DUNMANWAY ETHNIC CLEANSING

From: DFTZPTRK@tcd.ie  
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2012 15:27:10 +0000  
Subject: Re: Irish Political Review articles on Dunmanway - November and December 2012  
  
Dear Jeff,  
Thanks for keeping me up to date – I admire your patience in continuing to engage with these scurrilous characters. My own feeling is that little more can usefully be said about the motives of the killers, and that the more productive approach to ‘ethnic cleansing’ is to investigate Protestant responses rather than republican attitudes.  
With best wishes for a blog-free Christmas,  
David.

On 12/12/2012 19:44, "Jeff Dudgeon" <jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com> wrote:

David  
  
The attached items are mostly from November's Irish Political Review and include 'Some Comments' on Dunmanway. Don't know if I sent them before or if you have a copy.   
  
However there is a reply to me (my original is attached) from Barry Keane in the new December issue re BMH (his also attached - two pages), and Part II of Brendan Clifford's 'Prying out Sectarianism' article which is partly another attack on me (Part I attached).   
  
I hope to get round to a reply to Clifford in the New Year but don't expect to be able to answer his more exaggerated assertions. I was a minor, under-informed player in the CEC in the 1980s.  
  
Keane's reply is needlessly abusive and hard to follow. It also seems to contradict or adjust his earlier view on Dunmanway.   
  
He seems now to say Peter Hart was wrong because he wrote that the attacks were random and sectarian, whereas Keane now says they were targeted, and sectarian (if uncharacteristic) IRA attacks - but not of the systematic ethnic cleansing type in the north where Catholic casualties were double Protestant (which, I note, roughly reflect the differential population strengths).   
  
Keane had been actually quite reasonable previously, and produces interesting details on his website. I note he is a Fine Gael representative which may explain Clifford's less than flattering remarks.  
  
If this is what Keane now believes, he seems to have no great reason for continuing to disrespect Peter as a 'distorter'.  
  
The other shift I noticed is from Clifford/IPR where he says they are closing the issue down as nobody has produced any evidence as to who the culprits really are. Perhaps they feel the spotlight is turning more clearly to the IRA, as a number of people whittle down the alternatives.  
  
A thought however recently struck me, so obvious was it, I was surprised.   
  
Is it not quite possible that the attack on the Hornibrook house was not the trigger for the later murders but the first act in a planned series of targeted, (largely) sectarian, revenge attacks on loyal elements? That is the series that proceeded in the following days.  
  
I note the Hornibrooks had suffered previous 'economic' attacks, while arriving at a house in the middle of the night is not credible if a search for a motor car was the object. The IRA obviously tried to obfuscate and gain sympathy after O'Neill was shot dead but could it be they were so successful as to get people to miss the most comprehensible fact: that the Hornibrook raid was not the spark, but the fire?  
  
Would you agree or contemplate this? Is there any evidence to conform or deny this or is there just no evidence, inquests aside.  
  
I hope your *History* article and indeed anything to come in History Ireland (like a pending letter of mine) advance matters.   
  
I see a useful response to Regan in the Dublin Review of Books by Eve Morrison - <http://www.drb.ie/reviews/reply-to-john-regan>  
  
Regards   
  
Jeff