

VOLUME 1 NO. 8

NCW

IN IRELAND

APRIL 1990 £1 INCL. VAT

MOUNTBATTEN'S LINK WITH KINCORA



TONY RYAN KIDNAP BID — NEW DETAILS

IRISH AIDS PRIEST TELLS HIS STORY



MOUNTBATTEN WAS "PART OF GAY RING WHICH WAS LINKED WITH KINCORA"

An English upper class gay network abused boys at orgies in Irish country homes and castles, according to new claims which link the vice ring with the notorious Kincora Boys Home in Belfast. The network included royal uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, the disgraced Keeper of the Queen's Pictures, Sir Anthony Blunt, and Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for Co Tyrone, Capt. Peter Montgomery.

BY FRANK DOHERTY AND JOHN BYRNE



Robert Harblinson Bryans, known to his friends as Robin, in the music room of his London home.

A member of one of the best-known Orange families in Northern Ireland, Robin Bryans, has claimed that leading British establishment figures were in a vice ring which abused boys from the notorious

Kincora Home in East Belfast. In a new revelation he says that boys at Enniskillen's public school, Portora Royal, were also assaulted and that Kincora is only a part of a much wider vice ring that dates

back decades. There is no suggestion that the school authorities at Portora Royal were aware of this. In an exclusive interview with NOW magazine, he says that the late Lord Louis Mountbatten, Captain Peter

Montgomery, a former intelligence officer from Northern Ireland, Sir Anthony Blunt, the infamous homosexual MI5 traitor and Peter England, a senior member of the British Secret Service (MI6) who

KINCORA ROYAL GAY LINK

served undercover at Stormont in the 1970s, were members of an old boy network which held gay orgies in country houses and castles on both sides of the Irish Border. Also linked with the Kincora scandal are the former head of the Secret Service (MI6) Sir Maurice Oldfield, who was later appointed Ulster Security Coordinator by Mrs Thatcher, and a leading Orangeman and former Unionist MP for South Antrim, the late Sir Knox Cunningham. While there is no evidence to show that Sir Maurice abused boys from Kincora, he was part of a ring which knew of its existence, and some of whose members were involved with the home.

Bryans, author of 17 books is better known by his pen-name, Robert Harbinson. He wrote for many years from London for The Irish Press under that name. He is a cousin of "Hellfire" Jack Bryans, the late Imperial Grand Master of the Orange Order.

In 1979, when Mrs Thatcher admitted that the Keeper of the Queen's Pictures, Sir Anthony Blunt, was a Soviet



Sir Anthony Blunt



Sir Maurice Oldfield, former head of MI6.

spy who had received a secret pardon, Robin Bryans was identified in British newspapers as the man who had revealed the truth about the spy to the satirical magazine Private Eye. Blunt and Bryans had been part of the London upper class gay scene for many years. Bryans claims he drew attention to the vice ring in 1972 when he wrote to various people in authority in London. He says any inquiry into Kincora should examine letters he sent in the early 1970s. NOW magazine has obtained, from a source other than Bryans, a copy of a letter sent by registered post on 26 September 1973.

It makes reference to "complaints I made to the police about a male prostitute called (name withheld here for legal reasons) blackmailing a millionaire in Belfast." Although there is no specific reference to Kincora Boys Home, it gives sufficient detail to make it clear a homosexual scandal existed in Belfast involving leading establishment figures in England. The letter is signed by Robin Bryans. He also claims that he specifically told a leading and powerful political figure at Westminster (whose

identity is known but who cannot be named here for legal reasons) about Kincora

in 1973 but that no action was taken. However, what is significant about Kincora is that British Intelligence knew about it since the 1970s.

Bryans stresses that Kincora is only a part of a much wider child-sex abuse scandal which dates back to the 1940s. He says this began when a friend of Sir Anthony Blunt, the late Alfred Arnold, became secretary to the Stormont Prime Minister, Sir Basil Brooke. Arnold, an Englishman played a key role in Northern Ireland affairs until 1967. He and Blunt had been at Cambridge University together.

