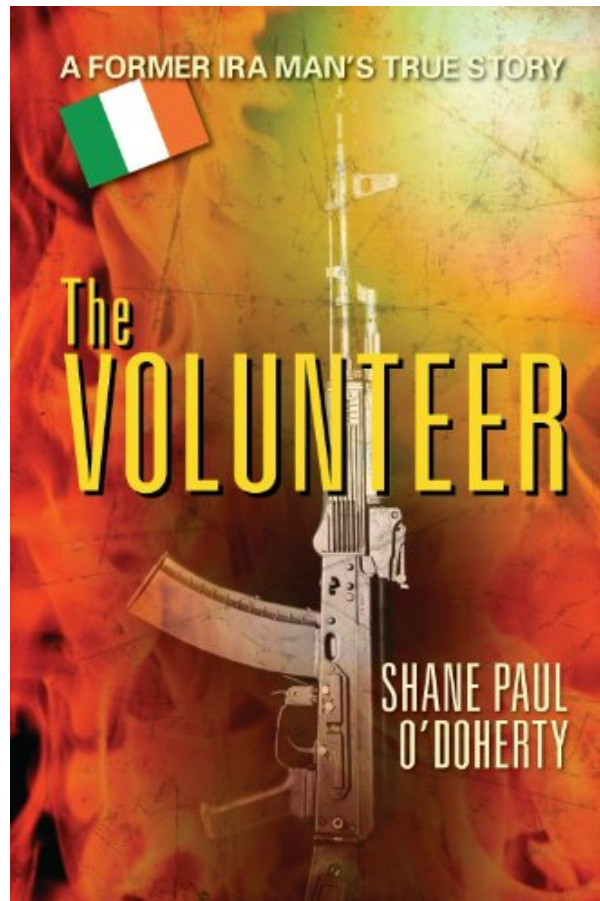
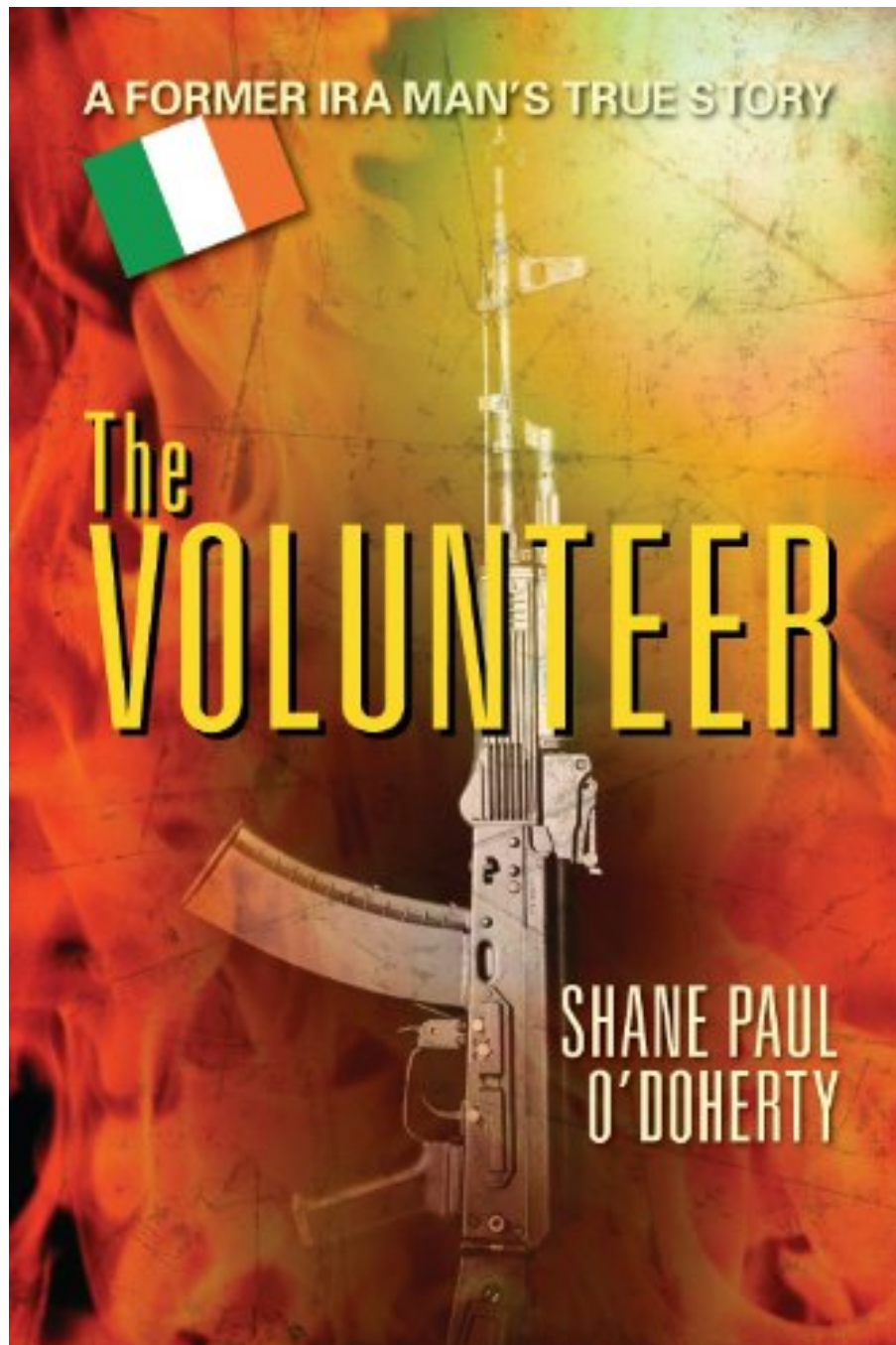


