



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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# An t-Áisionad

## [Upper Springfield Resource Centre]

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Guthán: 228928/243448

Mr. C.J. Haughey,  
Taoiseach,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

30/6/87

A Chara,

Enclosed are a selection of statements taken from people who have been recently raided by the British army and RUC in the Ballymurphy area.

The nature of these blanket raids, following a pattern of earlier years, is clearly an attempt to intimidate the entire community and dole out collective punishment in a locality suspected by the British of supporting Sinn Féin. The fact that this latest series of raids came immediately on the heels of the elections would further strengthen this belief.

Once again, it is a measure of how nothing has changed as a result of the Anglo-Irish or any other accord. There is no difference between the lot of nationalists in 1972 and the lot of nationalists in 1987. With the formidable array of technology now available to the British, it is absolutely unnecessary, even from their point of view, to smash back doors, rip up floors and pull down ceilings and stud walls, smash toilets, rip carpets to pieces and tear wallpaper off walls, turn crippled invalids out of their beds, empty closets and wardrobes all over the floors, to determine whether or not guns or explosives are hidden somewhere. This type of destruction, all too familiar to us in the North, is nothing more than the state-sanctioned actions of licensed thugs.

During our last meeting with Fianna Fáil deputies and yourself, we were asked to keep you informed of developments. Hence these statements. Once again we reiterate that we do not accept for a single moment that any just solution to our difficulties, in the short or long term, can be found within a British context. We are not British, We know it and they know it. The only way they can keep us 'British' is by continuous mass repression, which of course is ultimately counter-productive.

Is me le dea-mhein,

Ciarán De Baróid.

Ciarán De Baróid.

**National Archives Act, 1986, Regulations, 1988**

**ABSTRACTION OF PART(S) OF A RECORD PURSUANT TO REGULATION 8**

Form to be completed and inserted in the original record  
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- (i) Reference number of the separate cover under which the abstracted part has been filed: **S230/08/05/0031M**
- (ii) How many documents have been abstracted: **1**
- (iii) The date of each such document: **30 June 1987**
- (iv) The description of each document: **Personal information**
- (v) Number of pages: **12**

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- (v) Reason(s) why the part has been abstracted for retention:

**Section 8 (4) (a) (b) & (c) of the National Archives Act, 1986**

[These will be the reasons given on the certificate under section 8(4)]

**Name:** *Elaine Kelly*

**Grade:** Assistant Principal Officer

**Department/Office/Court:** Taoiseach's Department

**Date:** *11 September 2017*

[REDACTED]

On Thursday 18th June 1987 around 4.00pm my husband [REDACTED] answered a rap to the front door. About 14 Soldiers and 1 R.U.C. Man entered the house with a sniffer-dog, boxes of equipment, spades, metal detector, hydraulic drill and crow-bars.

[REDACTED] had just woke and when he realised there was a dog in the house became very frightened. I told the Brit dog-handler to get the dog out as my child was afraid, he replied 'Shift him' (the child) 'the dog is staying'!

I explained to the raiding party that we had just moved into the house and that the contents did not belong to us but the previous occupiers. I told them that we were minding the stuff, that they could not touch it until I had contacted the owner. At this they phoned through for transport and requested that a policewoman also be sent to take me to Castlereagh, because they said I was refusing to co-operate. We did manage to contact The previous owner when he arrived the Brit radioed through and cancelled the transport.

Just before [REDACTED] the previous owner arrived the Brits encircled myself, my husband and child in the livingroom and asked us the routine questions about arms, explosives, etc., and told us if we got in the way while they were searching we would be arrested.

During the course of the search hammers were used upstairs, the furniture was thrown about the rooms as well as clothes and other belongings scattered everywhere. The carpets were ripped up as well as floor-boards and were not replaced. A sheet of glass was also broken. The stair carpet was torn, and they ripped the lino in the bathroom when it was removed to allow them to try and dig a hole in the concrete floor.

Holes were dug in the garden and concrete flower-pots were over turned out the back. At the front of the house they tipped over an old-oak barrel which had flowers planted in it and then smashed it to pieces.

They also raided the shed and threw everything about the place and just left it in a shambles. Nothing at all was found during the raid which lasted roughly 3 hours.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The raiding party called up to our door at 9.00am on Friday the 18th June 1987. We were all in bed, my husband, myself and the two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. A friend of my husband who was down from Dublin was also staying in the house with us.

We were ordered out of our beds and told to wait in the back kitchen before they began searching.. They tore the bottom of the arm chair there! (pointing to a chair in the kitchen) and also the lining along its side. The fire hearth was smashed on one side. A wall speaker belonging to my record player was prised open. The tiles in the kitchen were pulled off the wall, about ten altogether. A hole was punctured underneath the staircase. They also broke two air vents up in the bedrooms and then finished off with the skirting-board at the front of the house. The Dublin visitor had his car searched as well. It was parked at the front of the house.

