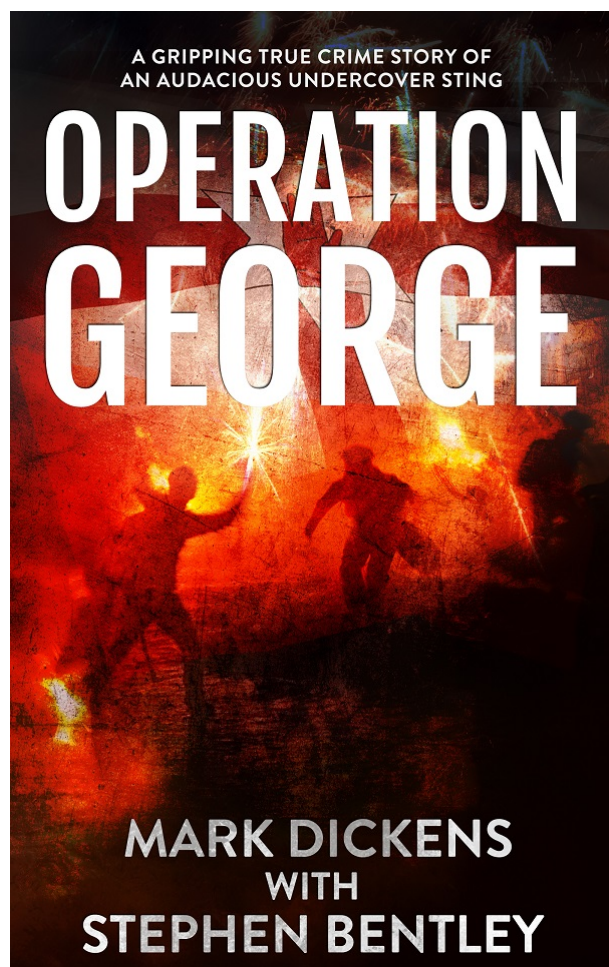




Operation George is Brilliant!

'Operation George is brilliant! It's a unique insight into the undercover world, the ingenious tactics, the outwardly serene UCOs and the fastidious adherence to rules and training are nothing like I've ever read before.

Devoting the majority of the second half of the book to the trial was inspired. It's all very well for readers to have that amazing peek into the undercover world (and the way the team created a totally illusionary one for Fulton at huge potential risk to themselves given his background and connections) but to show how the evidence obtained stands or falls in court does the whole tactic justice.' - Graham Bartlett, former UK senior police officer and co-author with internationally acclaimed author, Peter James, of a *Sunday Times* Top Ten non-fiction book, *Death Comes Knocking* – *Policing Roy Grace's Brighton*.



Author: Mark Dickens with Stephen Bentley

Category: True Crime

Print ISBN: 978-1-7398136-1-1

Publisher: Hendry Publishing

Audio/Film/TV/Translation Rights Available

Media Kit

[Author Bios](#)

[Book Bio](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Target Audience](#)

[Book Excerpt](#)

[Interview Questions](#)

[Story Ideas for Reporters](#)

[Author & Book Photos](#)

[Contact Author](#)

Author Bios

Stephen Bentley is a former UK police Detective Sergeant, pioneering Operation Julie undercover cop, and barrister. He is now a freelance writer and an occasional contributor to Huffington Post UK on undercover policing and mental health issues. He now lives in the Philippines.

He is the author of a bestselling Operation Julie undercover cop memoir now in development for an 8-part TV drama series. He also writes crime fiction.

Stephen is a member of the UK's Society of Authors and the Crime Writers' Association.

