THE TROUBLES
ISSUE 8 NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1971



15 KILLED IN BELFAST PUB BLAST

No Warning Loyalist Bomb Rips Through McGurk's Bar





IRA INTENSIFY BOMBING CAMPAIGN

FOUR KILLED IN SHANKILL BOMBING

Two Of The Victims Young Children



THE TROUBLES

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONFLICT

It can often be a contentious issue of debate of when and how Northern Ireland's 'Troubles' began, who and what is to blame, and even which event in case led us to where we are now. You can go back 30 years, or even 300 years and beyond for in reality Ireland has been engaged in conflict with England for centuries.

Therefore, in order to compile a chronological record of the modern Troubles - the term usually given to the most recent conflict, we must mark a defining point of start, which we have taken as partition itself and from which we began in Issue 1. In turn again, we feel it is equally important to give you the reader some understanding why events spiralled as they did into a bloody civil war.

This is not another view of the Troubles, this has been done and redone. This is the historical recording of events compiled by people from different parts of Belfast who lived through them. Our objective as local historians is to compile what we hope will be as near as possible a definitive reference to events as they unfolded through the last three decades.

In terms of research we have used as much material as possible and from diverse perspectives. We are confident that we have covered events as they were reported at the time. If however you feel that we have either left something out or indeed got something wrong we are more than happy to hear from you. As mentioned above this series of publications is the historical recording of the Troubles and all corrections are more than welcome.

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SOURCE MATERIAL

PUBLICATIONS

LOST LIVES
David McKitterick, Seamus Kelters, Brian Feeney & Chris Thornton
This publication is used for the list of those who died at the back of each issue



NEWSPAPERS

BELFAST NEWSLETTER
Various issues for period covered

BELFAST TELEGRAPH
Various issues for period covered

IRISH INDEPENDENT
Various issues for period covered

IRISH NEWS
Various issues for period covered

IRISH PRESS
Various issues for period covered

INTERNET RESOURCES

CAIN WEB SERVICE
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk

BBC ONLINE
www.bbc.co.uk

RTÉ ONLINE
www.rte.ie

ITN ONLINE
www.itn.co.uk

A STATE APART
BBC Northern Ireland (CD Rom)

NOVEMBER 1971

Monday 1st November 1971
Four die in weekend attacks

Two soldiers and two civilians died in the North during another weekend of shootings and bombings, bringing the death total this year to 111. The total number of deaths from violence since 1969 is now 143.

A soldier died from gunshot wounds on Sunday, three days after he was injured during an ambush on a military convoy at Stockman's Lane near the M1 motorway. He was 22-year-old Ian Bernard Docherty of the Royal Artillery from Portsmouth. He was shot in the chest and abdomen in the ambush during which the gunmen held a family hostage at a house in Mooreland Crescent.

The other soldier was 22-year-old Guardsman Norman Booth. He was killed when the IRA carried out a bomb attack on an Army observation post at Springfield Road-Cupar Street at lunchtime on Saturday.

One of the civilians who died was John Copeland, of Strathroy Park, Ardoyne who received gunshot wounds during a gun battle on Thursday. He is the second civilian to die from injuries received during the incident.

On Sunday afternoon the body of a 19-year-old youth was found gagged, blindfolded, bound and shot through the head and back at a disused farm building on a lonely stretch of road at Flo Bog, Hannahstown, near Belfast. He was Thomas Henry Kells, a Protestant, of Alliance Avenue, and he had been missing from home for two days.

A wooden building, which housed Armagh Cricket and Rugby Club, was the target of a bomb attack on Saturday night. About 100 people were attending a dance in the wooden pavilion when the 30 lb bomb exploded. Of the seven people injured one woman lost a leg and a finger in the attack. The RUC have said that both Catholics and Protestants frequented the dance. The Provisional wing of the IRA has stated that none of its members were responsible for the explosion.

Two soldiers were injured when gunmen opened fire on a working party of troops at the Henry Taggart memorial Hall at New Barnsley in Belfast. The soldiers, who are members of the Scots Guards, were not seriously wounded.

Two youths were detained in hospital in Belfast on Saturday night when troops opened fire on a car in the Springfield Road after, the Army claimed, the driver refused to stop. Police said the incident began in Castle Street, near the city centre where three youths got in the back of a car and ordered the driver to take them to Springfield Road. When the driver reached the Springfield Road he was ordered out. Later troops saw a car approaching without lights near the junction with Ainsworth Avenue and a soldier who tried to stop it was almost knocked down. Soldiers on foot patrol then opened fire on the car and two youths inside received minor gunshot wounds. A third youth was arrested.

The Hunting Lodge Inn on the Stewartstown Road was badly damaged by an early morning explosion on Sunday after Army experts tried for two hours to defuse a bomb left in the building by two gunmen on Saturday night. The men placed the bomb under the stairs leading to a lounge. Many people living nearby were evacuated as experts tried to find a way to defuse the bomb. But when the Army team tried to blow the lid off the box containing the bomb, the whole charge exploded showering the area with debris. No one was injured.

Fifteen homes were damaged and numerous windows were shattered when a pipe bomb was thrown into the garden of a house at Sterling Gardens in Belfast. The house is the former home of a member of the RUC.

A woman was slightly injured when two nail bombs were thrown at the RUC Barracks in Roden Street. Three other nail bombs were thrown in the Grosvenor Road area and another pipe bomb damaged the interior of Suffolk Cash Stores at Kells Avenue, Suffolk. No one was injured in the attacks.

Army bomb experts defused a 15 lb bomb at a hair dressing salon at Shaftsbury Square on Saturday.

On Sunday night a Scots Dragoon Guards armoured Ferret car was blown on its side when a claymore mine exploded on the Crossmaglen-Cullyhanna Road. Neither of the two soldiers inside were seriously injured.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Office bombed for the third time

An IRA bomb ripped through a Government office in the centre of Belfast. It was the third time the Youth Employment Agency in College Square North had been attacked. Immediately after the attack, as troops and RUC personnel sealed off the area, bomb disposal experts searched the wrecked building for a second device.

The bombers, three men and a woman, gave staff a warning that the bomb, estimated to consist of between 15-20lb of gelignite, was to go off and the building was evacuated before the device exploded on the first floor.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Bomb at Smithfield

Smithfield bus station was evacuated after a bomb was found in the ladies toilets. Surrounding streets were sealed off as Army bomb disposal experts dashed to the scene. The bomb was rendered safe and normal bus services were resumed.

TOP - Damage caused to the Post Office Tower in London after an IRA bomb ripped through it.

BOTTOM - The Youth Employment Building in College Square after it was bombed for the third time in one day

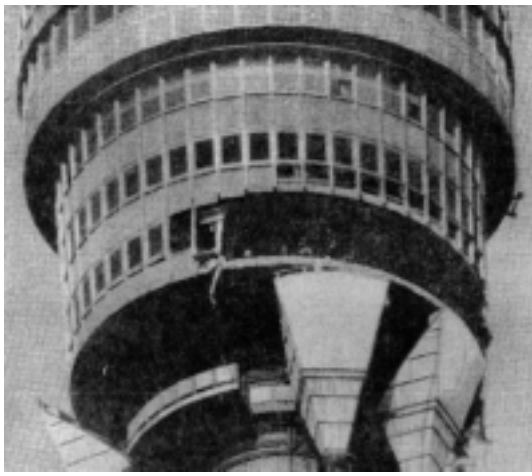
Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Ignore rent strike letter says Hume.

Mr. John Hume, MP, has said that the Londonderry Development Commission have sent out circulars to many people in the city who are taking part in the civil disobedience rent and rates strike, in an effort to break the strike.

Mr. Hume called on the people to ignore the circulars and "to reply in the language that Unionists understand – no surrender. He added that these circulars suggest some secret ways to make payment, implying that the protest of the people is not a voluntary one. The simple answer to that is that it shows that not only has the strength of the protest against internment remained, but also it has actually hardened because of the treatment of internees that has been revealed.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Bombs buckle railway line

Bombs have been placed on both tracks of the main Belfast-Dublin railway line near Lurgan causing delays to early morning train services. The charges were placed at Kilmore and the double explosion, which is believed to have occurred shortly before 1.00am, was not traced for several hours. An Army spokesman said both charges were between 10-15 pounds of gelignite. One section of the rail has been cut and the other was badly buckled. Repair gangs were called in once the explosion had been traced and be-





gan clearing debris from one track to allow trains to run again. The blast happened at an isolated stretch of the line. There have been two other explosions on the railway line during the present campaign.

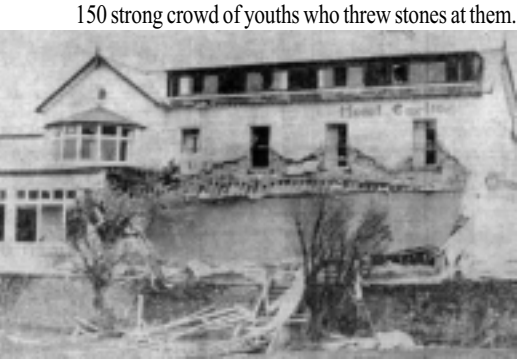
Two men were injured when a bomb was lobbed into the Bridge Bar in East Belfast. The RUC said the device, which contained about a half a pound of explosives, landed near the spot where the two men were drinking. The RUC have said that the bomb was thrown from the direction of the Albertbridge Road.

Two other explosions heard in the Falls area of Belfast are thought to have been nail bombs. In Glengormley a bomb was placed at a Spar store. It was the third blast in the area in recent weeks.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Bomb attacks in Derry

Three explosions within seconds of each other damaged business premises in Derry city centre last night but no one was injured. The Army said between 10- and 15 pounds of explosives was used in the blast at Christie's paint and wallpaper shop in Waterloo Street. A fire which broke out completely destroyed the ground floor. A similar bomb damaged McCutcheon's shoe store at Butcher Street, and a smaller charge caused moderate damage at Sterrit and Henry's garden supply store in Great James Street.

Troops also used CS gas and rubber bullets against a 150 strong crowd of youths who threw stones at them.





Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Sniper attacks in Belfast

Troops returned fire on IRA men who attacked an Army observation post at a school in the Oldpark area of Belfast. Fire was again returned when a sniper fired at a foot patrol near Ballycarry Street in the same area. No one was hit.

Troops also opened fire on a car after shots were fired at a mobile patrol of 25th Light Regt., Royal Artillery, at Bernagh Drive in the Andersonstown area. No one was reported injured.

In Cullyhanna, County Armagh, two gunmen, armed with revolvers, held up a mobile library and set the vehicle on fire. And in Newtownhamilton, an explosion badly damaged the Masonic hall at Newry Road, but no injuries were reported.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Film about IRA is banned

A programme about the IRA, which should have been shown On "World in Action", has been banned by the ITA as "unsuitable at the present time." The programme is reported to have been made in the South and to have included film of the Provisional IRA conference in Dublin and interviews with Rory O'Brady and Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien. A spokesman for Granada Television, who produced the programme, said that it had been made in the belief that it would contribute to a better understanding of the Irish problem. He also stated that the Authority had banned the programme without ever seeing it. A programme on Rhodesia was shown instead.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
380 priests call for tribunals on torture

More that 380 Catholic priests through out the North – 70 pc of the total – have called for the immediate end of "brutality and torture" of men arrested under the Special Powers Act. The 387 signatories to the statement also called for a public, impartial, judicial tribunal to expose the full truth of what has been done to those arrested since 9th August and to ensure the punishment of those responsible and redress for the victims. The statement said that the conviction of the signatories was based on substantial medical evidence, on the testimony of priests who saw the injuries and on the statements of men whose truthfulness was already known to them through their pastoral work.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
10 arrested by Army

Ten people have been arrested by the Army in security operations in Belfast during the past 24 hours and handed over to the RUC. An Army spokesman said there were no arrests in Derry or in country areas over the same period.

TOP - Bomb attack on the Hotel Carlton, Belleek.
BOTTOM - The Black Mountain Bar, Hannahstown after being destroyed in a bomb blast.



NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

NOTICE TO TENANTS

The Executive wishes to advise those of its tenants who are withholding Rent and Rates that the Government has now made provision for the recovery of these debts by deduction from Social Security Benefits and other means.

In order to avoid these extreme measures, tenants are reminded of the facilities available whereby sums due may be paid without publicity.

These facilities, which are already being used by many tenants, are as follows:—

(1) **Payment in cash or by cheque through the Post to 1 College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6BQ.**

(2) **At any Post Office through the Giro system by quoting the Executive's Giro Number 614-6821.**

(3) **By transfer through any Bank to the Executive's Account at Northern Bank Ltd., Donegall Square West Branch, 32 Howard Street, Belfast, BT1 6JJ**

(4) **Personally at 1 College Square East, Belfast, 1, or at any office of the Executive throughout Northern Ireland or at offices of the Londonderry Commission.**

Where cash is sent through the post, the envelope should be registered, in which case postage and registration fee will be refunded.

J. L. BROWN, Acting General Manager.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Teenager on blast charge

A teenager accused of blowing up a Buffs Club has refused to recognise the court. The 18-year-old, charged with causing an explosion at Glenmore Street on 4th September, refused to recognise the jurisdiction of the court.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Hand grenade thrown in Ardoyne

Shortly after 9 am four shots were fired and a hand grenade thrown at an armoured vehicle as it drove up Hooker Street in the Ardoyne area of Belfast. The Army personnel in the vehicle, manned by member of the Green Howards, were uninjured by the shots. The grenade did not explode.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
Journalist on arms charge

A 24-year-old journalist accused of possessing a sub-machine gun in the city centre has been remanded on continuing bail. He is accused of possessing a 9mm sub-machine gun at Glengall Street without lawful authority.

Tuesday 2nd November 1971
IRA will continue to buy arms

The IRA will continue to build up its strength in armaments, organisation and popular support, Mr. David O'Connell, who was involved in an abortive attempt to import arms from the continent, told a public meeting in Dublin. He added: "We shall cross any frontier, confront any ideology, negotiate with any people or Government, to acquire the means to win our country's freedom."

Wednesday 3rd November 1971
Craig Inquiry

Mr. Faulkner has told the Commons that he is making personal inquiries about how Mr. William Craig got a copy of Green Paper on Reforms before publi-

cation by the Government. Mr. Faulkner has written to Mr. Craig asking him to account for the circumstances in which he received them.

Thursday 4th November 1971
Troops raid Andersonstown

Twenty eight men were detained and a large haul of weapons were seized by troops in Belfast as the Army placed hundreds of homes under a temporary curfew during one of the biggest operations ever mounted in the city. Another 17 men were detained for questioning during a similar search by 400 troops in Derry. The Andersonstown area of Belfast was completely sealed off as more than 1,000 troops searched the area. Hundreds of people were not allowed to leave their homes and deliverymen and other services were prevented from entering Andersonstown during the operation, which began at dawn. Men of the 25th Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, Royal Marine Commando and the Parachute Regiment combed the area where the IRA has carried out frequent attacks on troops. Many of the soldiers had their faces blackened and had removed their regimental badges. Soldiers also took up position outside the hones of people, who it was thought, might try to raise the alarm. There were no major incidents during the operation but troops fired rubber bullets to disperse small groups of women and children who gathered as the operation ended.

A Thompson sub-machine gun, three rifles, four pistols and over 3,000 rounds of ammunition were found by troops in the Lower Falls area.

Thursday 4th November 1971
Man shot dead in Unity Flats

One man was shot dead and another seriously wounded during a gun battle between the IRA and British troops near the city centre. Two RUC men were also injured in the sporadic shooting which centred around the predominately Catholic Unity Flats at Peter's Hill. The dead man has been named as Christopher Quinn of Unity Place and his death has brought the number of people killed this year to 117. The RUC have said he was dead on arrival at the Royal Victoria hospital. A second man from Annadale Street in the New Lodge area was also taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Neither the RUC nor Army could say whether or not the men had been engaged in the attack.

Trouble broke out in the area when troops began carrying out searches after a gunman attacked an Army patrol. Shortly before 9.00am an Army Land Rover was fired on at the junction of Carlisle Circus and Clifton Street but fire was not returned. Later shots were fired at troops at Peter's Hill, but fire was not returned. Three bullets struck an Army Land Rover at Townsend Street and one shattered the windscreen but no one was injured. Then as troops began carrying out a search of the area for the gunmen, local people banged bin lids. The Army said a crowd of more than 20 people attacked troops who fired rubber bullets. Men of the 2nd battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers came under pistol fire from gunmen at Stanhope Drive. The Army said troops returned fire and a gunman was thought to have been hit. Shortly after this, two men were admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital. The incident happened before 1.00am and the gunmen then continued sporadic attacks on troops. The Army said the gunmen were firing from the areas of St. Enoch's Presbyterian Church at Carlisle Circus, St. Patrick's Catholic church in Donegal Street and also from Artillery Flats. An Army spokesman stated that both sides had fired many shots. Troops searched the area around both churches but nothing was found. Men of the 1st Parachute Regiment were sent into the area to reinforce other units.

The RUC men were injured when their Land Rover was struck by machine-gun fire at Peter's Hill. One RUC man received a scalp abrasion from a bullet and another was injured by glass splinters when a bullet smashed through the windscreen. One bullet passed through the passenger door and another struck the bodywork. During the trouble two RUC men on duty at Crumlin Road courthouse were fired on from the Old Lodge Road. No one was injured and fire was not returned. Later a nail bomb exploded at the Old Lodge Road. Sporadic shooing continued in the area until 4.00am in the morning.

Thursday 4th November 1971
Claymore bombs in Turf Lodge

In the Turf Lodge area of Belfast the IRA detonated a claymore bomb near an Army patrol and another two similar devices exploded at the Monagh Road. A nail bomb has been thrown at New Barnsley joint RUC/Army post and another was thrown on to the Newtownards Road from Seaford Street but it failed to explode traffic was diverted until an army expert defused the device. At five o'clock a second attack was launched at the New Barnsley post. Fourteen shots were fired but no injuries were reported. Earlier an Army expert defused a bomb found beside an electricity transformer at the junction of Ohio Street and Disraeli Street.

Thursday 4th November 1971
Radar Station bombed

The IRA has continued its campaign of attacks outside Belfast wrecking a radar station and causing damage to a hotel and a bank. Four men planted a bomb in the Black Mountain Bar at Hannahstown, near Belfast, after they told customers and staff that they had four minutes to get out. Extensive damage was caused to the bar and to two parked cars.

The maritime transmitter station of the Decca Navigator Company, at Clanrolla North, near Lurgan, was wrecked by a bomb which had been planted by three gunmen. The raiders ordered the staff out of the building, which housed radar equipment for shipping off the coast. A wooden structure housing the Provincial Bank of Ireland, at Silverwood near Lurgan, was completely destroyed by another bomb

Thursday 4th November 1971
Fermanagh hotel bombed

Troops and police opened fire on gunmen on the southern side of the border near Belleek, County Fermanagh after a bomb was planted in the foyer of the Hotel Carlton. The hotel was then evacuated. A member of the RUC who was directing traffic away from the area was fired on from County Donegal. Soldiers and RUC personnel returned fire at the IRA Unit who were situated in an old fort. One minute later the bomb exploded in the hotel destroying the sun lounge. A member of the RUC was hurled across the road by the blast. In Derry two bombs blasted the premises of a local poultry firm at Spencer Road. Many windows in the buildings near the Northwest Poultry Company in the Waterside were smashed.

Thursday 4th November 1971
Cross border incursions

The Irish Premier Mr. Jack Lynch has told the Dail that British troops have crossed the border into the South on 40 occasions between August 1969 and October 1971. He has stated that there have also been 17 known occasions where British Army aircraft have overflew the Republics territory. On one of these occasions, and which is still under investigation, British Army aircraft infringed air traffic control regulations.

Friday 5th November 1971
Abolition of Stormont called a 'lunatic assumption'

The Prime Minister, Mr. Faulkner has dismissed as a "lunatic Assumption" the view that the British Government may be moving towards the abolition of Stormont and the imposition of direct rule of the





TOP - Bomb attack on the Spar Supermarket, Glengormley.
BOTTOM - Troops chase rioters in the Andersonstown area of West Belfast.

North from Westminster. And following talks in London with Mr. Harold Wilson and Mr. James Callaghan, the Premier discounted speculation that the Labour leaders are about to switch to support of the direct rule proposal. "To the best of my knowledge (said Mr. Faulkner) "there is no threat to the Constitutional position".

Friday 5th November 1971
Soldiers attacked in Belfast
Twelve shots have been fired at an Army armoured car off the Falls Road. Gunmen in a passing car fired three bursts from an automatic weapon at the vehicle which was parked at Cavendish Street. An Army spokesman said that immediately after the shooting a bakery van was pulled across the road and soldiers were only able to fire a couple of rounds at the escaping car.

Friday 5th November 1971
Man jailed for having a bayonet
A 25-year-old labourer was sentenced to six months imprisonment at Belfast Magistrates Court for having a bayonet during a riot. The man from Lindsay Street admitted riotous behaviour at Maryville Street on 2nd October when, as the prosecution told the court, opposing crowds gathered in Maryville Street and a group of about 20 ran down the street breaking windows.







TOP - The Decca Radar Station outside Lurgan after being destroyed in a bomb attack.
MIDDLE - Clearing up begins at the Town and Country Shopping Centre, Carryduff, after a bomb blast.
BOTTOM - The New Mecca Resturant in North Street after being destroyed in a bomb attack.

Friday 5th November 1971
Caravan blown up
The IRA has blown up a caravan which is used as a temporary customs office on the border at Roslea, County Fermanagh. Afterwards shots were heard from the direction of the border.

Friday 5th November 1971
Breadserver dies after attack
A Newry breadserver, Mr. Frank McKee has collapsed and died after being attacked and robbed on his round. Seeking help, he arrived at a local man's home, where he said, "They beat me up at Finnegan's Lane. He then went to the bathroom where he collapsed and died. The RUC from Newry visited the house and have taken possession of a Bernard Hughes bread van which had one bullet hole in it. The attack took place a half a mile from Ford's Cross, near the Newtownhamilton-Dundalk road.

Friday 5th November 1971
Hunt for gunman who shot at Garda
Police in Dublin are questioning one man and are searching for three others after a shot was fired at a member of the Garda.

Saturday 6th November 1971
North Street Arcade bombed
Bombs have extensively damaged shops in North Street Arcade and Thompson Reid's agricultural machinery showroom in Franklin Street. It is the second time North Street Arcade, one of Belfast's busiest shopping centres has been attacked. The RUC sealed off both ends of the street as shopkeepers began the task of clearing away the rubble. Broken glass, in some cases a foot deep, was scattered up to 50 yards on either side of the arcade. A travel agency owned by Global at the North Street end of the arcade was wrecked. In North Street a dozen shops had their windows had their windows smashed. The Deer's Head pub had its windows broken and shoppers looked on as carpenters moved in to board up the shattered shop fronts.
In Franklin Street behind the City Hall, two bombs were used to blast Thompson Reid's showroom. A small bomb was placed inside the building on the ground floor which blasted a foot deep crater and scattered heavy farm machinery. Outside, another bomb placed at the door, smashed the showroom windows and windows in nearby offices.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Bomb at garage
At Bainesmore Drive in the Springfield Road area of Belfast, three men, thought to be armed, walked into a filling station and planted a bomb. They gave the woman attendant 30 seconds to get out, and almost immediately, the bomb exploded completely wrecking the station. The Army estimate that the bomb contained 20 lb of explosives.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Bomb attacks in Dublin
In Dublin a bomb has rocked a block of flats owned by a British insurance company. The luxury flats at De Vesci Court, in Monkstown, County Dublin was the target of a bomb which was thrown from a car. The flats are owned by the Norwich Union insurance company and the explosion was caused by a homemade device.
In Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin the Post Office sorting office was damaged in a fire. It is believed that it may have been caused by an incendiary posted in a parcel. Around 60 parcels were destroyed in the blaze.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Woman shot dead in Derry gun battle
The husband of a Derry housewife who was shot dead on the Creggan estate in the early hours of the morning has described how he found his wife lying in the garden of their home after an Army search party had passed down the street. The dead woman was 47-year-old Mrs. Kathleen Thompson is a mother of six children aged between 7 and 19 years. Her husband Patrick told how he went to the front door of his house but had to go back in as the Army was using CS gas. He denied a suggestion that his wife had been banging a dustbin in the garden of their home, although he did say that one of his sons had gone out to do this. He said there were no gunmen operating in the area around his home at the time. An Army spokesman said Mrs Thompson was found with gunshot wounds after troops had returned fire on snipers near her home, but they are at present unable to say how she was shot.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Shots fired in Derry
A gunman fired two shots at a group of Army Land Rovers near the Ulsterbus depot in Foyle Street but both shots missed their target. The Army returned one shot, which a spokesman said, hit the civilian Land Rover in which the gunman was travelling.
Earlier in the day a bomb exploded at the Royal Navy recruiting offices in Howard Street, Belfast and the Army defused a 10 lb bomb at an automatic telephone exchange in Derry. At Carrickmore, County Tyrone a soldier fired a shot in the air to disperse a crowd which had surrounded two Army vehicles.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Arms find in Tyrone
A large quantity of high explosives and fuse was found by troops in a barn in the Carrickmore area of

County Tyrone only hours after a shotgun and ammunition were found in the same area. The find was made by made by men of the Ulster defence Regiment backed up by the 16th/5th Lancers.
In the attic of a barn they discovered 75 lbs of high explosives, a shotgun, between 30 and 40 cartridges, 500 feet of cordex fuse, 400 detonators and 1,000 feet of safety fuse. In an earlier search of the 650 rounds of ammunition were found in a milkchurn near a quarry and a shotgun and ammunition were found near a chicken coop.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Bomb attack on Customs Post
The British Customs post at Tullydonnell on the Newtownhamilton-Dungannon road has been destroyed by raiders. The post, damage the previous week and almost reconstructed, was wrecked by an explosion. Customs officers were ordered at gunpoint to leave a caravan being used as a temporary post and it was set on fire and destroyed. The raiders made off across the border.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Army denies Tyrone riot
The Army and RUC have denied that rioting has broken out in Carrickmore, County Tyrone between civilians and British troops. Local residents have stated that the rioting broke out after soldiers shouted obscenities outside the local church and after evening mass. They have also said that the rioting, in which stones and bottles were thrown, lasted a half hour until the troops withdrew.

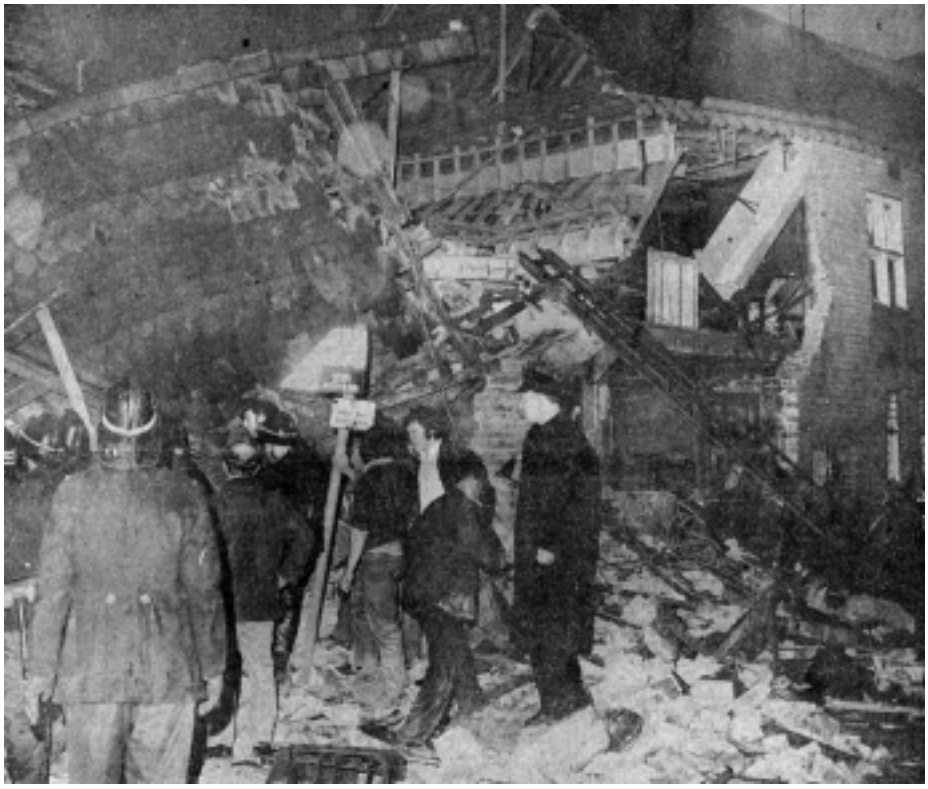
The Army said that the only report they had regarding Carrickmore was that a crowd surrounded two Army vehicles, but when a soldier fired a shot in the air the crowd dispersed and there were no more incidents.

Saturday 6th November 1971
Committee releases 10 internees
Men, at present interned under the Special Powers Act, in Crumlin Road prison and the Long Kesh camp are having their cases considered. Eight have already been released and two others are expected to be released shortly. The advisory committee appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs considered the cases of 99 people who are at present interned. In 83 of the cases the committee recommended that releases should not be made. Six of the cases were adjourned.

Monday 8th November 1971
Security split
A top level clash on whether or not the Army should be responsible for the protection of RUC barracks – involving the Prime Minister Mr. Brian Faulkner, General Tuzo, Lord Carrington, the Home Secretary and the Northern Ireland Police Authority has become public. Against a background of indecision on the security of RUC barracks, as well as the protection of RUC personnel and their families, the Authority has taken the step of disclosing where the differences lay when they attempted to get action taken.

It has become clear from their statement that General Tuzo, the GOC, and Lord Carrington, the Secretary of State for Defence, thought the Army was not responsible for such protection, an opinion totally opposed by the Authority. The Authority approached Mr. Faulkner and the implication from their statements is that he supports their view. In early September the Army withdrew from guard duty at some RUC stations and General Tuzo made it clear that it was the RUC's responsibility except where they were jointly occupied by the Army.

The controversial issue has yet to be resolved.



Searching for survivors after an IRA bomb attack at the red Lion Pub

Monday 8th November 1971
Off duty soldier killed
An 18-year-old soldier, Signalman Paul Samuel Genge, from Cheshire has been shot dead by a gunman in Lurgan as he and a companion walked past a hospital on their way back to their barracks. They spotted gunmen armed with a sub-machine gun and a pistol and tried to get away but there was no cover. Signalman Genge died instantly while his colleague received wounds to the thigh.
In Derry a gunman is believed shot and seriously wounded by troops when he opened fire on troops with a Thompson sub-machine gun. Troops said they came under fire from Barrack Street on the fringe of the Bogside as they rushed to the Bishop Street-Abercorn Road junction where a crowd was smashing windows. The man is believed to have been hit in the chest and was dragged away by his comrades. Troops again returned fire when 16 shots were directed at the Army post in Foyle Road. Another 14 rounds shots were fired at an Army helicopter which was flying over the Brandywell area of Derry. No shots struck the craft.
Late on Saturday night two shots were fired at an Amy post in Derry, an Army marksman returned fire and has claimed that he shot a gunman. The man was seen to fall and was carried off along Lone Moor Road. In Sion Mills a café and a hairdressers in Main Street were bombed.

