

BOOK AND AUTHOR

Title

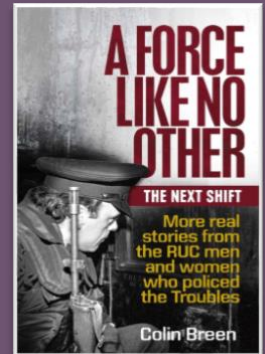
A Force Like No Other

Author

Colin Breen

Publisher

The Blackstaff Press



RECOMMENDER'S NAME

Joe Cushnan was born and raised in Belfast, but has lived and worked in England since 1976. Now retired, after a long retail management career, he devotes time to writing and has a portfolio of published features, reviews, poetry and short fiction. He wrote the film star biography, Stephen Boyd: From Belfast to Hollywood.

REASON FOR CHOOSING PUBLICATION

In this excellent book, Colin Breen reminds readers that from 1969 to 2001, 302 police officers were killed, over 10,000 were injured and hundreds were left disabled. This was real life and there were no guarantees that a police officer would go to work and come back home at the end of a shift. As well as putting on the uniform and all the necessary gear, an officer would also have to 'wear' caution and alertness and be ready for anything. I was struck by comments that there was little or no counselling at the height of the Troubles for police officers who had experienced traumatic incidents. A nice chat, maybe a day off or a few shots of whiskey replaced any notion of serious therapy. It beggars belief. Years after they left the force, many officers still have nightmares and suffer stress. And it is the human element that makes this a powerful book, one that will not appeal to everyone but it is a hard book to ignore as it is a candid reflection of some very bloody times in recent Northern Irish history, as told by real people.

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