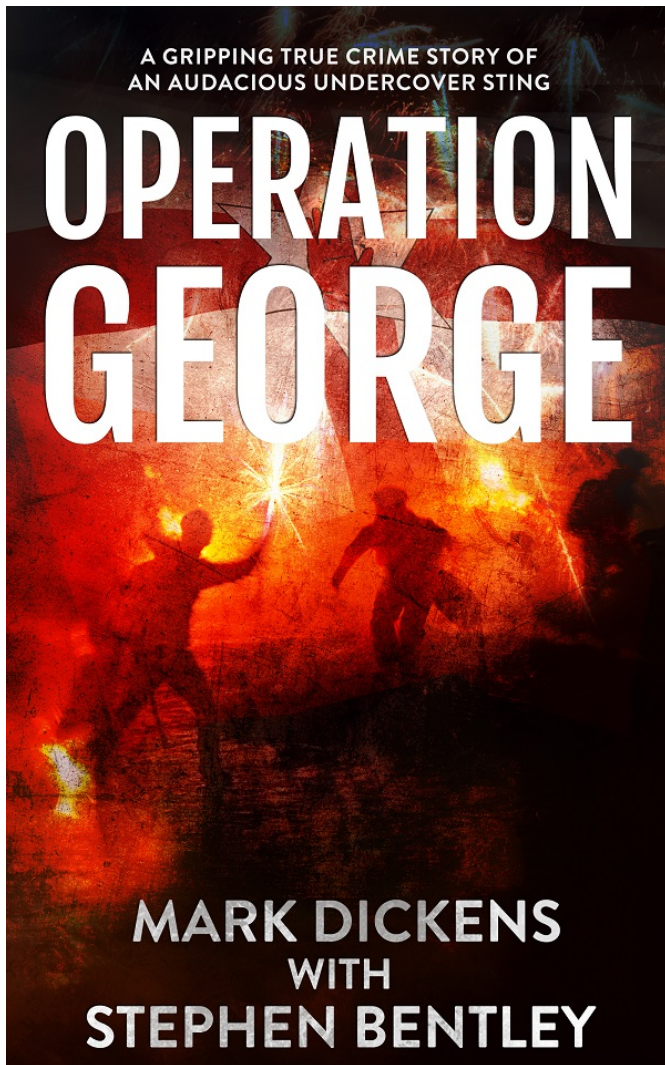


Mark Dickens

Mark Dickens is a pseudonym. From humble, and sometimes, difficult beginnings in life, Mark served for many years in a British police force with distinction. He was commended on many occasions for his outstanding detective work including many undercover roles involving the infiltration of organised crime groups throughout the U.K. Mark was registered on the national undercover officer index and ran training courses for undercover officers. Following his retirement, he remains anonymous to protect the safety of himself and his family.



Stephen Bentley



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Book Bio

Meet the real Line of Duty TM undercover team in this previously untold and gripping story of how a Northern Irish terrorist and murderer and one of his followers, were caught in an audacious and brilliantly executed undercover sting on the English mainland, codenamed, Operation George.

In 2006 at Belfast Crown Court, William James Fulton, a principal in the outlawed Loyalist Volunteer Force, was jailed for life and sentenced to a minimum of 28 years after the longest trial in Northern Ireland's legal history.

Fulton was an early suspect in the Rosemary Nelson killing. Following the murder of the prominent human rights lawyer, he fled to the United States and, with help from the FBI in collusion with the British police, he was deported. On his arrival at Heathrow, Fulton 'walked through an open door,' a Lewis Carroll-like euphemism for an invitation created by the covert team, only to disappear 'down the rabbit hole' on accepting the invitation.

That 'rabbit hole' led to an alternative world: an environment created and controlled by the elite covert team and only inhabited by the undercover officers and their targets. The subterfuge encouraged the terrorist targets into believing Fulton was working for a Plymouth-based 'criminal firm' over a period spanning almost two years. In that time, over fifty thousand hours of conversations between the 'firm' members were secretly recorded and used to bring the killer to justice.

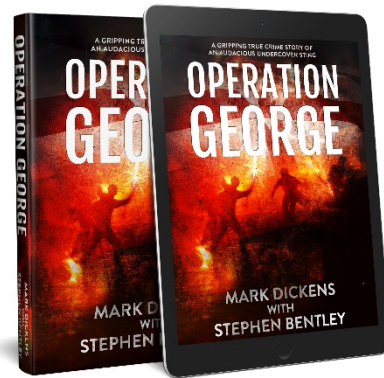
This unique story is told by former undercover officer Mark Dickens who was part of an elite team of undercover detectives who took part in 'Operation George,' one of the most remarkable covert policing operations the world has ever known. You won't know him under that name nor the many aliases he adopted as an undercover police officer infiltrating organised crime gangs.