Monday 8th November 1971
Jeers at funeral
Rival crowds jeered each other shortly after a funeral had passed Unity Flats near Belfast's city centre. Soldiers in the flats shot Christopher Quinn, aged 39, dead on Thursday but the circumstances of his death are disputed. The Army claim he was a gunman, however his friends maintain that he was unarmed and was carrying out vigilante duties in the area. Mr. Quinn's funeral was escorted by 12 women carrying black flags who sang "Faith of our Fathers." At North Street the Army blocked off the road but Protestant crowds gathered behind Army vehicles and jeered at mourners as the funeral procession passed by. The situation was tense and the Army moved in to disperse both crowds. The RUC issued an order under the Special Powers Act routing the funeral away from potential flash points. The order also forbids the display of the tricolour on part of the funeral route.

Monday 8th November 1971
£2,000 taken in armed raids
Armed men have gotten away with about £2,000 in raids on a bank and two Post Offices and a firm of fruit importers. The fruit importers, McCandless of Oxford Street, Belfast was robbed by two gunmen who got away with £600. A while later, five men wearing balaclava type helmets, held up staff and customers at a Post Office in Alliance Avenue, Belfast. In Andersonstown, four men carrying a Thompson sub-machine gun, a rifle, a pistol and a

Lugar took £1,000 from the Ulster bank and at Clontoe-Richardson, a few miles from Coagh, County Tyrone, a man armed with a sub-machine gun took a large some of money from the local Post Office.

Monday 8th November 1971
Army attacked from South
IRA men have fired nearly 30 rounds at an Army cratering party from across the border but no one was hit. Fire was not returned on the first two occasions when the gunman fired 20 rounds. On coming under attack for the third time a solder fired one shot but no one was injured. Later another Army cratering party was fired on across the border about six miles north-west of Belcoo, County Fermanagh. Fire was returned but no one was injured. Shortly after this there was more shooting from the southern side of the border.

Monday 8th November 1971
Restaurant bombed
In Belfast a city centre restaurant and offices at a hosiery factory were damaged bys bomb attacks. The New Moka Italian restaurant in Lower North Street collapsed with the force of the blast, which was caused by a bomb containing between 40 and 80 lb of gelignite. No one was injured and the bomb shattered windows in a 100-yard radius. Two bombs wrecked the entrance and an office in the building at the Ulster Hosiery Company's factory at Dundonald. The RUC have said one bomb contained about 20 lb of gelignite and the other contained approximately 10 lb. A watchman was treated in hospital for shock. In the Turf Lodge area of Belfast 18 nail bombs were hurled at Army mobile and foot patrols. No soldiers were injured in the attacks.

Tuesday 9th November 1971
Post Office van burned
A Post Office van has been hi-jacked in Clady, five miles from Strabane. The hi-jackers ordered the driver out at gunpoint and drove the van to the border and set it alight. A few weeks ago a bus was also hijacked in Clady, it too was set alight.

Tuesday 9th November 1971
Sniper attacks army vehicle in Derry
A single shot fired from West End park in Derry's Bogside struck an Army personnel carrier but an Army spokesman said there was no casualties and the fire was not returned. Later between 30 and 40 youths stoned a routine Army mobile patrol at Ballymagowan, west of the Creggan estate. The troops left the area immediately after the incident.

Tuesday 9th November 1971
Girdwood Park Army camp attacked
Troops came under fire from gunmen and another public house was wrecked by a bomb in Belfast. The soldiers were first fired on at Girdwood Park Army camp which lies between the Antrim Road and Cliftonpark Avenue. Six shots were fired and the soldiers returned fire. An Army spokesman said the gunmen were spotted running away by people in



Cliftonpark Avenue.
Elsewhere in Belfast, another two gunmen were spotted by a mobile patrol of the 1st battalion, the Parachute Regiment, near the corner of Leeson Street and the Falls Road. Shots were fired by the soldiers but no one was hit.
The blast at the Toddle Inn public house in Great Georges Street came after midnight. The RUC said between 20 and 30 lb of gelignite caused extensive damage to the bar, which was recently attacked by a crowd from the New Lodge Road area. Part of the roof of the pub, one of the few left in the York Street area because of redevelopment, collapsed. Three people in a taxi office next door suffered minor shock when the bomb exploded. Windows in a number of nearby buildings were shattered. Another bomb badly damaged Wood Masonic Hall at Ballyronan, near Magherafelt, County Derry. About 20 lb of gelignite was used and no one was injured or other buildings damaged in the attack. An explosion heard in the Camlough area of South Armagh has been traced to a sewage pumping station and experts are investigating the extent of the damage. Two other bombs were defused by an Army expert at the Lurgan firm of Johnston Allen in Victoria Street. Both contained about five pounds of gelignite and had anti-handling devices fitted to them.
In Belfast a Corporation bus was hi-jacked and set on fire in the Andersonstown area. The bus was taken at Kennedy Way and driven to Bingnian Drive, where it was used as a barricade. The bus was destroyed.

Tuesday 9th November 1971
Bomb found in golf centre
A 10 to 15 lb gelignite bomb planted in the Craigavon Golf Centre at Silverwood near Lurgan has been discovered by a caretaker. Army bomb disposal experts were called in and it was dismantled. A window had been broken in the small clubrooms and the bomb set on the floor.

Tuesday 9th November 1971
Gelignite stolen in Scotland
Over 100 lbs of gelignite and 700 electrical detonators have been stolen in two simultaneous raids in Scotland. Five hundred detonators and 55 lbs gelignite were taken from a quarry near Dunlop, Ayrshire. About the same time 200 detonators and 50 lbs of gelignite were taken from a quarry in Sterlingshire about 40 miles away. The thefts have led to speculation that the explosives could be bound for the North but a spokesman for Ayr police said they were keeping an open mind.

Tuesday 9th November 1971
UDR come under attack
A gunman has fired on an Ulster Defence Regiment patrol on the outskirts of Belfast. The patrol was at the Stockman's Lane roundabout when the gunman opened up. Fire was not returned and no one was injured.

Wednesday 10th November 1971
Woman tarred and feathered in Derry
A teenage girl from Drumcliffe Avenue in the Bogside area of Derry has been tarred and feathered and tied to a lamppost. The girl, aged 19, was due to marry a British soldier. She was tarred outside the Bogside Inn while a crowd of about 80 people looked on, many of them jeering and shouting "Soldier lover." Her head had been shaved. Her fiancé, a private in the Anglican regiment was attacked by three masked men in May as he left her home. He was shot in the hand by his attackers who were armed with a machine gun. This is the second time within three days in which a girl from the Bogside has been punished by the IRA for fraternising with British soldiers. In the first incident the girl had her head shaved.
A few days ago the women's intelligence unit of the Provisional IRA issued a warning that action would be taken against girls fraternising with soldiers. Although the IRA has used tarring and feathering before as a punishment, this is believed to be the first time it has been done to a girl. The words "Soldier Doll" have been painted on the walls of her family home.

Wednesday 10th November 1971
12 men arrested at Lough Neagh
Twelve men were detained and some bomb fuse materials were found during a sweeping search of countryside on the fringe of Lough Neagh. About 200 men of the 45th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at Derry, were taking part in the operation, which covered an area from Toombridge to Magherafelt. Farmhouses and other buildings were raided by troops, who were supported by armoured vehicles and a helicopter. It is understood the bomb

materials were found at a farmhouse. The troops raided the homes of suspects, acting on information provided by Army intelligence. The twelve men were later being questioned by the RUC.

Wednesday 10th November 1971
Guard robbed by gunmen
Gunmen held up a Securicor guard at a Pomeroy social security office in Tyrone and robbed him of £1,850. According to RUC headquarters in Belfast two men entered the social security office and held the staff at gunpoint for 10 or 15 minutes. When the van arrived one of the guards walked into the office, carrying a bag containing the money. He was held up by the gunmen, who then ran out of the building and, with a third man who had been on watch outside, drove off in a Morris or Austin car.

Wednesday 10th November 1971
Additional security
Thick steel shutters are being put up over the entrance gates to Parliament Buildings at Stormont as an additional protection for RUC members who are on duty in the grounds.

Wednesday 10th November 1971
Hotel destroyed in bomb blast
Dunmurry's Woodburn House Hotel has been burned to the ground after two armed men planted a 35 lb bomb on the premises around 4.00pm on Tuesday. The staff was told by the men that they had plenty of time to leave and the bomb, which was fitted with both an anti-handling device and as well as a timing device, exploded at 7.40pm.

Wednesday 10th November 1971
Soldier shot dead in Derry
A 23-year-old soldier has been shot dead by an IRA sniper on his last patrol before going on three weeks leave. He was Lance Corporal Ian Curtis, unmarried of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglican Regiment. He came from Farnham, near Portsmouth and is the 36th soldier to die in the North this year. L. Cpl Curtis was a member of a foot patrol moving along nearby waste ground when the Army post at Foyle Road came under sniper attack. When the patrol was opposite the junction of Foyle Road and Bishop Street, five shots were fired by a gunman operating from the Bogside. Two bursts came and L. Cpl Curtis was killed by the second burst. The fire was returned but no hits were reported. Later there was an exchange of shots in the area where L. Cpl Curtis was killed and sometime after this, troops pursuing a man armed with a rifle came under fire from a gunman on the rooftops. None of the soldiers were hit by the 15 to 20 rounds fired from a Thompson sun-machine gun. Security forces fired at a man with a weapon who was running down Lone Moor Road near the junction with the Letterkenny Road. The man was seen to fall and is thought to have been hit. About 10 minutes later a gelignite bomb was thrown at the junction of Ann Street and Hamilton Street but there were no casualties. At 6.40, two rounds were fired at an Army personnel carrier in Lone Moor Road. The shots hit the vehicle but there were no casualties. About 20 minutes after this a single shot hit another Army vehicle.
It was a comparatively quiet night in Belfast, where troops again mounted another large-scale search and arrest operation. Two nail bombs exploded harmlessly on waste ground at the Monagh Road roundabout. Shortly after midnight another nail bomb exploded at St. Teresa's school on the Glen Road. Little damage was caused.
In the Ardoyne area of Belfast 800 troops searched homes during a four hour operation. Soldiers discovered 198 rounds of assorted ammunition, a printing press, three electrical detonators, pistol holsters, photographs and maps.
Shortly after midnight a gunman fired several shots at Strabane gas works from across the border but there were no casualties and no damage. An explosion heard in the Toombridge are of County Antrim has still not been traced and a caravan used as a temporary customs post at Belleek was set on fire by four raiders from the South. One of the raiders was armed with a sub-machine gun and afterwards they drove back across the border to Ballyshannon in County Donegal.

Thursday 11th November 1971
RUC men killed yards from barracks
Another two RUC men have been shot dead by gunmen only a short distance from their barracks in Belfast. The men, a sergeant and a constable, died instantly as at least one gunman sprayed a hail of bullets at them in an off-licence on the Oldpark Road. The RUC men were making their regular daily call to the shop which had been robbed three weeks ago.

Thursday 11th November 1971
Belleek RUC barracks attacked
Gunmen have opened fire on Belleek RUC barracks at lunchtime from positions on the southern side of the border. Soldiers in the barracks returned fire but no hits were reported. The crews of two ferret scout cars also fired at the attackers. Three IRA men are believed to have taken part in the attack, firing from high ground and a bridge overlooking the station. An RUC spokesman said that three cars owned by RUC men were struck by bullets.

Thursday 11th November 1971
1,350 families re-housed
Mr. Roy Bradford, Development Minister, has told the Commons at Stormont that a total number of 1,350 Belfast families who have lost their homes as a result of the troubles, have been re-housed since 1st August of this year.

FACING PAGE - Troops move into the Andersonstown area to begin an intense search of houses.
TOP - Bomb attack on the Royal Navy Careers Office, Howard Street.
BOTTOM - The Toddle Inn after a bomb attack

Thursday 11th November 1971
Tory MP's to meet the IRA
Six Tory MPs are planning to have talks with the IRA and the idea has angered Unionist MPs at Westminster and right-wing conservatives. While in Belfast they hope to see Mr. Faulkner, Lieut. Harry Tuzo, the GOC and other government officials. In Dublin on Monday they have arranged to meet Mr. Rory O'Brady, Provisional IRA political wing leader, Mr. Sean McStiofain, his Chief of Staff, and Mr. Cathal Goulding, Official Chief of Staff. Mr. Laurence Reed, one of the six politicians has said: "While we are over there we might as well come face to face with the enemy." Right-wing Conservative MPs have branded the six as "Quislings" and will probably call on their Chief Whip, the Home Secretary and Mr. Heath himself to take action to stop the meeting.

Thursday 11th November 1971
Sniper attack in Derry
No one was injured when a single shot was fired at an armoured personnel carrier at Westland Park in Derry. Troops did not return fire.





Thursday 11th November 1971
20,000 protest against MP's visit
More than 20,000 workers in Belfast defied the advice of the Government and trade union leaders to join a silent mass protest against the visit of the Shadow Home Secretary, Mr. Callaghan and the Labour Party Chairman Mr. Wedgewood Benn. In some of the factories, the call by the Loyalist Workers Group to down tools and walk to the Cenotaph at the City Hall was answered by 90pc of the workforce.

Thursday 11th November 1971
Army patrol ambushed at Coalisland
An Army mobile patrol was ambushed by the IRA near Coalisland but the soldiers escaped uninjured when a mine exploded. Men of 42 Royal Marine Commando were travelling in two Land Rovers and an armoured personnel carrier in the townland of Dernagh, when the incident occurred. Police said only superficial damage was caused.
In Belfast, where the security forces had an almost trouble-free night, one person was slightly injured by a pipe-bomb blast in East Belfast.
Derry also had a relatively quiet night. An Army spokesman said an explosion at the Essex International factory in Bligh's Lane caused some minor structural damage. A charge of between 10 to 25 lb of gelignite had been planted in the boiler house but a spokesman said that the boilers had not been damaged. A former radio and television shop in William Street was set on fire and television sets and other articles in the shop, which was being used as a store, were burned. Rubber bullets were fired by troops to break up a stone throwing crowd at Rosemount RUC barracks.

Thursday 11th November 1971
Teenage girl held in raid
Another 11 people, including a 17-year-old girl have been detained after raids on homes in Belfast. Another three people were detained at Newtownhamilton, near the Armagh-Monaghan border. Troops also seized a rifle, bomb materials and equipment for tapping telephones in the Belfast searches.
The RUC have said that a .303 rifle and ammunition for it has been found at a house at Springhill Avenue in the Upper Springfield area. During the search of another house at Stockman's Lane troops found bomb making materials, priming devices, sodium chlorate, weapon training wall charts and manuals and other materials. The telephone tapping equipment, including a GPO monitoring set, was found by troops during the search at the Felons Club at Milltown, in the Falls area. One round of ammunition was also discovered.

Thursday 11th November 1971
IRA court convicts third girl
A 17-year-old Derry girl has been tried and convicted by an Provisional IRA kangaroo court for fraternising with British soldiers. The girl from Creggan was stopped on her way home by a group of men and women and taken to a garage in the Bogside where she was questioned about what soldiers she had been out with. After being sentenced, a number of masked women shaved off her hair and poured printers indelible ink over her. The girl was later admitted to Altnagelvin Hospital for treatment. This is the third such incident in four days. The brother of last night's victim said that he had been in touch with both wings of the IRA and they had assured him and the family that they were not responsible. He went on to state that he believed the attack was carried out by a women's revenge group which had been set up in the Bogside.

Friday 12th November 1971
Soldier deserts to avoid Ulster
A soldier who deserted rather than be posted to the North has been put on probation for two years for offences he committed while on the run. The soldier, a member of the Coldstream Guards said he deserted from the Army because he said he did not want to fight in Northern Ireland, where it is rumoured his unit is being posted to. The unit is now serving in the North.

Friday 12th November 1971
Troops find rockets for bazooka
British soldiers have found some of the ammunition for the IRA's bazooka during search operations in Belfast. Twenty-four men were also detained. The 3.5-inch rockets, which are capable of knocking out an armoured vehicle at 100 yards, were found among a cache of other arms during raids in the Turf Lodge area. Men of the Scots Guards, The Royal Scots and 45 Royal Marine Commando raided homes at Norglen Crescent and other streets in the estate. Two rockets, a Sten gun, two nail bombs, five telescopic rifle sights, two silencers, a bayonet and some literature were found. Assorted ammunition, including magazines for the Sten gun were also found.

Friday 12th November 1971
Bomb defused in city centre shop
Army experts have successfully defused a bomb which was planted in a city centre shop. The bomb, which had been placed in the EAB Discount Store, College Square North, consisted of 15 lb of explosives. It had been planted by two youths armed with a revolver, shortly after 10.30am and was defused after three hours.

Friday 12th November 1971
Both IRA groups deny tarring girls
Both the Official and Provisional wings of the IRA in Derry have denied any connection with the tarring and hair shaving of three teenage girls in the Bogside his week. The Derry command of the Provisional IRA said in a statement: "We disapprove strongly of Derry girls fraternising with the enemy troops, and agree that some form of punishment to act as a deterrent to such conduct is necessary. At the same time, we deny empathetically all knowledge of the public shaming and humiliation of young girls which occurred recently." Unconfirmed reports indicate that members of the Provisional IRA intervened to save a fourth girl from the Creggan from being tarred. It is believed that the girl had been put in a car and was being taken to the area around the Bogside Inn, the now traditional tarring spot, when the IRA men intervened.
The Derry unit of the Official IRA said in a statement: "We express our deepest sympathy with the young girls involved in these incidents." The statement added that the Officials had carried out one tarring and feathering of a youth from the Bogside, but he was given every chance to prove himself innocent of looting." It went on to say: "Our warning, which appeared in the local paper, does not condemn every girl engaged to a British soldier, only those who are giving information. Let this be another reminder to the mothers and daughters who were so quick to condemn the young girls."

Friday 12th November 1971
Soldiers escape landmine attack
The IRA have mounted an attack on army mobile patrol in Belfast. The attack on the patrol of the 1st battalion, The Scots Guards was ambushed as it passed a stretch of waste ground at the rear of St. James Road, off the Falls Road. It is believed that the bombers lay in wait in a garden of a nearby house for the patrol to arrive before they electrically detonated a 20 lb claymore type mine. The bomb failed to hit its target and the IRA men escaped. An Army spokesman said the device contained nuts, bolts and some cement. The blast damaged windows in the area.

Earlier an Army bomb expert defused a 10 lb bomb, which had been left by two youths at the offices of the Mintex Brake Lining Company in University Street. The bomb, which was planted by two youths, one of whom was armed with a revolver, was defused after two hours.

Eleven .303 rifles and about 1,000 rounds of ammunition and four bayonets were discovered by workmen filling in a dam at the Owen O'Cork mills at Beersbridge Road. An RUC spokesman said the weapons were in very poor condition and were about 40 years old. In the Divis Flats complex in Belfast four shots were fired but no one was injured and in Coalisland the RUC are still trying to trace the source of an explosion.
In Fermanagh, an Army helicopter which came in to land about a half mile from Belleek RUC barracks came under fired from the southern side of the border. Four shots were fired at the aircraft but no hits were recorded. Troops returned fire and a man was seen to limp away helped by two others. The shooting came after gunmen fired more than 50 rounds at the RUC barracks.

Friday 12th November 1971
Gardai cross border
Defence Secretary Lord Carrington is being asked by a Unionist MP at Westminster if he will call for a report from the security forces about the circumstances in which a car belonging to the Garda "crossed

into Northern Ireland by means of an unapproved road", cratered on 2nd November. The question is being tabled by Unionist MP Mr. Stanley McMaster.

Friday 12th November 1971
Sniper attack on border
A gunman, who opened fire on troops from a house on the Northern side of the border has escaped an Army cordon and crossed into the South. Men of the 16/5th Lancers who were protecting an Army cratering party on the Clogher-Monaghan Road quickly surrounded the house but when they reached it they discovered that the gunman had already left. Troops fired 14 shots at the gunman who opened up on the Army party as it left the area. No one was injured in the attack.

Friday 12th November 1971
Dublin pub bombed
Customers at a public house at Sentry, Dublin fled last night when petrol bombs were hurled into the main entrance. The first bomb was thrown at 10.00pm but did little damage. Half an hour later another bomb crashed into the door and burst into flames. A barman was slightly injured fighting the flames.

Friday 12th November 1971
Planned meeting with IRA abandoned
The planned meeting between Tory back benchers and leaders of the IRA has been cancelled due to opposition from both Labour and Conservative MP's. Reports are now circulating that members of the Tory group did not realise they would be meeting IRA men. Amongst the reasons for opposing the meeting, some MP's felt that the meeting would have upgraded the status of the IRA.

Friday 12th November 1971
Dublin poppy parade is cancelled
The annual Royal British Legion parade to the Cenotaph at Island Bridge, Dublin, due to be held ion Sunday, has been cancelled because it might be considered provocative in view of the situation in Northern Ireland. The usual Poppy Day collection on the streets has also been dropped and replaced by a door-to-door collection. Religious services will be held at the Catholic Pro-Cathedral and at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Friday 12th November 1971
RUC men named
The two RUC men shot dead in an off-licence in Belfast have been named as 37-year-old Constable Thomas Moore, and 50-year-old Sergeant Dermot Hurley. Sgt Hurley is a native of Wicklow and was one of four RUC men who represented the force at the funeral of Winston Churchill.

Saturday 13th November 1971
Belfast print works bombed
An IRA gunman gave a 58-year-old compositor a cigarette as he held him at machine-gun point in a Belfast printing works. Minutes later the gunman gave him 30 seconds to get out of the building before the massive 50 lb bomb went off. The blast wrecked the works of W and G Baird in Union Street causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. The gunmen and bombers, seven in all, made their getaway in two cars. No one was injured in the attack.

Saturday 13th November 1971
Dutch seaman killed in Belfast attack
A haircut may have cost the life of a Dutch seaman shot by gunmen as he waited at a dentist surgery in Belfast. One line of inquiry being followed by the RUC is that his close-cropped hair caused him to be mistaken for a soldier. The man, named as 18-year-old Mr. W. E. L. Rena from Waardrecht. If the mistaken identity theory is true then, then fate has taken a cruel twist for the seaman, for until Tuesday he wore fashionably long hair when he decided to change to a short, back and sides. This style gave the tall Dutchman a militaristic air. Other theories being explored by the RUC is that there may be a connection with the IRA and the Amsterdam gun seizure.

Saturday 13th November 1971
UDR shoots driver
An unidentified man is in hospital with an arm injury after a soldier fired on a car which failed to stop at a UDR road block near Ballymoney. An Army spokesman said one shot was fired after a soldier thought the vehicle was trying to break through the road block on the Ballycastle-Coleraine road.

Saturday 13th November 1971
Shots fired across the border
An Army scout car was fired on from the southern side of the border in Tyrone but no casualties were reported. The attack took place four miles west of Castlederg shortly after 10.30am and troops returned fire. No hits were reported.

Saturday 13th November 1971
Armed man plants bomb in hotel
An armed man has planted a bomb in the Wellington Park Hotel, in Belfast. He placed the device at reception and then hurried from the building and made his getaway by car. Army bomb disposal officers rushed to the scene and the hotel was evacuated.

Saturday 13th November 1971
Anti-tank rifle found in Andersonstown
British troops have captured an anti-tank rifle during a search in the Andersonstown area of Belfast and two IRA suspects have been detained during a big search in Belfast's New Lodge Road area.
The Anti-tank rifle was found during a search at Gransha Rise by members of the Scots Guards. The weapon, which is of World War Two vintage, is capable of penetrating the walls of buildings. In a search of the Lower Falls 650 rounds of ammunition and a Sten gun was discovered in two scrap yards.
In the New Lodge area four public houses were cordoned off by 200 members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and according to an Army spokesman two persons were detained. A crowd which gathered outside one of the public houses was quickly dispersed.
Just before 5.00am two shots were fired at an Army sentry in Hooker Street. The soldier was unhurt and did not return fire.
Shortly after midnight a 15 lb bomb badly damaged the Colin Park social club, off the Springfield Road.
On the Holywood Road a bomb exploded at an off-licence shortly after three men held up staff and took £50. In Derry and electricity transformer was damaged in an explosion in the Waterside. Troops who carried out a search in a Cooks town quarry a have discovered 150 rounds of assorted ammunition.

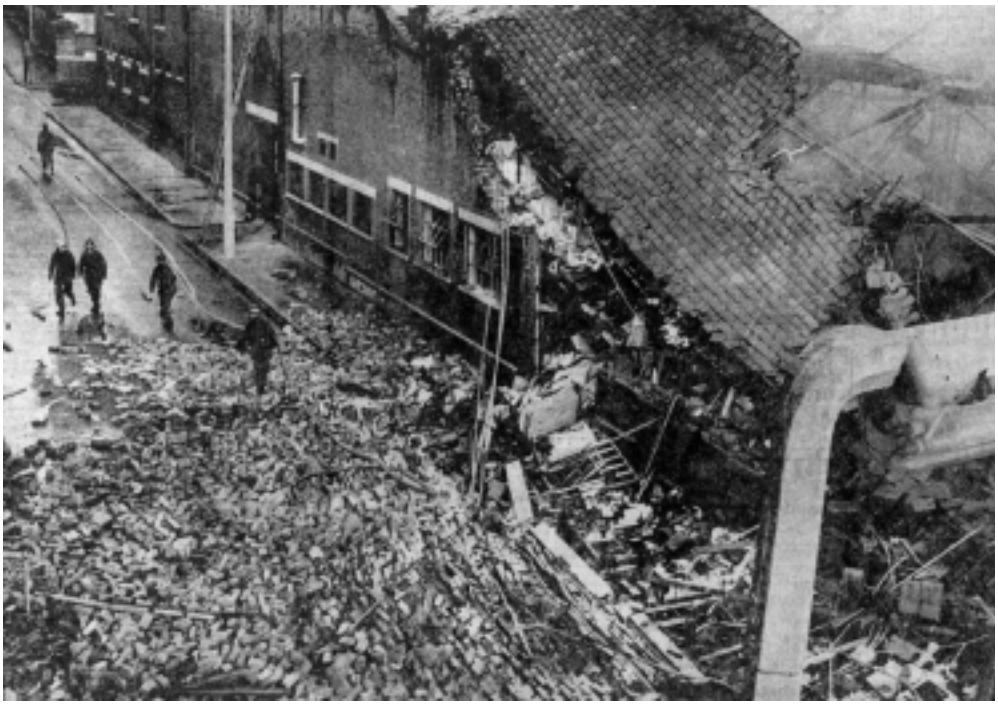
Saturday 13th November 1971
Sniper attacks Army
Troops cratering a border road near Clougher, County Tyrone have been attacked. No one was injured in the incident, which took place 4-5 miles south-east of the town. Only one shot was fired.

Saturday 13th November 1971
IRA: Why we won't meet MPs
A statement issued by the IRA in Dublin has stated that the proposed meeting with British MPs was on the understanding that the meeting would be in confidence but this confidence had been broken by one of the MPs concerned and now there was no question of a meeting with the IRA.

It was their intention, said the IRA statement, to present to the MPs the IRA's five point peace plan which involved the release of all political prisoners, the abolition of Stormont, a free election for regional government, the immediate cessation of violence by British forces and a guarantee of compensation for all who suffered as a result of direct or indirect British violence.
Both wings of Sinn Fein and the IRA have denied categorically that they would meet or have talks with British politicians, -Tory or Labour – until the ending of internment and the freeing of the internees.

Saturday 13th November 1971
Rent strike
The Governments counter measure against people refusing to pay rent and rates as part of a civil disobedience campaign are not punitive. A statement just released by the Ministry of Health and Social Services denied that excessive amounts of money are being deducted from benefit payments. It says where a person does not receive an earnings related supplement the procedure is to deduct current rent plus a contribution to arrears. This is calculated as follows: householder, 50p; other adult 50p; each child 15p. The maximum deduction is £1.50 a week for arrears. Where someone received an earnings related supplement, the procedure involves a maximum arrears deduction of £3.50 a week.
The statement points out that over 1,000 tenants have so far withdrawn from the strike and over 2,000 others have asked that part of their Social Security benefit should be diverted to the housing authorities. However, 20,000 other strikers are still withholding payment.







FOR ALL AVAILABLE PREVIOUS ISSUES SEE BACK COVER

Saturday 13th November 1971
Customs post blown up
A customs post on the Derry-Donegal border has been badly damaged in an explosion. A bomb weighing between two and five pounds of gelignite was planted just after midnight at the rear of the post at Culmore about five miles from Derry. The post was unoccupied at the time. About one and a half hours later a 4 lb bomb which had been placed at the front door was defused

Monday 15th November 1971
Major arms hideout uncovered
Troops and the RUC have seized the biggest ever haul of IRA arms and ammunition and explosives in a raid on a county Antrim farmhouse. Security chiefs believe the cache, which includes 54 assorted arms and an anti-tank gun, is one of the IRA's major arms dumps. RUC headquarters have revealed that the search party found: one anti-tank gun, one Thompson sub-machine gun, one M1 American carbine, 19 rifles of assorted make, 28 shotguns and five pistols and revolvers. The RUC are refusing to speculate if the farm at Martinstown is a "clearing house" for weapons which had been smuggled through the ports on the County Antrim Coast, or if they were stored there because of its isolated location.

Monday 15th November 1971
Car rammed on Falls Road
Troops have seized a haul of gelignite after a car chase through the Falls Road. The chase began after a mobile patrol spotted a man passing a long plastic container out of a car to three men near the junction of Leeson Street and Merrion Street. But the three men, who were on foot, ran off. The car, pursued by a one ton armoured personnel carried was then rammed. One man was arrested and 10 lb of gelignite on the back seat in two long containers.

Monday 15th November 1971
Dutch sailor fined over hoax bomb
A Dutch seaman who said that the IRA had planted a bomb on board his ship has been fined £5 at Belfast magistrates Court. A member of the RUC told the court that he received a call at the RUC Communications Centre saying: "I am in the IRA. I have planted a bomb on the Dutch coaster which is due to go off in 20 minutes time". The call was traced to Sinclair Wharf and Harbour police detained the sailor while he was still in the kiosk.

Monday 15th November 1971
Shots fired during commemoration
Twenty-five shots were fired while 2,000 people were taking part in the second ceremony in a week at the Edentubber Celtic Cross memorial to five men who died when a landmine exploded in a house on the

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TOP & BOTTOM - The premises of W&G Baird, Union Street, which was destroyed in a bomb attack.

11th November 1957. Just across the border from Newry the Provisional IRA leader, Mr. Joe Cahill, was addressing the meeting and a British Army helicopter was flying close to the border during the ceremony when the shots were fired half a mile away in the Omeath-Flagstaff area. They are believed to have been aimed at the helicopter, which was not hit.

