

Chapter 1 : Provisional Irish Republican Army - Wikipedia

Irish Republican Army Tactics and Targets has 3 ratings and 0 reviews. The Irish armed struggle has often been spectacular, is consistently lethal, and.

It was the first GAC in 16 years. Those members of the outgoing Executive who opposed the change comprised a quorum. They met, dismissed those in favour of the change, and set up a new Executive. He was the first police officer to be killed since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. There were negotiations with community representatives and the CIRA announced the threat was lifted. It was believed the threat was issued after a Traveller feud which resulted in a pipe bomb attack in Bessbrook, near Newry. It is believed to be behind a number of attacks such as pipe bombings, rocket attacks, gun attacks, and the PSNI claimed it orchestrated riots a number of times to lure police officers into areas such as Kilwilkie in Lurgan and Drumbeg in Craigavon in order to attack them. It also claimed the group orchestrated a riot during a security alert in Lurgan. The alert turned out to be a hoax. Abstentionism gave the movement legitimacy, the right to wage war, to speak for a Republic all but established in the hearts of the people". On 2 November, the delegates present cast their votes, the result being to It was alleged that its chief of staff was a Limerick man and that a number of other key members were from that county, until their expulsion. They also suspect that the Continuity IRA arsenal contains some weapons that were taken from Provisional IRA arms dumps, including a few dozen rifles, machine guns, and pistols; a small amount of the explosive Semtex ; and a few dozen detonators. However it was believed in and that members of the Continuity IRA and members of the Real IRA travelled a number of times to Croatia in the former Yugoslavia to purchase some arms with a contact they had established. Ryan later became a prominent member of the Real IRA in Dublin, only to be killed in a violent feud with Dublin criminals in The footage featured in a BBC Spotlight documentary in about dissident republicans. It is believed that the Continuity IRA still holds some of the arms that got through. They are in many of the arms dumps uncovered by British and Irish security forces. Chronology of Continuity Irish Republican Army actions Initially, the Continuity IRA did not reveal its existence, either in the form of press statements or paramilitary activity. The CIRA was labelled "active, dangerous and committed and It is also known to have worked with the INLA. The CIRA has been involved in a number of bombing and shooting incidents. Since the Good Friday Agreement in the CIRA, along with other paramilitaries opposing the ceasefire, have been involved with a countless number of punishment shootings and beatings. By the CIRA was believed to be an established presence on the island of Great Britain with the capability of launching attacks. The IMC said they tried to create troubles to lure police forth, while they have also taken to stoning and using petrol bombs. In addition, other assaults, robbery, tiger kidnapping , extortion , fuel laundering and smuggling were undertaken by the group. As a result of this continued activity the IMC said the group remained "a very serious threat". The officer was fatally shot by a sniper as he and a colleague investigated "suspicious activity" at a house nearby when a window was smashed by youths causing the occupant to phone the police. Some transferred to the INLA landing of the prison, but the majority of those who left are now independent and on E4 landing. Supporters of the Continuity IRA leadership claim that this resulted from an internal disagreement, which although brought to a conclusion, was followed by some people leaving the organisation anyway. Supporters of the disaffected members established the Concerned Group for Republican Prisoners. It was thought to have operated largely in republican areas of Belfast. Upon leaving the CIRA, they had allegedly taken a number of guns with them. They also claimed that an Army Convention representing "95 per cent of volunteers" had unanimously elected a new member Army Executive, which in turn appointed a new seven-member Army Council. The moves came as a result of dissatisfaction with the southern-based leadership and the apparent winding-down of military operations. A senior source from RSF said: Limerick activist Rose Lynch a member of the same breakaway Continuity IRA faction based in and led from Limerick pleaded guilty to this murder at the Special Criminal Court and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Chapter 2 : What sort of tactics did the Irish Republican Army use? | Yahoo Answers

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), which traces its roots to Catholic Irish nationalism in the early s, was considered by many to be a terrorist organization because of certain tactics—such as bombings and assassination—it used to oppose British rule in Ireland. The name IRA has been in use.

