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THIS WEEKEND. **C&A** THE PLACE TO BE.

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BOOM! *! BOOM! THE IRA, STORMS GOW WIDOW

MP defied terrorists

By STEVE ATKINSON

THE widow of murdered MP Ian Gow told yesterday how she shared his defiant attitude to the threat of terror attacks — it was: "Bugger the IRA."

"I share my husband's contempt," said Dame Jane Gow.

She told an inquest that her 53-year-old husband knew he was on the assassins' hit list but virtually ignored security advice.

He believed that if the IRA were bent on killing him they could "any time, anywhere."

Dame Jane added: "He knew a mere burglar alarm wasn't going to prevent it."

Elegant in a dark jacket and white tie-neck blouse, she calmly described how her husband, popular MP for Eastbourne, was killed by a car bomb outside their home at Hankham, Sussex, in July last year.

The device, containing about 11b of Semtex explosive, was planted under a Montego normally used by Dame Jane. It detonated after Mr Gow reversed from the garage.

Rushed

His widow, still wearing her husband's Rolex watch and signet ring, told the hearing in Eastbourne: "I thought it was a gas explosion."

Dame Jane rushed from window to window trying to find out what had happened.

When she finally went outside she saw what she had feared most.

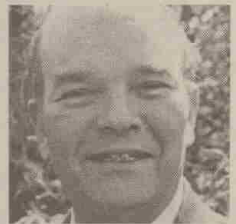
Coroner Dr David Wadman concluded that Mr Gow was unlawfully killed.

He extended his sympathy to Dame Jane and her sons Charles, 23, and James, 21.

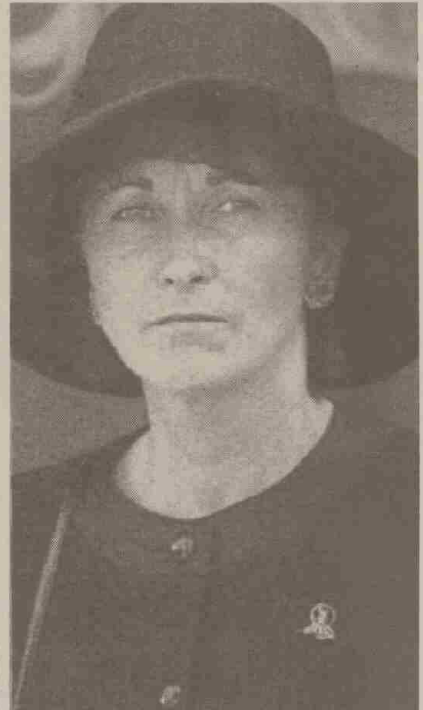
Supt Brian Foster, head of the murder inquiry, said later: "We are confident we will one day catch the killers."

Licence HQ blast

AN IRA bomb wrecked the Ulster vehicle licensing HQ in Belfast last night. Eight passers-by suffered minor injuries.



DEFIED THREATS: Ian Gow



CALM: Dame Jane spoke of her husband's bravery

++NEWS++NEWS++NEWS++NEWS++

SCHOOL'S OUT IF TEACHER IS ILL!

CHILDREN could be sent home from school if their teachers are off sick, a hard-up council warned parents yesterday. A cash crisis has left education chiefs in Lewisham, South London, with no stand-in teachers for 25,000 children for at least two weeks.

Angry parent Ian Evans said: "How long can this sort of thing carry on for before the children's education is ruined?"

Labour-run Lewisham has been forced by Education Secretary Kenneth Clarke to make cuts of £5 million in its schools budget.

Jim Mallory, chairman of the education committee, said: "These measures are bound to have an impact on schools, but we hope it will not be for long."



CUTBACK: Clarke

Nose bitten off in row

SPURNED Brian Gallagher stuck his nose into his wife's new love life — and got it bitten off.

Her lover Billy Thornton snapped the nose in a scrap, Doncaster Crown court heard yesterday.

Surgeons were unable to graft it back on and Mr Gallagher will be disfigured for life.

Thornton, 30, from Rossington, admitted grievous bodily harm and was jailed for a year.

The men rowed at their Labour club after Mr Gallagher harassed wife Louise and Thornton.