Tuesday 16th November 1971
Nine escape from Belfast Prison

Nine prisoners on remand on firearms and explosives charges are on the run after making a daring break from Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. And two hours after the "Great Escape", the Prime Minister, Mr. Faulkner ordered a full report on the circumstances surrounding the breakout.

The escape came as the prisoners played football on one of the jail's recreational fields. After a signal several men, including some of the players in jerseys and shorts, scrambled over the wall using two rope ladders. Some of the stragglers were caught but nine others men managed to get on to the wall and leapt to freedom. Minutes after the break troops found some football jerseys in an empty house in Clifton Park Avenue. They made their getaway in two waiting cars. Later the security forces were examining a hole cut in the perimeter fence at the rear of houses in Clifton Park Avenue.

Tuesday 16th November 1971
Compton Report

The Compton Commission, established to investigate allegations of brutality and torture of IRA suspects arrested on the 9th August has had its finding published. In an introduction to the report the Home Secretary Mr. Reginald Maudling has rejected any suggestions that the methods of interrogation authorised for interrogation contained any element of cruelty or brutality. The report finds that there was no brutality but that there was some ill-treatment.

Tuesday 16th November 1971
Bomb at car showroom

Two gunmen have planted a bomb in the Belfast city centre car showroom of Isaac Agnew. Two men carrying what appeared to be a machine gun and planted a bomb on the ground floor staff were given 10 minutes to clear the Grosvenor Road building however the bomb failed to go off.

Tuesday 16th November 1971
Building site intimidation

Work has started again at the Glencairn site in Belfast but ten Catholic workers who were warned off the site on Monday have not returned. Site contractors, George Wimpy and sons closed down the 500-house project for Belfast City Council for one day due to the on-going intimidation. This is the fourth time in two months that Catholics have been intimidated off the site.

RIGHT - Bomb attack on North Street Arcade.

Tuesday 16th November 1971
Wilson will not meet with IRA

Mr. Harold Wilson, Leader of the Opposition at Westminster, has firmly rejected any suggestion that during his visit to Ireland he should meet the IRA. The Labour leader told reporters: "I cannot for one minute consider talks with those who want to destroy any part of the United Kingdom by violence."

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Boy shot in Derry

A 13-year-old boy from Rinmore Drive in the Creggan estate was shot while troops were removing a barricade in the Lone Moor Road area of Derry. The Boy is in Altnagelvin hospital where he is seriously ill. An Army spokesman said a gunman armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun fired 10-15 rounds towards the troops and some rounds have hit one or more people in a crowd.

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Description of the missing nine

The RUC have issued descriptions of the nine men who escaped. They were all on remand on arms and explosives charges and were wearing green football gear when they got away. The men on the run are:

James Storey (18), fresh complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, 5ft 8ins.
Thomas J. Maguire (28), fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins.
Terence Clarke (24), fresh complexion, ginger hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10ins.
Peter Gerard Hennessy (21), fresh complexion, dark brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, scar on right wrist.
Bernard Elliman (26), fresh complexion, long greying hair, brown eyes, 5ft 3ins, scar below bottom lip
Thomas Gerard Fox (31), fresh complexion, dark brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, scar on right forearm.
Christopher Keenan (21), fresh complexion, brown hair, green eyes, 5ft 6ins, scar on left index finger.
Thomas Kane (23), fresh complexion, dark brown hair, green-grey eyes, 5ft 7ins, moustache and appendix scar
Daniel A. Mullan (17), fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 3in, scar on right elbow.

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Two-hour border attack

Troops and police on the Fermanagh-Donegal border have come under sporadic fire from gunmen in the South for two hours. Fifteen shots were fired by two gunmen from the southern side of the border at troops near Belleek. The soldiers returned fire but it is believed no one was hit. Another party of troops came under fire from gunmen operating from the south during a road spiking operation at Dourderd Bridge, near Garrison, about six miles away. Fifteen





shots were also fired at them in the initial attack and the soldiers fired back. Over the next two hours the soldiers and RUC personnel who arrived at the scene were occasionally fired upon by the gunmen. An Army spokesman said a mechanical digger engaged in making the road impassable was fired on every time it began working. The gunmen eventually stopped firing and the area was reported quiet shortly after mid-day.

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Bomb expert escapes death by seconds
A member of an Army bomb disposal team missed death by seconds when a bomb, glued to the counter of a Belfast city centre furniture store exploded at lunchtime. A sergeant in the team had fixed a fuse to the 20 lb bomb to blow the lid off the plywood container, seconds before it exploded wrecking Porter's store in Waring Street and smashing hundreds of windows in nearby shops and offices. The drama started just after 2.00pm when two young men walked into the offices carrying a Lugar pistol and the bomb. They then proceeded to glue the bomb to the counter. As they left the building they said that the bomb would go off in half an hour and warned the staff not to move for five minutes.

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Soldiers ambushed on Falls Road
Two soldiers, who were shot by a lone gunman in an ambush in the Falls area of Belfast, are said to be satisfactory in hospital. Both men, an officer and a Guardsman were wounded when gunmen opened fire on an army mobile patrol near the junction of the Falls Road and Hugo Street. The gunman fired about six shots from an M1 American carbine at the Land Rover carrying men of the 1st battalion, The Scots Guards. He is thought to have hidden in the shadows near the Whiterock Road-Falls Road junction.





Wednesday 17th November 1971
Army alleges IRA torture
A man is under guard at a military hospital after being allegedly tortured by the IRA for giving information to the security forces. Armed troops have mounted a vigil by the man's bedside at the Musgrave Park hospital where he is being treated for sever burns said to have been meted out at an IRA court. The man's name has not been released but it is known that he is from the Markets area, that he was a member of the IRA and that the attack occurred a within the last few days.

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Bomb explodes on lorry
A gelignite bomb exploded in a lorry being used as a barricade in Lone Moor Road, Derry. There are no reports of any injuries. The explosion occurred as Mr. Harold Wilson, leader of the Opposition was attending a meeting at the Guildhall.

Wednesday 17th November 1971
Arms find in Bogside
In one of two search and arrest operations in Derry troops found 54 lbs of gelignite, a Colt .45 pistol and five rounds of .45 ammunition in a house in the Brandywell area of Derry. In the first operation 100 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets met with minor reaction from the local people. One man was arrested. Later three shots were fired by a gunman as 200 men of the 1st Battalion, the Coldstream Guards were searching two houses in the Creggan estate. The soldiers, who also removed some barricades in the area, used CS gas and rubber bullets against youths in the area. An Army spokesman has said that he had no report of any find or arrests during the operation.
A soldier is in Altnagelvin Hospital after being hit by a pistol shot while on patrol on the Lone Moor Road. The soldier from the Coldstream Guards was in a vehicle and was hit in the leg by one of three shots. It is believed that his injuries are not serious. A bomb has been thrown into Brooke Park Army post in Derry but it exploded harmlessly. Two explosions heard within minutes of each other were caused by gelignite bombs exploding on open ground near the Bligh's Lane Army post. There was no damage and no one was injured.

Thursday 18th November 1971
Faulkner praises vigilantes
The Prime Minister Mr. Brian Faulkner has praised vigilantes for the assistance they were giving to the security forces on the streets but he repeated his appeal to all those wished to help the community to volunteer either for the UDR or police reserve. He was asked at Stormont by Ian Paisley, DUP, Bannside, "at this late stage" to praise the vigilantes who were carrying out the effective task of keeping bombers in cars from areas of Belfast. The Prime Minister pointed out that in conversations with these people on the streets and at Stormont he had always told them that they had to be very certain that everything they did was in full support of the police and the Army.

TOP - Porters Furniture Store in Waring Street after being destroyed in a bomb attack.
BOTTOM - Bomb blast at the Springfield Road Filling Station.

Thursday 18th November 1971
Clash in Stormont over money for rally
There was a clash at Stormont over money provided for the Rally for Peace and Petition for Sanity organised in the Six Counties. It followed question by Mr. Paisley, DUP, Bannside, who had asked the Community Relations Minister Mr. Basil McIvor, what money was paid to Mr. Brian Walker, of the New Ulster Movement for the Rally for Peace and Petition for Sanity. Mr. McIvor pointed out that no money had been paid by his department to Mr. Walker in either instance. However the Community Relations Commission had agreed with the approval of his Ministry, to spend £400 towards the cost of the petition and his Ministry had agreed to pay a grant of not exceeding £800 towards the cost of the rally, said Mr. McIvor. The Minister stress that Mr. Walker had not been acting as a Member of the New Ulster Movement. Neither was the rally nor the petition political or quasi-political.
Mr. Paisley claimed that Mr. Walker, in an interview on the BBC's 'World at One' programme had said that the petition and rally were, with the aim of stirring up moderate political opinion in the province. This did not tally, said Mr. Paisley, with what the Minister had told them and he claimed that the taxpayer was being asked to pay towards the promotion of political aims.

Thursday 18th November 1971
Plane is searched
Special Branch officers have boarded a DC7 plane from the continent at Dublin Airport after a tip-off that a plane carrying a consignment of arms was about to land. Nothing was found.

Thursday 18th November 1971
Bombs in Strabane
Within the space of twenty minutes three explosions have rocked Strabane. The first bomb planted at the County Buildings at Barracks Street only 100 yards from the RUC barracks causing extensive damage. The building houses the welfare offices and the remains of the library which was badly damaged by fire during rioting on the 9th August.
Fifteen minutes later, gunmen struck at the Ulsterbus depot at Railway Road, where offices, six buses and two private cars were destroyed. Four raiders, two armed with Thompson sub-machine guns held up a 46-year-old bus driver at gunpoint while he opened the door of the depot. Petrol was sprinkles and a bomb planted. Minutes later the bomb exploded ripping the roof off the large building. Five single-deckers, one double decker, and two cars were gutted in the fire which broke out. Shortly afterwards

extensive damage was caused to R. J. Fleming's filling station at Bridge Street by the third bomb. No one was hurt.

Thursday 18th November 1971
Sniper attacks in Belfast
Troops have come under fire from gunmen in Belfast on three occasions during the night. Soldiers fired back when three shots were fired at a mobile Scots Guards patrol on the Springfield Road. No one was injured. Two shots were fired at an armoured personnel carrier at Commeadagh Drive, Andersonstown but fire was not returned. Troops did return fire when one shot was fired at them near the junction of Cavendish Street and Falls Road.

Thursday 18th November 1971
Troops attempt to flush out sniper
In Derry soldiers in an observation post at Bligh's Lane fired at a gunman but it is not believed he was hit. The sniper fired from behind a hedge at Beechwood Avenue overlooking the post. Earlier troops mounted a small operation to flush out a sniper who fired three shots at the Army post at Foyle Road but he escaped. In Dungannon the Castle cinema in Market Street has been badly damaged by fire. The RUC are investigating the matter.

Thursday 18th November 1971
'Provo' teacher refused leave
The Department of Education in Dublin has been refused leave of absence from his teaching post to Mr. David O'Connell the Provisional IRA man who was recently sought by Dutch police in connection with an Arms shipment seized at Schipol Airport.
Donegal Vocational Education Committee has written to him asking him to resume his teaching position. A meeting of the committee has been told that a circular from the Department stated that the only political activity for which a teacher could be granted leave of absence was to take part in an election for a Parliamentary seat.

Thursday 18th November 1971
29 people held in a night of raids
Another 29 men were detained by troops in a series of raids in Belfast during the night but 15 have been released. The remaining 14 are being questioned by the RUC.

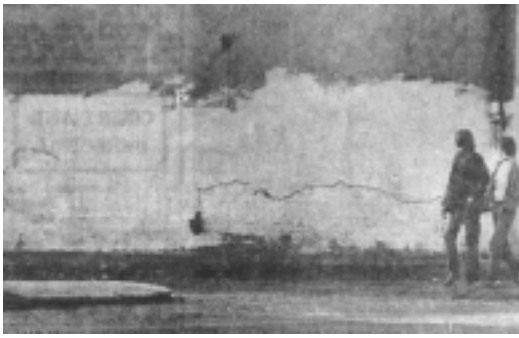
Friday 19th November 1971
Troops search Monastery
A Monastery at Portglenone, County Antrim, has being search by armed troops and police today following the recapture of two of the nine men who escaped from Crumlin Road jail. The Monastery, the village and the surrounding countryside was cordoned off by the Army before the searchers moved in at first light.
The two escapers, dressed as priests were caught when their car, which was also carrying a monk and a lay brother, was stopped in the Omagh area by RUC men acting on information received. It has also been learned that two other escapers have been smuggled over the border about the same time and as part of the same operation. All this was happening as the Provisional wing of the IRA said that the other seven prisoners on the run since the jailbreak were now in hiding in various parts of the South and would be appearing in a press conference.
Men of 45 Royal Marine Commando moved from Belfast into Portglenone and allowed no one to enter or leave Our Lady of Bethlehem Monastery, which is just outside the village. At first light, with snow falling they started the search along with RUC men. A heavily wooded area around the monastery was combed as well. The Cistercians, monks and priests who occupy the monastery, are a silent order and run what is considered to be one of the best mixed farms in Ulster.
There was intense police and Army activity throughout the North following the recapture of the two prisoners. The two men, disguised as priests, were Christopher Keenan, aged 21 and 17-year-old Daniel Mullan. Immediately after the four in the car were arrested, other swoops took place and two other men, not escapers, were held.

Friday 19th November 1971
Firebombs explode in kitchen
Armed men entered a kitchen at a Belfast city centre restaurant at lunchtime, placed an incendiary device and told staff to get out. But before the gunmen could leave the Abercorn Restaurant in Castle Lane, the device exploded setting fire to the kitchen and slightly injured one of the staff. The gunmen then left through the back door and made their escape in a waiting car. Fire appliances rushed to the scene but discovered when they arrived that staff had managed to contain the fire.

Friday 19th November 1971
Garda car riddled in gun battle
A Garda patrol car was sprayed with bullets during a 15-minute gun-battle between British troops and the IRA. Snipers opened fire from the South after a British Army scout car patrol spotted a crowd about to fill in a crater on the unapproved Clontibret-Keady road. The soldiers returned fire and used the Browning machine-guns mounted on the scout car's turrets, as well as sub-machine guns. Gardai and an Irish Army patrol were quickly on the scene and began searching the area. As a Garda stepped from his car it was sprayed by gunfire which shattered the vehicle's windscreen. No one was injured but people at the scene said that the bullets which struck the car came from the North. An Army spokesman in Lisburn said that the incident started when four scout cars were ambushed while on a routine patrol. He said that four to six men opened fire with sub-machine guns, rifles and pistols from the southern side of the border at the commanders of two of the scout cars who were dismounted at the time. There were no Army casualties but the soldiers said they believe they shot one, possible two gunmen.

Friday 19th November 1971
Soldier killed in Short Strand
The shooting of a British soldier in Belfast yesterday brought the number of troops killed in the present disturbances to 37, more than the number killed during the Aden emergency. The soldier and a comrade who was injured were due to return home in two days when their regiment of the Black Watch complete their present tour of duty. The soldier who died, L.-Cpl Edwin Charnley, was shot at close range. He was aged 22. The wounded man is said to be comfortable in the Royal Victoria Hospital. Three shots were fired in quick succession by the gunman who opened up from Anderson Street beside the Short Strand bus depot where the two had been on guard duty. One man was hit in the neck and the other the chest. The area was sealed off but a house-to-house search failed to reveal the gunman. An Army spokesman said that the gunman fired from an upstairs window only 15 feet from where the soldiers were standing.
At the Midland Hotel in Belfast four men left a large box on the reception counter containing 40 lb of gelignite. Bomb disposal experts waited to see if it had been fitted with a timing device that would set it off within minutes. After a time they moved in and started a three hour battle to defuse the bomb.
In Fermanagh a branch library and Lisnaskea district council offices were destroyed by the fire which followed an explosion. The two-storey building, erected in 1840 also served as a technical school.

Friday 19th November 1971
Official IRA deny torture
The Official IRA has denied a report that it was responsible for the red-hot poker torture of a 17-year-old youth from the Markets area of Belfast. In an unsigned typed statement purporting to come from the 1st Battalion of the Belfast Brigade of the IRA, it described the report as a "scandalous lie, a red her-





RIGHT - Walls in the Lower Falls area which have been painted white by IRA sympathisers to make it easier to pick out patrolling British soldiers

ring, designed to cover up the proven torture of the Special Branch and the British Army". The statement said that the young man who received "this sadistic torture" had nothing to fear from the Official IRA.

Friday 19th November 1971
Arms find in Shorts Strand
Troops searching the Short Strand area following the killing of a Scottish soldier have discovered a claymore mine, four petrol bombs and two rounds of ammunition. Also uncovered was a walkie-talkie radio set.





Saturday 20th November 1971
Man shot during gun battle
A Belfast man had a narrow escape when gunmen attacked an Army post at the peace line. One of the bullets fired at the post at Percy Street, which is situated between the Falls and Shankill roads grazed the man on the forehead. None of the men of 'B' Company of the 3rd Battalion, the Queens Regiment, who are based at the post were injured. The attack on the post began shortly after 3.00am and about seven shots were fired by the gunmen.

Saturday 20th November 1971
Jail break – fifth man charged
A fifth man has appeared in court in relation to the recent escape from Crumlin Road jail. The 28-year-old man from Toombridge is charged with assisting the recaptured escapers and other persons unknown. He has been released on bail.

Saturday 20th November 1971
1,000 arrested since start of internment
More than 1,000 people have been arrested in the North since internment was introduced in August. Of the 1,103 men who were arrested 538 were released. A further 57 were released after detention orders had been made against them. These figures mean that about 500 people are being held under various sections of the Special Powers Act.

Saturday 20th November 1971
Army calls off search at abbey
The search of the Portglenone monastery of the Cistercian monks has been called off after a second smaller search operation was carried out. Some radio equipment has been found but it is not known whether it was legally or illegally held. 45 Cistercian monks who are sworn to a vow of silence live at the monastery where anyone is guaranteed shelter and hospitality.

Saturday 20th November 1971
Arms found in Convent grounds
Troops have found a quantity of arms and ammunition in the grounds of a convent at Armagh. The Arms were discovered after soldiers had been called to examine an abandoned car which was thought to have been used in a robbery. As the car was being examined for booby traps a soldier casually look over the wall of Sacred Heart Convent, Windmill Hill and noticed a ground sheet covering a pit. Under the sheet he found a single barrelled shotgun, two .22 rifles, a silencer for a .22, a telescopic sight and 200 rounds of ammunition.

Saturday 20th November 1971
23 people arrested over night
Troops detained another 23 people in Belfast during the night. The arrests were not confined to one particular area but involved raids on homes in various parts of the city. Those detained were handed over to the RUC for questioning. Some of them are on the Army's wanted list.

Saturday 20th November 1971
Special Branch keep watch on ship
Special Branch detectives were keeping a close watch on a Dutch ship which arrived in Dublin with a consignment of arms. They started their all night vigil after it became known that the ship had two cases of rifles in the hold. Shortly after the vessel docked at the North Wall it was established that the arms were for a licensed importer.

Saturday 20th November 1971
Boy charged with membership of Fianna Eireann
A 16-year-old boy who was alleged to have told the RUC that he was a member of Fianna Eireann has been remanded in custody until the 26th November on a charge of causing an explosion. He has appeared in a special court in Lisburn where an RUC inspector objected to bail on the grounds that the boy fired a .22 rifle at the military on two occasions at Oliver Plunkett School on the Glen Road, Belfast.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Gunmen wounded in robbery
A 60-year-old man shot and wounded two armed men as they made their getaway after robbing a Fermanagh post office. The man, the father of the postmaster, managed to slip away from the raiders and then triggered the alarm. As the raider ran from the post office he waited at the window of his upstairs room at Tullyhammon Post Office, armed with a shotgun. As they emerged from the building to a waiting car he fired both barrels of his shotgun.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Still no trace of seven escapees
The press conference at which the seven remaining escapees were to appear has been cancelled for the second time and a spokesman for the Provisional IRA said at heir headquarters in Dublin that he didn't know what side of the border they were on.



TOP - Shop in Lower Lodge Terrace in the Oldpark area where two policemen were shot dead.
MIDDLE & BOTTOM - Woodbourne House Hotel, Suffolk, after a bomb attack.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Arms find by Dublin police
Armed police in Dublin have found a small quantity of shotguns and pistols in a pre-dawn swoop in a quiet north city suburb. A 12–man force sealed off Clonshaugh about five miles from the centre of the city. About four houses were surrounded and a number men were questioned. The captured weapons have been sent to Dublin Castle for ballistic checks.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Man freed in error
As two bombers were jailed for a total of 18 years at Belfast City Commission, it has been learned that a third person charged with them had been released from prison by mistake. The man, from Henrietta Street in the Markets area of Belfast was released from prison after serving a two-month sentence for another offence.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Goulding: "Provos will be defeated"
Leaders of the Provisionl IRA are said to be extremely angry over a statement by the leader of the Official IRA Mr. Cathal Goulding, predicting that its campaign is doomed to failure. His statement contained in an interview in the Sunday Telegraph is being closely studied by the Provisional leadership who will reply later. Mr. Goulding has also said in Dublin that he was "not a bit worried" about the reactions of the Provisionals and he stood over his forecast for their defeat. He said "The physical force phase was developed prematurely by the Provisionals. No revolution can succeed if two thirds of the people are against it. It is inevitable that both of us will fail – the Provisionals who brought it on prematurely and we who were forced into it knowing that it was premature." He predicted that the "physical force phase will pass without any political gains." The inevitable failure of the physical force campaign was not a question of men or arms he said: "If we armed every Nationalist in the North we would only have one third of the population and if the Protestants backed British Imperialism we could not win." "All experience shows that no guerrilla force can survive when two-thirds of the population are actively helping the security forces."

Monday 22nd November 1971
Fires damage Newry stores
Fires believed to have been caused maliciously caused extensive damage in two Newry stores. The first was at Newry Bonding Stores at Canal Quay and damage is estimated to be £5,000 as fire swept through the packing department. Firemen managed to stop the flames reaching large stocks of whiskey and other spirits in an adjoining building.
Shortly before midnight flats close to Creels furniture store in Canal Street were evacuated when a fire was started in a shed at the rear. The premises of Fegan Brothers, a hardware firm, behind Creel's store suffered considerable water damage.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Student beaten and stabbed by Army
A Queen's University student from Manchester who has alleged that he was stabbed and hit with a baton by soldiers on Saturday night is said to be "satisfactory" in hospital. The 20-year-old man, whose family lives at Collyhurst is editor of the University's student newspaper "Gown".
He has alleged that he was attacked by three soldiers from a Land Rover patrol in the Mountpottinger area at 10.30pm on Saturday night. Said the man "I was struck on the head from behind with a baton and the wound just at the left ear had to be stitched later. I was beaten from behind with a baton by another soldier and I was dazed and do not remember much about it except I was beaten. I felt a sharp jab in my right side and took it for another blow. A spokesman at Army headquarters in Lisburn has said that they understood a complaint had been made through the proper channels and that they would not be issuing any statement.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Army raids in the Sperrins - 14 held
Fourteen men have been detained as troops and police swept through open country near the Sperrin Mountains in a new search operation. Outlying houses in the Kilrea area of County Derry were raided. During the search more than 50 lb of gelignite, 51 detonators and 21 shotgun cartridges and several switch mechanisms were found. All fourteen men detained were later handed over to the RUC for questioning.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Body is flown home
The body of 22-year-old Lance Corporal Edwin Charnley killed by a sniper at the Short Strand bus depot in Belfast on Thursday has been flown home. There will be a full military funeral at his home town of Preston, on Wednesday.

Monday 22nd November 1971
Patrol escapes mine attack
Soldiers on border patrol have narrowly escaped death when a huge mine was detonated between their vehicles. But only one soldier was slightly injured as the second vehicle caught the full force of the bomb on the Forkhill-Newry road. The leading vehicle had just passed the mine when it was detonated from 60 yards away. The explosion blew a thirty-foot crater in the middle of the road and caused extensive damage to the one-ton armoured personnel carrier which had been following the Land Rover. As soldiers – men of the 27th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery climbed out of their vehicles two shots were fired at them. None of the soldiers were injured.
Earlier in the day a 50 lb Claymore type mine was found near Forkhill by soldiers before it exploded. It had been planted on the road between Shean and Carrive and the troops found wires leading from it to two points in the South. At Belleek, 11 sticks of gelignite were found on a concrete block on the border road. It appears that someone unsuccessfully tried several times to blow up the obstacles before they finally left the scene.
In Strabane a petrol station was damaged by a bomb attack. The station, owned by A. Graham and Co. at Lifford Road was attacked shortly after 10.00pm on Sunday night.

Tuesday 23rd November 1971
IRA men held in dawn raids
Twenty-four men, including some middle rank IRA suspects have been detained and arms and ammunition seized when troops swooped on more than 30 houses in Belfast. Two brand new American M1 carbines, six pistols and a quantity of ammunition were found by the troops who raided homes in the Ballymurphy and Whiterock areas.
Two more guns were found by troops after other incidents at Andersonstown and three men are being questioned about the discovery of Claymore bombs in a car at Coalisland.

Tuesday 23rd November 1971
Soldier shot by sniper
A soldier has been shot by a sniper in the Lower Falls area of Belfast. The soldier, a member of the Scots Guards, was hit in the left side and was rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital for an emergency operation. He was just entering the command post of the battalion at North Howard Street mill when the gunman fired a single shot from a hidden position. It is believed the gunman lay in wait in a derelict building at Colin Street, between the Falls Road and Ross Street. The soldier's immediate condition is unknown but it is thought he may have been seriously injured.

Tuesday 23rd November 1971
Blast killed bomber - theory
Detectives are still trying to identify a man who was blown up when a bomb wrecked a Lurgan bar. The RUC are working on the theory that the dead man was one of two people who planted the bomb at the Cellar Lounge at Church Place. A tattered coat found among the debris had a gun, believed to be a Lugar pistol, in one of the pockets. One man still in hospital after the explosion is said to be seriously ill.

Tuesday 23rd November 1971
Donegal girl seriously ill
The 24-year-old Donegal waitress, Miss Bridget Carr, who was shot in the head during a gun battle on the Strabane-Lifford border on Friday between troops and gunmen operating on the Donegal side of the border is very seriously ill in Altnagelvin Hospital.

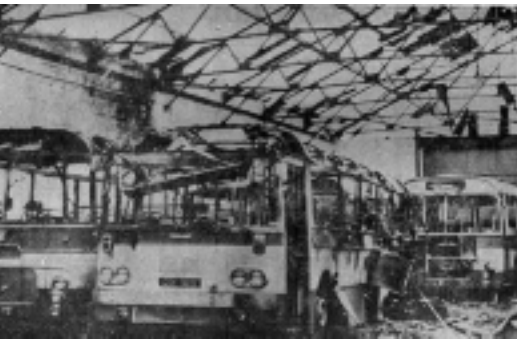
Tuesday 23rd November 1971
Sniper fires single shot
A single shot has been fired at a foot patrol of the Scots Guards opposite Waterford Street in the Falls, but troops did not return fire because of the risk of hitting passers-by. The gunman is thought to have been hit when soldiers fired at a man on a roof at Venice Street in the same area. Later, soldiers fired at another man seen with a revolver at Rossnareen Avenue in the Andersonstown area. In Ardoyne

troops came under fire at Elmfield Street when a gunman attacked a foot patrol. Fire was not returned.

Tuesday 23rd November 1971
Woman denies her brother was tortured by the IRA
A Belfast woman has denied that her 19-year-old brother was tortured by the IRA. She says she cannot understand why he has not been in touch with his family since he left for England, according to the Army, of his own free will. The man is said to have told security forces that he had been tortured with a red hot poker









Wednesday 24th November 1971
Dead man was IRA member
The man who died in a pub blast at Lurgan on Monday night has been described in death notices in a morning newspaper as a 1st Lieutenant in the IRA, he has been named as Michael Joseph Crossey, a 21-year-old drapers assistant, of Derrymaccash, Lurgan. One death notice describes as a 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Lurgan Company of the IRA.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Man killed in bomb attack
A man has been admitted to a hospital in Dundalk suffering from gunshot wounds. There has been no explanation as to how he came by his injuries, but the possibility that the patient has some connection with a shooting incident in Turf Lodge, and the spotting of an ambulance on the border, has not been ruled out. Five shots, not directed at troops were heard in Moyard Park, minutes later an ambulance was seen leaving the area but the Hospitals Authority has said that that the ambulance was not one of theirs.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Soldier hit by peace-line sniper
A soldier has been shot and seriously wounded when a sniper opened fire from a bedroom window at the peace-line in Belfast. About an hour later, troops again came under fire at the peace-line, only a short distance away. The soldier was hit by a bullet which passed through his body as he manned a vehicle checkpoint at Cupar Street. The sniper, hiding in a rear bedroom of an unoccupied house at Bombay Street on the Falls side of the peace-line, fired three shots. Fire was not returned. Then a burst of automatic fire, at least five shots, was aimed at troops at a barrier nearby, but no one was hit. The soldier, a member of the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards was rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital where he is described as satisfactory
Earlier a foot patrol from the same battalion came under fire from a sniper at the junction of Falls Road and Iveagh Street but no soldiers were hit in the attack.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Saor Eire in recruitment drive
Evidence has come to light recently that members of the two established factions of the IRA, annoyed with the pace of events in the North, have gone over to, and joined a new unit. It is believed that plans to form a new "ultra terror unit" have been laid by members of Saor Eire, a Republican Maoist organisation which was outlawed in the thirties, and they are hoping to recruit dissidents from the Provisional and Official wings of the IRA in order to escalate violence.
Over the last few years soar Eire has had at most only about 50 members in its entire organisation in Ireland. They have been responsible for some Post Office and bank raids and this is seen as an attempt to spring back into the arena of "gun politics".
The security forces believe that many IRA men are worried about recent statements made by the "top brass" in both camps. Cathal Goulding, the leader of the Official IRA, has already admitted that the present campaign was "doomed to failure", and in a speech by one of the leaders of the Provisionals, Mr. David O'Connell, it was said that a "political solution must come about eventually." This, say the security forces, is causing confusion within the ranks of both organisations.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
English business men assaulted by Army
Two English business executives have claimed that they were wrongly detained at Palace barracks and that one of them was punched in the face by a soldier after shots were fired at their car. Both men are giving their versions to their MP's to investigate. A spokesman for the Army said they cannot comment on the incident because to the on-going investigation but a police statement may be issued later.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
17 held in Belfast raids
Seventeen men have been detained for questioning after troops raided homes in three areas of Belfast. Thirteen men were held when 400 men of the 2nd battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers carried out a three hour "screening" operation in the New Lodge Road area. The Army stressed that it was not a full scale search, but the identities of men over the age of 17 from the Artillery flats were checked.
According to an Army spokesman, two IRA suspects who had been sought for some time were among those detained.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Canon meets IRA
At a secret rendezvous a retired church of Ireland rector pleaded with the Official IRA to end its campaign of violence. After the meeting Canon Henry Lamb (81) of Lisnadill, Armagh said: "Being totally opposed to violence I besought the IRA to take no such action." Canon Lamb, a pacifist for 35 years was collected from his home and taken to a secret meeting location where he met two "high ranking" officers of the Official IRA and two members of Armagh's Pearse Republican Club. The talks lasted for about an hour and then the Canon was taken back to his home.