Are you sure you want to delete this answer? Yes Sorry, something has gone wrong. The most intense period of the war was from November to July The IRA campaign can broadly be split into three phases. The first, in , involved the re-organisation of the Irish Volunteers as a guerrilla army. On paper, there were , or so Volunteers enrolled after the conscription crisis of However, only about 15, of these participated in the guerrilla war. In addition, there were some arms raids on Royal Irish Constabulary barracks for arms. The RIC abandoned most of their smaller rural barracks in late Around of these were burned in a co-ordinated IRA operation around the country in April The second phase of the IRA campaign, roughly from January to July , involved attacks on the fortified police barracks located in the towns. Between January and June , 16 of these were destroyed and 29 badly damaged. Several events of late greatly escalated the conflict. Firstly, the British declared martial law in parts of the country—allowing for internment and executions of IRA men. Secondly they deployed paramilitary forces the Black and Tans and Auxiliary Division and more British Army personnel into the country. Thus, the third phase of the war roughly August —July involved the IRA taking on a greatly expanded British force, moving away from attacking well defended barracks and instead using ambush tactics. To this end the IRA was re-organised into "flying columns"—permanent guerrilla units, usually about 20 strong, though sometimes larger. In rural areas, the flying columns usually had bases in remote mountainous areas. Belfast had a Protestant and Unionist majority and IRA actions were responded to with ferocious reprisals against the Catholic population, including killings and the burning of many homes. The IRA in Belfast and the north generally, was therefore mostly involved in protecting the Catholic community from loyalists and state forces. Divisions were created based on region, with commanders being given responsibility, in theory, for large geographical areas. The action was a severe blow to the IRA, who had five killed and eighty captured. By the end of the war, in July , the IRA was very hard pressed by the deployment of more British troops into the most active areas and a chronic shortage of arms and ammunition. It has been estimated that the IRA had only about 3, rifles mostly captured from the British during the war, with a larger number of shotguns and pistols. An ambitious plan to buy arms from Italy in collapsed when the money did not reach the arms dealers. Towards the end of the war, some Thompson submachine guns were imported from the United States; however of these were intercepted by the American authorities and the remainder only reached Ireland shortly before the Truce. It had few weapons or ammunition left. Moreover, almost 5, IRA men had been imprisoned or interned and over killed. Collins and Mulcahy estimated that the number of effective guerrilla fighters was down to 2,—3, Stephen Hayes, the acting Chief of Staff prepared an invasion plan for Northern Ireland and sent it to German Intelligence in , this plan was later called Plan Kathleen. It has been rumoured that during the war period IRA members may have attempted to aid the German aerial bombing of industrial targets in Northern Ireland. A policy described by Sean MacStiofain as "escalation, escalation and escalation". This was modelled on the success of the Irish Republican Army in the Irish War of Independence — and was articulated in slogans such as "Victory ". However, this policy failed to take into account the strong unionist commitment to remain within the United Kingdom and the risk that an armed campaign would result not in a united Ireland, but in a sectarian civil war. The British government held secret talks with the IRA leadership in to try and secure a ceasefire based on a compromise settlement within Northern Ireland after the events of Bloody Sunday when IRA recruitment and support increased. The IRA leaders refused to consider a peace settlement that did not include a commitment to British withdrawal, a retreat of the British Army to barracks and a release of republican prisoners. The British refused and the talks broke up. The Irish Republican Army wages an armed campaign The edition of the Green Book, an induction and training manual used by the Provisionals, describes the strategy of the "Long War" in these terms: This figure represents In roughly of these cases, IRA members caused their own deaths.