Together in 'Operation George,' with pioneering Operation Julie undercover officer and bestselling author, Stephen Bentley, they have written a gripping account of a unique story reminiscent of the premise of 'The Sting' film, and the 'Bloodlands' setting, combining a true-crime page-turner with a fascinating insight into early 21st-century covert policing.

TESTIMONIALS

"*Operation George* is brilliant! It's a unique insight into the undercover world, the ingenious tactics, the outwardly serene UCOs and the fastidious adherence to rules and training are nothing like I've ever read before.

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Target Audience



WHO SHOULD READ

- Fans of true crime
- Lawyers and police officers
- Those with an interest in 'The Troubles'
- Film development executives
- Librarians
- Educators
- Indie book shop owners

Book Excerpt

Chapter 1: The Targets

The following true story is not about Rosemary Nelson, the Troubles *per se* nor Northern Ireland, although they feature out of necessity. We feel that from the outset it is worthwhile to set out a background to the events and locations of this book and a brief history of the Troubles in that part of Northern Ireland. Whilst this book tells the amazing story of possibly the most audacious undercover sting in the world, we also acknowledge the grief suffered by so many on both sides of the sectarian divide in that part of the United Kingdom. In writing this book, we can assure you we also felt the pain endured by so many innocent people.

William James Fulton and Muriel Gibson were from Portadown, a small town in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Sadly, it is better known as the scene of the Drumcree conflict rather than the birthplace of notable people like Lady Mary Peters (Olympic athlete), Gloria Hunniford (TV personality) and Martin O' Neill (football manager). It is located about twenty-five miles southwest of Belfast. In the 1980s and 1990s its population was made up of about seventy percent Protestants and almost thirty percent Catholics. Garvaghy Road is in the middle of an area of housing that is largely populated by Catholics. Lurgan is a short drive away; about six miles separates it from Portadown. Lurgan was the location of Rosemary Nelson's law practice.

The Drumcree conflict is a dispute over the right of Protestants and loyalists to hold parades mainly to commemorate the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688. The occasion is known by many as 'The Twelfth.' It was first held in the late 18th century in Ulster and it celebrates the victory of Protestant King William of Orange over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, which began the Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland. Residents of Garvaghy Road and the surrounding Catholic district object to what they view as "triumphalist" Orange marches through their area. Rosemary Nelson, a Catholic solicitor, was the figurehead and spokesperson for the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition as well as representing the coalition in legal matters until she was assassinated on 15 March 1999. Sam Kinkaid, the RUC officer who played a leading role in the investigation of Rosemary Nelson's murder, described the area (Portadown) as "second only to North Belfast in terms of sectarianism."

The sophisticated bomb device that blew up Rosemary Nelson's car and killed her is where our story begins. A loyalist paramilitary splinter group naming themselves the Red Hand Defenders claimed responsibility for the killing. At that time, William James Fulton and Muriel Landry née Gibson (referred to as Gibson throughout the remainder of this book) were members of the Loyalist Volunteer Force – the LVF. Soon after the bombing, Fulton fled to the United States and Gibson relocated to England.

In this story of Operation George, all the names of the undercover police officers (UCOs) used are pseudonyms. Some are the same aliases as used in evidential transcripts and sanctioned by the judge to preserve their anonymity whilst giving evidence at the trials of William James Fulton and Muriel Gibson at Belfast Crown Court. The names or nicknames of other UCOs and Cover Officers are fabricated aliases to protect their anonymity and thus prevent any kind of criminal retribution against them or their families. In the same vein, the authors are sparing in using details of any undercover officer such as physical descriptions, backgrounds, and the like to

Suggested Interview Questions

1

How did you get the idea for this book?



2

How has undercover policing changed over time?



3

Are more undercover policing books planned?



