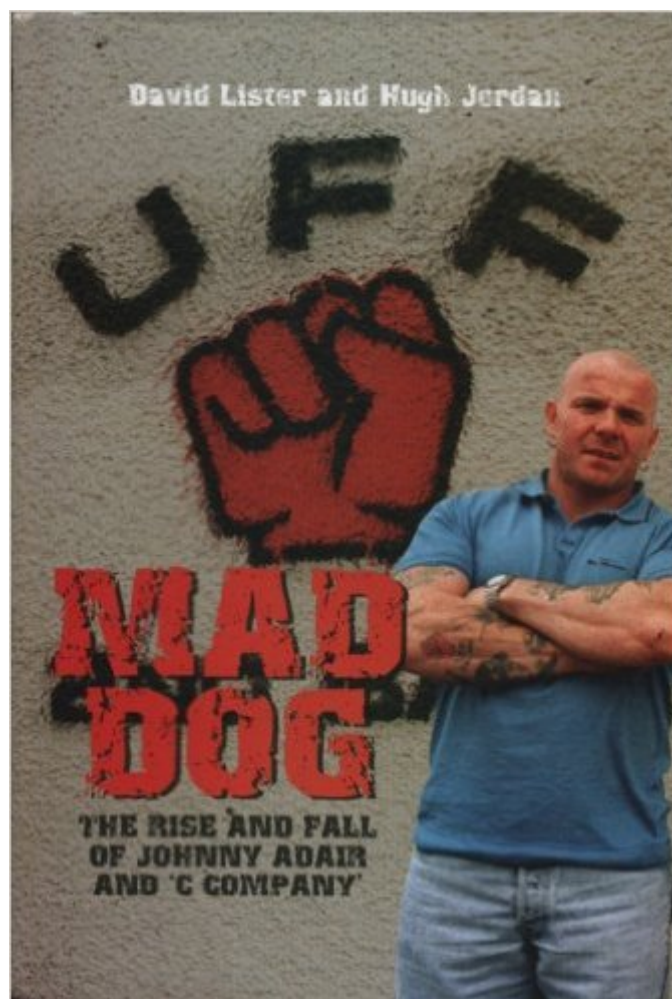


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Mad Dog



Synopsis

A mindless sectarian psychopath or a loyalist folk hero who took the war to the IRA's front door? The name Johnny "Mad Dog" Adair is synonymous with a killing spree by loyalist terrorists that took Northern Ireland to the brink of civil war. From humble beginnings as a rioter and glue-sniffer on Belfast's Shankill Road, Adair rose through the ranks of the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters to head its merciless killing machine, "C Company". Surrounded by a group of trusted friends, his reign of terror in the early 1990s claimed the lives of up to 40 Catholics, picked out at random as Adair's hitmen roamed Belfast. Determined to lead from the front, his men even fired a rocket at Sinn Féin's headquarters, writing themselves into loyalist mythology and embarrassing the IRA in its republican heartland. Its desperate attempts to kill Adair culminated in October 1993, when a bomb on the Shankill Road, intended for the loyalist godfather, claimed the lives of nine Protestant civilians. "Mad Dog" describes in graphic detail Adair's criminal empire and an egomaniac's bloody war against Catholics and anybody else who got in his way. Adair's friends and enemies talk for the first time about the murders he ordered, his sordid personal life, and his attempts - ultimately disastrous - to become Northern Ireland's supreme loyalist figurehead. Using sensational new material, the authors expose the mass murderers who did Adair's bidding and provide new insights into some of the biggest secrets of the Troubles, including the controversial murder of Patrick Finucane, the Catholic solicitor. With Adair back in jail until 2005, the final chapter of this story has yet to be written. One thing, however, is certain: we have not heard the last from a man who is unlikely to live out the rest of his life in obscurity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Mad Dog" is a detailed history of Johnny Adair, the leader of C Company, Ulster Defense Association (UDA) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The author has done a good job of interviewing those people closest to Adair, like former girlfriends, police officers, and fellow thugs. As a result, the reader gets a gripping depiction of one of the most prolific, low-life terrorists The Troubles produced. However, do not make the mistake of judging this book by the character it describes. True, Johnny Adair, a midget at only 5' 3", is a disgusting, pathetic figure. If it were not for The Troubles, which justified an outlet for his murders, this former punk rocker skinhead would have probably died sniffing glue or over-dosing on drugs. After reading this book, one can truly say there is absolutely no redeeming quality in Adair - he lived a self-serving life that brought misery to thousands and destroyed the lives of scores of innocent families. Importantly, from reading this account, we can see why the Protestant government of Northern Ireland and the British forces were unable to defeat the IRA or derail Sinn Féin. Supporting people like Johnny Adair only undermined their war efforts through his sectarian murders and indiscriminate terror. "Mad Dog" offers the reader a look inside Loyalist paramilitaries of Protestant Northern Ireland - including blatant collusion with British security forces and disturbing apathy by the Royal Ulster Constabulary - and it is not a pretty sight.