Chapter 3 : The Green Book (IRA) - Wikipedia

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

It is published at unknown printing presses and distributed to or shared with IRA volunteers as they are accepted for active duty. Due to this secrecy only two editions of the Green Book have so far been released into the public domain. The first, published in , appears to be intact. The second, publication date unknown but dating to the detention of then IRA Chief of Staff Seamus Twomey , has only been released in three parts referred to here as the edition. With the beginning of the latest IRA ceasefire and the ending of their campaign, it seems unlikely that a new edition of the manual will have been issued in recent years by the IRA. In order to protect the organisation, disclosure of its training material and any other training documents, including the Green Book, would most likely carry stiff penalties up to and including Court Martial. While the manual is clearly not all the training a volunteer could expect, it gave a broad overview meant to go some way to preparing the volunteer for active duty with the organisation. Commonalities and differences exist between the two documents. This demonstrates that the Green Book is a living document updated periodically. These updates are made to reflect changes in: Some doctrinal sections from the edition were still appearing, while new sections aimed at combating the counter-insurgency efforts of the British Army and RUC had appeared. The edition on the other hand discusses the use of the IRA flying column - en masse attacks by large groups of volunteers against concentrations of the enemy. Readers of the edition are warned: It enters into every aspect of your life. It invades the privacy of your home life, it fragments your family and friends, in other words claims your total allegiance. All potential volunteers must realise that the threat of capture and of long jail sentences are a very real danger and a shadow which hangs over every volunteer All volunteers must obey orders issued to them by a superior officer regardless of whether they like the particular officer or not". The edition contains no such warning, but appeals to the "guerrilla code. He must be worthy of that trust if he is to succeed. Instead of discipline of the regular army type there will be a more stern battle discipline: Breaches of the guerrilla code "desertion, betrayal, breach of confidence in any way" must be severely dealt with on the spot". Contents of the Green Book[edit] The book contains information on: Green Book historical context[edit] The document couches the violence and occupation of the island of Ireland in a long history of armed resistance to occupation. The first chapter is entirely taken up with providing this history from the viewpoint of the organisation. All are described as being within the context of legitimate resistance to the occupation of Ireland. This discussion is largely romanticised and aimed at demonstrating a lineage of "armed struggle" from which the IRA assumes its legitimacy in the fight against "occupying forces in Ireland". One entry in this discussion is the fact that the efforts of IRA guerrillas were the direct cause in ending the British occupation of the 26 counties of Ireland"the territory that would become the Irish Free State , and later the Republic of Ireland. This indicates both a "southern" perspective on Irish independence and an underestimation of the resistance they would encounter during the Border Campaign , that was aimed at the end of British rule in Northern Ireland. With the publication of the edition this assumption of an easy victory in ending partition had been dropped and the " Long War " strategy adopted. The edition summarises the result of the violence during the Irish War of Independence referred to by republicans, who considered independence as having been only partially achieved, as the Tan War with this passage: The guerrillas acted in small numbers in the right localities and compelled the British to disperse to find them. Then as the British searched, they hit them at will by means of the ambush. British justice courts could not operate--for the people ignored them. The British gradually were forced to evacuate the smaller, more isolated garrisons. They concentrated in the larger towns. The areas evacuated came under sole control of The Republic. The next step was to isolate the larger centres and keep cutting communications and constantly hitting the enemy. In time these would have been evacuated too. Thus ended the last great phase of guerrilla operations against British rule in Ireland. The "struggle" is couched in more socio-economic terms, terms which would have made more sense to a

