



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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SECURITY REPORT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
AND BORDER AREAS, NOVEMBER, 1987.

(Note: The following report relates only to major incidents
i.e. those involving fatalities or the use of fire-
arms or explosives)

Border* incidents/incursions

*(within 10 miles of border)

As in October the border area was relatively quiet with violent incidents centering in Belfast and elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

A mortar attack took place from the Northern side of the border on the British Army checkpoint at Glassdrummond on 28 November 1987. Four mortars were fired from a tractor, three of which exploded. A British soldier lost an arm and a hand and another was slightly injured. Gardai and Army Personnel co-operated in a clearance operation. The IRA detonated an explosive device in Strabane on 3 November injuring three RUC men. There was an incursion by eight British army soldiers at Hackballscross Co. Louth on 23 November. The British Army admitted and regretted the incursion blaming navigational errors.

Major Arms Finds (North and South)

On 31 October 120 tons of weapons were seized on the coaster Eksund by the French customs authorities. Media and intelligence reports suggested that the weapons were intended for the IRA and came from Libya. On 23 November a major search for arms was begun by security forces in the South. Some weapons were found, but of primary significance was the discovery of two bunkers in Galway and Wicklow with substantial storage capacity and the arrest of four fugitives from the Maze Prison.

Attacks on security forces in Northern Ireland (outside border areas)

An explosion at Springfield Road security base on 2 November was claimed by the IRA. An explosive device was thrown at a military patrol in Belfast on 5 November. Violent incidents in Northern Ireland were however dominated by the

bomb explosion in Enniskillen on 8 November in which 11 people were killed and a further sixty three injured. The IRA planted the 30lb device in a community centre in Belmore Street, Enniskillen. The bomb exploded shortly before a Remembrance Day ceremony was due to take place. The IRA claimed in a statement that the bomb had been intended for the security forces but had been prematurely triggered by British Army electronic equipment.

The IRA also planted a 150lb bomb near Tullyhammon in Fermanagh on 8 November. The bomb was defused by Army experts. A 1200lb bomb was left in a hijacked van in Waring Street in West Belfast on 8 November. The bomb was defused by the security forces. The IRA carried out a grenade and rocket attack at Oldpark Road RUC station in Belfast on 9 November. The PIRA threw two grenades at an Army patrol in Belfast on 10 November. There were no injuries. On 17 November a blast bomb was thrown at an RUC landrover; No damage was caused. A bomb was thrown at the security forces in the Duncairn Gardens area of Belfast on 19 November. It failed to explode. The New Barnsley joint RUC/Army base came under grenade attack on 23 November. There were no injuries. The IRA fired shots at New Barnsley RUC station in Belfast on 29 November. There were no injuries.

Fatalities in Northern Ireland in November 1987 (other than security forces)

Thirteen people were killed in Northern Ireland in November 1987. Eleven people died in the PIRA bomb explosion in Enniskillen on 8 November. A Catholic man shot in his shop in Belfast by Loyalist gunmen on 11 November died from his injuries on 16 November. A Protestant building worker was shot dead in North Belfast on 9 November.

The former Loyalist politician, Mr. George Seawright, was shot and fatally wounded in an attack which took place off the Shankill Road, Belfast on 19 November. An INLA breakaway group, the Irish People's Liberation Organisation, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Anglo-Irish Section

4 December, 1987.

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BREAKDOWN OF FATALITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN 1987

	<u>November 1987</u>	<u>October 1987</u>
	Deaths: 13	Deaths: 5
Civilians	1 (Catholic)	1 (Catholic)
Civilians	11 (Protestant)	
IRA	-	2
UDA	-	1
INLA	-	1
RUC	1	-

	<u>1987</u> 1 January-30 November	<u>1986</u> 1 January-30 November
	Deaths: 90	Deaths: 59
RUC	16	12
UDR	8	8
Army	3	4
IRA	14	4
INLA	9	-
UVF	1	1
UDA	2	-
Civilians	13 (Catholic)	17 (Catholic)
Civilians	24 (Protestant)	13 (Protestant)

Fatalities in Border* areas only

	<u>1987</u> 1 January-30 November	<u>1986</u> 1 January-30 November
	Deaths: 12	Deaths: 23
RUC	-	6
UDR	1	5
Army	1	3
IRA	1	3
INLA	4	-
Civilians	1 (Catholic)	4 (Catholic)
Civilians	4 (Protestant)	2 (Protestant)

* (Within 10 miles of Border)

Anglo-Irish Section,
4 December, 1987.

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