

Survivors warn that spiralling sectarianism must stop

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EVIL CAMPAIGN ON HOMES WILL

NEWS SPECIAL By STEPHANIE BELL

A 71-YEAR-OLD grandad was dozing off in front of a late-night movie when he was suddenly showered with glass and bricks.

A few streets away, a 59-year-old grandmother was making an early morning cup of tea, when a deafening crash shook her house.

Both came terrifyingly close to being killed in their own homes — singled out for no other reason than because of their religion.

Thomas Calderwood, is a Protestant, living off the Shankill Road in Denmark Street.

Bridie Madden, a Catholic, was staying overnight in her daughter's house in Clanchatten Street, off the Limestone Road.

Both are innocent victims of sectarian hatred — targeted in a pointless tit-for-tat campaign, which is spiralling out of control across Ulster.

Thomas is lucky to be alive, after the attack on his home.

He was sitting in his favourite seat, beside his living room window, when two car loads of youths attacked his home.

Three bricks brought two panes of glass smashing round him.

Shattered

One of the bricks narrowly missed Thomas's head, striking his living room door with such force that it shattered the wood, leaving a gaping hole.

A few days later, a group of loyalist thugs decided the attack had to be avenged, so they targeted Bridie and her neighbours.

She had been staying over with her 15-year-old granddaughter, while her daughter and the rest of the children were on holiday.

At 7.30am last Sunday morning, Bridie was at the back of the terraced house making herself a bit of breakfast, when the hate-filled hoodlums struck.

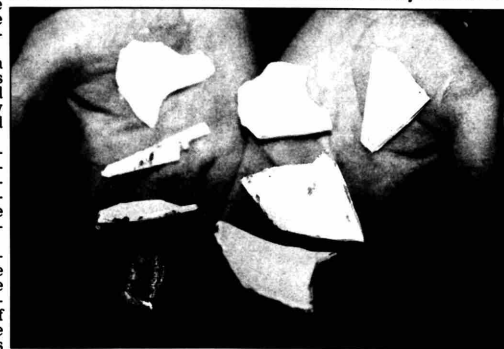
Glass bottles filled with gloss paint were lobbed through the front window.

The paint bombs exploded covering everything in the small, recently decorated, lounge.

A brand new suite of



ESCAPE: Thomas Calderwood was almost hit by a brick Pictures by Ian Magill



EVIL INTENT: Fragments of a paint bomb

furniture, a wood effect ceramic floor, a new marble fireplace, a TV, pictures and all Bridie's daughter's carefully chosen ornaments were ruined.

She knows that if her granddaughter or herself had been sitting in the lounge, the result could have been catastrophic.

Both victims, like across the province, believe it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

Said Thomas: "It's getting out of hand, somebody is going to be killed."

"Two wrongs don't make a right."

"It is totally senseless. What's to be achieved attacking innocent people, whatever their religion?"

Bridie said: "When I heard the crash I knew it was the windows in. I opened the parlour door and couldn't believe my eyes, the place was destroyed."

"As long as my granddaughter is all right and nobody was hurt, but it's only a matter of time before somebody is killed if this doesn't stop."

"There's no sense to it. They don't know us, the ones attacking the Protestants don't know them, it's just because of the religion."

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