THE VOLUNTEER : A FORMER IRA MAN'S TRUE STORY BY SHANE PAUL O'DOHERTY



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Synopsis:

“This is the best account of the life of an IRA volunteer yet written.” The Irish Times

“No better explanation of why ordinary people turn to terrorism has ever been written. O’Doherty’s compelling story is a brilliant, firsthand account of how the boy next door became a bomber.... O’Doherty traces his early involvement with the IRA with disarming honesty and humour.... Most riveting, however, is the story of his disillusion with the romance of republicanism and his complete denunciation of violence. ... The Volunteer is an excellent study of the civilian turned terrorist turned civilian.” The Catholic Herald

“O’Doherty gives a graphic account of the making of an IRA man. Perhaps the book’s greatest strength, and no doubt the feature that, as O’Doherty predicts, will irritate, is the emotional tone in which the story is told. He tells it how he saw and felt it at the time. When he is a stubborn, impetuous youth, he recounts as a stubborn, impetuous youth. When he is a blinkered perpetrator of callous violence, he recounts as a blinkered perpetrator of callous violence. When he becomes an older-but-wiser committed pacifist, the tone shifts yet again to reflect that incarnation.” The Independent (London)

About the Author:

Shane O’Doherty joined the IRA at 15 years of age and was later arrested. He was one of the first prisoners to work his way past the negativity of the philosophy of armed struggle, beginning to recommend publicly and privately an end to violence and a full engagement with the democratic process. From his prison cell, O’Doherty courageously wrote letters of apology to his victims. He was released after serving 14 years and read for a degree in English at Trinity College, Dublin.

Publisher’s Website: <http://SBPRA.com/ShanePaulODoherty>

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Soul of an IRA man

By Joseph Kennedy

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Irish history, especially the Troubles in the north of Ireland. Why do young men and women raised in a religious society by loving families turn to violence and the gun? Instead of dismissing the IRA as a terrorist organization of sociopaths, this book takes us on a personal, spiritual journey of a man who reflected on his experience of growing up with oppression,

who felt stripped of his dignity. He embraces violence as the only possible response then later realizes the futility of violence in making real changes in oneself or society. This is a very worthwhile look at the journey that many who embrace violence for political reasons experience.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

"Engineer" Volunteer..

By George McCullough

I can honestly tell you Shane O'Doherty, the Volunteer for the Irish Republican Army was one of the most effective explosives engineers ever for IRA. His exploits "with a human face and human emotion" is a fascinating read here. I won't explain further, read this book! IRA THE BOMBS & THE BULLETS by A. R. Oppenheimer sheds a lot of detail on this young lad's trail of expertise in the designing, the making and the placing of IED's and often, ingenious and complex triggering mechanisms that changed constantly to outdo the British EOD squads.

Any student of national-identity conflict must read this book, THE VOLUNTEER. You will be surprised how conscience plays a role in a bomber's death and destruction resume.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Best Account of the Life of an IRA Volunteer Yet Written

By Calamus

The racy, thrilling autobiography of former IRA volunteer, Shane Paul O'Doherty, from Derry, Northern Ireland who later became one of the first advocates for the peace process. O'Doherty joined the IRA at 15 years of age, and became a prominent bomber for over 5 years. Arrested during a ceasefire between the IRA and the British government (a ceasefire he had supported within the IRA), O'Doherty was later convicted of a letter bomb campaign in London, along with some time bombs, O'Doherty refused to recognise the court and was sentenced to life plus twenty years. He refused to wear prison uniform and spent over 14 months naked in solitary confinement in Wormwood Scrubs prison. Wracked by questions of justice, human rights, violence and his innocent civilian victims, O'Doherty was one of the first prisoners to work his way past the negativity of the philosophy of armed struggle, beginning to recommend publicly and privately an end to violence and a full engagement with the democratic process. From his prison cell, O'Doherty very courageously wrote letters of apology to his victims. He was released after serving 14 years and read for a degree in English at Trinity College, Dublin.

His book, first published in September 1993 by the Fount imprint of HarperCollins, became an instant bestseller in Ireland, and the film rights were initially bought by Janet Tobias, then one of Diane Sawyer's producers on ABC's Prime Time Live. The book is being re-published in Spain in May 2008 by Libros Libres, and is shortly being made available as an audio book.

There is no doubt that, given his active service record within the IRA, his book and courageous speaking on television and radio about the need to end the armed struggle prepared the ground for activists to embrace the democratic process.

The Irish Times review of the book by Jim Cusack, security correspondent, included the line: "This is the best account of the life of an IRA volunteer yet written."

The Catholic Herald review, by Brian Dooley of Amnesty International, read in part: "No better explanation of why ordinary people turn to terrorism has ever been written. O'Doherty's compelling story is a brilliant, first-hand account of how the boy next door became a bomber. ...O'Doherty traces his early involvement with the IRA with disarming honesty and humour... Most riveting, however, is the story of his disillusion with the romance of republicanism and his complete denunciation of violence. ... The Volunteer is an excellent study of the civilian turned terrorist turned civilian."

Writing the review in *The Independent*, the European correspondent of the *American Christian Science Monitor*, Linda Joffe, expressed her view thus: "O'Doherty gives a graphic account of the making of an IRA man. Perhaps the book's greatest strength, and no doubt the feature that, as O'Doherty predicts, will irritate, is the emotional tone in which the story is told. He tells it how he saw and felt it at the time. When he is a stubborn, impetuous youth, he recounts as a stubborn, impetuous youth. When he is a blinkered perpetrator of callous violence, he recounts as a blinkered perpetrator of callous violence. When he becomes an older-but-wiser committed pacifist, the tone shifts yet again to reflect that incarnation."

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