generation living through unemployment and economic hardship in post industrial revolution Northern Ireland referred to here as the "six counties". It is also an indication of the influence of Marxist Philosophy that permeated the IRA in the late s: Further, from on, the Free State abandoned all attempts to secure an independent economy, and brought in foreign multi-national companies to create jobs instead of buying their skills and then sending them home gradually. Control of our affairs in all of Ireland lies more than ever since outside the hands of the Irish people. The logical outcome of all this was full immersion in the E. The Republican Movement opposed this North and South in and and continues to do so. This had always been the official ideology of the IRA, however after the split between the Provisional IRA and the Official IRA in it was probably deemed necessary to lay more of a claim to the historical struggle than the pre-split IRA had felt necessary. The edition would have also been published for use during a period when the failed S-Plan or Sabotage campaign was within living memory of younger IRA volunteers. Newer volunteers needed to be reminded of previous IRA activity in the "struggle for liberation": The manual is eager to draw a clear distinction between volunteer and his enemy: Apart from the few minutes in the career of the average Brit that he comes under attack, the Brit has no freedom or personal initiative. He is told when to sleep, where to sleep, when to get up, where to spend his free time etc. Or in more everyday simple terms: He is part of an independent formation that is in effect an army by itself. He must be self-contained. If necessary he must act alone and fight alone with the weapons at his disposal- and these very often will not be of the best. He must find his own supplies. His endurance has to be great: Above all he must know what he is fighting for- and why. The cure for these armed branches of the establishment is well known and documented. A war of attrition against enemy personnel which is aimed at causing as many casualties and deaths as possible so as to create a demand from their people at home for their withdrawal. To make the Six Counties as at present and for the past several years ungovernable except by colonial military rule. To sustain the war and gain support for its ends by National and International propaganda and publicity campaigns. By defending the war of liberation by punishing criminals, collaborators and informers. It contains a lot of practical advice on operating as a guerrilla fighter and how to inflict damage on targets. No mention is made of the establishment of "a Democratic Socialist Republic". This can probably been seen in the context of the IRA keeping pace with social changes and the material aspirations of Irish men and women living within the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. At the time of the Border Campaign the communities the IRA came to rely on were not politicised to the same degree as those in A lack of support within their host community is commonly given as the reason for the failure of the Border Campaign. This edition of the Green Book even goes so far as to announce the aim of restoring the Irish language as the national language, an aim not mentioned in the earlier edition. Military equipment in the Green Book[edit] The edition of the Green Book makes little mention of arms and equipment available to the volunteer. The one entry that does appear deals only with the issue of tactics as affected by lack of weaponry: Here again the logic is quite simple. Without support Volunteers, Dumps, Weapons, Finance, etc. In September the existing conditions dictated that the Brits were not to be shot, but after the Falls curfew all Brits were to the people acceptable targets. The existing conditions had been changed. The sabotage techniques and weaponry available at the time had mostly ceased to be commonly used by the late s, namely: Detonators are also detailed with physical descriptions, handling instructions, and burning rates. It can be assumed that the use of these weapons, or at least supplies of them, had been diminished when the edition was published. Given that the organisation was having troubles with internal security, it may have also been considered a security risk for the IRA to detail its available weaponry too closely. IRA explosive devices of the s and s were prepared using materials such as Potassium chlorate , Carbide , Saxonite , Iron Oxide , Aluminium , sulfuric acid etc. This was excluding the tons of weapons and explosives seized during the S-Plan campaign. The Provisional IRA obtained the majority of these weapons. Propaganda techniques in the Green Book[edit] The edition stresses that the volunteer is ultimately responsible within the framework of the movement for ensuring the formulation, dissemination and efficiency of propaganda. This process was to begin within the mind of the volunteer himself: So it was with their murderous mistakes of the Falls Road curfew , Bloody Sunday and internment , which were exploited to our advantage support- wise as was the murder of John Boyle in Dunloy. Other methods may be worked out and

new ones invented. Painting of slogans, proclamations and manifestoes and so on. All the means of winning the confidence of the people must be utilised. The ideas of the movement must be so popularised that no one is in doubt-least of all the enemy-that it will win eventually. Among the things it must do are: Show weakness of enemy position and propaganda used to bolster that position. Show what is wrong with political and social order. Suggest remedies and how they can be brought about. Be in touch all the times with thinking of the people. The use of regular bulletins for foreign newspapers and news-agencies becomes a necessity. The bulletin should be of the documentary type: Interrogation techniques[edit] The edition contains no details on how to react to internment, capture, interrogation , or interrogation techniques. This was no doubt an oversight on the part of the IRA, one which they came to regret with the successful interrogation of IRA volunteers captured by their enemies. Coupled with this were technical advances in the intelligence gathering and interrogation techniques of those forces.

