

South of the border (occasional snippets from)

Nick Must

Soldier F, 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment

There was quite a furore when leader of the SDLP in the House of Commons, Colum Eastwood MP, used Parliamentary Privilege to name the member of 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment who was involved in the shootings of Bloody Sunday and is currently known as 'Soldier F'. But Soldier F has been identified before – you just needed to connect the dots.

Writing in *The Spectator* on 2 July, Douglas Murray reminded us that Soldier F had killed at least four people – one of whom was teenager Michael Kelly.¹ This fact had first been established at the Saville Inquiry in 2003, with *BBC news* reporting:

'Soldier F agreed at the Saville Inquiry on Thursday that he killed four people, but insisted he did not murder them. [. . . .]

Soldier F admitted killing Michael Kelly, Barney McGuigan and Paddy Doherty and an unidentified man in Glenfada Park.'²

In 2011, an entry on the *Belfast Diary* blog named the soldier who killed Michael Kelly.³

King's College, London, Department of War Studies

Robin Ramsay mentions the War Studies department of King's College, London, in this issue's *View from the Bridge*. It is, undoubtedly, one of the

¹ 'The case against Soldier F'
<<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-case-against-soldier-f>>.

² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/3158156.stm>

³ The UK government seems to be censoring access to the blog for those in the UK. I am based in Mexico and can open the link to the page but it doesn't open if accessed in the UK. Instead a message appears: 'In response to a legal request submitted to Google, we have removed this post.'

However I have been able to use the facility of Archive.org to provide a version that is accessible via the UK at <<https://tinyurl.com/5v2n9pee>> or <https://web.archive.org/web/20210802191647/https://belfastdiary.blogspot.com/2011/07/normal-0-false-false-false-en-us-x-none_05.html>.

most (if not the most) spook infested university departments in the UK.⁴ Its staff profile pages total 397 lecturers, visiting professors, research associates and PhD students.⁵ Among the luminaries are the *Daily Telegraph's* Con Coughlin, who is a Senior Visiting Fellow.⁶ His profile is light on any detail, especially his relationship with MI6. Enter 'Coughlin' into the search engine on *Lobster's* home page and you'll get the fuller drift.

Many of the ex-spooks are quite open about their past employment. Take, for example, Dr Gerhard Conrad PhD – Visiting Professor in Intelligence Studies who, 'is a former senior member of the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND)'.⁷

Mr Keith Beaven, a Visiting Research Fellow, is more circumspect. His profile merely states that:

'[he] served in the Foreign Office from 1983 until 2016, focusing on counter-terrorism from 2007 onward. He was Director Counter Terrorism from 2012-2016, sitting on the CONTEST board and managing overseas CT effort during a period of intense challenge in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Prior to this he had postings in Mexico, Pretoria and Oslo, and worked in London on Africa, Counter-Proliferation and policy for the Intelligence Services Act among other issues.'⁸

Frankly, if it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck

Deaths in police custody

On 29 June a police officer was found to be responsible for the death of a person in custody for the first time in more than 30 years. As the *BBC* report on the conviction of PC Benjamin Monk for the manslaughter of former Aston Villa football player Dalian Atkinson noted,

'Although there have been 10 murder or manslaughter charges brought against police officers since 1990, those accused have all either been acquitted or the case has collapsed.'⁹

⁴ I hedge my bets because of the continued existence of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies. <<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/>>

⁵ <<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/warstudies/about/people?page=1>>

⁶ <<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/con-coughlin>>

⁷ <<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/gerhard-conrad>>

⁸ <<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/keith-beaven>>

⁹ <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-57603091>>

The sustained attack that Monk carried out included not only deploying his taser for 33 seconds ('more than six times the standard deployment'¹⁰) but also kicking the prone man – '[who] was suffering an acute mental health crisis' – twice in the head. When he was initially questioned about the incident, Monk claimed he had only kicked the prone man once. However, he later had to accept he had done it twice because of the shoelace imprints from his police issue boots that were found on Atkinson's scalp.

For the family of Dalian Atkinson, the forensic evidence correctly proved the clear culpability of the state. *Lobster* readers of a certain age will recall that this has not been the case for Patrick Quinn, who died while in custody at Hammersmith Police Station on Christmas Eve 1990. As articles by Jane Affleck and Mark Metcalf have detailed, Malcolm Kennedy was fitted up for the crime.¹¹

There is the distinct possibility that more will come to light regarding the police's attitude to Malcolm Kennedy and the campaign to clear his name. The Undercover Policing Inquiry is going to hear, eventually, hear from the Special Demonstration Squad officer codenamed HN15 – real name Mark Jenner¹² – who, amongst other tasks, spied on the Colin Roach Centre in Hackney, East London, where the 'Free Malcolm Kennedy Campaign Justice for Patrick Quinn' was based.

Although the likelihood of any such revelations is still months (if not years) away,¹³ one document has already been released to the inquiry that proves there was Special Branch/SDS interest in the campaign to clear Malcolm Kennedy's name. It is an 'Event Proforma' written by DCI Keith Edmondson in late March of 1996 that includes the forthcoming dates and times for a 'picket' at the Royal Courts of Justice during what was to be an unsuccessful appeal against his conviction by Malcolm Kennedy. DCI Edmondson also stated:

'The Kennedy supporters have proved themselves to be boisterous during their pickets at Hammersmith, but there has not been any disorder. There is no reason to expect their behaviour to change during the appeal, so public order problems are unlikely. The picket will rarely exceed a dozen

¹⁰ <<https://tinyurl.com/tkjhh2uk>> or <<https://www.thejusticegap.com/dalian-atkinson-first-officer-convicted-of-manslaughter-in-modern-era-of-policing/>>

¹¹ See Jane Affleck in *Lobsters* 39, 41, 43, 45, 49 and 59 and Mark Metcalf in *Lobster* 67.

¹² <<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2013/mar/01/police-spy-fictional-character>>

¹³ 'The Tranche 1 (Phase 3) evidence hearings are due to start on 9 May 2022 after being moved from October 2021. In this set of hearings, the Inquiry will primarily hear from SDS managers (1968-1982).' <<https://www.ucpi.org.uk/hearings/>>

members at any one time.¹⁴

A non-political, peaceful justice campaign that would be small but was of interest to Special Branch

¹⁴ <<https://www.ucpi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MPS-0246124.pdf>>