TOP - Flames leaping from the Melville Hotel in Derry.
MIDDLE 1 - Bomb attack on the Chester Park Hotel, Antrim Road.
MIDDLE 2 - Burnt out buses in the Strabane Depot after an IRA attack.
BOTTOM - Troops remove the reamins of a bomb which was left at a store in College Square North.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Death of shot woman
Miss Bridget Carr, the 24-year-old Donegal waitress who was shot by gunmen when they fired on troops at Strabane on Friday died has died in hospital in Derry. Miss Carr, whose home was at Kindrum, Fanad, worked in the Inter-County Hotel at Lifford and had been going to the shops when she was hit. She was rushed to Altnagelvin Hospital but she never regained consciousness.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Plea by loyalists
Bangor Loyalist Association has written to Mr. Heath stating that if the SDLP are not prepared to accept the democratically elected Stormont Government, the British Government should deport "Irish foreigners" out of Britain; introduce identity cards and enforce sanctions against the Irish Republic.
The association says the way to solve the Ulster situation and avoid the civil war of a Protestant backlash, is to be firm with Republicans and not appease them.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
M2 Motorway attack
Two large earth moving machines on the site of the M2 motorway at Artresnahan, near Randalstown have been badly damaged by fire after bomb explosions. The machines were owned by the Dromore firm of John Graham. Another bomb believed to be between 15 and 20 lb, partially damaged the customs clearing post at Newtownbutler. A garage and car showrooms in Belfast was damaged in a bomb attack. The garage of Mervyn Stewart Ltd on the Lisburn Road was damaged when two gunmen placed a bomb under a car. No one was injured. In Derry, 15 shots were fired by gunmen at a helicopter but no one was injured.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Dismantle internment policy say Alliance
An Alliance Party leader has said that the internment policy must be dismantled – not simply by opening the gates of Long Kesh but by putting on trial internees who have committed any known crime. Mr. Oliver Napier, joint chairman of the party's political committee, told North Antrim alliance in Portrush: "I do not believe that it would be impossible to devise a proper and fair trial for every man held in internment against whom there was any evidence, if the government wished to try them."

He challenged the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General to establish that any judge or magistrate or any police or military witness would be defected from his duty by intimidation. "Juries are convicting alleged members of the IRA day in and day out."

TOP - The wall at Crumlin Road Prison, over which nine IRA men escaped.
BOTTOM - The yard from which then men escaped.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Paisleyism is a negative force says PM
Paisleyism was attacked by the Prime Minister, Mr. Faulkner, as "a negative force, concerned to pull down, rather than to build up". Mr. Faulkner accused its leaders of being anxious to exploit every situation to their own advantage regardless of the interests of Northern Ireland: "Every week brings some new stunt to keep in the news". He also said that there is a growing awareness among ordinary party members that the "rumbling remnant" is not only an embarrassment but also a political liability to the party.

Wednesday 24th November 1971
Extra security at Belfast Prison
Extra security measures have been introduced at Belfast Prison following the escape of nine prisoners during a football match. Mr. Faulkner, who said, for security reasons, he could not disclose what the new security measures were, stressed that the escape was only made possible due to the amount of outside assistance received.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Gunman thought to have been shot
One of two gunmen who fired on troops at lunchtime in Belfast is believed to have been wounded when soldiers returned fire. A foot patrol of the 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards was moving along Broadway when two gunmen opened fire. One armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun fired 10 shots and the other using an Armalite rifle fired twice. The soldiers fired back and one of the gunmen is believed to have been hit but he disappeared.
In Ardoyne, five shots in a burst of automatic fire was directed at soldiers in the bus depot, but no one was injured.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Man on bomb charge
A 20-year-old motor mechanic appeared at Belfast Magistrates Court charged with causing an explosion at the RAOB Club in Glenmore Street on 4th September. The man, who refused to recognise the court, was remanded in custody until 30th November.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Arms found by troops
Troops have uncovered more stocks of IRA explosives and ammunition. In Farringdon Gardens they discovered 12 sticks of gelignite, 15 bomb cases with primers and detonators and 127 rounds of ammunition. Shortly after this find they discovered 5 sticks of gelignite, some loose gelignite and some bomb making equipment in a house at Cranbrook Gardens in Ardoyne.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Bomb at tobacco warehouse
Army experts have defused a bomb planted in a Belfast wholesale tobacco warehouse by four armed men. But a second bomb, which is believed to have been brought into the premises of Prestige Sales at





Alliance Avenue was not found during the search and it is thought to have been taken away by the bombers. Three of the raiders carried pistols and the fourth a Thompson sub-machine gun. All of them wore masks.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Escapers give press conference
Six of the men who escaped from Crumlin Road Prison on 16th November have appeared in a press conference at the headquarters of Sinn Fein in Kevin Street. Also present at the conference were Mr. Rory Brady, President of Sinn Fein and Mr David O'Connell, the IRA man who is said to have been involved in the abortive attempt to import arms from the Continent. Mr O' Connell said that the press men had been invited on the condition that photographs would not be taken of five of the escapers. A sixth escaper, Mr. Bernard Elliman, would be prepared to be photograph and to be interviewed on television.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Bomb expert killed
An Army bomb disposal expert was killed and two other soldiers injured when a bomb exploded in a Lurgan car showroom. He died when a wall collapsed on him after a 30 lb, planted by two gunmen, exploded in Fisher's showroom at William Street. He has been named as Warrant Officer Colin J. Davies, aged 38 from Glamorgan. He was serving with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Two youths planted the bomb shortly before 7.00pm and told the staff that they had 10 minutes to get out. Warrant Officer Davies was called to the scene and entered the building. But according to the RUC he could not locate the bomb and left the building. He then went back into the building for the second time with another soldier but the bomb suddenly explode burying him in the rubble. The soldier with him was badly cut. As other soldier came to the rescue a gas cylinder exploded injuring the third man.

In Belfast a bomb badly damaged the motor engineering works of David Marshall at Shaftsbury Avenue. The bomb is thought to have been placed between petrol tanks and the building was extensively damaged. Shots have also been fired at troops in the Cupar Street area of Belfast by a gunman in a nearby store, but he escaped after troops opened fire. In Cliftonpark Avenue two nail bombs were thrown at an RUC Land Rover but no one was injured.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Troops fire shots during dawn search
Soldiers opened fire on a gunman during a dawn search operation in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast but the man is not thought to have been hit. Men of the Scots Guards fired at the man as he was going through a cordoned area. Another 23 men were detained for questioning in the four-hour operation which was carried out by more than 300 soldiers.

Thursday 25th November 1971
Irish Soldier arrested by British Army
The Irish Army have confirmed that a serving soldier from Waterford, who is said to have been detained during a swoop in Belfast yesterday, is absent from camp. The 22-year-soldier who serves with the 1st Tank Squadron at Plunkett Barracks, Curragh. The man was detained by British troops during a raid on a block of multi-storey flats at the New Lodge Road. His 20-year-old fiancée who lives at Artillery flats has said he was lifted along with other men during the swoop.
Both the Army HQ at Lisburn and the RUC have refused to disclose whether the soldier is still being held or his whereabouts. An RUC spokesman said that they could not discuss the details of anyone who is being detained for more than 48 hours. However, it is understood the RUC are still questioning the soldier.

Friday 26th November 1971
Arms find in school
Troops acting on information found a quantity of arms and ammunition in a Catholic school "exactly were we were told they would be", said an Army spokesman. The find at St. Paul's school in Beechmount Parade, consisted of six guns, several rounds of ammunition and a nail bomb. The guns were screwed or bolted to a ceiling above a changing room. The search, by soldiers of the Scots Guards began shortly after midnight and lasted for two hours. A Lugar pistol with a loaded magazine, three .45 revolvers, one .38, a .22 rifle, two magazines for the rifle, and a box of .45 ammunition for the Thompson sub-machine gun, as well as bombs and assorted ammunition were uncovered.

The Army in carrying out their search caused between £2,000 and £3,000 worth of damage. Every door and lock in the school was smashed. The headmaster, while accepting that the Army had the right to carry out the search for arms and ammunition, felt that the damage to the building was so great, it could only be described as legalised vandalism."

Friday 26th November 1971
Bomb at Methodist Society
A 50 lb bomb has extensively damaged Aldersgate House, which is occupied by the Methodist Society at University Road, Belfast. Three people were injured by flying glass but the building had been evacuated half an hour before when three armed men placed the bomb. An adjoining restaurant, windows in surrounding buildings and a number of cars were damaged buy the heavy blast.

Friday 26th November 1971
Bacon factory bombed
An explosion has badly damaged part of the Colin Glen bacon plant at Suffolk after gunmen snatched £7,000 of the firm's wages and planted a bomb in the factory. At least six masked men took part in the bacon factory raid. Some were armed with sub-machine guns, while the others carried revolvers. A wooden box containing 20 lb of explosives was left on the canteen floor and just before 1.00pm the bomb exploded wrecking the canteen and shattering dozens of windows.

Friday 26th November 1971
Monks given hero's welcome
Two monks were mobbed by a crowd of supporters outside Belfast Magistrates Court after they appeared on charges of helping two prisoners and other persons unknown escape from Crumlin Road jail. One monk was kissed, hugged and cheered by women. The other from the same monastery was also given a hero's welcome. After about five minutes with the women still cheering and clapping the monks were driven off in a car. The two men were remanded on continuing bail but while they were in the dock of the custody court, they chatted and shook hands with the two prisoners who escaped from the jail.

Friday 26th November 1971
Wilson's plan for a United Ireland rejected
In a firm but unemotional reaction to Mr. Harold Wilson's plan for a United Ireland, Mr. Faulkner said there can be no fundamental change which is unacceptable to the majority in the Six Counties. Neither in Belfast or Dublin was there enthusiasm for the practicality of Mr. Wilson's proposals – a constitutional conference leading by agreement of all parties to re-unification after 15 years, with Ireland in the Commonwealth, acknowledging the Queen.

Friday 26th November 1971
RTE ban IRA interviews
The directive from the Republic's Minister for Posts and Telegraphs to RTE banning publicity for illegal organisations was issued following a Government decision and would remain in operation as long as it was judged to be necessary, the Minister, Mr. Gerry Collins, told the Dail. A few hours later, the directive was acted on to ban televised interviews with the IRA leader Mr. David O'Connell and one of the escapers from Crumlin Road Jail, who appeared at a press conference in Dublin.

In a statement last night, the Dublin radio and television branch of the National Union of Journalists complained that Ministerial directives had been invoked to restrict presentation of" legitimate news item."

Friday 26th November 1971
Dragon's teeth on border roads
Dragon's teeth, massive one and a quarter ton reinforced concrete blocks are being placed on many cross border roads in an attempt by the Army to seal them once and for all. Already the blocks have withstood two attacks. In one a massive gelignite charge was laid, but failed to blow the block from the road. Made at a pre-cast concrete works somewhere in the North, the blocks measure over four feet high and some three feet across the base. They are concreted into the road after being reinforced on the spot with steel rods so that they cannot be towed away by a heavy vehicle.

Friday 26th November 1971
Galway man on IRA charge
A Galway teacher was remained in custody for a week at Belfast Magistrate's Court charged with possessing illegal documents relating to the IRA. The document were found in the man's possession in County Fermanagh five days ago.

Saturday 27th November 1971
Three die in gun attacks
Three people, two civilians and a soldier, when IRA gunmen opened fire in separate incidents in Belfast and on the border near Newry. The civilians Mr. Ian Hankin a Customs Officer and Mr. Jimmy O'Neill, cleaner, both of Newry were shot dead at Killeen Customs post by gunmen from the South. The soldier was shot when a foot patrol was ambushed in the Falls area of Belfast.

The killing of the two men on the border happened almost three hours after gunmen blew up the temporary British customs post. The RUC have said that four or five gunmen opened fire on troops at the Killeen post from a deserted house 400 yards inside the South. The hail of high velocity bullets struck the customs building, a military vehicle and the two men. Mr. Hankin, aged 27, was about to step into a caravan when he was hit. He collapsed and fell into the vehicle. Mr. O'Neill, aged 39, was killed in a small wooden hut which was being used as an office. He was standing beside an electric cooker when at least eight bullets struck him.

The soldier who was killed in the Falls ambush was shot as he walked along the street on foot patrol. Four IRA men are believed to have gone into a house behind the men of the 1st Battalion, the Scots Guards, who were carrying out a "cordon and search" operation. At least one of them opened fire with an M1 carbine. The Army said that eight shots were aimed at the Scots Guardsmen and one of them hit a soldier. His comrades rushed to his aid and other soldiers were quickly moved into the area to search for the snipers but they could not be found.

The dead soldier has been named as 18-year-old Guardsman Paul Nicholls from Caithness in Scotland. He is the fifth Scots Guardsman to have been killed in the North.

Saturday 27th November 1971
Massive bombing assault
The North was reeling under a barrage of explosions as the major bombing campaign which started in Belfast on Friday. In a 30-minute period starting at nine o'clock, RUC headquarters reported that there had been nine explosions throughout the North. And in a 30-hour period which has only just ended there were over 20 explosions. Several fires were started maliciously and incendiary devices were uncovered and defused.
Fears are growing that the bombings were the work of a newly formed group which is under the command of the IRA splinter group Saor Eire.

Saturday 27th November 1971
Time table of attacks

9.00am	Bomb explosion in Belfast's Queen's Quay railway station.
	Bomb explodes in Adelaide Street car showrooms.
	Mullan customs post, Fermanagh set on fire.
9.05am	Bomb placed in Killeen customs post, Fermanagh. Two men killed.
	Tullydonnell customs post set on fire.
9.11am	Bomb explodes at Ready-Mix concrete plant, Suffolk.
	Blast at Colinwell Concrete, Glen Road, Belfast.
9.15am	Bomb at Clontivrin customs post, Fermanagh.
	Gunmen hurl bomb through window at Amasco tarmac plant, Stoneyford.
9.20am	Garrison youth hostel blown up.
10.00am	Fathom customs post set on fire.
	Bomb reported found in vacant building, Donegal Street, Belfast.
10.15am	Bomb goes off in McClunes Glass dealers, York Street, Belfast.
10.20am	Incendiaries at Watson's furniture showroom, Donegal Street.
	Middletown telephone exchange damaged by explosion.
11.05am	Bomb discovered at old RUC Barracks, Ligoniel.
11.22am	Bomb reported at Green Briar golf driving range, Glen Road, Belfast.
11.27am	Customs Officer and Ministry inspector shot dead at Killeen.
11.30am	Bomb reported in Ulster Brewery, Glen Road, Belfast.
11.34am	Bomb wrecks shop owned by Lord Mayor at North Queen Street.
11.37am	Incendiary causes fire at Halls book Shop, Smithfield market.
11.48am	Heinz complex at Springfield Road, Belfast, damaged by explosion.
12.10pm	Scots Guardsman shot dead by gunman in Falls area.
12.15pm	Slight damage caused to NPO, Ann Street, Belfast by incendiary device.
12.35pm	Fane Valley Creamery, Newtownhamilton, damaged by explosion
12.40pm	Two shots fired at Army check point in Andersonstown
12.42pm	Army patrol comes under machinegun fire near Castle Gate, Derry.
2.10pm	Incendiary devices explode at Supermac shopping centre, Belfast.
2.45pm	Balmoral Inn, Lisburn Road, Belfast damaged by bomb blast.

Saturday 27th November 1971
Derry attacks
In Derry five explosions rocked the city centre and Waterside. The first two bombs went of within seconds of each other at 8.30 pm, a car accessory shop and a paint store were extensively damaged in Great James Street. Ten minutes later another bomb went off in a drapery store in Butcher Street damaging parked car and smashing windows. After midnight the bombers switched to the waterside area of the city where the Development Commission's rent office in Dungiven Road was extensively damaged. At Altnagelvin hospital an incendiary device was found in a lift. The smoking object was spotted by a doctor before it went off and was taken away for examination.

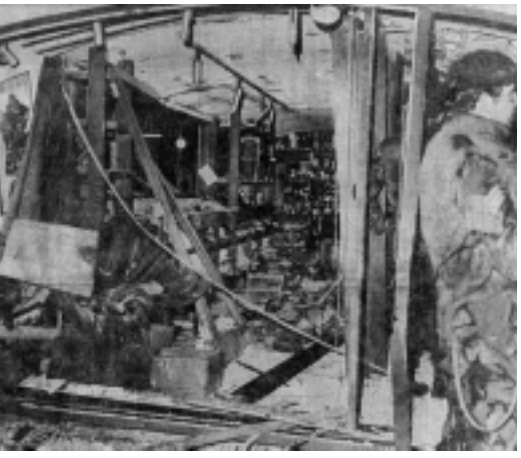
Saturday 27th November 1971
Irish soldier is freed
An Irish soldier who was arrested by British troops during a raid on Artillery House flats has been released. The soldier had been visiting his girlfriend who he had met while she was a refugee in an Army camp in the South.

Saturday 27th November 1971
Coalisland sealed off by Army
Nearly 1,000 troops cordoned off Coalisland in one of the most intensive searches ever carried out by the Army. Apart from what has been described as a substantial amount of subversive material, nothing was found during the search. One man was arrested after he assaulted a Royal Marine. At Meenagh Park where the man was arrested local people came out on to the streets and as troops started to search houses people threw wet rags onto their fires to cause smoke so that the soldiers could not see clearly.

Monday 29th November 1971
Provisionals behind weekend attacks
Security force are certain that the Provisional IRA are behind the bombing offensive which was mounted at the weekend and not the new crack unit being formed by the outlawed Saor Eire. They have been left in no doubt either that it was one of the most carefully planned series of explosions of the current campaign.
As senior RUC and Army officers studied reports of the weekends upsurge in activity, they were trying to determine what made the IRA chose this weekend. It is believed that security chiefs knew from intelligence reports that a major offensive was to be launched. But even some of them were taken by surprise when the true picture of the intensification of the operation began to unfold. It was hardly coincidence that the IRA went on the offensive a few days after Mr. Wilson's speech and the decision by the Parliamentary Labour Party to end the by-partisan policy. It is certain that the operations were planned over a number of weeks. Having done that it was only merely the question of choosing the right psychological moment to put it into operation. In view of the events of the past week, the IRA chose the best possible time to attack.

Monday 29th November 1971
Soldier wounded by sniper
Another soldier was shot and wounded in Belfast after an Army vehicle collided with a bus. The soldier, a member of the 12th Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery was hit as he stood near a recovery vehicle at the scene of the accident. One bullet grazed his skull and he was rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital but his condition is not said to be serious. The accident between the bus and the one-ton armoured personnel carrier happened at the junction of Finaghy Road North and the Stewartstown Road. The Army vehicle went into a ditch but no one is believed to have been injured. Troops did not return fire but later they carried out a search to locate the sniper.







Monday 29th November 1971
Long Kesh tension
A warning that a combination of inactivity and tension among the internees at Long Kesh camp could, in the long run constitute "an explosive mixture" is given in the new Red Cross report on conditions in the internment centre. Two Swiss officials of the Red Cross visited the internment camp last month at the invitation of the Northern Ireland Government and they say they believe that the easing of over-crowding and the provision of recreation facilities would contribute greatly to the reduction of "extreme tension".

Monday 29th November 1971
Forty suspects arrested
In the past 48 hours, troops, in many cases acting on information received, detained nearly 40 suspects and captured large quantities of arms and ammunition. At 11.30 yesterday men of the Scots Guards found a M1 carbine and magazine loaded with 12 rounds of ammunition, a loaded Webley revolver and 253 rounds of ammunition near a house in Bombay Street. At Keady, a helicopter observed around 20 people filling in a crater on a border road. The Scots Guards were sent to investigate and the people crossed over into the South. Four gunmen then opened up on the troops with three rifles and a machine-gun. Fire was returned but there were no casualties.

In the border area near Newtownbutler, troops had to deal with a similar situation. This time the people filling in the craters were using two mechanical diggers. As the troops moved in the workers immobilised them. Later as they returned to barracks they discovered and defused a claymore bomb which had been placed in a tree which was blocking the road. In Belfast a civilian was injured by a bullet when three Scots Guards vehicles were ambushed on the Antrim Road. About 12 shots were directed at them from the direction of Brookfield Avenue. The Army vehicles pulled into Atlantic Avenue but were unable to return fire because of a civilian car between them and the gunmen. The driver of the car was found to have been shot in the back. He was taken to hospital but is not thought to be serious.

On Saturday night a bomb was thrown into the offices of occupied by the Department of the Environment at Upper Lisburn Road, causing extensive damage but no injuries. Kelly's off-licence on the Falls road was also damaged by an explosion.

Monday 29th November 1971
Firemen halted by bomb scare
A bomb badly damaged the former Labour Exchange in Derry but as firemen fought to control the blaze an anonymous telephone caller warned of a second device. The building houses government offices and the bomb was planted by three armed en who also sprinkled petrol around the building. Another explosion damaged an automatic telephone exchange at Greenhaw Road and the temporary customs post at Killea was burned down at midnight.

Considerable damage was also caused in the afternoon when two 5 lb gelignite bombs exploded at Eakin Brothers garage and showroom at Foyle Road. Several cars were destroyed and the roof of the building damaged.

Monday 29th November 1971
Shot girl may lose her sight
The parents of a teenage girl who was shot at the weekend have been told that id she lives she may lose her sight. The girl, 17-year-old Vivian Gibney was shot when gunmen opened fire on members of the RUC investigating a road accident at Cliftonville Circus on Saturday night. Bullets have damaged that part of the brain that controls her sight. Her condition overnight has not improved.

Monday 29th November 1971
Tip-off leads to swoop on arms dumps
The Army has carried out one of its most successful operations in Belfast – a swoop on six IRA arms dumps in which rifles, machine guns and ammunition were seized and four people taken into custody. Only hours after receiving a tip-off that a large quantity of arms hidden at seven locations in the Ballymacarrett area of East Belfast, men of the 1st Battalion, The Queens Highlanders, moved in. The items found in a variety of hiding places, including under floorboards in a pigeon loft, were a deadly 7.62 target rifle, a .32 Winchester repeater, a .303 rifle, three M1 carbines, One Thompson sub-machine gun, one M3 American sub-machine gun, one Sten gun, two .38 pistols, one .455 pistol, 18 magazines and 2,814 rounds of assorted ammunition. Also found were 11 lb of gelignite and 8 line throwing rockets. In the most spectacular find, troops rushed to the corner of Seaford Street after being told that arms had been buried on waste ground only yards from an Army observation post. Probes were used to search the ground and after about 20 minutes a piece of tarred wood about a foot underneath the surface. Underneath was an arms bunker. An assortment of weapons including a sub–machinegun, and a pistol were

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TOP - Sentry post in Cupar Street after a solider was shot dead by an IRA sniper.
MIDDLE - The Cellar Lodge in Lurgan after a bomb attack in which a man died.
BOTTOM - troops search the grounds of the Convent of the Sacred Heart.
FACING PAGE - An explosion rips through the showrooms of Isaac Agnew, Grosvenor Road.

wrapped in a polythene bags. Army officers said that they had heard from intelligence sources that the IRA had been unable to get into the arms dump since the Army observation post had been built opposite. One of the first places to be searched was Mountpottinger Road and in a house, only a few yards away from their main headquarters at Mountpottinger, the Queens Own Highlanders found the Winchester rifle under floorboard.

During the operation the Highlanders swooped on houses in Thompson Street, Mountpottinger, Anderson Street Seaford Street, a Republican Club in Kilmood Street, a pigeon loft in Clyde Street and waste ground on Newtownards Road.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Bombers took bomb away
The Weights and Measures building in Durham Street has been declared safe after the Army carried out two searches for bombs. Late on Monday two gunmen held up staff and said that they had placed a bomb in the building. The men were carrying a large box. The building was evacuated and rush hour traffic diverted from the area. Two searches revealed nothing and staff were told that it was safe to resume work at their normal time. It is believed that the men discovered some defect in the bomb and took it away with them again.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Visitor to Long Kesh detained
A young man has been detained while he was visiting his brother in Long Kesh internment camp. The 18-year-old man, who comes from the New Lodge area, was visiting the camp with his mother when he was detained.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Explosion at Belfast plumbing firm
Two people have been slightly injured when a bomb exploded at the offices of a plumbing and electrical firm. The injured were rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital after the blast at the premises of R. B. Wilson in Rydalmere Street, off Roden Street. The RUC have said that three men entered the building shortly before 3.00pm and left a smoking box on the floor. Minutes later the box exploded causing extensive damage. Traffic has been diverted away from the area

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Mans body found on border
RUC detectives are still trying to identify the young man found murdered on a lonely border road. He was found in the townland of Teer, near Crossmaglen, County Armagh, by a farmer who was driving past on his tractor. The body, shot through the head, was lying on the roadside about 100 yards from the border and 20 yards from a crater blown in the road by troops a month ago. A description of the man was issued as detectives, accompanied by Special Branch men, made inquiries to try and identify him.

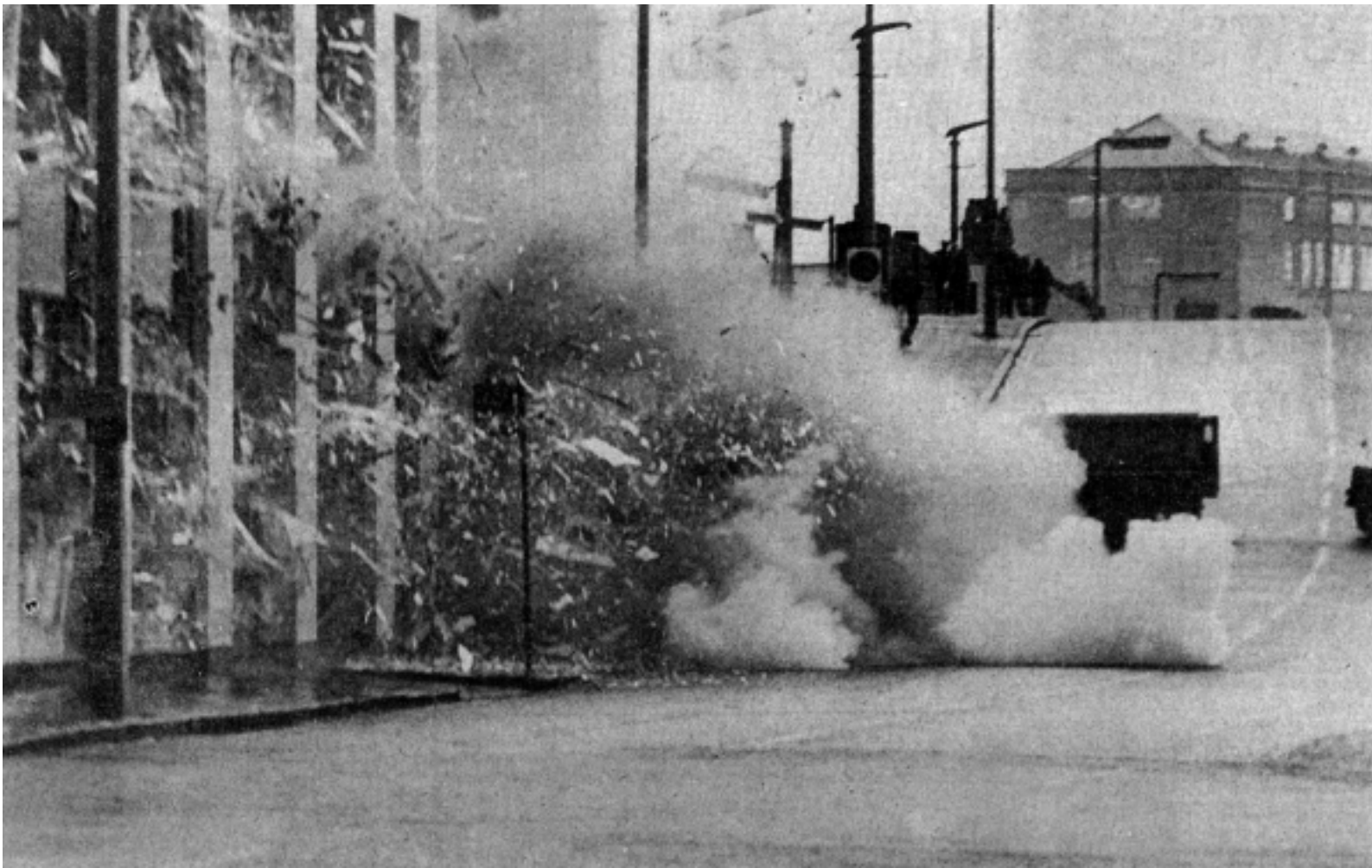
There seems little doubt now that the man was assassinated rather than shot during a gun battle with troops. The RUC have issued a description of the dead man. He is in his mid or late twenties, 5ft 8in tall, black hair receding at the front, fresh complexion, clean shaven, medium build, hazel eyes with a large nose and slightly protruding teeth.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Arms find on Falls
Six people are being detained and are being questioned by the RUC after the discovery of arms and ammunition in a house off the Falls Road. Another man was also detained after arms and ammunition were discovered in a milk churn in a house in the Clonard area.

The find in Rockmore Road came after came after a patrol Scots Guards saw a youth dash into a house and closed the door when he saw the troops. Soldiers entered the house and inside they found a Sten gun with three loaded magazines, three pistols, a mills grenade, nine nail bombs and 200 rounds of ammunition.

The milk churn arsenal was found buried in a back yard in the Clonard area. Troops acting on a tip-off found an M1 carbine, a Sten gun and more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition

In Derry a bomb estimated to between 10 and 15 lb of gelignite exploded at the Spencer Road branch of the library. Extensive damage was caused by the blast. Immediately after the blast a suspicious looking object was discovered in the doorway of a nearby shop but after examination Army experts declared it to be an old radio transmitter and believed it had been left there to cause confusion.



Tuesday 30th November 1971
Shot fired as Post Office van is hi-jacked
One shot was fired when gunmen hi-jacked a Post Office van about a half a mile from the border. The raiders forced the driver to stop at Tievenameenta, near Castlederg. The RUC have said that one shot was fired but the driver was not hurt. The gunmen then drove off in the van towards the border.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
'Comfort for the troops' fund
The Lord Mayor of Belfast's 'Comfort for Troops' appeal has now risen to £17,000, following a £250 boost from a local fund started by the Mayor of Lisburn. The money from the fund will be distributed to individual units serving here and the units themselves will decide their own priorities for welfare projects.