Chapter 4 : IRA tactics and targets (Book,) [blog.quintoapp.com]

Irish Republican Army (IRA) Summary: Formed in as the clandestine armed wing of the political movement Sinn Fein, the IRA is devoted both to removing British forces from Northern Ireland and to unifying Ireland.

In August , a confrontation between Catholic residents of the Bogside and the Royal Ulster Constabulary RUC in Derry following an Apprentice Boys of Derry march led to a large communal riot now referred to as the Battle of the Bogside – three days of fighting between rioters throwing stones and petrol bombs on one side, and police who saturated the area with CS gas and other unionists on the other. Protests organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association in support of the Bogsideers were held elsewhere in the region, sparking retaliation by Protestant mobs; the subsequent burning, damage to property and intimidation, largely against the minority community, forced 1, people mostly Catholics from their homes in Belfast in what became known as the Northern Ireland riots of August , with over Catholic homes being destroyed or requiring major repairs. The Irish Republican Army had been poorly armed and its defence of Catholic-majority areas from Ulster loyalists , which had been considered one of its traditional roles since the s, was seen by many as inadequate. While the motion on the "National Liberation Strategy" was passed unanimously [64] the motion on abstentionism was only passed by 28 votes to However, under his usage, the name was written and pronounced according to Irish orthography and pronunciation as "P. According to Danny Morrison , the pseudonym "S. In addition, they recruited many young nationalists from the north, who had not been involved in the IRA before but had been radicalised by the violence that broke out in These people were known in republican parlance as "sixty niners", having joined after One of its slogans was "out of the ashes rose the Provisionals". The IRA Border Campaign in the s had avoided actions in urban centres of Northern Ireland to avoid civilian casualties and probable resulting sectarian violence. In their assessment of the IRA campaign, the British Army would describe the years –72 as the "insurgency phase". The republicans refused to consider a peace settlement that did not include a commitment to British withdrawal, a retreat of the British Army to its barracks, and a release of republican prisoners. The British refused and the talks broke up. At this time, the IRA leadership, short of money, weapons and members, was on the brink of calling off the campaign. However, the ceasefire was ended in January instead. A republican document of the early s states: The Irish Republican Army wages an armed campaign A war of attrition against enemy personnel [British Army] based on causing as many deaths as possible so as to create a demand from their [the British] people at home for their withdrawal. To make the Six Counties To sustain the war and gain support for its ends by National and International propaganda and publicity campaigns. By defending the war of liberation by punishing criminals, collaborators and informers. The British refused the offer. Prime Minister James Callaghan decided that there should be "positive rejection" of the approach on the basis that the republicans were not serious and "see their campaign as a long haul". Republic of Ireland state documents from the same period say that the IRA had made a similar offer to the British the previous year. An Irish Defence Forces document, dated 15 February , states that "It is now known that feelers were sent out at Christmas by the top IRA leadership to interest the British authorities in another long ceasefire. In response, more than prisoners refused to wear prison clothes. This activity culminated in the Irish hunger strike , when seven IRA and three Irish National Liberation Army members starved themselves to death in pursuit of political status. In addition, there were work stoppages and large demonstrations all over Ireland in sympathy with the hunger strikers. More than , people attended the funeral of Sands, the first hunger striker to die. The dead included around 1, members of the British security forces, and about civilians. On the other hand, public speeches from two Northern Ireland Secretaries of State , Peter Brooke [98] and Patrick Mayhew [99] hint that, given the cessation of violence, a political compromise with the IRA was possible. One aim of the Agreement is that all paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland cease their activities and disarm by May However, following the collapse of the Stormont power-sharing government in , which was partly triggered by allegations that republican spies were operating within Parliament Buildings and the Civil Service, the IRA temporarily broke off contact with General de Chastelain. End of the armed campaign[edit] On 28 July , the