4

What was the biggest challenge writing this book?



5

Has there been film/TV interest?



6

What's your take on literary agents?



7

Thoughts on traditional publishing?



8

Does this book tip off criminals?



9

What was your process for co-writing this book?



10

Do you fear any death threats?



STORY IDEAS FOR REPORTERS:



1. Are there dangers in revealing undercover policing tactics?
2. The contrast between Bentley's Operation Julie undercover days and those described in Operation George.
3. Why many people are fascinated with true crime.
4. The mental strain and stresses of undercover policing.
5. Is real undercover policing anything like 'Line of Duty'?
6. Were there occasions either of you (the authors) feared for their lives?

Please note Stephen Bentley is available for interviews remotely over Zoom or the telephone. Please contact him to make any arrangements.

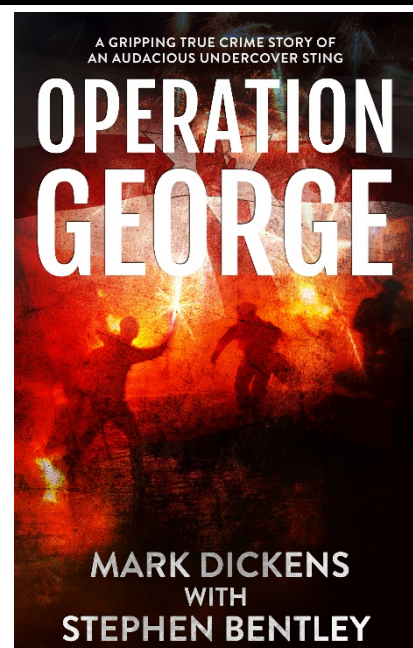
Stephen is an experienced media interviewee having discussed his Operation Julie memoir on:

- *ITV Wales*
- *BBC Radio 4*
- *BBC Radio 5*
- *BBC Radio Solent*
- *Talk Europe radio*

He has also been interviewed for articles appearing in:

- *The Guardian*
- *Sunday Express*
- *Daily Express*
- *Wales Online*

Owing to his anonymity, Mark Dickens will not be giving interviews at this time. The publisher and his co-author are confident you will respect that anonymity and the reasons for it.



DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS

I appreciate requests for photographs for press use. Email and let us know where your article will be published so we can send a link to download images.

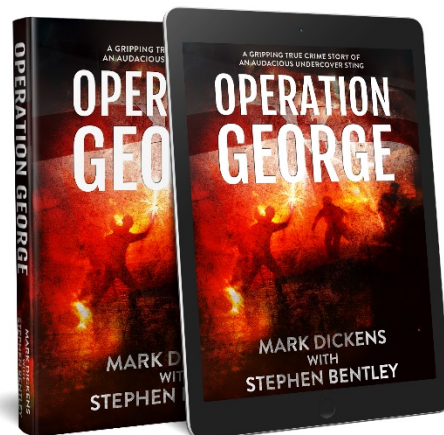
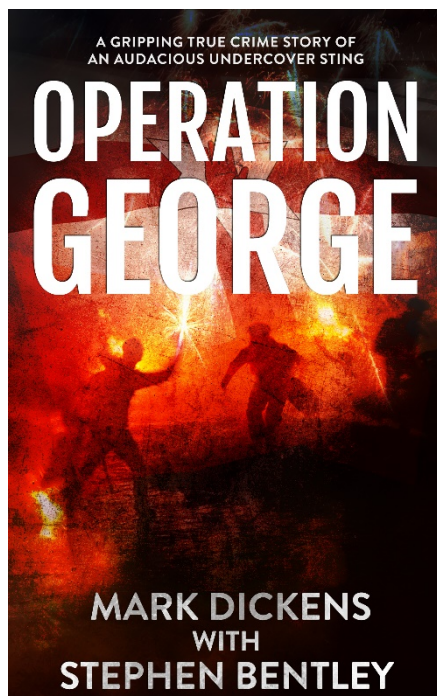
-Thank you.



Stephen Bentley



Mark Dickens





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