

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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Gibraltar

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Sad are three homes in Belfast now
Old Ireland shares their sorrow
Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage, and Daniel McCann
They died on the streets of Gibraltar

They flew out of Belfast with an ambitious plan
To continue the struggle to free Ireland
Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Daniel McCann
And they died on the streets of Gibraltar

cho: Sad are three homes in Belfast now
Old Ireland shares their sorrow
As they walked in the sun the Brits drew their guns
And blood stained the streets of Gibraltar

The SAS stood there so proud of their deed
Three more freedom fighters lay dead in the street
They've been given no warning no chance to retreat
For three had to die in Gibraltar

The tune used for this song is the same as "Glencoe"

All notes below including all parentheses giving the background to the song are copied and pasted from the CAIN website with the exception of the last (1995) entry which comes from 'Republican News'.

Sunday 6 March 1988

Three unarmed Irish Republican Army (IRA) were shot dead by undercover members of the Special Air Service (SAS) in Gibraltar. [The episode sparked intense controversy and began a chain of events that lead to a series of deaths in Northern Ireland. The British government claimed that the SAS shot the IRA members because they thought a bomb was about to be detonated. Eyewitnesses claimed that those shot were given no warning.]

Tuesday 8 March 1988

A car believed to belong to those killed in Gibraltar was found in Marbella and was discovered to contain 140 pounds of high explosives.

Wednesday 16 March 1988

During the funerals, at Milltown Cemetery in Belfast, for the three Irish Republican Army (IRA) members killed in Gibraltar (6 March 1988) a Loyalist gunman, Michael Stone, launched a grenade and gun attack on mourners. Three

people were killed and 50 injured. The whole episode was recorded by television news cameras. The police and the army had withdrawn to avoid any confrontation with the mourners. Stone was chased to a nearby motorway where he was attacked by a number of mourners. The police arrived in time to save his life. The main loyalist paramilitary groups denied any involvement with Stone. One of those killed, Kevin Brady, was a member of the IRA.

Saturday 19 March 1988

During the funeral of Kevin Brady, killed at Milltown Cemetery (16 March 1988), a car approached the funeral procession at high speed. It was claimed by some present that they feared another attack by Loyalist gunmen. The car's passage was blocked and a group of the mourners attacked the two passengers. The two soldiers in plain clothes in a republican district of Belfast was never adequately explained.]

September 1995:

The European Court of Human Rights has found the British government guilty of violating Article Two of the European Convention, which protects a person's right to life. In the first decision of its kind against a government, the court stated that the British had failed to uphold "the standard expected of a democratic government" when they shot dead three IRA Volunteers in Gibraltar in 1988.

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