IRA Army Council announced an end to the armed campaign, stating that it would work to achieve its aims solely by peaceful political means. The Army Council stated that it had ordered volunteers to dump all weapons and to end all paramilitary activity. It also announced that the IRA would complete the process of disarmament as quickly as possible. However, this was the first time that an IRA had voluntarily decided to dispose of its arms. The IRA invited two independent witnesses to view the secret disarmament work: Nationalists saw his comments as reflecting his opposition to nationalists in government. It said that if any weapons had been kept, they would have been kept by individuals and against IRA orders. In August, The Sunday Times quoted a "senior Garda intelligence officer" as saying that the IRA was being maintained "in shadow form"; that it had recruited in recent years, still had weapons and was still capable of carrying out attacks. It concluded that the IRA as an organisation was being allowed to wither away and was "beyond recall": The report also said that the IRA is not involved in any criminal activity, but that some members have engaged in criminal activity without the sanction or support of the organisation. The IRA is gone. The IRA embraced, facilitated and supported the peace process. When a democratic and peaceful alternative to armed struggle was created the IRA left the stage. He said that some of its structure remains, but that the group is committed to following a peaceful political path and is not engaged in criminal activity or directing violence. He had been involved in Direct Action Against Drugs and it is believed he was killed by an organized crime gang. It is believed he was killed by the group Action Against Drugs, in revenge for the Davison killing. The organisation remains classified as a proscribed terrorist group in the UK and as an illegal organisation in the Republic of Ireland. Both reject the Good Friday Agreement and continue to engage in paramilitary activity. The IRA gained much of its support from these activities, as they were widely perceived within the nationalist community as being defenders of Irish nationalist and Roman Catholic people against aggression. In addition, some IRA members carried out attacks against Protestant civilians. The IRA also targeted certain British government officials, politicians, judges, establishment figures, British Army and police officers in England, and in other areas such as the Republic of Ireland, West Germany and the Netherlands. By the early s, the bulk of the IRA activity was carried out by the South Armagh Brigade,[citation needed] well known through its sniping operations and attacks on British Army helicopters. The bombing campaign principally targeted political, economic and military targets, and approximately 60 civilians were killed by the IRA in England during the conflict. Seven IRA mortar attacks resulted in fatalities or serious injuries. Mortars were useful to the IRA as they could hit targets at short range, which could lead to effective attacks in built-up urban areas. However, from February until July, the IRA called off its ceasefire because of its dissatisfaction with the state of negotiations. They re-instated the ceasefire in July, and it has been in operation since then.

IRA tactics and targets by J. Bowyer Bell, January 1, , Dufour Editions edition, Paperback in English - New Ed edition.