"The Kincora thing will be covered up. I would love to go on talking if I thought it was going to come out, but it's not, because I know how the establishment

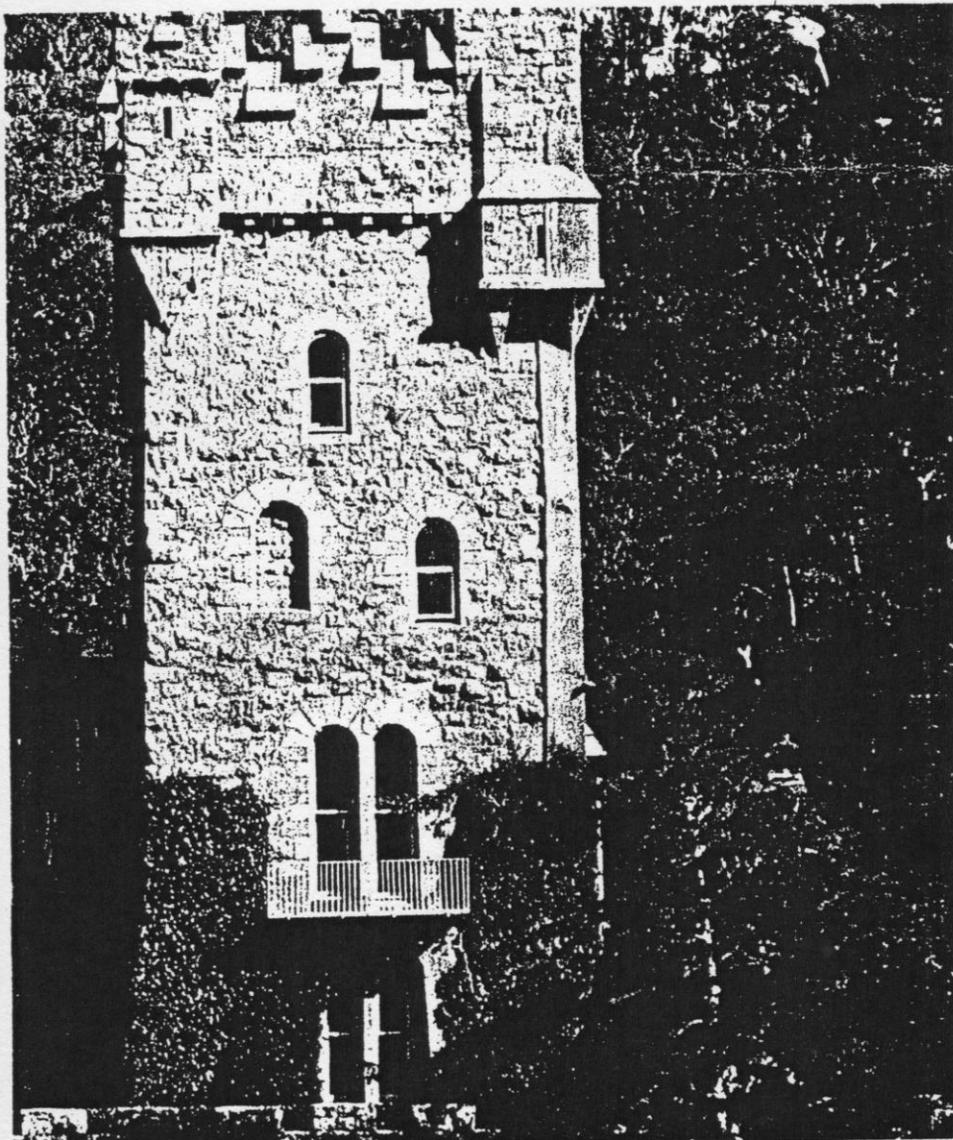


works," said Bryans. "Be careful of the word Kincora, because you are going to limit it. There were other homes involved. There were three homes. There was one for boys from 12 to 16, and then there was one for younger ones. Bryans says that boys from Portora Royal, Northern Ireland's most prestigious public school in Enniskillen were also abused. They were in demand by members of the upper class gay ring who preferred boys who were younger and of a higher social class than the teenage boys at Kincora. Bryans who knows a large number of intelligence officers through his links with Blunt and Capt Peter Montgomery, says that they are "always afraid something is going to come out in the Dublin papers." The first media reports that

Sir Maurice Oldfield, former head of the Secret Service, was gay appeared in Dublin. Later Mrs. Thatcher confirmed this in the Commons. According to Bryans, Sir Anthony Blunt, the infamous MI5 traitor, and other members of the vice ring regularly travelled from London to Ireland. "The gay scene was one of the reasons why Blunt loved Ireland. He often stayed at Blessing-Bourne; Captain Peter Montgomery's estate near Fivemiletown on the Tyrone-Fermanagh Border. Sometimes he stayed with the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn," said Bryans. There is no suggestion that the Duke or Duchess were involved in any way. Blunt met Peter Montgomery at Cambridge in the 1930s where they became lovers. While Blunt acquired

another Ulster lover, Belfast-born soldier John Gaskin, who lived with him for many years until his death, he and Peter Montgomery remained life-long friends. Montgomery, son of General Sir Hugh Montgomery, and a cousin of the wartime hero, Field Marshall Montgomery, was Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for Co Tyrone. He died two years ago. Montgomery, as Her Majesty's deputy lieutenant with an estate not far from the Mountbatten Irish home at Mullaghmore, Co Sligo, provided the link between Portora Royal School and Mountbatten. Montgomery was also the link with Kincora. "Most of the boys didn't actually go Classiebawn Castle (Mountbatten's Co Sligo home) they went to Henry McIlhenny's. He had