This book provides one of the clearest pictures of the man who is Johnny Adair. While other books chart the exploits of the terrorist cum gangster, none delve into the inner workings of Adair's mind like this book. An engrossing read into the world of militant Loyalism and the so called 'Godfather' who stage managed all manner of horrendous atrocities. One suspects (and to which the author alludes) that were it not for the time and place he was born/lived in, Adair probably wouldn't have amounted to much. As it was, fuelled by violence, hatred, sex and drugs and power he became a legend for all the wrong reasons and one that was ultimately despised by those to whom he played puppet master. One now wonders, just who was the puppet and who was the master.

Johnny Adair is an example of what can happen to individuals when they grow up in a society utterly debased by sectarian hatred and bigotry. A man devoid of virtually any sympathetic qualities, Adair nonetheless became a hero figure amongst the loyalist community in Northern Ireland in the early to mid 1990s, following his involvement in a series of brutal and utterly indiscriminate murders. This book does an excellent job at exposing Adair as a politically uninformed egomaniac, motivated by little more than a burning sectarian hatred for Roman Catholics, and lays bare the emptiness of his UFF C Company's ideology and tactics. So debased were Adair and his

associates that the more prosaic vices of drugs and extortion gradually came to mean more to them than even the thrill of sectarian murders, leading inevitably to Adair's exile by his erstwhile colleagues in the UDA. The dry tone of this book means that it is often a grinding effort to get through it, as we go from one senseless murder to another. Nonetheless, it is immaculate in its research and the sheer nihilism of Adair and his gang is evident in every page.

This was required reading for my last class. It was very difficult to follow due to the variation of English words used by the Irish authors. It did not have a chronological flow to it, but jumped back and forth. The protagonist is a terrorist. After reading and admittedly re-reading a couple of times, I finally got the gist of the book and it made sense. It eventually proved to be a great resource for understanding the UFF and their enemy the IRA. Not all terror organizations originate in the Middle East.

Not a bad biography of Adair, but somewhat biased in how it is written. It was very clear after the first few chapters that the authors had no respect for Adair, and took every opportunity to emphasize why.

THIS IS A GOOD OVERVIEW OF NORTHERN IRELAND DURING THE 80'S AND 90'S. IT GETS GOING GOOD WITH MR. OR SIR ADAIR AS A GLUE SNIFFING SKINHEAD AND THEN ROLLING ONTO HIS RAVE DAYS AND OF COURSE HIS SHOOTING, ROCKETING AND PILLAGING OF CATHOLIC NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS BOOK SHOWS THAT WHEN A MAN IS DEEPLY INSECURE AND TOTALLY UNTRUSTWORTHY AND ALSO HAPPENS TO HAVE ACCESS TO WEAPONS, THINGS GO FROM MANIC HIGHS TO DEPRESSIVE LOWS IN A FLASH. I MUST SAY I WAS DISGUSTED AT THE PETTY AND BRUTAL BEHAVIOR OF THESE SO CALLED COMRADES IN ARMS. THIS BOOK USES SEVERAL OF MR. ADAIR'S FORMER FRIENDS TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT SAD AND TRAGIC PEOPLE THEY WERE AND ARE, FOR BUYING INTO "THE ADAIR MYTH". A WELL DOCUMENTED AND YES "MUST READ" FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE WILD WILD WORLD OF BELFAST DURING THE TROUBLES.

Seems mine was swiped from a Northern Ireland library by the stampings - fitting I guess. Give a good view of the UDF side of the troubles.

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