One of his men was killed, he was badly wounded, and three loyalists were also killed. The Army was soon discredited in the eyes of many nationalists by incidents such as the Falls Curfew of July , when 3, British troops imposed martial law conditions on the nationalist lower Falls area of west Belfast. The first soldier to die was gunner Robert Curtis, killed by Billy Reid in a gun battle in February . About half the total of British soldiers to die in the conflict [23] were killed in the years " In the same year, they carried out 1, bomb attacks and 90 IRA members were killed. Thereafter, fortified police and military posts were built in republican areas throughout Northern Ireland. During the early s, a typical IRA operation involved sniping at British patrols and engaging them in fire-fights in urban areas of Belfast and Derry. These tactics produced casualties for both sides and for many civilian bystanders. The most effective tactic the IRA developed for its bombing campaign was the car bomb , where large amounts of explosives were packed into a car, which was driven to its target and then detonated. From the tactical point of view, it tied down a great number of British troops in Belfast and other cities and major towns across Northern Ireland. Strategically, it hampered the British administration and government of the country, striking simultaneously at its economic structure. Examples include the bombing of the Abercorn restaurant in Belfast in , in which two young Catholic women were killed and people injured, attributed to the IRA, which never acknowledged responsibility, as well as the bombing of the La Mon restaurant in County Down in February , which resulted in the deaths of twelve Protestant civilian customers, and others maimed and injured. This proved so dangerous for British Army patrols that virtually all troops in the area had to be transported by helicopter, [31] a policy which continued until , when the last British Army base was closed in South Armagh. The British government held secret talks with the Provisional IRA leadership in to try and secure a ceasefire based on a compromise settlement within Northern Ireland. The IRA leaders refused to consider a peace settlement that did not include a commitment to British withdrawal to be completed by , a retreat of the British Army to barracks and a release of republican prisoners. The British refused and the talks ended. The republicans believed initially that this was the start of a long-term process of British withdrawal. However, after several months, many in the IRA came to believe that the British were trying to bring the Provisional movement into peaceful politics without giving them any guarantees. By early , the IRA leadership, short of money, weapons and members, was on the brink of calling off the campaign. Between and , 3, people were charged with "terrorist offences". Instead, smaller but more specialised groups carried out sustained attritional attacks. In response to the ceasefire and the arrest of many IRA volunteers in its aftermath, the Provisionals re-organised their structures in into small cell-based units. While these were harder to infiltrate, the greater secrecy also caused a distance to develop between the IRA and sympathetic civilians. They also embarked on a strategy known as the "Long War" " a process of attrition based on the indefinite continuation of an armed campaign until the British government grew tired of the political, military and financial costs involved in staying in Northern Ireland. Another effective IRA tactic devised in the late s was the use of home-made mortars mounted on the back of trucks which were fired at police and army bases. These mortars were first tested in but did not kill anyone until . The s were the most violent years of the Troubles. As well as its campaign against the security forces, the IRA became involved, in the middle of the decade, in a "tit for tat" cycle of sectarian killings with loyalist paramilitaries. The worst examples of this occurred in and . The IRA did not officially claim the killings, but justified them in a statement on 17 January , "The Irish Republican Army has never initiated sectarian killings. The loyalists revoked the agreement in , after the IRA killing of Lord Mountbatten, but the pact nevertheless halted the cycle of sectarian revenge killings until the late s, when the loyalist groups began killing Catholics again in large numbers. Most of these were Protestant and unionist, thus the killings were portrayed and perceived by many as a campaign of sectarian assassination. Boyle and Hadden argue that the allegations do not stand up to serious scrutiny, [54] while nationalists object to the term on the grounds that it is not used by unionists to describe similar killings or expulsions of Catholics in areas where they form a minority. These workers were