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Your enemy is Republicanism !
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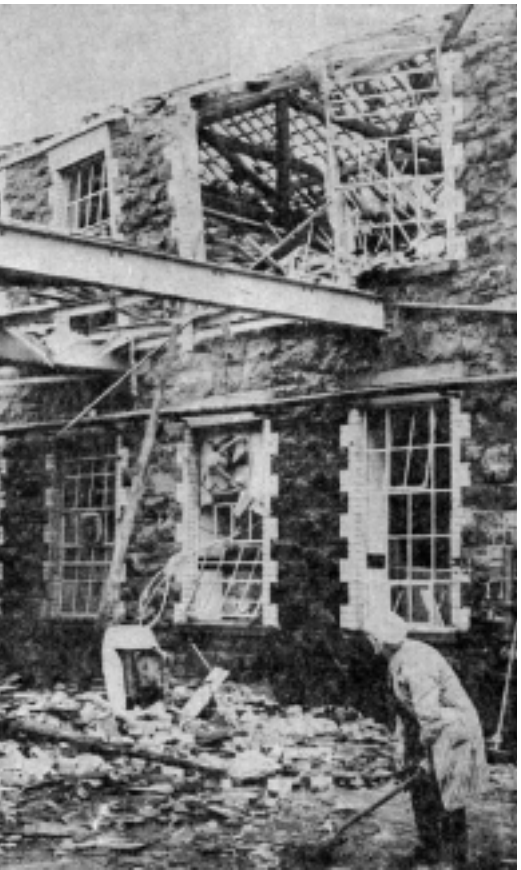


TOP - The EAB Building in College Square destroyed in a bomb attack.
BOTTOM - Bomb attack on the Colin Glen Factory, Suffolk.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Christmas appeal for RUC widows
Lady Brookborough has launched an appeal for the widows and dependants of dead members of the RUC. Since 1969, 14 have been killed and 1,600 injured.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
UDR open day
An open day was staged by the UDR at St. Lucia Barracks, Omagh, to mark the formation of a new battalion. The new battalion, to be called the 8th (County Tyrone) Battalion, UDR, is being made by dividing the present 1,300 strong 6th (County Tyrone) Battalion into two. The 6th UDR is the strongest battalion in the North and has nearly 200 applications in the pipeline. Although both battalions will be under strength initially, they are expected to be up to strength very quickly.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Journalist who had machine gun is fined
The Northern news editor of the Sunday Press, who admitted possessing a home-made machine-gun, has been fined £20 at Belfast magistrates Court. He is 27-year-old Vincent Brown, of Antrim Road, Belfast. Mr. Brown, a journalist, admitted having the weapon without the authority of the Secretary of State at Glengall Street on the 13th September. In court Crown, lawyers told of how on Sunday 12th September, Brown had published in the Sunday Press an article which related to an allegation by the IRA that machine-guns had been manufactured in a large Belfast engineering works, for the use by Protestant extremists.

The next day Brown contacted an Army information officer in Lisburn and said he had seen one of these machine-guns produced to him by the IRA. Apparently an arrangement was made between Brown and the Army information officer that if Brown obtained possession of the machine-gun he would immediately contact the Army officer about the weapon.

On the 13th September Brown obtained a machine gun from an unknown man on the Falls Road but instead of informing the Army Brown arranged a Press Conference at Glengall Street. There he produced the weapon and was immediately arrested by the RUC who seized the weapon. The weapon was a fully automatic 9mm home-made sub-machine gun which operated efficiently. A photograph of the weapon was produced in court.

In a statement Brown said that he told Mr. Colin Wallace of the Army Public Relations Office about the weapon which had been made at a large engineering plant. It was arranged that if I produced this weapon I would not be arrested. I picked up the weapon from a man in the Falls area whom I had never seen before. I then agreed to show the gun to some of my Press colleagues at the Europa Hotel. The court was told that Brown's guilt was a technical one due to his profession.

Tuesday 30th November 1971
Bunting's son held by troops
Mr. Ronald Bunting, the 23-year-old son of Major Ronald Bunting has been detained by security forces in a pub in the Markets area of Belfast. He was arrested with two other people in the Black Bull public house. Mr. Bunting is a member of the Civil Rights Association and had been trying to form a branch of the association in the area. A spokesman for the association said that it seemed to be policy to detain people who were forming new branches. An Army spokesman said they had no comment to make on the remarks other than to say: "We are given a list of people by the police and it is simply our job to detain them".

DECEMBER 1971

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Man shot during bomb attack
Shortly after 11.00am three men entered the premises of the Belfast glass firm Clokey's in King Street. One of the men jumped the counter and planted a smoking bomb behind it. It is believed that the raiders then gave staff five minutes to get out. The bomb exploded six minutes late and assistants ran to get clear before the store went off. One employee tried to grab the bomb and was wounded by one of the gunmen.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Dead man identified
The RUC have said that the man shot dead in the Teer area of Crossmaglen was a serving British soldier. Private Robert Benner who was a member of the 3rd Battalion, The Queens Regiment is a native of Dundalk. The 25-year-old soldier was retuning from the home of his fiancée who lives in Dundalk when he was stopped and killed by gunmen.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Paint company bombed
Two gunmen who set a paint store alight had a narrow escape themselves when they found themselves trapped by the blaze. A third man waited for them outside the premises of the International Paint Company, at Galway Street, off Durham Street.
The men walked into the building carrying two canisters as they set fire to one of the canisters it exploded however the raiders managed to get the door open and ran off to the waiting car. An Army patrol is believed to have chased the car into the Lower Falls area where the men escaped. The devices caused severe damage to the building.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Soldiers fire 500 rounds fired in border battle
Troops fired 500 rounds from heavy machine guns during a cross border gun battle. The 20 minute battle erupted on the border as troops of the 16/5 Lancers stationed at Omagh sent a patrol to retrieve a burned out mail van which had been hijacked earlier and left near the border. As soldiers were preparing to tow it away they came under fire from the South. According to the Army at least three gunmen were involved.
About 40 shots from the hidden gunmen pinned down the Army patrol. But then the soldiers opened up with the Browning machine-guns mounted on their ferret scout cars. There were no Army casualties during the raid but the Army think they may have hit one of the attackers.
In the New Lodge Road area of Belfast a teenage boy was wounded in the arm when a sniper opened fire from Artillery Flats. It is thought that the boy may have been shot by mistake for he wore a green jacket and may have been taken for a soldier.
In Derry five shots were fired at soldiers manning a vehicle checkpoint on the Dungiven Road. The shots came from a moving car. There were no army casualties and fire was not returned. Some time later a single shot was fired from an empty house at the Army post in Foyle Road. Soldiers searched the area after returning fire but nothing was found. A nail bomb was also thrown into William Street from Colmcille Court but there were no injuries.
There were two explosions in Strabane area. The first damaged an electricity transformer on Urney Road. An hour later another blast damaged a sewer pipeline at Sion Mills.
In Belleek there was a small fire at a customs post and at Beragh, County Tyrone, Army experts successfully defused a 5 lb gelignite charge found on a dredger being used on a river drainage scheme. It was only when the boat stopped for servicing that the bomb, whose fuse had burned out, was found in the cab.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Provos reject Lynch's truce idea
The Provisional IRA have rejected a suggestion that they declare a Christmas truce, which was made by Mr. Jack Lynch. The IRA spokesman said that twice in the last few months they had laid down their preconditions for a truce but they say that these have not been accepted by the British Authorities. The preconditions include the release of all Irish political prisoners in Britain and Northern Ireland and the abolition of Stormont.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Army's electronic noise machines.
The Army's three "electronic noise machines" were made in a service workshop and the components used in manufacturing the equipment would have cost about £1 said Lord Baine, Minister of State for Defence in a Commons written reply. He was answering a question from Mr. George Cunningham, MP, for Islington South-West.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Extradition orders for escapees
Extradition warrants for the seven recent escapees from Crumlin Road Prison have been prepared and will be forwarded to the Gardai when the whereabouts of the men are known, Mr. John Taylor, Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs, has told the Commons. Asked what would happen if the warrants were refused on the grounds that the escaped men had been involved in "political crimes" the Minister said it would then be a matter between the United Kingdom and Dublin Governments.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
'Revolutionary' for trial
A booklet containing advice on sniping and bomb making was found at the home of a self confessed "professional revolutionary" a court was told. Police also found a document entitled "A letter from a soldier of the IRA to the soldiers of the Royal Green Jackets. There were 49 copies of this and 734 copies of another document, entitled "A Letter from a Ballymurphy mother. A duplicator and a typewriter were found nearby.
A 38-year-old man was sent for trial at Kent Quarter sessions, charged with two offences under the 1934 incitement to disaffection Act. He is accused of having the letters to the Green Jackets and from the "Ballymurphy mothers" – documents of such a nature that the dissemination thereof among Her Majesty's Forces would constitute an offence",
The advice on sniping and bomb making was found in a booklet called "The mini-manual of an Irish guerrilla. One chapter entitled "How to destroy your enemy", made it clear that the enemy was the British Army.

Wednesday 1st December 1971
Women launch peace drive
Member of the Women Together Group have launched a publicity campaign "Peace for Christmas". The group, which has members in all the troubled areas of Belfast, have also brought out a Newssheet, which will be distributed in the streets and pushed through letterboxes. The "Peace for Christmas" campaign will cost £2,000, which has been raised through voluntary donations.





TOP - Wilson's Plumbers, Roden Street after a bomb attack.
BOTTOM - Firemen fight a blaze at the Copper Rooms after a bomb attack.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Two bombs – 21 people injured
The IRA has bombed two buildings in Belfast city centre within minutes of each other. The first explosion at the Copper Room restaurant in Berry Street occurred shortly before 2.00pm and within minutes a second explosion at the occurred at the Gestetnor office equipment showroom in York Street. Twenty-one people were taken to hospital as a result of the attacks.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Shots fired at patrol
An Army patrol came under fire in the Ardoyne Area today but there were no casualties and fire was not returned. An Army spokesman said the incident in which one shot was fired at a Queens Lancashire Regiment personnel carrier, took place in Butler Street in the area of Holy Cross School at 8.30am. In the last 24 hours the Army has detained 26 men in security swoops, 21 of them in Belfast, the others in Derry.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Dockland gunfight
There has been a fight in Belfast's dockland as armed men staged a hold up at the docks wages office in Dufferin Road. One harbour policeman and a raider were wounded in the exchange of fire. The incident happened shortly after 2.00pm when three gunmen, alarmed with revolvers, appeared. The alarm was raised and harbour police rushed to the scene. The raiders opened fire and one harbour policeman was hit in the leg. It is thought the wound is not serious. A gunman was also hit and both were rushed to hospital. Both the other raiders were captured and taken into custody.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Shot girl dies
After a four-day fight to save her life, a Belfast teenager has died from gunshot wounds. Seventeen-year-old Vivien Gibney, of Deerpark Road, was shot in the head on Saturday evening as she stood in a chemists shop at Cliftonville Circus. Gunmen opened up on two RUC men investigating an accident and the chemist shop was sprayed with bullets. After being rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital, doctors fought to save her life but to no avail.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Marine hurt in border gun battle
A Royal Marine Commando was slightly injured when troops were fired on from the southern side of the border at Middletown, County Armagh. The Marine, whose name has not been released, was one of an escort party, accompanying Army engineers who were placing security ramps to slow down traffic on an approved border road.
An Army spokesman said that about 20 automatic rounds were fired from across the border shortly before noon. Fire was returned by the troops but no hits were reported.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Bombs in Derry
Four explosions have rocked Derry within the space of an hour. At around 10.00pm the first two blasts wrecked two shops in Gt. James Street, one of them being Dickey & Co.'s wallpaper store. Fire caused extensive damage to both buildings. A third explosion damaged the Abercorn Motor Works on Abercorn Road. The last, and biggest explosion of the night was caused by a 25 lb bomb at a shirt factory in Maureen Avenue.
Earlier in the day a soldier with the Coldstream Guards fired at a car which failed to stop at a roadblock. A gun was seen pointing from a window and the soldiers believe they hit the man holding it. The roadblock incident happened in Derry at around 3.30am when three men in a car approached a checkpoint at Beechwood Avenue. It stopped short and began to reverse as the men ignored commands to halt. Soldiers fired rubber bullets at the vehicle breaking the windows. Then, said an Army spokesman a gun was seen pointing out of the car. A soldier fired a single shot and the gunman was seen to slump forward before the car sped off in the direction of Lone Moor Road.
At Coalisland a Marine Commando was injured when his two-vehicle patrol was ambushed three miles east of the town. He was hit in the leg during the exchange of fire but is not seriously injured. In a follow up search of the area the Army found several expended .45 cartridges.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Shot soldier satisfactory
A soldier who was admitted to Altnagelvin Hospital on Wednesday with a neck wound after accidentally discharging his rifle is said to be in a satisfactory condition.

Thursday 2nd December 1971
Army put raiding boat on display
The Army has demonstrated one of their latest pieces of equipment used in search operations – the fast raid craft, a vessel being used to patrol Lough Neagh and Carlingford Lough. The boat, which is armed with a General Purpose Machine-Gun, was shown in an exercise on a river near Antrim. Seven Marines who crew the raiding craft showed how they would follow a suspicious vessel, board it and take charge of the men
The exercise was carried out by men of the 2nd raiding Squadron of the Royal Marines and a recce troop of 42 Commando Royal Marines. The new Army vessel have been used by the marines for several weeks and are now undergoing trials with the Army's heaviest machine-gun. Already they have been used on Lough Neagh and Carlingford Lough to stop and search fishing vessels and more patrols are envisaged. The raiding vessels have already been used in operations in Pakistan and Norway. A Marine spokesman said they have been used in the North for patrol work and this would continue. "They operate in pairs, one boat acting as a boarding vessel and the other one giving cover fire."

Friday 3rd December 1971
IRA Jail Break
People at a social in Ardoyne were celebrating the escape of three IRA men before the authorities knew they were missing. It has been confirm that five to seven hours elapsed before the men, including two top Provisional IRA suspects, were known to have gotten away. But by that time – 9.30pm – the news that they had escaped had been announced 30 minutes earlier at a social and material for celebration bonfires were being gathered. The Dublin headquarters in Dublin have said that the escapers are now in the South.

As a top level inquiry into the escape was being mounted, it is believed the escapers used sheets tied together to make their getaway some time between 2.30 and 4.00pm. They were taking their exercise with the other detainees when they shinned the wall and leapt to freedom under the noses of troops and prison warders. The escape route was roughly in the same area as that used by nine prisoners who escaped in November.
Two of the three men are Anthony "Dutch" Doherty and Martin Meehan, both of whom live in the Ardoyne area. When they were held by the Army in a club in Ardoyne their capture was hailed as a major triumph for the security forces. They were only 24 days behind bars before the daylight escape. The third man is Hugh McCann from Belfast.
The questions being asked are:

1. How did the three men getaway without being spotted, by either warders or patrolling soldiers outside?
2. How did their escape remain undetected for so long?
3. Where was the weak spot in the recently tightened security network inside and outside the jail?

A scheduled count followed the exercise period – about 5.00pm – should have discovered the fact that the three men are missing. But it didn't and security chiefs want to know why?

Friday 3rd December 1971
Dangerous toys
A senior Army officer has asked parents not to buy toy guns for their children as they might be mistaken for gunmen and be shot. "On a dark night or at a distance the toy guns could be mistaken for the real thing – particularly if they are held in a realistic manner. Replica Thompson sub-machine guns (used by the IRA) and Self Loading Rifles (Used by the British Army) can be purchased in local toy shops and look like the real things. Plastic weapons which have their own magazines and can cost just over 50 pence and could result in injury or death.

Friday 3rd December 1971
Derry bomb
Three armed men planted a bomb and sprinkled petrol in the home of "Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Londonderry". Sir Basil McFarlane, a former Mayor of the city was not at home at the time.

Friday 3rd December 1971
'Lollipop' soldier hot by sniper
A soldier on "lollipop" patrol was shot and wounded and a filing station badly damaged by an explosion in Belfast. The soldier was a member of an Army patrol escorting children in the Oldpark Road area when a gunman opened fire.

An Army spokesman said the soldier, a member of the 1st Battalion, the Queen's Lancashire Regiment was rushed to hospital. He is said to be very seriously ill. A second soldier is reported to have been slightly injured in the incident but this has yet to be confirmed. The gunman is believed to have fired from a position near the junction of the Oldpark Road and Ardilea Street but troops did not return fire.

Friday 3rd December 1971
Retired Colonel killed near Navan
Police investigating the killing of a retired British Army Colonel at his home near Navan, said today that there was no evidence that he had been shot. It is now believed that he had been battered to death.
The hooded and bound body of 60-year-old Lieut. Colonel C.R.P. Walker was found by his wife Iris when she returned near midnight from visiting friends. Weapons belonging to Col. Walker have been stolen. These include a shotgun, a rifle and a revolver. Police are working on the theory that the Colonel was killed by Republican extremists. They are considering two possible motives:

1. Theft of firearms
2. A revenge killing for the deaths of gunmen in the North at the hands of the British Army.

Both the Official and the Provisional IRA wings have denied involvement in the killing of Colonel Walker.

Friday 3rd December 1971
Booby trap bomb in Newry
Just before teatime Newry RUC rushed to investigate a bomb scare at a drapery store in Hill Street. While they were searching a shop it was learned that a man had placed a bomb in the nearby Woolworth building. Minutes later it went off blowing out the whole shop front. Twenty minutes later a second bomb went off at the Boulavard Hotel. Nineteen people, including a detective, were treated in hospital for shock. Later there was another double explosion in Derry which damaged a car accessory shop and a furniture and drapery store in John Street.

Derry was also the scene of an intensive search. 400 troops from the Royal Green Jackets and the Coldstream Guards began a search of the Bogside area at 5.30am. Minor rioting broke out and rubber bullets were fired. One shot was aimed at an Army observation post in Foyle Road. There were no casualties. At 8.00am after the search had ended, the Army announced that they had found 29 nail bombs, 10 lbs of gelignite and 200 detonators. Five men were detained during the search.
In Belfast, which had a relatively quiet night, 37 IRA suspects were arrested. At 8.30 a small explosive device was hurled from a passing car at the Bridge Bar at the Short Strand- Madrid Street junction. A number of shots were also fired at the bar.

Friday 3rd December 1971
A United Ireland would bring peace say priests
A United Ireland will bring "a just and lasting peace" to the country says an Irish priests organisation. In a statement, the central committee of the Association of Irish Priests expressed support for initiatives which could lead to peace. "We are convinced that peace can be realised in a United Ireland," they said. "We are also convinced that a United Ireland will require a new constitution." They went on: "Recognising genuine Protestant fears of religious domination by a Catholic majority we wish to state that the new constitution must embody the principals of religious freedom for all, as asserted, for example, in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and as stated in official Catholic teaching". The committee urged the churches as a preparatory step towards drawing up this constitution, to study together how best religious liberty might be guaranteed for all. This study, they said, should be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

Friday 3rd December 1971
Troops fired on in Derry
Troops have come under several attacks in Derry in the space of one hour. No one was injured in any of the incidents and troops did not return fire.
One high velocity shot was aimed at a patrolling helicopter from the junction of Beechwood Avenue and Beechwood Crescent, shortly after the Bligh's Lane post came under attack. At Foyle Street and Bishops Street five nail bombs were thrown shortly after 9.00am. Minutes later a gunman opened up opened up in nearby Hamilton Street. Four shots hit a house in Bishops Street but there were no casualties.
The Donegal Border, near Castlederg was the location of a 10-minute gun battle between the IRA and the British Army. It happened at Corgary, west of Castlederg when two snipers fired eight single shots at three ferret cars which were on routine patrol in the area. The Army replied with 30 rounds but there were no injuries.

Saturday 4th December 1971
South launches hunt for IRA arms
Special Branch detectives and uniformed police have carried out the most widespread search for illegal arms in the South since the 1956-62 IRA campaign. In a series of well planned raids, they swooped on houses and farms in Dublin and Counties, Cavan, Meath, Monaghan and Louth. It has been disclosed that ammunition finds have been made Gardai in Monaghan. At Knockacullion, Scotstown, a quantity of ammunition, parts of guns and training material were found in what is thought to be a former Provisional IRA training camp. The find at Scotstown was made on a farm belonging to Mr. James McIlwaine, a Sinn Fein member of North Monaghan County Council. No arrests were made. Among the houses raided was that of the IRA Provisional Chief Mr. Sean McStiofain.

Saturday 4th December 1971
How ex-Colonel died
The retired British Army officer found dead in his home in the South of Ireland died from Asphyxia due to swallowing vomit, it has been disclosed. A man purporting to be a member of Saor Eire said that members of his organisation were responsible for taking weapons from the Colonel's home at Castletown, County Meath, but were not responsible for his death "We just tied him up. " he said. The body of Lt. Colonel C.R.P. Walker, of the Royal Enniskilling Dragoon Guards was found in his 15-room Georgian farmhouse on Thursday night. A cloth was over his head and his hands were tied behind his back. Saor Eire, a "Free Ireland" group, claims to be part of the IRA, but has been disowned by both sections.







TOP - Bomb attack on Tate's Avenue Filling Station.
MIDDLE - Bomb attack on a shop on the Dublin Road.
BOTTOM - Shop destroyed in a bomb attack on York Street.

Saturday 4th December 1971
Fugitives "safe and sound"
As the Provisional IRA in Dublin claimed that the three fugitives from Belfast Prison were "safe and sound", the hunt for the men throughout the North continued. But a Provisional spokesman would not confirm that the men were in the south. Certainly security chiefs remain unconvinced by claims that the men are already over the border. They will have to have something more positive, like the presentation of the escaped prisoners at a press conference before they call off the search. So that means that the public may well have to endure for a little longer road checks in and around Belfast. The Provisionals in Dublin have said that they may wait until next week before the three are produced at a press conference.

Saturday 4th December 1971
Cross border Repeater Station bombed
A GPO repeater station has been destroyed by an explosion at Killeen. The station carried underground cables linking telecommunications North and South. In Strabane two bombs exploded within ten minutes of each other. The bomb was at Wellworths in the Main Street. The charge was placed at the back of the building and ripped a large hole in the back of the supermarket. About ten minutes later a bomb went off in Ballantine's timber yard in Railway Street stating a large fire.

Saturday 4th December 1971
Officials admit blast
The Official IRA have claimed responsibility for the explosion at Aberfoyle, the home of Sir Basil McFarlane, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the City of Derry. A statement issued by the local command said it was retaliatory action for the wrecking of Republican and civilian homes by the British Army. It warned: "For every home wrecked we will take retaliatory action against the loyalists. This does not include working class Loyalists but affects directly those who have vested interests in the Stormont regime."

Saturday 4th December 1971
Sixteen schoolboys arrested
Principals of Catholic schools in West Belfast are to meet early next week to discuss what action to take over the arrests of 16 schoolboys on Friday. The boys were arrested by troops at about 4.00am and held for questioning for about ten hours. They were released shortly after lunchtime. The boys, believed to be aged between 12 and 16 years, although one allegation is that one boy is aged nine. Eight of those arrested are pupils at St. Thomas's Secondary School, Whiterock Road.

Saturday 4th December 1971
RUC man's life saved by dud round
A gunman tried twice to shoot an RUC constable at point blank range in Newcastle but the man's life was saved when the gun failed to go off. The RUC man was on foot patrol along the central promenade shortly before midnight when he was confronted by



a gunman. Twice the man pulled the trigger and twice the gun didn't fire. The gunman then fled pursued by the constable and other members of the RUC but they lost him in the darkness. Later a man on foot failed to stop when challenged by RUC personnel. He ran off across fields and one shot was fired at him. He is now in hospital being treated for gunshot wounds to his shoulder.

Monday 6th December 1971
Bomb at Pub –Fifteen dead
Fifteen men, women and children were killed on Saturday night, 4th December, when a bomb demolished a pub in North Queen Street, near Belfast city centre. The massive charge of gelignite exploded inside the bar on the ground floor, bringing hundreds of tons of rubble crashing down on customers. The explosion, which brought the number of people killed since 1968 to 183, is the worst in living memory. Troops, RUC men, firemen and hundreds of civilians clawed in the rubble in their bare hands to release those trapped. All emergency services in the city were put on full alert, as the horror of the blast at Paddy McGurk's pub became known.
During the big rescue operation, gunmen opened up wounding an Army officer seriously and slightly injuring two RUC men and five civilians. Rival crowds from the area and nearby Duncairn Gardens and the RUC and Army drove a wedge between them as stoning broke out.
After the explosion, which was heard all over the city, troops and police rushed to the scene, where some of the injured were already crawling from the debris. Immediately along with people who streamed from nearby houses, they began digging in the rubble with their bare hands as screams were heard in the darkness. As they came across bodies stretchers were called for. Military and civilian ambulances were used to ferry the 13 injured to the Mater and Royal Victoria Hospitals. Within a half an hour 800 people had arrived on the scene to help in the rescue. They were organised into human chains by troops who issued commands through loud hailers. The debris was removed virtually brick by brick. Later an Army mechanical digger was called in to speed up the operation. At one point there was a threat of another explosion from a severed gas main. But the rescuers worked on as small fires broke out in the rubble all around them. Firemen used foam to douse the flames. Several of the rescuers were violently sick, as badly mutilated bodies were uncovered. A team of surgeons from a Belfast hospital rushed to the scene and treated the injured on the spot.
Initially six people had been found dead and others injured. Three hours later the death toll had risen to 14. As the search for the injured and dead continued into the night until dawn arc lights were set up by the Army. Local people brought ropes from their homes to drag away some of the heavier debris. An hour after the blast rival crowds gathered and rioting broke out. Shortly afterwards gunmen opened up a short distance away from the scene and Major Snow of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was seriously wounded in the head.
Two RUC men, one of them a reserve, were also hit when the gunman, using an M1 carbine fired from the direction of Hillman Street. Five civilians were also hit. As the shooting casualties lay wounded there was a delay in getting military ambulances to their aid because they were fully committed at the explosion. Reinforcements were called in and troops were again fired on. A gunman on the roof of a disused cinema at the top of the New Lodge Road is believed to have been hit when troops returned fire.
Eventually the New Lodge was cordoned off by five companies of troops who searched 48 selected houses and screened 100 people. Seven people, some of them on the Army's wanted list, were detained, and a sawn-off shotgun, a .38 pistol, a .45 pistol and ammunition were found.

Monday 6th December 1971
Disagreement over bomb's location
The mystery surrounding the North Queen Street explosion has deepened as the official RUC and Army version of where the bomb exploded was challenge by local people. Forensic experts are certain that the 50 to 70 lb bomb blew up the bar, killing 15 men, women and children and injuring 13 others but survivors say that this is not true. They are adamant that there was nothing suspicious in the bar that night and there were no strangers.
Eight-year-old Joseph McClory, who was selling newspapers at the time claims that he saw a black car pull up outside with four men inside it. He said one of them got out, planted a grocery box with a wire sticking out and then made off. As a special team of detectives probe the blast it is believed the other theory is that the bomb was inside the pub when

it exploded. It is thought that it was left unknown to the owner to be collected later and used in another "job". But the bomb exploded before it was moved. Detectives are checking the list of dead and injured. The pub owner, Mr. Paddy McGurk, whose wife and teenage daughter were killed in the explosion, is under heavy sedation in hospital. Detectives are anxious to interview him to see if he noticed anything before the blast. As the claims and counter claims continue a group calling itself Empire Loyalists has telephoned newspapers claiming responsibility for the blast. They said: "We the Empire Loyalists accept responsibility for the destruction of McGurk's pub. We placed 30 lb of new explosives outside the pub because we had proved beyond doubt that meetings of the IRA Provisionals and Officials were held there."

Monday 6th December 1971
Son saw the bombers

The boy, who claimed he saw a bomb being planted at McGurk's pub in North Queen Street, had been selling The Ireland's Saturday Night newspaper at the time. The mother of Joseph McClory aged 8, and who lives at Ludlow Street in the New Lodge area witness the attack. He came home, white with fear and was shaking as he related the attack to her. "He told me about the bomb, the car and how he was thrown by the force of the blast. He would not tell lies because he is an honest boy". She said Joseph also claims that he shouted to a man going towards the bar to warn him of the bomb.

The man was Henry Davey (48), who lives a few yards from McGurk's pub in North Queen Street. Henry Davey, a 48-year-old docker has also spoke of how a warning from the young newspaper seller saved his life. Mr. Davey told of how he left his house shortly before nine o'clock on Saturday night to go to the pub. He crossed the road and went to the front door but it was locked so he then went to the side door in Gt. Georges Street. "I was just about to get to the side door when the paper boy shouted a warning to me. He said 'Mr. don't go near there, I saw men planting a bomb there." Mr. Davey said he hesitated for a moment and then went round to the North Queen Street side of the pub. The bomb went off in a mater of seconds. "The child ran across the road towards me but I didn't see him afterwards and I think he ran away. I have not even seen him yet to thank him for saving my life."

Mr. Davey told of how he immediately got someone to ring for ambulances and then joined with a big crowd in trying to extricate the wounded and dying.

Monday 6th December 1971
Survivors Story

The survivors of Saturday night's blast at McGurk's bar have told of the horror of being trapped in a mound of smouldering rubble. A 14-year-old boy, Seamus Kane, was upstairs playing table soccer with his best friends Gerard McGurk and James Cromie. Gerard and Seamus survived the blast but James (13), a pupil in St Malachy's college, was killed. "Everything went dark," Seamus said "and I remember being under the rubble. I had no idea it was a bomb and I could hear injured people shouting. After about 20 minutes a soldier and some civilian rescuers got me out. My back was scorched by the fire and I had to have stitches put in my leg. I still don't feel very well – I haven't got over the shock. Jimmy was a good friend of mine: we used to go to McGurk's pretty often to play," he said.

Seamus lives only yards way from the pub and his mother, Mrs. Mary Kane went there after the blast. "I knew Seamus must be in there but I couldn't stand watching them all being brought out so I went back







ALL RIGHT - The scene of the bombing at McGurk's Bar, North Queen Street



and then a man told me that Seamus was aright," she said.

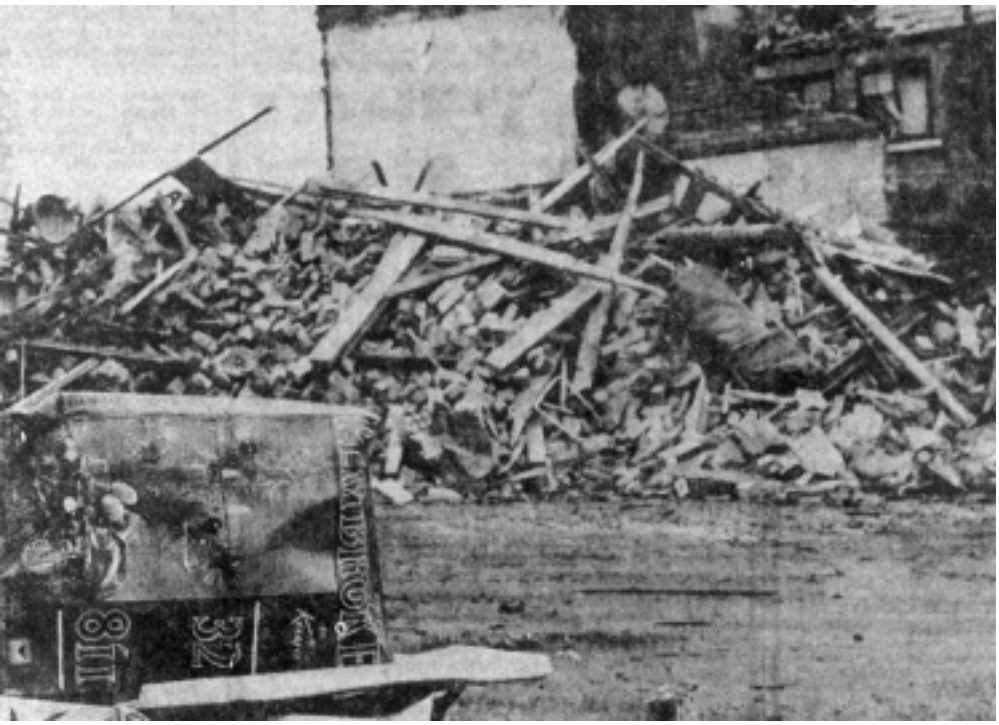
The mother of the dead boy, Mrs. Ann Cromie, said she looked at the heap of rubble where her son died: " Somebody came about one o'clock and told us that Jimmy had been killed in the blast. His father had to identify him but they wouldn't allow me into the morgue because they said the sights in there were too horrible."