The raiding party, which was made up of two policemen and ten British Soldiers, pulled out all the seats of [REDACTED] car. They also took the keys of the house with them which I had hanging on the back door. I still haven't had them returned! Then to crown things of my husband [REDACTED] was taken into custody at 2.30pm and wasn't released until the following evening, around 8pm.

[REDACTED]

On June 18th 1987, my wife and I were minding my mothers house. My mother who is a pensioner and has my widowed sister living with her was attending Clonard Novena at the time: When my 7 year old daughter came running in from the back garden to tell us that there were police all around the house. Then the front door was rapped and I opened it to be confronted with 4 policemen who demanded entrance. They said they had been authorised to search the premises. I explained to them that we were not the Householders and could not let them in but they pushed past me anyway, Then another team came in the back door, a couple of them were wearing overalls and carrying tool boxes and crow-bars. One of the policemen said that I could accompany thn searching officer on his search but there were 5-6 of them searching rooms at once, So it was impossible for me to keep an eye on them.

They went from room to room lifting floor boards and pulling out panels. They questioned me about my sisters and literature i.e. Republican News, an American newspapers and stuff about the Hunger Strikers. I told them that they had better ask my sisters about themselves as I was only entitled to answer questions about myself but they persisted, they eventually gave up.

They searched for about an hour and a half without giving any reason for the search, as they were leaving my mother came in and we had to calm her down and give her a sedative as she had previously suffered two heart attacks and a stroke. Nothing was found and when I looked around the house to check if any damage was done I couldn't see any, so I signed the no complaints form, it was only afterwards that I discovered thnat there was a large hole underneath the stairs and a large peice of plaster lying on the floor. By then it was too late to make a complaint. Therefore we will be unable to claim compensation' for the damages.

[REDACTED]

1st Raided on Thursday 18th June.

At about 3.30pm. eight R.U.C. Men came into my home. There was about eight Brit and R.U.C. jeeps outside. The R.U.C. Men then searched my house for about 1½ hours. They looked through drawers and at personal letters and photos. They also dug a hole in my back garden.

2nd Raid took place on Saturday 20th June at 8.30am.

At about 8.30am. four brit army jeeps arrived outside my house. I thought to myself 'No not again'. Roughly 8-10 Brits came into my home along with one R.U.C. Man and a Brit dog handler with a large sniffer dog. The dog was brought into the back of my house and then into every room in the house, including the childrens bedrooms! They then started to search the whole house from top to bottom. My husband asked if he could watch them search upstairs but they refused. My husband asked the R.U.C. Man then, but he also refused. We both knew this was illegal but what could we do! They then came down stairs and wrecked my fireplace. After that they went out to the back garden and lifted timbers and tiles, which they broke. They also destroyed a small garden wall I have. The back was left in a terrible mess. when they were searching the bathroom they also destroyed my bath panel. The search party left at 12.15pm, about three and half hours after they arrived. This has been our fourth raid since September 1986.



Two policemen and a bout twelve British Soldiers called up to the house on June 26th at about 9.00pm. They said they had a warrant to search the house but wouldn't show it when I asked them for it. My self and the two children were here when they called. They asked us the usual questions and brought in their searching gear

They began to bore a hole in the corner of the front living-room with a pickaxe. They put three holes in my baby's bedroom and also put a hole in the wall. Floor-boards were pulled up in another two bedrooms.

One of the policemen began to question my seven year old daughter while I was told to wait in one of the bedrooms. My daughter was very frightened with all this questioning and because I had been forced to go upstairs. My daughter was very nervous and I asked that she could go next door to a neighbours house. They said she could but she would only be allowed over the back wall. I argued with them until she was allowed to go out through the front door.

When they left my back door key was missing. I phoned around the local Police Stations until they were able to find the raiding party that had taken the key. It was returned that night. I wanted to protest about my daughter being questioned on her own but what's the use, sure they would do nothing about it.

Nothing was found during the raid. Two days before this I had applied to the Northern Ireland Office for a visiting permit to see my brother who is in Brixton prison.



●  
██████████  
██████████

On Saturday 20th June 1987 roughly 8 Brits and one cop arrived at 9.00am, to search the house. They asked some questions before entering the house and Eileen was advised to go and get any valuables before the search began.

On entering the house one attempted to go upstairs and one into the livingroom. ██████████ told the Brit going upstairs to wait until her teenage daughter was out of bed and dressed. We were put under house arrest and the boys were taken. They then came in with a green box which looked like a metal detector with a large mike coming out of it.

On entering the bathroom they busted the pipe casing with a crowbar.

They also wanted to know if there were any pets, I replied 'yes', would you like their names and dates of birth. I then told them we had two dogs. They then went upstairs followed by my husband ██████████ who heard them hammering as he went into the bedroom he noticed them hammering at the vent. When ██████████ asked them what they were looking for, the Brit replied that guns had been found in places like that before. ██████████ replied there were no guns there and if he pulled the vent out the wall would collapse.

The raid lasted for four and a half hours and nothing was found.