Glenveagh Castle, in Co. Donegal, which now belongs to the Irish nation," said Bryans. McIlhenny was a millionaire whose money came from Tabasco sauce and gas meters, according to Bryans. He was an active member of the vice ring until his death several years ago. As part of the Orange gay scene Peter Montgomery was friendly with another Cambridge old boy, Sir Knox Cunningham, the homosexual Unionist MP for South Antrim, with Loyalist paramilitary leader John McKeague and William McGrath, who was housemaster at Kincora. According to Bryans, Sir Knox Cunningham and Alfred Arnold in 1966 assisted McKeague to escape from a charge of molesting two boys. Sir Maurice Oldfield, was also a member of the gay network. Bryans and Oldfield often met at the Secret service chief's flat in London's West End. "Oh, yes. Marsham Street, I know the flat very well. That's where Blunt was interviewed too," he said in a reference to the confession Blunt made to MI5 there admitting he was a Soviet agent. According to Bryans, Lord Mountbatten and Oldfield were linked through their mutual friend, Labour MP Tom Driberg. Bryans says that despite Mrs Thatcher's claim that Sir Maurice had not been a practising homosexual while he was head of the Secret Service, Oldfield was an active gay until shortly before his death from stomach cancer. "He had this thing. Several of them had it. If Tom Driberg could go into Russell Square toilets (in West London) and pick up a boy at his age, then so can I. Blunt was the same. You see they loved danger, they adored danger so they said prayers (carried out a certain gay act) in this public toilet," said Bryans. He said Oldfield was over in Ireland many times before being appointed Ulster Security Coordinator. "You must understand that there are letters to Peter



KINCORA ROYAL GAY LINK



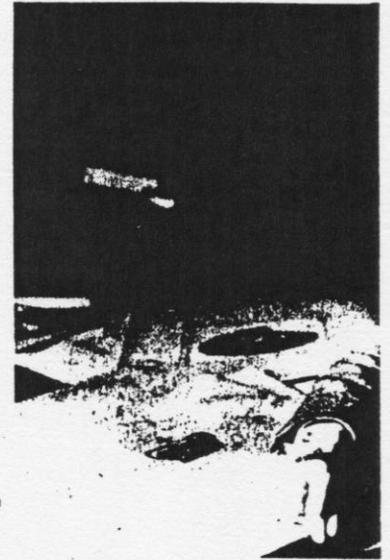
The royal uncle: Lord Louis Mountbatten

Montgomery and Anthony Blunt about Oldfield being there," said Bryans. Asked who wrote those letters he said: "I did. And Oldfield was alive at the time and read them, because they were handed over to him. That was in the Seventies when he went over there." Asked if he had copies of the letters, Bryans said: "They were all before the High Court. I was served with three gagging writs and later jailed for contempt because I insisted on talking out. But you see it eventually came out in *Private Eye* about Anthony Blunt, despite that. And now some of the stuff

about Kincora is coming out. "Be very careful. There are one or two people around Fleet Street who are trying to whitewash Oldfield and say, oh no, he didn't do these things. The only honest person about this is Tom Driberg. He gave some idea of what was going on on his book, *Ruling Passions*. "The main thing to do with covering up for Kincora was a man called Peter England. He's dead since about 1979. I knew him very well. He was Under Secretary or something quite high in the Northern Ireland Office at

Stormont. He was also in MI6 (the Secret Service)," said Bryans.

Peter England was appointed to the Northern Ireland Office in the 1970s but, like Sir Maurice Oldfield, his links to Northern Ireland pre-date this. He was a close friend of Alfred Arnold. He was, according to Bryans, charged with a sex offence in London after being arrested at a public toilet in 1979, according to Bryans. He claims Lord Mountbatten, known to the Royal family as "Uncle Dickie," was actively involved in the gay ring. "Mountbatten was a great one for boys in the first year of public school, like at Portora Royal, which was 13 and 14," he said.



