



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Fatal shooting at Drumnakilly, on the Omagh-Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone, 30 August 1988

Three people were shot dead by the security forces at Drumnakilly about 4 miles from Omagh on the Omagh-Carrickmore road at roughly 4 pm yesterday. The three have been named by Sinn Fein as Gerard and Martin Harte (brothers) from nearby Loughmacrory and Brian Mullan from Sixmilecross. Sinn Fein described the men as "republicans . . . courageous and committed . . . who had paid a heavy price for peace in Ireland." The IRA have not yet issued a statement.

The only British statement so far is a RUC statement that "soldiers had encountered armed men in a vehicle and opened fire. Two rifles were recovered from the scene. None of the security force personnel was injured."

We have asked for the fullest information in the Secretariat and are awaiting a reply this morning.

Information in the local area is scanty and possibly unreliable. The following are the main items we have gleaned from contacts at this stage.

Were the men members of the IRA?

It is believed they were. The Sinn Fein statement strongly suggests the same.

Were the men armed and on an active service mission?

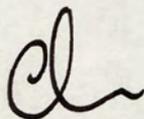
It is believed they were. The hijacked car, a white Ford Sierra, was owned by an Omagh shop and driven at the time by a sales representative accompanied by his two young children. He made a business call at a house about 700 yards from the scene of the fatal incident. He was confronted by three armed and masked men who demanded his car. They broke all the windows of the car with rifle butts, climbed in and appeared to mount a gun on the back seat. They drove off at high speed. Within a minute, gunfire was heard.

Did the men fire on the security forces?

Uncertain. The RUC statement refers to the soldiers having "encountered armed men in a vehicle and opened fire."

Was there a lorry at the scene?

Yes. Some accounts say that the lorry was pulled across the road and was part of a set-up. Others suggest that the driver, who is rumoured to be an off-duty member of the security forces, may have been the target.



Anglo-Irish Section  
31 August 1988, 11am

cc PSM  
Mr. Gallagher  
Counsellors