On Thursday 18th June at approximately 1.15pm I answered a knock to my front door and was confronted by nine R.U.C. Men, some of which were wearing over-alls and carrying tool boxes, and was told that they had come to search.

During the search, which lasted 2 hours, they lifted floorboards in all the bedrooms and did not replace them. They also destroyed our livingroom carpet, which they insisted on lifting even though the floor beneath is concreat!

Damage was also caused in my back garden where they used sledgehammers and pick-axes to dig up flagstones, and most of these were smashed to peices

When leaving I was not given a complaints form to complete, and I was so upset at the damages caused that I did not think to quirie them on the matter.

Nothing was found during the search.

[REDACTED]

On Saturday 20th June at around 3.00pm seven R.U.C. Men came in to my house. They started asking for the names and dates of birth of all my children. I asked why they wanted them but they didn't reply. My husband said they probably wanted to know when they came of age, so they could keep an eye on them.

They went up stairs followed by my husband, where they started lifting the floorboards which they didn't put back. They also broke the door of the wardrobe. The key was on the op but they didn't ask, they just beat it open with a hammer. The bedrooms were wrecked, everything was turned up-side down. After searching the house and finding nothing they then searched the back garden. They found nothing there either but it was a shambles."

They stayed about 1½ hours then left. My husband asked about the damages but they just said someone would be out, to date no one has called.



On Thursday 18th June 1987 at about 3.00pm, 9 R.U.C. Men entered my home and started searching. They went into the kitchen and started pulling out the drawers; one R.U.C. Man swung the drawer and hit my husband leaving a large gash in his back and said " I hope that hurt ye, you c---t! I went mad at this and had to be restrained.

They also ripped the lino in the sitting room and ripped the back of all the chairs in the suite! All the beauty-board was pulled off the kitchen wall and they put a hole in the fridge freezer..

Up stairs they pulled the wall paper off the walls, ripped the carpet in my bedroom and on the stairs. They also broke the childrens toys: a large childrens tea set included.

I tried to explain that one of my children was in the hospital suffering from Salmonella poisoning but the R.U.C. Man just replied "I don't give a f--k! as a result we missed our visit..

They also broke the leg of my bed. They were very cheeky the whole time they were here. They even hit the T.V. and washing machine with a hammer, my husband had to stop them before they smashed them!

They left after a period of two hours, having found nothing.

[REDACTED]

The raiding party came up to our house at 8.45am. There was one R.U.C. Officer and about twelve Brits. They just knocked on the door and as soon as my wife opened it they walked by the began to search. One of them asked me the usual questions but didn't show me any warrant.



They split up and searched different parts of the house. We were not allowed to accompany them as they searched. We were all told to remain in the sitting-room. I could hear the bedrooms up-stairs being wrecked. There, they broke the top part of the wardrobe in my daughters room, tore back the carpet in one of the corners and smashed the floor boards with pick-axes.

In another of the bedrooms the ceiling was destroyed with crow-bar holes, about ten altogether, carpet and floor-boards were badly damaged in this room also.

Some of them started in the Bathroom, they began pulling tiles of the wall and the toilet bowl up from the floor. The air vent in the kitchen was also broken and a clothes rack in the corner was also mmashed.

I could see no reason why they literally smashed into peices this wee crystal plate (shows me peices of glass in box). This plate was in memory of [REDACTED] who was shot by the Brits in the early 70's.

The raiding party left at about 12.15pm.

  
They came at 09.16am, on Saturday 20th June. There were eight in all, 6 Brits and 2 R.U.C. Men. When they entered  became very nervous and had to leave; while they started searching.

They lifted floor-boards up stairs, I could only hear this at the time as I wasn't allowed to accompany them on the search. They also dug a large hole in the kitchen floor and put a small hole in the kitchen ceiling. It wasn't until they had left, that we noticed that the wardrobe door was removed and broken. When I went up stairs I found the carpets were ruined for when they pulled them up they didn't remove the nails; leaving frayed lines the length of the carpets.

The 6 Brits conducted thn search while the R.U.C. Men looked on. Just as they were leaving one of thn Brits tipped over the hanging flower pot in the hall leaving soil all over the hall carpet. They found nothing.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

I have been raided three times since Christmas. The first time was in early January. That time they broke a leg of the chair, pulled the tiles of the wall and damaged some floor-boards up stairs in one of the bedrooms.

The second time they raided my home was on the 10th April. During this raid they broke three floor boards up stairs.

The latest raid was on Thursday the 18th May. \_\_\_\_\_ who is handicapped, was on her own in the house when the raiding party called. The party consisted of twelve policemen. During the raid they pulled tiles off the wall in both the toilet and the kitchen. They also pulled up floor boards in the little storage room upstairs, leaving a big hole. Holes were also dug in the back garden.

The raiding party had arrived at about 9.20am. I came back to the house at about 11.15am. to find my daughter in an awful state, and it was obvious that the police had made no effort at all to comfort her. They left at about twelve o'clock. Nothing was found.