Three men were saved because they decided to move to a corner of the bar where there was more room 30 minutes before the bomb went off. They were spared the worst of the blast by a toilet wall but one of their party, Mr. Thomas McLoughlin, died while his friend lay on top of him unable to move. He is Charles Reid (46), whose back was burned and who received severe cuts to the leg, head and ears. "I work in Bunbeg, County Donegal, " he said, "and I only came up for the weekend although it was not my usual weekend off. I always went to McGurk's - it was my local," said Mr. Reid, who lives in North Queen Street. "We were standing talking to Mr. McGurk when the bomb went off. He fell first. I can remember that as clearly – then we went down and all the dirt seemed to fall around us. I was buried under the rubble and I can remember that the four of us were talking to one another. " We talked away and told each other to keep cool. We were keeping one another's spirits up. My mate was shouting 'I'm Finished,' and I was lying on his stomach and I couldn't get off him. "Then I heard no more word from him and I said to myself 'he must be gone.'

"When the bomb went off there was a terrible flash which seemed to burn my back. I thought it came through the window although they tell me it was planted in the hall. I knew it was a bomb and I heard the crowd outside and knew help was coming. They were shouting: 'Is anybody there?' and I shouted back. We seemed to be buried ages although it couldn't have been more than five or ten minutes until a soldier brought me out. I was lucky. Some stools fell around me which protected me and I had my hands around my head to make sure I could breath. When a policeman told me it was a 50 lb bomb I couldn't believe it. I thought it was a small one.

An Uncle of the dead man, Mr. Malachy McLaughlin (62), from Chatham Street, said that when they were pulled from the rubble they were several feet above ground level. He has a broken and lacerated ankle and cuts to the leg which required several stitches. My leg and the fingers of my left hand were trapped. The weight was coming down on my hand and I thought I would lose my fingers. But when I got out there was hardly a scratch on them. Just before it went off I smelt a funny smell and I said somebody has let off a stink bomb in here, then there was the flash and the explosion. It definitely wasn't in the bar because I was looking right up the bar and could see everyone in it. I was pulled out by two soldiers. The rescuers did great work. I'm lucky to be alive. They told me I was in there 20 minutes but it was a hell of a long 20 minutes."

Mr. Matthew McClafferty, from Havana Street received eye and leg injuries said: "It's a miracle that I'm alive. The flash seemed to come from the direction of the bar. I didn't know whether I had been injured or not. There was water running down my neck and I thought it was blood."





Monday 6th December 1971

The dead

Fourteen of the people killed included the proprietor's wife, Mrs Phyllis McGurk and her 13-year-old daughter Marie. Mr. McGurk and his three sons were among the injured. An elderly couple who enjoyed a drink together, Mr. Edward Keenan and his wife Sarah, form Carlisle Parade, also died in the blast. The other dead are:

PICTURES ON BOTH PAGES - The scene of the bombing at McGurk's Bar, North Queen Street

James Cromie (13), 129 North Queen Street; John Colton, Bernagh Drive, Andersonstown; Thomas McLoughlin, Ardilea Street; David Milligan 2a Churchill House, New Lodge Road. James Smith, Alexander House, New Lodge Road; Francis Bradley, Carlisle Road; Thomas Kane (45), Henry Street; Mrs. Kathleen Irvine, Victoria Parade; Philip Garry (75), Stanhope Drive; Edward Kane (25), 10d Templar House, New Lodge Road.

The injured are Mr. Patrick McGurk (50), the owner of the bar, his sons Patrick (11), John (12) and Gerard (15). Gerard was detained in hospital

Two women named McAlorum were injured. One whose address is unknown was discharged, but the other, who lives in Pinkerton Walk, was detained in hospital. The others injured are – Mr. Roderick McCurley (23), Unity Walk, who was seriously hurt and is believed to have lost a leg; Mr. John Irvine (53), Victoria Parade, discharged; Mr. Malachy McLaughlin (62), Chatham Street, discharged; Mr. Matthew McCafferty (47), Havana Street, discharged; Mr. William Griffin (80), who condition is serious; Seamus Kane (14), North Queen Street, discharged; Mr. Charles Reid, discharged.

Monday 6th December 1971
Derry gun battles

Three men and a petrol bomber were believed shot when a 500-strong Army search party met with fierce opposition in the Creggan and Bogside areas of Derry during the night. Over 20 gelignite bombs were thrown at the troops who fought running battles with gunmen in several places, with sporadic shooting continuing into the morning. Three shots were fired at an Army helicopter by a gunman in the Kildrum Gardens area of Creggan, and later troops at the Mex garage returned fire at a gunman who fired a shot from a house in the Bishop Street area.

Monday 6th December 1971
Carpet store bombed

A five storey building in Belfast was blazing fiercely after bombs ripped through it shortly after lunchtime. Three armed men burst into Carpets and Linoleum on the Dublin Road and ordered staff out and planted two bombs. Minutes later the bombs exploded, and firemen moved in as the building was engulfed in flames. As the flames spread, more firemen rushed to the scene and at the height of the blaze ten engines were fighting the fire. Flames shot 100 feet in the air and soon the fire had spread to the adjoining textile firm of Brown Brothers. Firemen were forced to fight the fire from 50 feet away because of the intense heat. While the fire raged there was also a bomb scare in the nearby Alexander's Garage.

Monday 6th December 1971
Soldiers injured by nail bombs

Two soldiers, injured by nail bombs when confronting rioters in the Bogside area of Derry have been admitted to Altnagelvin Hospital and are said to be "quite satisfactory". There had been sporadic rioting at various points in the Bogside throughout the afternoon and troops fired CS gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone throwers in the William Street-Chamberlain Street area and near the Army posts at Bligh's Lane and Foyle Road. Shots were exchanged and in one incident, said the Army, a man carrying a shotgun was fired on. He is reported to have staggered back into a block of flats at Rossville Street. A bomb blast at the car showrooms of Thomson and McGrady in Strand Road damaged the premises but no one was injured.

Gunmen firing from the South opened up on an Army patrol on the Newtownbutler-Clones Road. The ambushers fired about thirty shots and men of the 16/5 Lancers shot back but there were no casualties. In Belfast, Army mobile patrols came under automatic fire as they moved along York Street. Two men were seen running down Nelson Street after the shooting. There were no injuries and the Army did not return fire. Five men were detained in the city after two empty cartridges were found in a car stopped at a roadblock. A pistol and shotgun were discovered during a search in the New Lodge area. Security forces also uncovered a pistol and 50 rounds in another search. A soldier was slightly injured by a ricochet in the Ardoyne area of Belfast. He was hit in the ankle.

Two people were treated for burns after a small incendiary device ignited in the Bulls Head public house in the Markets area on Saturday night. The premises were gutted by fire.

Tension is high in the New Lodge area following the explosion at McGurk's public house in nearby North Queen Street. There were sporadic stone throwing incidents and some premises in Duncairn Gardens were damaged. Two petrol bombs were hurled into an elderly couple house in Pittsburg Street. The ground floor was extensively damaged but the occupants were at a relative's house when the attack took place.

A 20 lb bomb placed at the front of Belleek Orange Hall has badly damaged the building. This is the third attempt to destroy the building. The motor taxation office in Downpatrick has been badly damaged by an explosion. Two other explosions in the town have caused structural damage to the courthouse.







A temporary Customs caravan at Aghalane, Kinawley, has been destroyed by fire and ramps on the road nearby were removed. About 20 men were observed sitting in cars on the southern side of the border after the incident. In Strabane a small bomb damaged a garage at Ballycolman Avenue. UDR men on duty at Derry Road, Omagh fired two shots in the air after a man was seen acting suspiciously nearby. The man fled and a quick search of the area was mounted but he was not found. The RUC are investigating a fire at Butler's grocery store, Shane Street, Randalstown, which has caused extensive damage.

Monday 6th December 1971
Army remove border road ramps

Road ramps on approved border crossing between Strabane and Lifford have been removed – by the Army. The Army erected the ramps in mid November and during the operation a young Donegal waitress was fatally wounded in a gun attack on the soldiers. "We now believe," said an Army statement, "that any benefit we might have gained from these ramps has come to an end and rather than leave them – which is only inconveniencing the public – we are removing them without in any way prejudicing our right to replace them should we consider it necessary."

Rioters have made several attempts to remove the ramps and troops have fired CS gas and rubber bullets to disperse them.

Monday 6th December 1971
Summons server tarred

A 50-year-old County Fermanagh summons server was taken from his home on Saturday night and tarred and feathered. One theory for the attack on the Derrylin man is that he had been serving summonses on people taking part in the civil disobedience campaign.

Shortly after 9.00pm four men called at his home. They told the man that their car had broken down and they needed help. They then produced revolvers and forced them to go with them. The man was taken to a gateway on the Enniskillen-Belturbet road and after tying him to the gate they poured tar and feathers over him and left a placard with the words "traitor" on it beside him.

Tuesday 7th December 1971
Bombs rip through Belfast store

Bombs have exploded in Belfast wrecking a Co-op store and a petrol station. Four people were taken to hospital with shock when two bombs ripped through the store at West Circular Road. And as emergency services stood by after the blast at Kennedy Way filling station, Andersonstown, there were fears that another unexploded bomb was in the building. The Co-op store was attacked by three men, one with a machine gun and the other two with bombs. The explosions almost demolished the store and fire broke out almost immediately. It was contained by firemen from Ardoyne.

Tuesday 7th December 1971
15-year-old boy arrested

A 15-year-old boy and a man are being questioned by the RUC about Monday's explosion and subsequent fire which gutted a Belfast factory block. The teenager was detained after the search of a house in the Ballymurphy estate. Shortly afterwards security forces swooped on a house in the New Lodge Road area of the city and took a man away for questioning. It is believed that a suitcase containing diagrams of the Dublin Road building is in the hands of the RUC. An estimated £1m worth of damage was caused when two bombs exploded sending flames racing through the 40 yards long block. At one point crews of ten fire engines fought the blaze. Later a woman member of the Salvation Army died and five other people were injured after the wall of their Dublin Road citadel, next door to the factory, collapsed. It has been confirmed that about 500 people have lost their jobs as a result of the blaze.

Tuesday 7th December 1971
Victims of pub bomb buried

Six victims of the explosion at McGurk's public house have been buried, including one of the two children killed in the blast. Six schoolboys walked beside the hearse of their 13-year-old classmate James Cromie. Many other pupils from St. Malachy's College walked in the boy's funeral procession as it made its way from his home in the New Lodge to Milltown Cemetery. About 600 people walked silently behind the coffin as it made its way up North Queen Street. The funeral paused briefly as it passed the tangled wreckage of the public house where 15 people died when a bomb exploded on Saturday night. James Cromie was playing table football in an upstairs room with the proprietor's son and friends when the bomb went off. He died instantly.

Earlier requiem mass was celebrated in St Patrick's Chapel, Donegal Street, for 25-year-old Edward Kane of Ashton Street. Black flags fluttered from many houses in North Queen Street and Unity flats. Several shops in the area closed briefly as the passed.

The funerals of Mrs Kathleen Irvine of Victoria Parade and Mr. James Smyth of Alexander House left the New Lodge Road together. At the junction of Clifton Street they joined up with the funerals of Mr. and Mrs Keenan.

Tuesday 7th December 1971
Four shots at helicopter.

A gunman has fired four shots at an Army helicopter in Derry. There were no hits and no casualties were reported.

Tuesday 7th December 1971
Release of 18 internees recommended

The release of 18 internees has been recommended by the Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Brian Faulkner. To date 14 internees have been released, two recommendations are being considered by Mr. Faulkner and in two other cases both internees refused to give an undertaking required by the Advisory Committee and were not released. The committee has now considered the cases of 205 internees and has made recommendations in 202 of them. Three cases are to receive further consideration. In 184 cases the committee recommended that releases should not be made. The Advisory Committee pointed out that 142 internees refused to go to it, but even so their cases were heard.

Tuesday 7th December 1971
Woman dies in attack on shirt factory

A woman was killed and her husband and four other men were injured when a wall collapsed in the Salvation Army Citadel next door to the burned out shirt factory of Munton Bros, in Dublin Road. The woman, Mrs Mamie Thompson (60) of Blythe Street and the men had gone into the Citadel to salvage furniture and fittings. Earlier they had been supplying hard-pressed firemen with tea. As they were about to leave a wall collapsed burying them under the rubble.



The funeral of James Smith and Kathleen Irvine two of the victims of the McGurk's bombing pause at the scene of the blast.



A car bomb explodes in Belfast city centre

Tuesday 7th December 1971
Army's apology for break-in
Soldiers who broke down the front door of a hall during a search in Derry's Bogside left behind a £2 donation for repairs when they realised the hall was used by Derry Welfare Committee. Local residents think that the troops who entered the Wolfe Tone Hall in the Brandywell area saw posters on the walls which made it plain what the hall was being used for. The Brandywell Tenants Association have said that following the raid a note enclosing £2 was found. It said: "To whom it may concern. We apologise for having broken your door down. Please accept this donation to the cost of repairing the same. From the 2nd Battalion, Royal Green Jackets.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Bombs rock Belfast
Bombers have struck five times in a matter of hours in and around Belfast. One man has been injured and the damage will run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. The elderly man was injured after an explosion at a Belfast Corporation Bus depot near Sandy Row. A huge wall collapsed into the backyard of his house, burying him under tons of masonry.
Other bombs went off at a filling station in Newtownabbey, the Abertay paper sacks factory on the Ligoniel Road, the Greenan Lodge Hotel, Suffolk, and in West Street, between Smithfield and Millfield gunmen planted a bomb at the offices of Stephenson and Turner, makers of water heaters. As bomb disposal experts tried to defuse this bomb one of the funerals of the North Queen Street explosion passed nearby. The area was sealed off and surrounding premises evacuated. Shortly afterwards experts successfully defused a second bomb which had been placed on the reception desk in the main hotel lobby.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Soldiers shot by gunmen
One soldier was seriously injured in the chest and another received a shoulder wound in two separate incidents in Belfast today. The Falls ambush, happened after three armed men took over a house in Rockdale Street. Then as Scots Guards, members of an eight-man foot patrol, reached the top of Rockdale Street, two men with M1 carbines opened fire through the windows of a house. A Lance Corporal was seriously injured and he was rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital where he has undergone an emergency operation.
In the Unity Flats area a soldier in an observation post on top of a home was shot by a sniper. He is said to be comfortable in hospital.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Death of UDR man
The shooting of a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment at his home near Caledon, County Tyrone, on Tuesday, appears now to have been an assassination. Although the three-armed men, who were unmasked, killed 31-year-old Private Denis Wilson in the bedroom of his farmhouse took his rifle, indications are that the primary reason for the raid, was not the weapons. The gunmen escaped over the border, which is just 300 yards away. The Self Loading Rifle they took with them was minus some essential working parts. There is a belief that Private Wilson was targeted personally and is supported by the fact that the gunmen ignored Mr. Wilson's brother-in-law, who is also a member of the UDR, who was in the house at the time.



Wednesday 8th December 1971
Eight more bomb victims buried
Thousands of mourners lined the streets for the funeral of the remaining eight victims of the bomb at McGurk's bar. Buried today were Mrs Philomena McGurk, her 13-year-old daughter and Mr John Colton, a cousin of Mrs McGurk, Mr Francis Bradley, Mr. Philip Garry, Mr. David Milligan and Mr. Thomas McLaughlin. A death notice for Mr. McLaughlin appeared in a morning newspaper from a Long Kesh internee, a woman in Armagh prison and a man on remand in Crumlin Road Prison.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Night of bombings
Shortly after 5.30pm two youths and a girl, entered Erskine Mayne's premises in Queen's Arcade, Belfast and set down two parcels. They told the staff to get out and then calmly walked out of the Arcade towards College Street. Minutes later the bomb went off and a second failed to detonate. Several people

have been treated for shock and cuts. One man was detained in hospital.
In Dungannon the courthouse in William Street was extensively damaged by a 10 lb bomb placed at the side door. Shortly after 7.00pm McCann's public house in Lurgan was damaged in an explosion. Two masked men armed with revolvers entered the premises and placed the 20 lb bomb. Damage to the bar was extensive but no one was injured in the attack. In County Tyrone a 10 lb bomb extensively damaged a supermarket at Granville near Dungannon. The explosion was followed by a fire.
Earlier an explosion and fire caused extensive damage to the premises of Rockview Motors, Donaghadee, and a Pettigo, County Fermanagh, a single decker Ulsterbus was badly damaged in an explosion, while another in Limavady was burned by hi-jackers.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Drogheda arms raid
A political storm is beginning to break over the raid by ten armed and masked men on the Drogheda FCA drill hall on Tuesday night. The raiders, believed to be members of the IRA got away with 15 Lee Enfields .303 rifles, two Gustav machine guns, and about 100 rounds of ammunition. The men, armed with submachine guns burst into the drill hall on the outskirts of the town, where an officer and 20 men were training. They ordered the FCA men to stand against a wall while they collected arms and ammunition. As the IRA men made their getaway, one of the soldiers fired a shot. The IRA returned fire narrowly missing the soldier.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Markets man assassinated
A man has been found shot dead in the Markets area of Belfast in what is believed to be an assassination within the IRA movement. The body of 20-year-old Anthony Nolan, of Staunton Street, was found in a house in Crawford Street not far from his home. He was shot in the chest and the discovery was made by the occupant of the house who returned early after a short absence.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Army denies use of drugs on detainees
Drugs are not being used to obtain information from people detained by the security forces. A statement from Army headquarters says: "The security forces wish to deny in the strongest possible terms that any use is being made of drugs during the questioning of suspects at the Palace Barracks holding centre at Holywood or elsewhere. Such allegations may be interpreted as an attempt by some detainees to explain away the full co-operation we are receiving.

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Scabies outbreak at Long Kesh
The Ministry of Home Affairs has confirmed that 18 internees at Long Kesh camp were being treated for scabies – a contagious disease. However, a spokesman for the Ministry has stated that the medical practitioner attending the centre has said that the outbreak is under control."

Wednesday 8th December 1971
Priest fined over census
Another priest has been fined for refusing to fill in his census form and if he does not pay the £7 within 14 days he could go to prison for two months. In court the 41-year-old priest said that he did not fill in the census form because of the partial administration of justice.

Thursday 9th December 1971
Shoppers caught in Bomb blast
A bomb has exploded at the Universal Employment Agency in Royal Avenue and then one minute later a second bomb exploded at the same location. Ambulances rushed to the scene to deal with people cut by flying glass. Every window in a 50-yard radius was shattered. It is understood that armed men placed the bomb shortly before 11.30 and made their getaway by car. A twenty-minute warning was given by the bombers.
Later in the day an Ulsterbus private hire and tour booking office in Glengall Street, Belfast was demolished by a bomb. Staff were given five minutes to get out and no one injured.

Thursday 9th December 1971
UDR warned to Stay on alert
The 6,000 members of the Ulster Defence Regiment are being warned by senior officers to be alert and take what precautions they can for their own safety following the second killing of a UDR man within 24 hours. The call goes out as security forces wait to see if the killings signal the start of an assassination campaign.
The 30-year-old UDR man, Mr. Sean Russell of New Barnsley was shot dead at his home and his 10-year-old daughter was injured in the same attack. The man had just returned from work and around 6.00pm the doorbell rang, Mr. Russell tried to struggle with the gunman. As they struggled he was shot in the head and his daughter in the thigh. The gunman ran off and it is not thought that a car was used.
According to the dead man's widow he had joined the UDR at its inception but had not involved himself with it after his initial attendance for recruitment and was not an active member.

Wednesday 9th December 1971
Gunman may have been shot
The Army has reported that a gunman may have been hit in Derry after shots were fired at an Army patrol. And in Rosslea, County Fermanagh 290 shots were fired at an Army ferret car on border patrol. The shots came from across the border but there were no injuries.

Thursday 9th December 1971
Army Major dies
An Army major who was shot during rioting which followed the explosion at McGurk's bar in North Queen Street has died in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He was Major Jeremy Snow (35) of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. His wife, who was flown over when her husband was injured, was at his bedside.
Two other soldiers, both Fusiliers who were shot on Wednesday are still seriously ill in hospital. One soldier was shot in the Falls road area and the other was wounded in the shoulder near Unity Flats.

Thursday 9th December 1971
Sniper hits Army ambulance
An Army ambulance carrying a soldier from Shackleton barracks in Ballykelly to Derry came under fire on the main Derry to Limavady road. The sniper, firing from high ground, struck the ambulance but no one was injured. The Army said that one bullet struck the ambulance which had Red Cross markings. An Army medical orderly gave who gave chase was not able to return fire.



RIGHT - A carpet factory on Belfast's Dublin Road destroyed in a bomb attack

Thursday 9th December 1971
Shot man was IRA volunteer
The man found shot dead in the Markets area of Belfast on Wednesday is described in death notices as a Volunteer in the 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade of the IRA. He was Anthony Nolan (20), of Staunton Street, and he was found shot in the chest in a house in Crawford Street. The notices also describe as "the result of an accident" and a notice from the "staff and volunteers of D Company" says he "was accidentally killed while on duty with an Active Service unit of the Irish Republican Army". A total of 14 death notices appeared for Mr. Nolan, including 10 purporting to come from the IRA and others from Crumlin Road prison and Long Kesh internment camp.

Thursday 9th December 1971
Girl carries black flag at funeral
A girl carrying a black flag trimmed with white walked beside the coffin of the last victim of the explosion at McGurk's Bar. Mr. Robert Spotswood (38), Kildare Place, was buried from St. Patrick's Chapel after Requiem Mass. About 200 people walked behind the coffin as it went along Upper Library Street. Side streets were sealed off by troops and black flags hung from homes in Unity Flats. Mr. Spotswood was the last victim of the bombing to be identified.

Friday 10th December 1971
Soldiers and women fight at funeral
Paratroopers and women fought during the funeral of a 20-year-old IRA man. The funeral of Anthony Nolan had left his home in Staunton Street just a few minutes earlier, followed by about 150 men walking behind the coffin and a large crowd of women on the pavement. When the cortege reached Cromac Square, some soldiers rushed in, apparently trying to cut off some of the men in the procession. Women went to the men's rescue. Scuffles lasted for three or four minutes before the funeral was able to proceed up May Street.

Friday 10th December 1971
UDR man and friend shot dead
The third UDR member to be killed within as many days, was gunned down in a double killing on the Donegal-Tyrone border. Sergeant Kenneth Smyth, a member of A Company of the 6th Battalion UDR, was travelling to work with another man at Lisdoo, Clady, near Strabane, when they were both killed in a machine-gun attack. Sergeant Smyth lived at Castlederg. The name of his companion was not immediately released, but it is understood he had been a member of the UDR until July, when he resigned. Sergeant Smyth (28) was a former member of the Ulster Special Constabulary.

According to the RUC he stopped his Land Rover on a back Road between Clady and Strabane about a mile from Clady to pick up a second man. As he and the first man he had collected waited they were fired at from the bushes at the side of the road close to their vehicle. Sergeant Smyth, it appears, tried to escape by jumping from the Land Rover, but as he lay on the ground to shelter from the shots two gunmen appeared and riddled him with bullets.
The third man, said police was close to the scene but threw himself flat and escaped unhurt. Sergeant Smyth had been in the habit of collecting him at the same point.

Friday 10th December 1971
Gun battle on border
A twenty strong Army patrol and members of the IRA fought a 75 minute gun battle on the Armagh-Monaghan border. There were no reports of any casualties. The attack occurred at noon just across the County Monaghan border from Clontibret, an area about six miles from Keady, County Armagh. The patrol came under rifle and machine-gun fire from a hill over-looking an unapproved road which leads to Keady. Troops returned fire and local residents said that at least three machine-guns were being fired together. After about three-quarters of an hour the IRA withdrew. There was a claim that one soldier was hit during the gun battle but this could not be confirmed.

Friday 10th December 1971
Internment rumour denied in Dublin
Official sources in Dublin rejected a new claim by the Official that the Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch, was considering introducing a form of internment without trial in the South.
The IRA claimed that the fact that the British Government had demanded an investigation into the killing of Lieut. Col Walker at his home in County Meath "gives credence to strong rumours circulating in political circles in Dublin that Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act is about to be invoked." Under this Act persons can be jailed for six months for filing to account for their movements.

Friday 10th December 1971
Gardai finds Gelignite
A quantity of gelignite in a dangerous condition was found by the Garda in a lane behind the Sinn Fein headquarters at Gardner Place. The discovery followed a telephone tip off. A police spokesman said the gelignite was weeping and had probably been dumped because it was dangerous to handle.

Friday 10th December 1971
Army shoot eight men in Derry gun battles
Eight men are thought to have been hit by Army marksmen during fierce gun battles in the Creggan and Bogside areas of Derry. The Army has said that they shot three gunmen in the Creggan estate during a three-hour gun battle. Four nail bombers are also believed to have been hit.
In St Columb's Well's, Bogside one man is thought to have been hit after troops returned fire on gunmen armed with M1 carbines and Thompson sub-machine guns. The Army's casualties were two soldiers injured – one with a gunshot wound to the leg and the other with a hand injury, received as a result of a nail bomb attack. A 52-year-old man has been taken to hospital with gun shot wounds to the arm and a 4-year-old girl was injured when bullets came through a window in her home. During the night36 nail bombs were thrown at troops.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Four die in Bomb attack
Four people – two adults and two children have been killed and 19 injured when a bomb exploded at lunchtime demolishing a furniture store on the Shankill Road. Rescuers dug with their bare hands after a massive bomb tore apart the Balmoral Furnishing Company, a former cinema. It is believed that one of the children may be aged between one and two, the other slightly older at around three years of age. The two men who died are believed to be aged 21 and 50 years old.
A man was severely manhandled by the crowd after he was alleged to have made a remark in connection with the explosion. It took the RUC and Army a half hour to rescue him as hundreds of men and women tried to get at him. As the man was kicked and



Bomb attack on a warehouse on the Dublin Road.

punched a cry went up that the man was a Catholic but those closer to the centre of the struggle kept appealing that he was a Protestant. This did placate the crowd and the man was finally rushed to hospital in an unconscious state.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Gunman Killed
The Army has said they believe they killed a gunman during a fierce gun battle on the Armagh-Monaghan border. They also say no soldiers were injured although an Army vehicle was hit twice during the exchanges in fire. An IRA spokesman in Monaghan has said that they have not suffered any casualties. They say however that they believe a British soldier was shot in the gun battle.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Man shot dead by Army inside club
The Army is reported to be investigating a shooting which occurred on Friday night inside a dance Hall. One man died and two men and one girl were injured during the incident. About 30 shots were fired in the Holyrood Hall in Butler Street after a patrol went in to look for wanted men. Local people have said that the Army panicked and soldiers began to shoot indiscriminately.
The dead man is Mr. Joseph Parker (25) of Eskdale Gardens. Mr. Parker was wounded in both thighs and died six hours later in the Mater Hospital

Saturday 11th December 1971
Fierce gun battle on the border
One gunman is believed to have been killed and at least one injured in a fierce gun battle, which lasted over one and a half hours. The gunmen were seen dragging away at least one body after the attack. Hostilities came to an end when an Army helicopter, equipped with a machine-gun, arrived in the area.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Soldiers rescue man from the Foyle
A 35-year-old man is in Altnagelvin Hospital after being rescued from the River Foyle by two men of the Royal Anglican Regiment. An Army Corporal, who was part to a three-man patrol on the lower deck of the Craigavon Bridge when he saw the man fall from the top deck. He stripped off his flak jacket and webbing and managed to keep the man afloat until a second soldier came to his aid.

Saturday 11th December 1971
New weapon for Army
The Army has revealed a new weapon for use against the bombers. An electronic device, using radio waves, has been developed at a Ministry of Defence research establishment in the South of England and which is to be introduced in the North. Army patrols will be able to set off the electronic detonators of hidden bombs and anyone carrying or transporting such a bomb might well be blown up themselves.
A new and highly sensitive metal detector developed for searching individuals, as well as the rubber bullet are products of the research establishment.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Bomb defused in Belfast
Army bomb disposal experts in Belfast worked through the night and eventually defused a bomb which had been planted at a shop in Lombard Street.
One shot has been fired at Belleek RUC barracks and the Army returned fire but no hits are reported. Also in the Belleek area a 30 lb gelignite bomb destroyed machinery belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture at Castlecauldwell Forrest Park.
During a search of the Short Strand area of Belfast the Army has found two Thompson sub-machine guns, nine magazines, and assorted ammunition.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Army disrupts 11-Plus
The Army in Derry has replied to protests by the Derry City branch of the Irish National Teachers Organisation about Army raids in the Bogside and Creggan areas on a day which children sat for the eleven plus examination.
An Army spokesman said that an empty building was being searched and a barricade was being cleared in the Creggan area. This, they say, would have been a virtually silent operation, of a short duration, except that people in the Creggan attacked the Army with nail bombs and bullets. The Army replied to these attacks and four gunmen and four nail bombers were shot. All troops were clear of the area by 5.45am.
The Army say that during and immediately prior to the 11-Plusexam they did their best to minimize disturbances in the area and believe they were successful in this. The teachers organisation said however that they have received numerous reports from its members saying that children are coming to school bleary eyed from the effects of lack of sleep.

Saturday 11th December 1971
Prison ship to be used again
HMS Maidstone is to be used once again as a floating prison for detainees. But the Ministry of Home Affairs at Stormont said today that men already held in the overcrowded Belfast jail would not be moved to the ship. The Maidstone is regarded as an ideal prison ship, with its isolated position in Belfast harbour, and the strong security screen which includes radar and underwater electronic detectors. The ship was originally towed to Belfast to accommodate troops, and several regiments have been billeted there. It became a prison for detainees in August. Later the men were transferred to Long Kesh and troops once more moved into the vessel.
In recent days security around the ship has been stepped up. Special screens topped with barbed wire ring and after deck where it is thought the men will exercise. A Ministry of Home Affairs spokesman has said: "Men in Crumlin Road under detention will not be moved to the Maidstone. It will be used for people picked up by the Army and against whom detention orders are issued. In fact it will be a holding centre until a decision is taken either to release them, charge them or intern them."

