





# The Irish War of James 'Whitey' Bulger

Actor Johnny Depp along with Dakota Johnson, Joel Edgarten, Benedict Cumberbatch, Kevin Bacon and a host of others worked, under the direction of Scott Cooper, in the production of the September 2015 release of the 'crime drama' film work, Black Mass, captivating audiences with the regurgitation of the life and murderous crimes of Kingpin Bulger of Boston. And, with the stunning likeness of Johnny Depp to the actual person using make-up artistry.

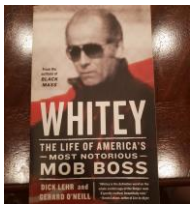
This movie was based on a book release in 2001 *Black Mass: The True Story of an Unholy Alliance Between the FBI and the Irish Mob* documenting his rise from street corner hustles to a FBI protected criminal informant. As you too may have read, through the work of novelist Dick Lehr and Gerard O'Neill in 2001, Whitey Bulger, James or Jimmy, was not only an informant, but, also a secret supplier of war weaponry for the IRA using his Irish Mob or Winter Hill Gang in Southie, this blue-collar district's underworld. The IRA stood for Irelands stance to become an 'Independent Republic' free from British rule as the 'army of the revolutionary Irish Republic'.

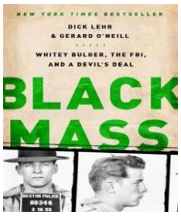
As a native of Boston and an Irish descendant, his ascension into the crime world began in 1975 as he began to run Southie. It is said, that over time, he too was an IRA sympathizer and liked having associated himself with 'the cause' through added arms deals and drug shipments to the Republic. While building and arising to the height of Southie mobster and after eliminating rivals, Bulger became the designated 'kingpin'. Bulger and Nee, his lieutenant of this Boston gangsters Irish American mob were also running guns to the boys back home in Ireland. As he lived on streets flanked with IRA murals and drinking at local pubs, collections were frequently made to raise money for the families of IRA prisoners as Bulger and his clan, saw themselves as freedom fighters just as much as gangsters.

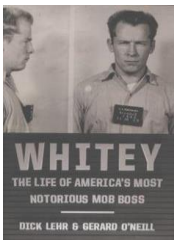
Without having to say why, there was also 'The Westies', an Irish American gang who ruled over Hell's Kitchen area of New York in the 70's and 80's. However, they were labeled as 'the most savage' organization by Rudy Giuliani.

In the early days, shakedown funds of bookmakers were funneled to Ireland through local representatives of the Irish republican charity in the U.S.. For Whitey, the influence of Joe Cahill, a known murderer banned from the U.S. who'd snuck back into the country amongst ice hockey match fans through Canada, too think bigger, bridged the notion of sending arms as they were in need of their help. Shortly after, they were shipping weapons, C-4 Explosives and rounds of ammunition under the false floor of a Dodge van. It had become a 'mass production' for smuggling weaponry.

They used varied means of transporting the artillery as within the coffins under the corpse of 'native' Irishmen whose remains were being shipped back home for burial. There was no suspicion regarding each coffins weight. And, he was willing to provide arms as he probably identified with war, fighting and killing to obtain fear laden control of his city using illegal violent tactics.







Each successful shipment was thrilling and made it more enticing and the gang more ambitious. In 1983, Bulger and a former U.S. Marine and others schemed to buy a boat, fill it with weapons and sail it all the way to Ireland. They assembled a seven-ton arsenal, bullet-proof vest, explosive etc... costing about $500,000 and worth about $1.12 million today, after extorting money from drug dealers. The items were bought from the pages of media resource, 'Shotgun News', a gang in Philadelphia, and a connect in New York.

In September of 1984, a shipment was loaded onto a fishing boat and renamed the Valhalla after a martyr of combat in Norse mythology. The crew inclusive of a marine mechanic and drug smuggler, set sail in search of an Irish boat for transfer. This latter boat was intercepted by Irish authorities after a tip from a British mole inside the IRA. The Valhalla returned home. There after, one of the crewmen was arrested and a prior drunk driving charge lead to his detainment. Worried with a weekend cell and unable to recover from the harrowing sea journey he began to talk and plead to be released so as to live a normal life.

Word of his betrayal reached U.S. agencies and leaked to John Connolly, an FBI agent and close childhood friend of Whitey Bulger. Bulger was, in fact, a direct informant of Mr. Connolly of other criminals, mob and mafia activities. This was the means through which he secured his place as Kingpin after killing most of them off under the watchful eye of the government as with McIntyre, who practically begged for a bullet to the head unable to withstand the torture. His teeth were then extracted to prevent his identification.

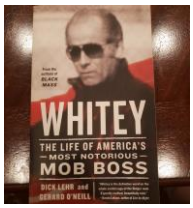
Nee, was jailed for his contribution to the Valhalla mission and still lives in Boston. However, Bulger in 1994 escaped tipped off by Connelly of the impending arrest and remained on the run from authorities for 16 years. Changing his name to 'Gaskos' he hid notably on the FBI's most wanted list for his crimes of murder, racketeering, drugs, and arms dealing among other acts. In fact, it is believed that his Winter Hill Gang is responsible for a burglary 18 March 1990, the Gardner Heist, during which a Vermeer, Rembrandt, and other paintings were taken. They were believed to have been shipped to Ireland as part of a deal with an IRA-affiliated gang for payback to his friends in the Republic for the weapons and ammunition taken by the Irish Navy in 1984.

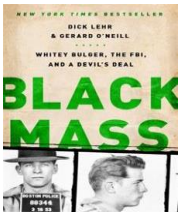
James 'Whitey' Bulger, the former head of Boston's Winter Hill Gang, was captured in San Diego, California 2011 and in 2013 received 2 life sentences plus 5 years. He died in prison at 89 on October 30, 2018 after being beaten to death by inmates at Hazelton, West Virginia prison. Despite his death, the tale of his monstrous domination of Boston will live on.

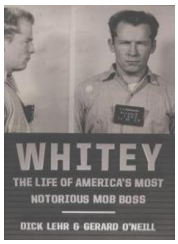
## Interest:

Patrick Nee, the Irish-American former mobster and IRA sympathizer is the author of :

'A Criminal and an Irishman, The Inside Story of the Boston Mob-IRA Connection'







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