Mountbatten's close friend, Peter Murphy, was also involved in the vice circle, but "was much more into

THE KINCORA

In 1980 the *Irish Independent* revealed that young boys staying at Kincora Boys Home in East Belfast had been sexually abused. Later, Gerry Fitt raised the matter at Westminster, lifting the lid on a scandal that is still making headlines.

The RUC interviewed more than 100 former Kincora inmates. By the end of 1980 three staff members William McGrath, Joe Mains and Raymond Semple pleaded guilty to charges of sexual abuse and were jailed.

After the trial reporting restrictions were lifted and journalists who had dug up material indicating British Intelligence, RUC and political knowledge of Kincora before 1980 began to publish stories. A number of witnesses came forward claiming that they had warned people in official positions about the abuse. One of these was Valerie Shaw. She said she had told Ian Paisley about

McGrath and Kincora in the mid-1970s. McGrath had once been close to Paisley. Another witness, Roy Garland, who had been a member of McGrath's loyalist secret army Tara gave interviews to *The Irish Times*. He had told the RUC about the abuse.

Northern Ireland Secretary of State James Prior came under pressure to hold an inquiry into the affair. He set one up, but the inquiry team resigned suddenly claiming they had been misled. This was followed by an investigation by the Sussex Police under Chief Constable Sir George Terry. His report was never published, but he merely announced in October 1983 that British Intelligence had known nothing about Kincora before 1980 and criticised the RUC mildly for not having done something more about the reports that reached them before 1980.

Before Sir George's



rougher stuff". He lived with Mountbatten for 45 years and is referred to in most accounts of Mountbatten's

life as his "companion". Bryans will not divulge everything he knows about the gay ring. "I can't talk too

much about it because one of the people involved is still alive," he said.

In one letter, of which NOW has obtained a copy from another source, there is a reference to an alleged incident at Birr, Co Offaly. It refers to "the old snapshots at Birr Castle showing the late Lord Rosse getting Alan Price to flash his prize codpiece for Lord Mountbatten and Anthony Blunt."

Lord Louis Mountbatten's homosexual activities have been well-known in British society and media circles for many years. But only since his death have specific details begun to emerge. One of Britain most respected writers on spying, former intelligence officer Richard Deacon, in his latest book *The Greatest Treason*, says that the Americans always believed him to be a security risk because of his homosexuality.

According to Deacon, another ex-public school homosexual with Irish connections, Guy Liddell, was the so-called Fifth Man in the Burgess-McClean-Philby-Blunt spy scandal. Liddell was married to Calypso Baring, whose family home was on Lambay Island off Portmarnock, Co Dublin.

In *The Greatest Treason*, Deacon says Liddell was "part of a mostly homosexual set of aristocratic pro-Soviets that included Anthony Blunt,

Guy Burgess, Peter Churchill (see photograph) and Lord Louis Mountbatten."

Although the Kincora affair was at first believed to be a local scandal it is now clear not only from Bryans allegations but from independent sources like Colin Wallace and his colleagues that it is the key to a world of intelligence intrigue and secret vice in the upper echelons of the British establishment.

If the judicial inquiry for which some MPs have been calling is set up, inspection of Bryans letters and cross-examination of those who received them would open a huge can of worms. It remains to be seen if such an inquiry will be set up, either by Mrs Thatcher or her expected Labour successor as Prime Minister, Neil Kinnock.



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

COVER-UP

announcement the media had obtained evidence of British Intelligence foreknowledge. Pressure on Prior mounted for another inquiry. This time former Judge William Hughes was appointed. He announced that he was not going to look into the British Intelligence aspect of the case. Nothing, therefore, emerged from it to implicate them. Since the Hughes Inquiry information about Kincora has continued to leak. The most significant contemporary information comes from Colin Wallace, a former army press officer who worked with British Intelligence in the 1970s. He was ordered by the army - not by the civilian intelligence services MI5 and MI6 - to inform journalists about McGrath in 1973 and 1974. He did this but nothing was published. While the Terry and Hughes inquiries were proceeding he attempted to give evidence but was

unable because he was bound by the Official Secrets Act. A report he drew up in 1974 circulated in media circles and was published in *The Irish Times* in 1985. It made it clear that Military Intelligence knew about Kincora and wanted to end the abuse. Wallace shot to national prominence in Britain earlier this year when the British Government admitted that at least some of his allegations about British Intelligence dirty tricks in Ireland were true. The question now is how much more of what he says, especially relating to Kincora, is true and whether or not British Intelligence can cover it up. Meanwhile, a number of the boys who had been abused began legal actions against the British Government. Some of their cases came before the courts in 1988 and 1989. None went to hearing, all were settled out of court.