Monday 13th December 1971
Official IRA killed Senator
Responsibility for the killing of Senator Barnhill has been admitted by the Official IRA, following a denial by the Provisionals that they were implicated. In a statement in Dublin the official wing claimed they had intended to destroy the house but that the Senator had "attacked the raiding party and was killed in the struggle." The purpose of the raid was to destroy the house in reprisal for the destruction by British forces of working class homes throughout the Six Counties." The IRA statement said: On entering the house the officer in charge informed Senator Barnhill that his house was to be destroyed and he was asked to evacuate it along with his family. He then attacked





TOP - Bomb attack on the Greenan Lodge Hotel.
BOTTOM - A family flee from their home in Napier Street in the Sandy Row area after a bomb attack on a nearby bus depot

the raiding party and in the ensuing struggle received wounds from which he died. The whole episode lasted less than one minute and the officer in charge knelt down beside him to see if he needed medical assistance. At this point Mrs. Barnhill came into the hall and was informed that her husband was dead. Contrary to statements which appeared in the morning newspapers, the Senator's body was not dragged into the living room but was left where he fell in the hall. The party then carried out the operation as was intended. The house in Strabane was selected for the reprisal raid because Senator Barnhill represented a leading position in the Unionist Party and had been identified as a supporter of Faulkner's policy of repression and terror against the working-class people of the North."

Monday 13th December 1971
Rocket launcher and poison bullets found
Bullets filled with poison, claymore mines and home made stick grenades were part of one of the biggest arms hauls ever found in Belfast. The poison Bullets were among 10,000 rounds of assorted ammunition and arms which included a 3.5 rocket, the type used against Andersonstown RUC barracks, found by troops in an unoccupied flat in Cliftonpark Avenue.

Monday 13th December 1971
Shankill 'defence'
The Democratic Unionist MP, Councilor John McQuade has said that the people of the Shankill intend to defend it – "and if we cannot do it by lawful means I am willing to step outside the law in the interests of the law-abiding citizens of Shankill Road and Northern Ireland."

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Woman Senator escapes kidnap bid
In a spate of incidents gunmen were foiled in what appears to have been at attempt to kidnap a Stormont Senator, and bomb the home of a woman J.P. Attacks have also been carried out on the wife of a former High Sheriff of Belfast and on the home of a prominent unionist.
The husband of Senator Mrs. Edith Taggart was hit on the head and sustained a suspected broken arm when he grappled with armed men who ordered his wife to leave their Malone Park home. Two bombs have exploded at homes around Belfast on e in Malone Avenue and another at the home of a J.P. in Springfield Parade. Still in the Malone Road area the wife of a former High Sheriff of Belfast Mrs. Celina Christie, was shot and wounded when she grappled with gunmen who tried to set fire to her Upper Malone Road home. In another incident gunmen tried and failed to enter the home of a prominent official in the South Belfast Unionist Association who lives at Malone Road.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Escapers give press conference
One of the three men who escaped from Crumlin Road Prison claimed in Dublin that the Army had stopped and searched his car but didn't recognise him. Martin Meehan was speaking at a press conference organised by the IRA at a city hotel. Also present were Tony "Dutch" Doherty and Hugh McCann.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Shankill blast, four are buried
The four victims of the explosion at the Balmoral Furnishing Company on the Shankill Road have been buried. The two babies who died during the attack have both been buried at Carnmoney Cemetery. They were two year old Tracey Munn of Alloa Street and seven-month-old Colin Nicholl of Elimgrove Street. Tracy's mother, 22-year-old Helen Munn is still seriously ill in hospital. A third victim of the blast was 20-year-old Harold King, a Catholic from Cliftondene Crescent; he was buried in Milltown Cemetery. The fourth person top die was Mr. Hugh Brice (50), of Duncairn Gardens. He was acting as commissionaire at the furniture store where the blast occurred.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Shots fired at troops
Troops have come under fire in the Andersonstown area of Belfast but no one was hit. An Army spokesman said a gunman fired about seven shots at a mobile patrol of the 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards, near the junction of Andersonstown Road and Owenvarragh Park. Fire was not returned by the troops

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Children ordered off bus
Fourteen children on their way to school were ordered off a bus at gunpoint by three raiders. The children were travelling to St. Paul's Secondary School at Camlough, when the gunman held up the driver of the Ulsterbus vehicle at Jonesboro, near Forkhill, County Armagh. The raiders approached the bus when it stopped to pick up children. It was later set on fire and the children were brought to school by car. No one was injured in the attack.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Hotel bombed
Bombs have badly damaged a hotel and a customs station in Enniskillen and gunmen attacked troops in Derry.
The bomb at the Imperial Hotel, one of Enniskillen's biggest, exploded at the rear of the building. The blast shattered most of the windows and did considerable damage to the kitchen. Several minutes after the blast another explosion damaged the customs clearing house At Dublin Road.
In Derry one gunman fired from the window of a derelict public house in William Street while another fired six shots at an Army post also in William Street. At Bligh's Lane soldiers saw a man carrying a rifle. In all three cases the soldiers returned fire.
At the premises of Joseph Lucas at Pennyburn Pass, two armed men planted a 25 lb bomb in the reception area. Three hours later the Army managed to defuse it.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Army can't do the job says Paisley
Ian Paisley has told a Democratic Unionist Party recruiting rally in Carrickfergus that the guerrilla warfare in Ulster would never be won by Army personnel. The enemy, he said, operate in areas they knew well and were brought up in, and where they have been helped by friends. In his opinion the Army can't do the job. "They aren't briefed properly," he said, ""There is only one people who can win this warfare, and that is the local people armed and until you have an armed auxiliary force to back them up you will never win."



LEFT - Bomb attack on a cash and carry store in Belfast's Linenhall Street.
FACING PAGE - Home of Major Ivan Neill, Speaker of the House of Commons, after it was bombed by the IRA. The house was on the shores of Carlingford Lough



Tuesday 14th December 1971
Paratroopers on arms charges
Two more men, one of them a member of the Parachute Regiment free fall team have been charged at Aldershot in a firearms case. Four soldiers and two civilians are now accused.
L/Cpl. Slater has been accused of 7.62 rifle without a firearm certificate; Cpl Michael McIntyre (27) 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment is charged with stealing 35 rounds of 9mm ammunition, selling a sub-machine gun, stealing a smoke grenade and selling it and possessing a 7.62 rifle without a permit and having a thunderflash and several rounds of ammunition without a certificate. L/Cpl. David Evans (22) of 1st battalion Parachute Regiment (serving in Northern Ireland) is accused of buying a sub-machine gun. Private Howard Tims (22) of 16 Parachute Brigade has been charged with selling a sub-machine gun.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
Troops find more arms
Troops have seized more arms and ammunition when they raided a house in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast. Men of the 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards carried out a search at Whitecliff Parade during which they discovered an Armalite rifle, an instruction manual, an M1 Springfield rifle, a .303 rifle with telescopic sight, one .35 Smith and Wesson and a .38 Colt automatic pistol and 176 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Tuesday 14th December 1971
New RUC Barracks
Belfast Corporation's town planning committee has approved a plan for a new RUC barracks and a hostel for 100 policemen at 282 Antrim Road, Belfast

Wednesday 15th December 1971
Army kills boy
Rioting has broken out in Cookstown as factories and shops closed in protest against the shooting of a 16-year-old youth by troops in the town on Tuesday night. Black flags hung from windows in Protest against the shooting of Martin McShane at Macrory Park, the local GAA ground shortly before midnight. In a statement the Army initially said that they shot the youth who had a gun. They further said that he was in an "aim position" when he was shot.

In a later Army statement it was said that men of the 42nd Royal Marine Commando were near a housing estate in the town when they saw "a person" climbing over a fence. The boy said a spokesman had a weapon with him and he walked into the middle of the field, which is in fact, Macrory Park. According to the Army the youth was seen to come into an aim position where upon he was shot. Troops then light up the area by fairing a flare pistol. And the body of a person was seen "lying on a weapon". Then a crowd quickly gathered around the body. The weapon, which the Army referred to, is said by residents to have been a toy gun. Local people also say it was the UDR who shot the boy and who also found the broken toy gun beside the boy. They also allege that the three men, who were in uniform, were seen driving away in a private car. Confusion surrounding the killing deepened when 14-year-old Pat Hughes, who was playing with the dead boy only seconds before he was killed said he did not see him with a toy gun.

Wednesday 15th December 1971
Shankill guard proposed by MP
Shankill MP Mr. Desmond Boal, stated that he is preparing to launch, within hours, some form of civilian body in the Shankill area for the protection of homes and property.

Wednesday 15th December 1971
Soldiers wounded
Two soldiers were shot and seriously wounded when a gunman ambushed an Army patrol on the outskirts of Belfast. The gunmen fired from a position near the junction of Ramoan Gardens and the Glen Road at Andersonstown. It is believed that at least two of the seven shots fired by gunmen hit the soldiers who were travelling in a Land Rover. One soldier was struck in the neck by a ricochet; the other soldier was shot twice in the back. Fire was not returned.
Troops later came under fire from gunmen in Derry but no one was injured in the attack. An Army spokesman said that two shots were fired at soldiers in the Brandywell area of the city.



RIGHT - The Conway Hotel, Dunmurry after an IRA bomb attack

Wednesday 15th December 1971
TA sergeant wounded
A gunman posing as a book salesman shot and seriously wounded a Territorial Army Sergeant at his home in Belfast. The shooting of the 38-year-old man in Parkside Gardens, off the Limestone Road, is being regarded by the RUC as the latest attempt by the IRA to assassinate members of the security forces. Two men approached the man's home posing as salesmen. The man's wife answered the door and then called her husband. When he appeared one man produced a handgun and fired two or three shots at him. He fell at his wife's feet as the men made their getaway in a car. The man has undergone major surgery and his condition is described as fair.
Fifteens rounds were also fired at troops in the Andersonstown area, and in Belleek shots were fired at a sentry at the local RUC barracks and four shots were returned at the gunman who was operating from across the border. In Derry two shots were fired at a gunman in Bligh's Lane but it is not known if he was hit.

In Lurgan, an arms cache was discovered and two men are being questioned about the weapons. The find included a loaded .38 Smith and Wesson revolver, a 9mm Lugar pistol, a rifle and a .38 Italian carbine as well as a quantity of ammunition.

Wednesday 15th December 1971
Ballymurphy arms find
Men of the Scots Guards seized a significant quantity of arms during a search of the Ballymurphy area. The troops found one .303 light machine-gun. Without a barrel; one Sten gun with two magazines; one 9mm machine pistol and 1,258 rounds of ammunition.
An army spokesman has said that a total of 17 people, 15 in Belfast and two in County Armagh have been detained in the last 24 hours.







Wednesday 15th December 1971
Sinn Fein refuses to give interview
A team from the BBC's 24 Hours, filming in the Republic, have been refused permission to visit Sinn Fein Headquarters in Kevin Street, Dublin. MR. Rory Brady, president of Sinn Fein gave an interview to a BBC reporter, which is due to be broadcast this week. He said: "We will wait and see how they treat this before deciding on any future co-operation with the BBC".

Thursday 16th December 1971
Acceptable Level of Violence
The Home Secretary, Mr. Maudling, at a press conference at Aldergrove created a major row over his statement that IRA activity had been reduced to "an acceptable level." Today from his office at Whitehall he stepped in and tried to clarify his comments.

Thursday 16th December 1971
Ardoyne arms find
Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment have discovered an arms cache at Highbury Gardens in the Ardoyne area of Belfast. The search party found one Thompson sub-machine gun with two fully loaded drum magazines; one .303 rifle with loaded magazine; one self loading rifle magazine; one M1 carbine magazine; 54 rounds of ammunition in a bandolier, a length of fuse and explosives equipment.
The raid, believed to have been mounted after the security forces received recent information began at 4.30am. Two men are reported to have been arrested.

Thursday 16th December 1971
Arms find at Portadown
Arms and ammunition have been found by police during searches in the Portadown area, The RUC said that two American M1 Carbines and 200 rounds of

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TOP - Bomb attack on a Shankill Road furniture store which left four people, two of them children, dead.
LEFT - Smoke billows out of a building in Royal Avenue after a bomb blast

ammunition were found in a bog at Selshion, outside the town. Three shotguns have also been found at a cemetery near the town.

Thursday 16th December 1971
Machine gun attack on RUC
Christmas shoppers dived for cover in Derry city centre as a gunman armed with a machine gun opened fire on an RUC patrol car. The shots went wide and the three uniformed RUC men, whose car was stopped at traffic lights, in Waterloo Place, escaped injury. Ten shots were fired but no one was injured.

Thursday 16th December 1971
Ambulance attacked
Gunmen have fired on a civilian ambulance in the Lower Falls area of Belfast as a shot soldier was being rushed to hospital. Two bullets hit the ambulance on its way to the Royal Victoria Hospital after troops were ambushed by at least two gunmen. None of the ambulance crew were injured but doctors were later fighting to save the soldier's life. Private Aspinwall, who is married with three children, underwent an emergency operation and his condition is described as serious. His family has been flown to his bedside. Troops returned fire during the attack but it is not known if anyone was hit.
Private Aspinwall is the second soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucester Regiment to be shot in the Lower Falls since Wednesday afternoon. Later a colleague was wounded in the shoulder when an IRA man fired on a foot patrol near Balaclava Street, but he was not seriously hurt.
Men of the Scots Guards came under attack from the IRA in two other attacks at around 3.00am. Five rounds of automatic fire were sprayed at a mobile patrol at Linden Street from a gunman at Dunville Street. No one was injured and troops returned fire. Three gunmen then launched an attack from a position at Colin Street. An Army spokesman said that 20 rounds of automatic rifle fire was aimed at a sentry at the North Howard Street mill, where the Army have an observation post. The gunmen are thought to have used a Thompson sub-machine gun and a M1 carbine.
Two soldiers shot in an ambush on the Glen Road on Wednesday are said to be very seriously ill in hospital. One of the soldiers has been shot in the neck and the other in the spine.
A loud explosion in the Andersonstown area has been traced to waste ground near Oliver Plunkett School. Windows in the school were broken but no one was injured. And at Creagh industrial estate, near Castledawson, an electricity transformer and a pole was wrecked by a 5 lb bomb.

Thursday 16th December 1971
Meter readers move in under guard
Twenty-five meter readers from the Gas Department moved into the short Strand accompanied by heavily armed soldiers from the Queen's Own Highlanders. The meters in this part of East Belfast have not been read for more than six months because the meter readers were dubious about going into troubled areas carrying large amounts of money. No opposition was really expected from the residents and none was encountered

Thursday 16th December 1971
IRA statement
The Provisional IRA in a statement issued in Dublin, has admitted responsibility for the deaths of three members of the UDR and a British Army officer in the past week. They also claim to have wounded 22 soldiers. The statement added that IRA losses over the same period were one member accidentally killed and two wounded.

Friday 17th December 1971
Soldier dies in hospital
A 22-year-old soldier who was shot and seriously wounded in the stomach when a foot patrol came under attack in the Falls Road area has died in hospital. He was Private Anthony Aspinwall, a member of D Company, the Gloucestershire Regiment. His death brings the number of people killed since 1969 to 198. This year 165 people have been killed, 42 regular army personnel, 11 members of the RUC, 5 members of the UDR and 107 civilians. Last year 20 people were killed and in 1969 the death toll was 13.

Friday 17th December 1971
Soldier shot in Belfast
A soldier has been shot on the Grosvenor Road as a gunman opened fire on an Army patrol. It is understood that a number of shots were fired at the patrol as it passed Venice Street. The condition of the injured man is not yet known but he was rushed to the nearby Royal Victoria Hospital for treatment.

Friday 17th December 1971
Three soldiers hurt in ambush
Three soldiers were injured when gunmen ambushed an Army mobile patrol in the centre of Armagh and a 28-year-old motorist was shot in the legs men who took him from his car at gunpoint.
The Armagh ambush came as Royal Marines were patrolling the city in two Land Rovers. Gunmen opened fire form the direction of Druid estate and three members of the patrol were injured. They were rushed to Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast but none were seriously injured.
Three armed men intercepted a 28-year-old Lurgan man's car as he was driving along the Newry-Dublin road about two miles from Newry. The man was ordered out of the car while his woman passenger was held at gunpoint. After being walked to the rear of the car the men said his name and asked the man to confirm that it was him. He replied it was and they fired two shots. He was then dumped in the back seat of the car and his woman passenger drove to Daisy Hill hospital. He was treated for gunshot wounds to the legs.
In Belfast a small gelignite bomb was thrown at a ferret car in Raglan Street but there were no casualties and in the Oldpark area a shot was fired at an army patrol. At Dermott Hill Road, Belfast a Martini rifle was discovered buried in a garden. Earlier a gunman in a car opened up with a Thompson sub-machine gun at an RUC man who was on escort duty at Hesketh Road. Six shots were fire, one of them grazing the RUC man in the neck. Over 70 shots were fired at a Royal Scots Dragoon Guards armoured car patrol near Forkhill. The firing lasted 90 minutes and several bullets struck the vehicle but no one was injured.

Friday 17th December 1971
Fire bombs in Lurgan
An incendiary bomb ignited and two others failed to go off in Lurgan. The device which exploded was in a shop, Mr. Best, in Queen Street. But it burned itself out without causing much damage. The other two bombs were planted in the Customs and Excise office in High Street and Margaret's drapery and children's outfitters in Union Street. Later the RUC







TOP - The airport terminal building in Glengal Street after being destroyed in a bomb attack.
MIDDLE - Troops display arms which were discovered in North Belfast's Cliftonpark Avenue.
BOTTOM - Arms discovered during a search in the Springfield Road area.

toured the town warning people to be on the look out for devices.

Friday 17th December 1971
Red Cross visit internees
Members of the International Committee of the Red Cross have paid visits to Crumlin Road, Prison, Long Kesh and the depot ship Maidstone, to investigate conditions for men detained or interned. The two delegates, both Swiss, visited the centres over three days. They were free to talk privately to all the men and will give a report on their findings to the Northern Ireland Government. A further visit has been arranged for April.

Saturday 18th December 1971
Castledawson RUC barrack attacked
Bombers have attacked another RUC station and an electricity transformer. A small bomb was also defused, after a small explosion, in a shop in Randalstown. The blast at Castledawson RUC barracks blew a five-foot hole in a gable wall of the building. The RUC say 10 lb of gelignite was used. And only moderate damage was caused.

At Claudy, near Portglenone, a bomb exploded at an electricity transformed but power supplies were not affected. At Randalstown a 20lb bomb was defused after the first explosion in the town.
In Derry, Bligh's Lane came under sniper fire but no one was injured. Troops returned fire at the corner of Beechwood Avenue but no one was hit.
The RUC are also investigating an attempt to burn down a Christmas tree at the Diamond in Ballycastle. A motor-tyre soaked in petrol was found at the base of the tree and caused extensive damage. A note was found at the scene referred to internees at Long Kesh.

Saturday 18th December 1971
Farmer's lucky escape
A County Fermanagh farmer had a narrow escape when gunmen opened fire on his Land Rover. The farmer, whose name has not been released, was driving away from his brother's farm, when he noticed a man in the field ahead of him. As he turned from the lane into the Derrylin-Ballyconnell road, he heard a shot. The farmer accelerated and as he did so another 20 shots rang out. When he got home he found a bullet hole in the side of his vehicle. The RUC believe the gunmen may have mistaken the Land Rover for an Army vehicle.

Saturday 18th December 1971
Palace Barracks: Guns missing?
The Army are carrying out a detailed check after reports that a number of guns were missing from Palace Barracks, Holywood.
The report says six self-loading rifles and three sterling sub-machine guns were unaccounted for at the Barracks. An Army spokesman said that they cannot confirm or deny the reports as the check is still on going.



Saturday 18th December 1971
Christmas protests
Plans to hold Christmas protest vigils against internment are under way in all parts of the North according to the Civil Rights Association. The CRA adds that their fund to give cash support to the families and dependants of each internee is going well. Referring to Christmas protests which will also include fasts, they say: The important thing is that each and every area does what it can so that not only everybody in the North but an increasing number of countries and people throughout the world know about the British terror against innocent people."

Monday 20th December 1971
Belfast bombs
Bombers attacked at least eight targets in the heart of Belfast and another three on the outskirts of the city but no one was seriously injured. One bomb exploded on the Antrim Road after a woman carried it out of the premises of Stormont Cabinet Minister Mr. William Fitzsimmons
The list of the blasts are as follows:

1. Belfast Co-operative shop at Cliftonville Circus, Oldpark Road
2. Lavery's antique shop, May Street.
3. Offices of Telefusion Ltd., Linenhall Street.
4. Bomb outside Fitzsimmon's shop on the Antrim Road.
5. Regent House Furnishers, York Street.
6. Scottish Legal Life Assurance Society, Chichester Street
7. The Gas Light Café, Ormeau Road
8. Conway Hotel, Dunmurry.
9. Staff canteen of Belart clothing factory, Longlands Road, Newtownabbey
10. Whiteabbey railway station.

Monday 20th December 1971
Man shot and captured
Troops today shot a man they alleged fired at them at Suffolk, Dunmurry. The man was taken to hospital with a leg wound. He condition is not serious. The Army said that a gunman opened fire on a patrol of the Light Air Defence Regiment at Carrigart Avenue and they returned fire, capturing a wounded man.

Monday 20th December 1971
Lisburn time bomb
Lisburn town centre was evacuated after a bomb was planted in a hi-jacked road tanker carrying 3,500 gallons of petrol in Bow Street. The tanker hi-jacked by four men and a woman near the Donegal Road entrance to the motorway. A bomb was attached and they then drove it to Bow Street Lisburn.

Monday 20th December 1971
Boy dies in pub bombing
A 16-year-old- boy has been killed in an explosion in Belfast. The boy, James McCallum, from Monagh Road Belfast, was working at Murtagh's public house at the corner of Springfield Road and Mayo Street, when a bomb exploded at a bottling store. Five people were injured in the blast. Three men thought to be in their 20's are said to have walked into the bar carrying a parcel and when they re-appeared they did not have the parcel. The bar was previously damaged in an explosion on 16th October

Monday 20th December 1971
Teenage girl dies in crash
A teenage girl was killed when the ice-cream van in which she was travelling was involved in a collision with an Army vehicle at a checkpoint. The 16-year-old who died was one of three passengers in the vehicle, which collided with a stationary one-ton Army armoured car at the junction of the Glen Road and Shaw's Road. She was named as Anne Marie Caldwell, of Ramoan Drive, Andersonstown. Another girl was seriously injured.

Monday 20th December 1971
IRA men buried
The three IRA men killed when a bomb exploded in their car at Magherafelt at the weekend have been buried in the same grave. The dead men were James Joseph Sheridan (20), Martin Lee (19) and John Bateson (19), all of Ballymaguigan, near Magherafelt. Death notices in a morning newspaper identified the men as all being members of the South Derry battalion of the Provisional IRA.
Security Chiefs are now fairly certain that they were on their way to bomb a selected target, possibly a local power installation, when the bomb went off prematurely.
Sheridan is said to have been Adjutant of the South

Derry Battalion of the Provisional IRA; Lee was a staff officer of the local Ballymaguigan company and Bateson, a volunteer.

Monday 20th December 1971
Fight will go on say IRA
The Provisional IRA has warned that it will not accept passively internment without trial or any "new style repressive measures" against Republicans in the South. In a statement replying to Mr. Jack Lynch, who warned that he would not allow the IRA to usurp the functions of his government, the Provisionals said that such action by him, in response to British and right-wing pressure, could only serve the interests of British Imperialists and would be a dastardly betrayal of the Nationalist people of the North. The Provisionals claimed that their "struggle against British Occupation Forces would continue."

Tuesday 21st December 1971
Pub owner dies
The owner of a pub in Belfast was killed today when he tried to save his premises from destruction after a bomb was planted. Mr. Jack Lavery (60), refused to leave his bar on the Lisburn Road despite pleas by his manager and barmen. He was standing beside the bomb contained in a whiskey carton and when it exploded it brought the top floor crashing down. It is believed Mr. Lavery may have detonated the bomb prematurely as he was tried to move it.

Tuesday 21st December 1971
Mystery shooting on border
A confused situation occurred on the South Armagh border when 60 to 70 shots were fired at an undetermined target at Carrive, near Forkhill. Security forces approached the area and finding the shooting was not aimed at any particular target in the North, withdrew to high ground in an effort to ascertain what it was all about. We don't know what it's all about but it may be that some factions of the IRA are having a private war among themselves.

Tuesday 21st December 1971
Bomb hoax at station
Army bomb disposal experts blew the top of a suspicious parcel found in Great Victoria Street railway station but it contained nothing more harmful than clothing. Traffic was halted in Great Victoria Street while the sappers prepared their charge. The main part of the station was evacuated after the parcel was found near the entrance.

Tuesday 21st December 1971
Girl dies in sniper attack
A 20-year-old Belfast girl Miss Margaret McCrory, of Fairfield Street off the Crumlin Road has been shot dead during a gun attack on troops. She was standing at a bus stop when, two masked men, one armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun and the other a M1 carbine, took over a house on the Crumlin Road. The gunmen then ambushed military vehicles as they travelled towards the city centre. Miss McCrory was shot in the head during the attack and was rushed to hospital but was found to be dead on arrival. The two men made their escape into the Ardoyne area.
Gunmen also opened up on troops after a bomb was thrown from a car at McKenna's bar at the corner of Ardilea Street on the Oldpark Road. The bar and surrounding buildings were damaged and three women were treated for shock. An Army spokesman said that at least 25 shots were fired at the soldiers during subsequent exchanges and troops fired eight rounds in return. Three shots were also fired at Oldpark Road RUC barracks but it is not known if any of the gunmen were injured. Shots were also fired at Crumlin Road Prison.

Tuesday 21st December 1971
Army shoots man with "suspicious package"
An Army marksman shot a man carrying a "suspicious package" in the markets area of Belfast. The 18-year-man from Stanfield Street was shot in the right arm when the army claimed he failed to stop for a challenge. An Army spokesman said one round passed through his arm and he was later discharged from hospital.
The incident happened shortly after 6.00am when men of the 1st Glouster Regiment spotted a man carrying "a suspicious object" in Stanfield Street. Troops challenged him. "I don't think he heard the first challenge," said a spokesman for the unit. "He was challenged to stop a second time and he reacted rather sharply, like anyone would do under the circumstances."
An RUC spokesman said the incident occurred during a search of the area, and he claimed that the man started to run when he was challenged the second time. The suspicious object in the parcel was a turkey.

Tuesday 21st December 1971
IRA contacts stay faceless
Provisional IRA leader Mr. Sean MacStiofain has refused to give any hint of the identities of the "Protestants of good standing" from the Six Counties with whom he claims to be conducting dialogue. He said, "I can't even say whether they are clergymen or politicians, because the meeting we have had were completely confidential. All I can say is that they are Protestants of good standing – they are very well respected in their own communities." Three meetings were held, on the initiative of Protestants in the Republic. It was agreed to have a further meeting at a convenient time.
Mr. MacStiofain claimed that the Protestants were very interested in the Provisionals plans for local government and accepted the inevitability of some form of a United Ireland. He had assured them that the IRA was not responsible for some recent bombings, including those at the Four Steps Inn, and Moffetts furniture store. He also told them that it was not the IRA's policy to attack or kill Protestants. If Protestants had been killed, it was because they were members of the UDR or the RUC.

Wednesday 22nd December 1971
Pre Christmas blitz
Gunmen have bombed another Belfast shop, only a short distance from the city centre, causing hundreds of pounds of damage to electrical goods. But no one was injured as the area had been evacuated before the blast at the radio and television wholesale firm of J. C. Holland at the junction of Bedford Street and Ormeau Avenue. The RUC have said that two men planted the bomb at the electrical firm shortly after 10.00am. One of the men carried in the bomb which was disguised as a television set.
Later a gunman opened fire near Unity Flats, but the crew of a passing RUC car was uninjured
At Dungannon the Army detonated two stick grenades, which were found by men of the 42nd Commando, Royal Marines, in a derelict building at Sloan Street. The Army decided that they were too danger-







TOP - Bomb attack on shops in Belfast's King Street.
MIDDLE - Members of the Official IRA burning Housing Trust records in Derry.
BOTTOM - Bomb attack on Lavery's Bar on the Lisburn Road in which the owner, John Lavery, was killed.



The army recruitment office on Belfast's York Street after an IRA bomb attack

ous to defuse and detonated them. Two explosions in the Strabane area have been traced to an electricity sub-station at Bridge Street and an electricity pylon at Calleheme. The substation was only slightly damaged and one of the pylon's legs was severed.

Wednesday 22nd December 1971
IRA man shot dead in Ardoyne
The man shot while running away from troops in Ardoyne on Tuesday night is described in death notices in the Irish News as a "Staff captain" in the IRA. It has also been learned that the dead man, Gerard McDade, of Oakfield, was high on the Security Forces wanted list. Mr. McDade was among a group of men asked to line up against a wall by troops. He ran away towards Oakfield Street and after being warned to halt several times, a soldier opened fired, wounding him. He was wanted by troops and RUC in connection with IRA activities.
Death notices from members of A, B, C, D, E, and F Companies of the 3rd Battalion, IRA have appeared in the newspapers.

Wednesday 22nd December 1971
Rifles found in Antrim
The Army has reported finding two .303 rifles during a search in High Street, Antrim. A spokesman said the guns appeared to be in very good condition.

Wednesday 22nd December 1971
Bombs in Derry
Five explosions within ten minutes rocked have Derry. Three of the premises bombed were gutted by fire. The fires were at Eakin's Garage in Foyle Road, the Corner Boot Store in Waterloo Place, and McCullough's garage Showroom in John Street. These explosions took place between 4.18 and 4.26pm. At 4.24pm, Boggs and Smiths electrical supply shop was bombed. Four minutes later, the scene shifted out of the City centre to Eakin's builders and contractors office at Strand Road. These premises were damaged but a second bomb failed to explode and was rendered harmless by the Army. Another Garage, that of Alexander Motors in Great James Street was undamaged when a 10 lb bomb was defused. A sixth bomb at the shirt factory of W. J. Little and Co., at Distillery Brae caused only minor structural damage.
At Magazine Gate a youth of sixteen fired a Thompson sub-machine gun at troops. No one was injured and fire was not returned. At Dungiven a sniper fired a single shot at an Army post but no one was injured.
In Derry two men were tarred and feathered. An IRA spokesman said that the two men had carried out armed robberies involving the theft of about £300 from small shops. He said that they had posed as IRA Volunteers and their actions were bringing the movement into disrepute.

