



The Digital Archive

In 2001 the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) and OSSHG decided to work in partnership and seek funding to develop a searchable database of the material collected. This significant and challenging project involved many people throughout the community. Both organisations contributed to the project in different ways to make information accessible to victims and families, researchers and academics, the local community and across the world.

The WELB library service collected, indexed and digitised all obtainable press coverage relating to the Omagh bomb, from local, national and international newspapers, with the aim of making the archive available to a much wider audience. Digitisation work started in April 2004 and the website, containing over 14,000 searchable newspaper articles and over 5,000 images, was launched by Terry Waite in November 2006. Libraries NI continues to work actively to extend the database.

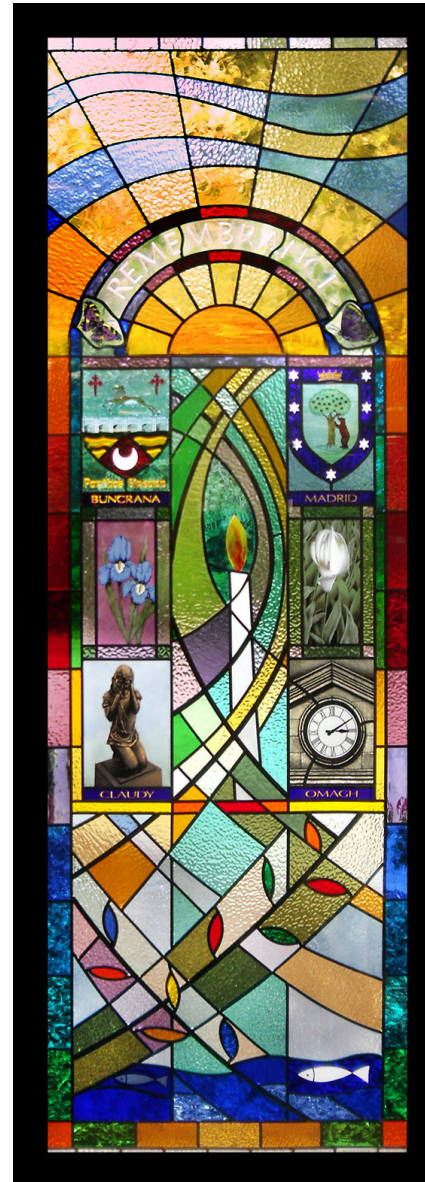
The Website

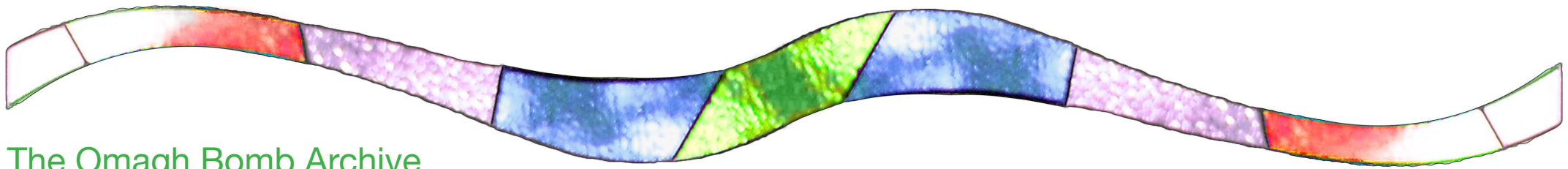
The website provides a fully searchable link to the holdings of the Omagh Bomb archive database. Other sections include general information about the town, Omagh Library and the Omagh Support & Self Help Group as well as overviews of the first week and the first year after the bomb, the Petals of Hope pictures and a list of the books of condolence.

The website can be accessed through the Libraries NI website or at www.omagharchive.co.uk.

The Omagh Bomb Archive

www.omagharchive.co.uk





The Omagh Bomb Archive

On the afternoon of Saturday 15 August 1998, at approximately 3:10pm a car bomb exploded in Market Street, Omagh, killing 29 people and two unborn children, as well as injuring some 370 people. It remains the largest loss of life of any single incident in the history of the Northern Ireland Troubles.



Heritage libraries in Libraries NI

The Archive collection is housed in Omagh Library, at 1 Spillars Place, Omagh.

Development of the Archive

Since 1998 library staff collected and collated information relating to the tragic events of August 1998 and its aftermath with a view to creating an archive. Omagh Support & Self Help Group (OSSHG) also collected relevant material.

The Collection includes:

- more than 13,000 newspaper articles
- more than 30,000 emails
- 840 books of condolence
- 53 videos with news clips from UTV, the BBC and RTE
- approximately 3000 floral tribute cards
- approximately 2000 sympathy cards as well as a large number of mass cards, letters and poems.
- other items include posters, flags, paintings and 20 patchwork quilts and cushions presented by the NI Patchwork Guild.

Libraries NI continues to add to the collection and database and welcomes any further donations of material, artefacts or memorabilia.

The purpose of the collection is to ensure that all relevant materials are properly and respectfully collected, preserved and organised for use by the local community, historians, researchers, as well as victims and families affected by the tragedy.

A specially constructed room was built within Omagh Library to house the archive, and opened in May 2008. This archive can be visited on request, during normal branch library hours.