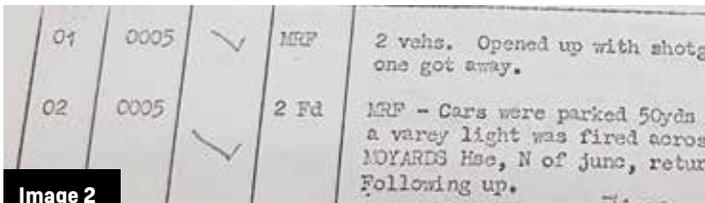


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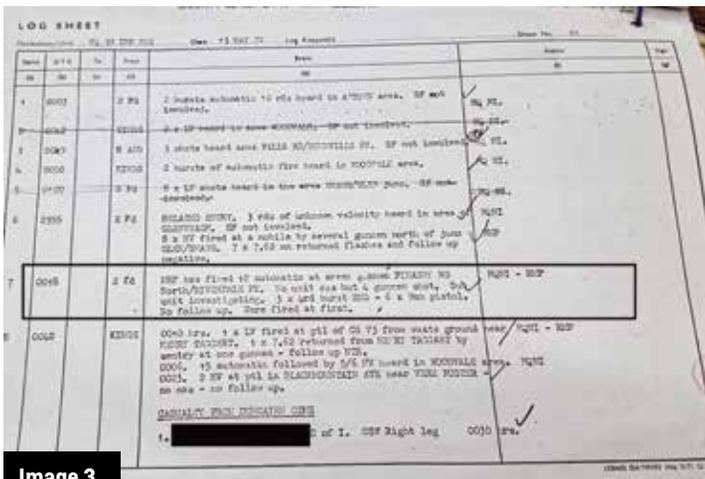


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charges of unlawful possession against Williams and McGregor were dropped. Williams was then acquitted of attempted murder after a pitifully brief trial. The judge who presided over the trial was a former member of the British Special Forces.



In 2010, I tracked the MRF's Commander, then retired Brigadier James Alastair McGregor to his home in Broadstairs, Kent, but he did not want to engage with me about his tenure as MRF commander.



The architect of the MRF, General Sir Frank Kitson (retired), is still alive as well.

Writers such as David Burke and me, have examined how Kitson provided the blueprint for the British Army's dirty war in Ireland throughout the conflict. We can trace the evolution of Kitson's gangs and counter-gangs - created to terrorize the Irish Catholic community - from the MRF to collusion with Loyalist extremists.

It is signposted by the bodies of dead civilians.

Just this week, the Office of the Police Ombudsman released a horrifying report detailing how the Royal Ulster Constabulary armed and managed Loyalist, sectarian killers in South Belfast in the 1980s and 1990s. One of the atrocities perpetrated by these police agents was the Sean Graham's Bookies Massacre 30 years ago which claimed the lives of five civilians, including two teenagers.

The 39 Brigade Commander's Diary records that the MRF fired 24 rounds from a submachine gun and claimed "1 hit definite". It alleged that the gunmen had a rifle and 2 pistols, and fired two rounds in return. [See image 1 above]

Williams and his unit had not hit a gunman. Williams had just shot and badly injured an 18-year-old unarmed teenager.

The following night, an MRF patrol in the same area alleged it was fired again and that they returned fire, claiming one definite hit. [See image 2 above]. Lies again. The MRF had blasted and nearly killed a 15-year-old boy who was walking home from the local disco.

A few nights later, just after midnight, 13th May 1972, the MRF attacked local residents in nearby streets minutes apart. The neighbours were manning local vehicle checkpoints to protect the area from attack. [See image 3 above].

A teenager was shot by the MRF whilst alighting from a taxi at one checkpoint in Slievegallion and a few minutes later the MRF alleged that it shot at seven gunmen in Riverdale.

Again, there were no gunmen, just a group of local unarmed civilians – easy targets for the British Army death squad. The MRF shot five men, murdering one. Patrick McVeigh was a married man with six children.

The British Army admitted no responsibility for the shooting but informed the media that there was a gun battle which was disputed by the local parish priest. Then, British Army PR told the media that the attempted mass murder was "an apparent motiveless crime" and only admitted it involved its troops many weeks later.

At the time of his death, Clive Graham Williams was wanted for questioning for this murder and

attempted mass murder too.

He escaped justice for another attempted mass murder of unarmed civilians a few weeks later, although he was questioned and brought before the court, albeit a pro-state British court that was heavily weighted against the innocent civilians.

Around midday on 22nd June 1972, Williams and his MRF death squad attacked the bus terminus on the Glen Road just beyond Oliver Plunkett School. Taxi drivers and their customers used the terminus too.

A British Army spokesperson originally told the Belfast Telegraph that "Our men were not involved in this shooting at all."

The British Army denials began to unravel within hours and Army PR then told reporters that "A group of men standing at the bus terminus opened fire" on a British Army "mobile patrol wearing plain clothes and on surveillance duty." It claimed that the covert unit "returned fire."

Lies again. The MRF shot four unarmed civilians who were lucky to escape with their lives. An infamous court case ensued in May 1973 and named Clive Graham Williams as the shooter.

It was subsequently proved that he had fired a non-standard-issue Thompson submachine gun (then favoured by the Irish Republican Army). This gun belonged to Captain James Alastair McGregor, leader of the MRF at the time, who was also in the vehicle. It was a World War II trophy belonging to his father, also called James Alastair McGregor, a founding father of the Special Air Service.

The bullets for the gun came from Royal Ulster Constabulary stores.

Despite the facts of the case, civilian witness testimony and a litany of previous MRF attacks recorded in British military and police logs,