Wednesday 22nd December 1971
Two pubs bombed
Troops came under fire in Belfast after another night in which two more public houses were wrecked by bombs. Seven shots were fired at an Army post in Louisa Street in the Oldpark are but no one was injured and fire was not returned. Another two shots were fired at Hastings Street from the direction of Divis flats. Another five shots were fired in Ardilea Street but the target is not known.
The Black Swan public house at Kingsway, Dunmurry was gutted in a fire which broke out after a bomb exploded in the premises shortly before 7.00pm. The RUC say the raiders were armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun, a rifle and a pistol and escaped by car. The fire which broke out after the 30 lb bomb exploded, gutted the building, and a second bomb, planted at the same time, was not discovered. This is the third attack on the pub.
The Hunting Lodge Inn on Belfast's Stewartstown Road was one again the target of bombers. Two youths, one of whom was armed with a revolver planted the bomb in the prefabricated structure. This had been erected to replace the original building which was destroyed in an earlier attack.
During a search of Ardoyne, troops have found 8 lb of gelignite, four feet of fuse and 1,00 feet of cortex and in an earlier search troops of the Scots Guards uncovered an arms dump near Milltown. Five rifles, two pistols and almost 3,000 rounds of assorted ammunition were discovered. Also, in Belfast a boy was injured by flying splinters at Royal Avenue when a soldier's gun was accidentally discharged. Army experts were examining a suspicious parcel at the time.

Thursday 23rd December 1971
Bombs wreck computers
Bombers caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to two computers in a blast which wrecked a Belfast office. Computer equipment, valued at more than £30,000 was completely destroyed by the double blast at the offices of Philips Electronics (Ireland), at Wellington Park. A six-man team planted the bomb and an army disposal expert detonated a second bomb which had been left in a car by two men near the city centre.

Thursday 23rd December 1971
2,500 rounds found in Falls
Troops have found more than 2,500 rounds of ammunition in the Lower Falls area of Belfast. The Army have said that the ammunition was found, together with some boy "scout uniforms" was found during a search at Barnet Street.

TOP- A soldier stands in a crater on a road outside Keady which was blown up by British troops. In the previous 2 months 21 roads have been closed in this way.
MIDDLE - An army sniper keeps watch while British troops prepare to blow up another border road.
BOTTOM - A burning lorry is pushed over an embankment in Coalisland during rioting which followed the shooting of a local youth

Thursday 23rd December 1971
Hoax bombs
As the pre-Christmas bombing blitz continues in Belfast hoax bombs were placed strategically on three bridges caused traffic chaos. At the height of the rush hour, three hoax bombs were planted on the three principal arteries at the Queen's Bridge, Albert Bridge and Ormeau Bridge. However, the Queen Elizabeth Bridge was left free and the Army and RUC were able to re-route traffic over this thus preventing total paralysis of the city centre. In an effort to speed up the task of tackling the hoax bombs, the Army fired shots into the boxes that contained the potential bombs. These were either left in cars or planted on the bridges.

Thursday 23rd December 1971
Woman killed by Army vehicle
A 60-year-old woman died after being struck by an Army Land Rover in the Oldpark area of Belfast. She was Mrs. Theresa Murray of Parkview Street and the accident occurred at the junction of her street and the Oldpark Road. The woman was taken to the Mater where she died a short time later.







Thursday 23rd December 1971
Soldiers shoot man in Ardoyne
Troops believe that they may have shot a gunman during an exchange of fire in Ardoyne but they believe that he may have been carried away by friends. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment said they saw two men firing from the direction of some shops towards an observation post at Ardoyne bus depot. Shots were returned and the man was seen to fall back.
In Strabane, gunmen opened up on, and wounded a member of the RUC, who was in a car near the junction of Melmount Road and Beechmount Avenue. Five shots struck the windscreen of the vehicle and grazed the RUC man. Fire was not returned. In Belfast, two American style hand grenades were defused. They were found beside Springfield Road RUC barracks beside Violet Street.
In Derry, two masked men walked into the Diamond Bar at Butcher Street and left a 10 lb bomb. At Duncreegan Army camp, a nail bomb was lobbed over the perimeter fence and the Bank of Ireland at Greenshaw Road was wrecked by a bomb. In Newry, Powell's supermarket was damaged by an incendiary and McAleer's garage, William Street was damaged by a small bomb. A bomb planted ay a girl at a Government advance factory on the Kilwee industrial in Dunmurry caused slight damage.







TOP - Bombs go off in Belfast's Linenhall Street while shoppers continue with their Christmas shopping.
MIDDLE - Bomb attack on a Limestone Road factory.
BOTTOM - Remains of a car which contained a bomb in Durham Street after being dealt with by the army.
FACING PAGE - All that remains of Senator Barnhill's home after he was killed by the Official IRA who also planted a bomb in his house.

Thursday 23rd December 1971
Cap badges can be snipers target
The father of a soldier shot in Belfast has claimed that troops were being made easy targets by their gleaming chromium plated cap badges. Mr. Aspinwall speaking after his son's funeral said that he was speaking on behalf of his son's friends, who believe the regimental badge was making them easy targets. He suggested that if soldiers can blacken their faces then the same should be done to their badges. A spokesman for the regiment said that the wearing of badges at night is up to individual company commanders.

Thursday 23rd December 1971
Internment protest
A German evangelical group in Gottingen – Even-Geliscag Stuidentengemeinde – has sent a petition of more than 3,000 signatures to Mr. Heath protesting about internment and interrogation methods.

Friday 24th December 1971
Tanker drama in Dunmurry
An unknown man drove a booby-trapped petrol tanker away from the crowded centre of Dunmurry village, before Army marksmen managed to shoot a bomb from the vehicle. The man who ran off moved the tanker away from the main shopping area of Kingsway and drove it 100 yards to Barbour Park recreation area. The entire village was evacuated and firemen stood by while Army experts tried to defuse the device 5 lb of gelignite and 2 lb of firelighters. The Army used a .303 rifle fired at the bomb until it fell to the ground.

Friday 24th December 1971
Bomb at British Legion
Members of the British Legion discovered a parcel at the Suffolk branch of the British Legion. An on being suspicious of the package opened it up to discover it was a bomb. The club has been bombed twice in recent months.

Friday 24th December 1971
Booby trap bomb
Two attempts have been made today to blow up Army bomb disposal experts with booby trap devices concealed in stolen cars. The bombs at Smithfield Square and the Ballygomartin Road exploded but no one was injured.

Friday 24th December 1971
Gelignite seized in Kent
About 50 lbs of gelignite was seized by Flying Squad officers who surrounded a car in Orpington Kent. The driver escaped, though his identity is known. The squad were waiting for the car, having been told that the explosives were destined for the IRA.

Friday 24th December 1971
Soldiers lured into ambush
The ambush started with a hoax 999 call reporting that a bomb was planted in O'Kane's public house at the junction of Finaghy Road North and Ladybrooke Park. Troops from the 12th Regiment, Royal Artillery went to the scene. Within second of the Patrol Commander entering the premises, a burst of automatic gunfire shattered one of the windows. A 38-year-old woman who was on the premises at the time was slightly injured and was discharged from hospital a short time later. After this incident, the same patrol was also attacked, this time from the direction of Trench Street. The patrol returned fire and the gunman was thought to have been hit.
Shortly after midnight, two shots were fired at an Army ambulance at the junction of Leeson Street and the Falls Road. There were no casualties and fire was not returned. Four shots were fired at a foot patrol opposite Springfield Road RUC barracks. Again, there were no casualties. In a follow up search, the RUC found three cartridge cases.

Friday 24th December 1971
Carol singing on the Border
There will be carol singing on the border in South Armagh on Christmas day. An Army unit stationed at Forkhill, scene of gun battles and bombs, are going all out to brighten Christmas for the villagers. They are rigging up loudspeakers on top of the RUC barracks where they are based. The barracks is situated on high ground in the centre of the village so that the records of well-known carols will be heard in every part of the town, morning and evening.

Tuesday 28th December 1971
Christmas attacks
On Christmas Eve, shots were fired at Springfield Road RUC barracks, but no one was hurt.
On Christmas Day, while it was comparatively trouble-free, troops did have to deal with a booby-trapped car at Grosvenor Road. Soldiers also opened fire on a man seen carrying a rifle at Finaghy Road North. Shots were also fired at a civilian motorcyclist on the Oldpark Road, but there were no casualties.



Tuesday 28th December 1971
Army finds bomb kit
Bomb making accessories have been found in a house in Tullymore Gardens, Andersonstown. The find, which included fuse wire and timing equipment, was made by soldiers from the 12th Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, who were carrying out a routine search in the area. The other "accessories" included three pounds of gelignite, a half a pound of which was detonated on the spot; three clockwork mechanisms; four batteries; one nail bomb; a home made fuse, and one stick grenade.

Tuesday 28th December 1971
Eleven Arrests by Army
An Army spokesman has said that eleven people have been arrested by the Army in security swoops in Belfast in the past 24 hours.

Tuesday 28th December 1971
Soldier shot
A soldier and two civilians were wounded as gunmen returned to the streets on Monday after a two-day Christmas lull.
One of the civilian's injured was shot late on Monday night, when he and other customers fought with two gunmen who tried to rob a public house in Newry. The RUC say that he was hit in the head and leg during the struggle at Madden's Bar in Mill Street but he was not seriously injured.
The other civilian was shot outside the Orient Bar near the junction of the Fall's and Grosvenor Roads. Four or five shots were fired from a passing car but the RUC have not released the name of the 17-year-old who was not seriously injured. The incident occurred only a short distance from the spot where a soldier was wounded in the chest after a television crew interviewed his commanding officer. The interview - with the officer of the 1st Battalion, the Gloucester Regiment – had just finished when a gunman, using a high velocity rifle opened fire from the junction of Grosvenor Road and Mulhouse Street. The soldier, who had been on during the filming at Mulhouse Street, was shot in the chest. The RUC have said that he is not seriously injured.
In Ballymurphy, troops gave chase and detained one of two men who were seen running away after a shot was fired at patrol of Scots Guards.

At Coagh, in County Tyrone a patrol of soldiers, men of the 42nd Commando, Royal Marine, had a narrow escape when a Claymore mine missed its target. In a follow up search a revolver was recovered.
In Newry, a 15 lb bomb exploded at a warehouse used by a local haulage contractor. Hundreds of windows along Merchants Quay were broken by the blast, which also caused extensive damage to the building. No one was injured.

Tuesday 28th December 1971
Toy guns: A new warning
Troops in Belfast have delivered hundreds of leaflets to homes warning parents that their children could be shot by mistake if they play with toy guns in the street. Several children have had narrow escapes over Christmas when troops almost opened fire on them. The leaflet, which is being delivered in the Lower Falls area by the Gloucester Regiment warns parents: "No soldier wishes to shoot a child – that would be tragic for all of us. Nevertheless, the chances of that happening are very real. Therefore, please do not allow your children to play with weapons out of doors."

Wednesday 29th December 1971
Sniper kills soldier
A soldier has been shot dead in Derry after an IRA sniper opened fire on a military patrol. The dead man, whose name has not yet been released, was on foot patrol in the Brandywell district. The patrol was moving along waste ground between Foyle Road and the River when the gunman opened up. At least two shots hit the soldier in the head and chest, and he fell wounded to the ground. He was found to be dead on arrival at Altnagelvin Hospital. The soldier was serving with the 22nd Light Air Defence Regiment, but no other details were released.
The patrol was making its way from the Army post at Brandywell to another position beneath Craigavon Bridge. Other soldiers in the patrol opened fire when the gunman was spotted on the roof of a nearby building. But according to an Army spokesman it was not known if he was hit.

In Belfast, three shots were fired at an Army post in Percy Street from the direction of St. Comgall's Primary school, but there were no casualties.

Wednesday 29th December 1971
Army arrest 27 men
In the 24 hours up to 8.00am, troops arrested 27 men – 22 in Belfast and 5 in Derry. An Army spokesman said that seven of the men picked up in Belfast were on the wanted list.

Wednesday 29th December 1971
RUC ambushed on border
Two RUC men were injured by the same bullet when a gunman ambushed an RUC patrol near the border. The RUC men were travelling in a Land Rover along Melmount Road, Strabane when gunman opened fire with an automatic weapon. About six shots were fired at the vehicle. One bullet penetrated the bodywork, passed through the left forearm of one RUC man and grazed another RUC man on the shoulder.

In Enniskillen, Army experts detonated a 60 lb bomb on waste ground after they dragged it away from the perimeter fence of an electricity transformer. The blast did not cause any injuries, although some windows were broken. Earlier an electricity transformer at the Broad Meadows in the town was damaged by a bomb explosion but no power supplies were affected.
In Belfast a 17-year-old youth was found covered in reed lead and feathers and tied to a swing in children's playground in Anderson Street

Wednesday 29th December 1971
Soldier dies in border accident
A soldier was killed on Tuesday when a bulldozer, which he was driving toppled from a low loader and crushed him. He was named as Sapper Derek Amos (21), of 11 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers. The accident happened after a road cratering operation at Carnagh, near Keady.

Thursday 30th December 1971
Official IRA in arson attack
The Official wing of the IRA has claimed responsibility for the blaze which gutted part of the home of Major Ivan Neill, Speaker of the House of Commons. The organisation, in a statement issued through the Irish Republican Press Bureau said the "£20,000 home at Rostrevor" was destroyed by an active service unit." It added that explosives and incendiaries were used in the operation. "The raid was carried out in retaliation for the wrecking of working class homes in Newry and South Down by British Terrorist Forces." The statement said the unit suffered no loss or injury. It was signed by J. J. McGerrity.

Thursday 30th December 1971
Dead soldier named
The name of the soldier killed by a sniper on Wednesday afternoon has been released. He was Gunner Richard Thomas James Ham, a 20-year-old single man from Glamorgan, Wales.
In a statement released by the local unit of the Official IRA, they warned that any further attempts by the Army to enter the Bogside, Brandywell or Creggan Estate, would be resisted by them, by the people and other organisations.

Thursday 30th December 1971
Army hit car
A man escaped unhurt when his car was riddled by bullets during an exchange of fire in Derry. Later, an Army spokesman said the security forces' fire had struck the car and shattered the windscreen.

Thursday 30th December 1971
Lough shore ammunition find
Men of the 42 Royal Marine Commando Group found 26 rounds of assorted ammunition during a search operation in an area west of Lough Neagh.

Friday 31st December 1971
Massive bomb in city
Several people were injured by flying debris when a "massive" bomb exploded at the rear of a Belfast city centre hotel. The blast was in Wellington Street at the rear of the Kensington Hotel. Two youths had left a bomb in a stolen car. They then shouted bomb into the building and ran off. RUC, Army and Fire Brigade rushed to the scene, but they only sealed off Wellington Street and one side of Fisherwick Place. The bomb exploded twenty minutes later causing chaos. Debris was thrown hundreds of feet into the air; Ambulances rushed to the scene but could not get through because of the massive traffic jam caused by the blast. Extensive damage was caused to the hotel and to surrounding buildings.
There were also reports of injuries being caused to people who had not been evacuated from their offices. The city had been crowded for most of the day because of the winter sales. The RUC, soldiers and firemen tried to clear the area but had trouble controlling the crowds. There were reports of a second bomb and some people ran screaming from the scene.

Friday 31st December 1971
Troops find rifle
The Army has reported finding a .22 rifle during a search of a house in the Oldpark Road, Belfast. Earlier troops found 111 rounds of assorted ammunition in a plastic bag, which had been dumped on a grass verge at Whitewell Road, Glengormley.

Friday 31st December 1971
IRA leader killed in explosion
A leading member of the Provisional IRA has been killed in an explosion in a small back lane garage at Santry on the northern outskirts of Dublin. The police believe that the blast was in a secret depot to supply bomb equipment to Belfast.
The dead man, Mr. Jack McCabe (55), a member of the GHQ staff of the Provisional IRA. He lived in Ballymum, Dublin. The garage in which Mr. McCabe was working has been virtually demolished.

Friday 31st December 1971
Hoax bomb in suitcase
A battered suitcase at a former Army recruiting centre in Cecil Street, Newry, caused scores of people to be evacuated from their homes. The recruiting centre, which is almost 100 yards from the town's RUC barracks, was wrecked by an explosion some time ago.

The suitcase believed to contain a bomb, was seen attached to a metal grill underneath a window about 2.00am, and the evacuation of all the houses within a 20-yard radius was ordered by an Army bomb disposal expert. People living within 100 yards of the building were advised to keep their windows open. But the all clear was given when an Army bomb disposal expert blew the top off the case and found it to be empty.

Friday 31st December 1971
Arms search in Belfast
The RUC and Army have come under fire as they carried out a search in the Andersonstown area of Belfast. They found two rifles, a number of holsters and more than 2,000 rounds of assorted ammunition in Slievegallion Drive. When the security forces arrived a number of single shots and automatic bursts were fired at them. Shots were also fired at Navan Green in Andersonstown, and at Albert Street-Durham Street. No injuries have been reported.

Friday 31st December 1971
Shot man seriously ill
The RUC in Belfast are investigating the shooting of a 20-year-old ex-serviceman behind the Broadway Cinema, Falls Road. The man from Peel Street is reported to be in a "serious condition" in the Royal Victoria Hospital, due to the loss of blood from a leg wound. An RUC Statement said it appeared the man was walking past the cinema shortly after 7.30pm when a car stopped beside him. Three armed men ordered him to the waste ground, where he was shot in the leg. The RUC and Army could not give any reason for the shooting.

Friday 31st December 1971
Soldier dies in car crash
A soldier was killed on the Mountnorris Road, near Newry when the private car in which he was travelling with three other soldiers crashed into a ditch. The soldier who was attached to the Army Catering Corp at Gosford Castle, Markethill was dead on admission to Daisy Hill Hospital. No other vehicles were involved in the accident and the name of the dead soldier has not yet been released.

Friday 31st December 1971
IRA say they shot soldier
The Derry Command of the Provisional IRA has claimed responsibility for the shooting of Gunner Richard Hamm, who was fatally wounded when on patrol in the Foyle Road area of Derry on Wednesday.
The Provisionals also claim that an Army helicopter was hit by gunfire on Thursday morning and was not in action for then rest of the day. An Army spokesman said: "There is absolutely no truth in this report."



RIGHT - A protest march in Newry

THOSE WHO DIED

STANLEY CORRY
AGED 28
1st November 1971
Mr Corry was one of two plain clothes RUC men who were shot dead in the Andersonstown area in an IRA trap.

WILLIAM RUSSELL
AGED 31
1st November 1971
As above



Constable Corry



Constable Russell

JOHN COCHRAN
AGED 67
2nd November 1971
One of three people killed in a bomb blast at the Red Lion public house on the Ormeau Road. The bombers entered the bar, left the bomb and shouted "you have ten seconds to get out." It exploded seconds later with the building being totally destroyed.

MOLLY GEMMELL
AGED 55
2nd November 1971
As above

WILLIAM JORDAN
AGED 31
2nd November 1971
As above

STEPHEN McGUIRE
AGED 19
4th November 1971
A soldier in the Scots Guards, he was shot and injured by an IRA sniper on the 14th of September while on guard at the Henry Taggert army base in West Belfast.

FRANK McKEE
AGED 58
4th November 1971
Mr McKee died after being attacked and robbed in his bread van in South Armagh. He had been shot but died of a heart attack in an attack which was believed to have been carried out by republicans.

CHRISTOPHER QUINN
AGED 39
4th November 1971
Shot dead by British soldiers as he stood on vigilante duty at Unity Place in the Unity Flats complex.

KATHLEEN THOMPSON
AGED 47
6th November 1971
Shot dead by soldiers as she stood in the garden of her home in Rathlin Drive, Derry, during a military raid in the area.

PAUL GENGE
AGED 18
7th November 1971
A soldier in the Royal Corps of Signals, he was shot dead by the IRA while off duty and taking a walk in Lurgan. A second soldier was wounded in the same attack.

IAN CURTIS
AGED 23
9th November 1971
A soldier in the Royal Anglian Regiment, he was shot dead by an IRA sniper on the bank of the River Foyle in Derry.

DERMOT HURLEY
AGED 50
11th November 1971
One of two policemen shot dead in an IRA gun attack on the Oldpark Road in North Belfast.

THOMAS MOORE
AGED 37
11th November 1971
As above

W. RENA
AGED 18
11th November 1971
A Dutch sailor, he went for dental treatment while his ship was in Belfast Docks. As he sat in the dentist surgery in the Grosvenor Road a number of gunmen burst in and shot him dead. It is believed that the IRA may have mistaken him for an undercover British soldier.

EDWIN CHARNLEY
AGED 22
18th November 1971
A soldier in the Black Watch, he was shot dead by an IRA sniper while on guard duty at a bus depot in the Short Strand area of East Belfast.

MICHAEL CROSSEY
AGED 21
22nd November 1971
A member of the IRA he was killed when a bomb he was planting in a Lurgan bar exploded prematurely.

BRIGID CARR
AGED 27
23rd November 1971
Shot and injured in an IRA attack in Strabane four days previously. She died in hospital.

COLIN DAVIES
AGED 39
24th November 1971
A soldier in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps he was killed while trying to defuse an IRA bomb planted in a car showroom in Lurgan.



Colin Davies

PAUL NICHOLLS
AGED 18
27th November 1971
A soldier in the Scots Guards, he was shot dead by an IRA sniper while on patrol in West Belfast.

JIMMY O'NEILL
AGED 45
27th November 1971
Mr O'Neill, a customs officer, was shot dead at a post in Killeen when the IRA launched an attack on troops. The post had been bombed a few hours previously and the IRA lay in wait for troops to arrive. Another customs officer died in the same attack.

IAN HANKIN
AGED 26
27th November 1971
As above

ROBERT BENNER
AGED 25
28th November 1971
A soldier in the Queen's Regiment, his body was found at the border near Crossmaglen after he had used up leave to visit his girlfriend in Dundalk. he was shot dead.

VIVIENNE GIBNEY
AGED 17
1st December 1971
She was shot and injured four day previously during an IRA gun attack on a police patrol at Cliftonville Circus in North Belfast. She died in hospital.

DENIS WILSON
AGED 31
1st December 1971
A member of the UDR, he was shot dead after the IRA burst into the family farm at Curlough.

PHILOMENA McGURK
AGED 46
4th December 1971
Died in a no warning bomb attack on her husbands pub on North Queen Street. At approximately 8.45pm a car containing a number of men pulled up outside the bar and one of the occupants got out. He placed a parcel in the hallway, lit a fuse, rushed to the car which then sped off in the direction of the loyalist Tiger's Bar area. Moments later the bomb exploded and the building was reduced to a pile of rubble. Fifteen people died.
Later that evening the army issued a statement claiming that the bomb had been an IRA own goal, which shocked the families of those killed and the local community. Later it was claimed by the League of Empire Loyalists which was a neo Nazi group in Britain in the previous decade, however this was just a cover being used by the


Edward Kane


Edward Keenan


Sarah Keenan


Francis Bradley


James Cromie


James Smith


Marie McGurk


Philomena McGurk


Philip Garry


Thomas McLaughlin


Tom Kane


Kathleen Irvine

UVF. It is believed that McGurk's Bar was not the intended target but a bar at the corner of the next street which was used mainly by members of the Official IRA.
Some years later a member of the UVF was convicted for the bombing when he apparently confessed willingly.

MARIA McGURK
AGED 14
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

JAMES CROMIE
AGED 13
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

EDWARD KEENAN
AGED 69
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

SARAH KEENAN
AGED 58
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

JOHN COLTON
AGED 49
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

THOMAS McLOUGHLIN
AGED 55
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

DAVID MILLIGAN
AGED 52
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

JAMES SMYTH
AGED 55
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

FRANCIS BRADLEY
AGED 61
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

THOMAS KANE
AGED 45
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

PHILIP GARRY
AGED 73
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

KATHLEEN IRVINE
AGED 45
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

EDWARD KANE
AGED 25
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

ROBERT SPOTSWOOD
AGED 38
4th December 1971
Died in the bomb attack on McGurk's Bar.

MARY THOMPSON
AGED 61
6th December 1971
A member of the Salvation Army, she died in an IRA bomb attack on their premises on Belfast's Dublin Road.

ANTHONY NOLAN
AGED 20
8th December 1971
A member of the IRA, he died in an accidental shooting in a house in the Markets area of South Belfast.

JEREMY SNOW
AGED 36
8th December 1971
A major in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, he was shot and injured during disturbances which followed the bombing of McGurk's Bar in the New Lodge area. He died in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

SEAN RUSSELL
AGED 30
8th December 1971
A member of the UDR, he was shot dead by the IRA at his home in the republican New Barnsley estate in West Belfast.


Sean Russell

KENNETH SMYTH
AGED 28
10th December 1971
A member of the UDR, he was one of two men shot dead by the IRA in Clady.


Kenneth Smyth


Daniel McCormick

DANIEL McCORMICK
AGED 29
10th December 1971
Shot dead alongside Kenneth Smyth, Mr McCormick had recently resigned from the UDR.

HAROLD KING
AGED 20
11th December 1971
He was killed in a no warning bomb attack on a furniture shop on the Shankill Road in West Belfast. A youth seen a green car pull up at the showroom and one of the occupants place a box on the step of the doorway before speeding off in the car. Moments later there was a massive explosion. The shops commissionaire was also killed in the bomb attack as were two young children who had been in a pram outside. Nineteen people were injured. No one claimed responsibility for the attack but it is believed to have been carried out by the IRA.



Tracy Munn

TRACY MUNN
AGED 2
11th December 1971
One of two children killed in the no warning bomb attack on a Shankill Road furniture store.

COLIN NICHOLL
AGED 17 MONTHS
11th December 1971
As above.



Colin Nicholl

HUGH BRUCE
AGED 50
11th December 1971
Mr Bruce had been the commissionaire at the Shankill Road furniture store at the time it was bombed.

JOSEPH PARKER
AGED 25
12th December 1971
Shot dead by British soldiers during a raid on a community centre in the Ardoyne area of North Belfast.

JACK BARNHILL
AGED 65
12th December 1971
Mr Barnhill, a member of the Unionist Party, was a senator at Stormont. He was shot dead by the Official IRA at his home near Strabane. After the shooting the gunmen left a bomb which exploded soon afterwards destroying the house. This had been the first political assassination since 1922.

MARTIN McSHANE
AGED 16
14th December 1971
Shot dead by British soldiers at a GAA ground in Coalisland. He had been struck several times when the troops opened up with a submachine gun.

ANTHONY ASPINWALL
AGED 22
17th December 1971
A soldier in the Gloucester Regiment, he was shot and wounded by an IRA sniper in the Lower Falls area of West Belfast. He died in hospital.

JAMES McCALLUM
AGED 16
17th December 1971
James was killed in a no warning UVF bomb attack on the Star Bar on the Springfield Road where he worked.

JOHN BATESON
AGED 18
18th December 1971
A member of the IRA, he was one of three men killed when a bomb they were transporting exploded prematurely in Magherafelt.

MARTIN LEE
AGED 18
18th December 1971
A member of the IRA he was killed along with John Bateson.

JAMES SHERIDAN
AGED 19
18th December 1971
A member of the IRA he was killed along with John Bateson.

MARGARET McCORRY
AGED 20
20th December 1971
Shot dead as she stood at a bus stop on the Crumlin Road after the IRA had opened fire on military vehicles.

JOHN LAVERY
AGED 60
21st December 1971
Mr Lavery died when a bomb he was trying to remove from his Lisburn Road bar exploded,

GERALD McDADE
AGED 23
21st December 1971
A member of the IRA, he was shot dead by British troops after he had ran from one of their patrols which had detained him and a number of other men in the Ardoyne area of North Belfast.

RICHARD HAM
AGED 20
29th December 1971
A soldier in the Royal Artillery, he was shot dead by an IRA sniper in Derry's Folye Road.

JACK McCABE
AGED 55
30th December 1971
A member of the IRA, he was killed when a bomb he was making exploded prematurely in Dublin.

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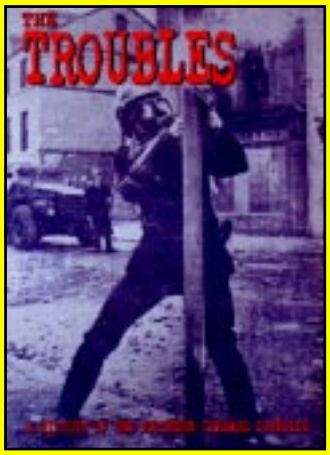

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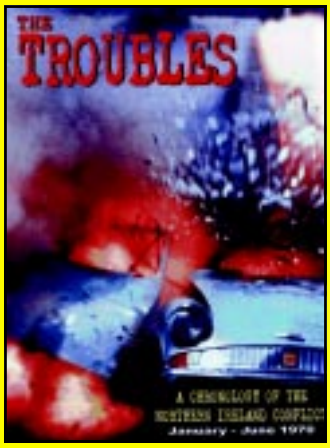

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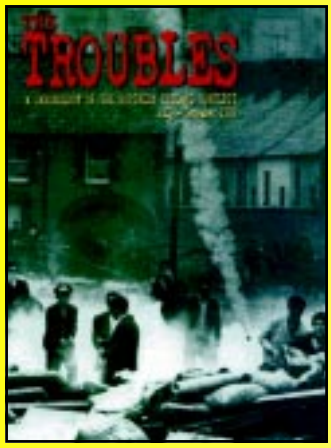

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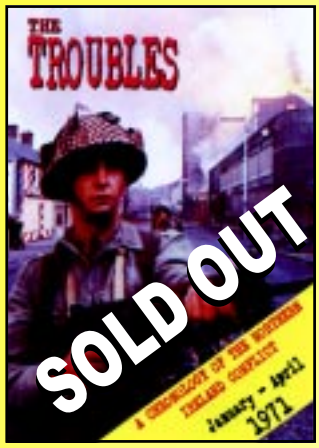

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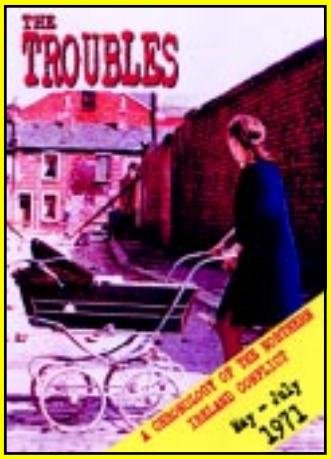

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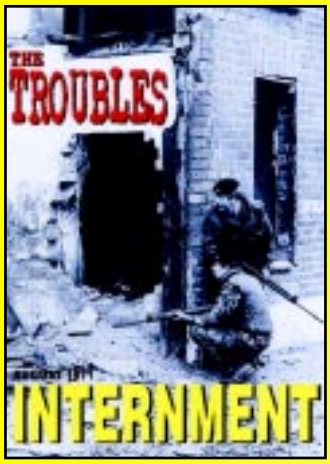

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Covering the period August 1971 (Internment)



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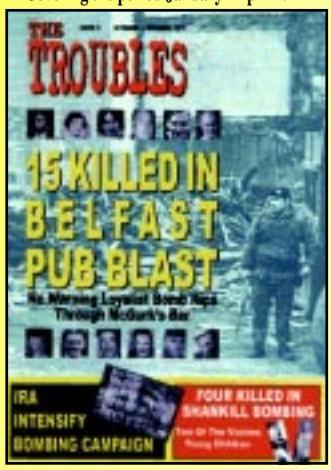
Covering the period September - October 1971



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Covering the period November - December 1971

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