mostly, but not exclusively, Protestant. Patrick Gillespie, killed by proxy bomb in Coshquin, was Catholic, as were several judges, magistrates, and contractors assassinated by the IRA. However, the Army Council did not consent to a bombing campaign in England until early 1972, after talks with the British government the previous year had broken down. The team were reported[who? Nevertheless, two of the bombs exploded, killing one man and injuring people. Keenan, along with Peter McMullen, a former member of the British Parachute Regiment, conducted a series of bombings in 1972. A bomb planted by McMullen exploded at a barracks in Yorkshire, injuring a female canteen worker. In addition to bombings, they carried out several assassination attempts. The group later made an assassination attempt on Edward Heath. Pursued by police, they took two hostages a married couple and barricaded themselves for six days in a flat on Balcombe Street before they surrendered, an incident known as the Balcombe Street Siege. They were sentenced to thirty years each for a total of six murders. An inadequate warning was given for one bomb and no warning for the other. The Guildford Four and Maguire Seven, and the Birmingham Six, were imprisoned for the Guildford and Birmingham bombings, respectively, but each group protested their innocence. They were eventually released and pardoned after serving lengthy prison sentences, even though the Balcombe Street group had admitted responsibility long before. However, throughout the intervening period, they did carry out a number of high-profile bombing attacks in England. Margaret Tebbit, wife of Norman Tebbit, was left permanently disabled. The IRA made a point of only striking at targets in England not Scotland or Wales, although they once planted a small bomb on an oil terminal in the Shetland Isles in May on the same day that Queen Elizabeth II was attending a nearby function to mark the opening of the terminal. The bomb detonated, damaging a boiler but no one was injured and the ceremony continued. Between 1972 and 1973 there was no year in which IRA terror attacks on the British mainland occurred on more than four days. In 1974 however there were 19 days of attacks, and it steeply rose to a peak of 47 days in 1975. They claimed she had been shot "in the belief that she was a member of the British Army garrison at Dortmund". Her husband was a British Army staff sergeant. On at least one occasion IRA members traveled to Colombia. There were four successful shipments between 1972 and 1973; three of these trips were carried out by the trawler Casamara and a fourth by the oil-rig replenisher Villa. All told, they brought in tons of weaponry. Five men were captured with the boat; three IRA members, including Gabriel Cleary, received jail sentences. Most of the losses it inflicted on the British Army, however, occurred in the early 1970s, although they continued to cause substantial casualties to the British military, the RUC and UDR throughout the conflict. According to author Ed Moloney, the IRA Army Council had plans for a dramatic escalation of the conflict in the late 1970s, which they likened to the Tet Offensive of the Vietnam War, with the aid of the arms obtained from Libya. IRA sources quoted in the Secret History of the IRA by Ed Moloney say that the interception of the Eksund shipment eliminated the element of surprise which they had hoped to have for this offensive. The role of informers within the IRA seems to have also played a role in the failure of the "Tet Offensive" to get off the ground. The death toll by 1975 was similar to that of the mid-1970s, with 14 fatalities. Politically and militarily, that was the most significant factor. Some authors alleged that this amounted to a campaign of assassination on the part of state forces see shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland. British Government documents released on 3 May 2002 show that overlapping membership between British Army units like the Ulster Defence Regiment UDR and loyalist paramilitary groups was a wider problem than a "few bad apples" as was often claimed. The documents include a draft report titled "Subversion in the UDR" which detailed the problem.

Chapter 6 : IRA Tactics and Targets: blog.quintoapp.com: Books

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That is very far from the truth. The violence has always been used for a purpose. And, simply put, violence is used as a communicative dimension. It is saying to the state or to government, "We are here. You have to talk to us. If we have to bomb our way to a negotiating table, we will. And when you look at the type of violence, over time it has changed. Because the violence was a classic example of armed propaganda. Sometimes car bombs would be used, which would be simply about causing as much economic destruction as possible, as making Northern Ireland so expensive for the British exchequer that there would be a demand for the British to withdraw. Or they would target British soldiers. There always was the belief that the death of one British soldier was worth at least, in propaganda terms, ten policemen from Northern Ireland, because in Britain itself, the British mainland, the demand to get out would grow. So, targets were very carefully specified. What the IRA tried to do for the most part and what they believed they were doing was that they were not trying to harm the local community. Now, that was part of their mythology. And so, when they carry out campaigns of violence against property or against people, in many, many instances what they were doing was they were damaging their own people more than they were furthering their cause. Now, that is very important, because the IRA, unlike other terrorist groups around the world, realized, to use the Maoist dictum, that "it needed water for the fish to swim in. If it lost that support, its campaign is going to run into the sands. So, it was always very, very conscious that it had to be careful how it used its violence. It is worth pointing out that Belfast, for example, never became Beirut. There was a control to most of the violence. Before the violence occurred, there were usually plenty of warnings. Very rarely could you put your finger and say that innocent people were targeted deliberately. They were very conscious in their propaganda of how they sold their violence. They were always conscious they had to bring their people with them. So, they could pick, for example, an isolated Protestant farmer on the border of Northern Ireland, who was a member of the local security force on a part-time basis. Or, in one instance, the IRA killed a woman who was taking a census collection. She was simply finding out, for the government, how people felt in Northern Ireland. She was shot dead because she worked for the government. There were literally hundreds of examples of soft targets. But they all added grist to the mill. They all were to demonstrate that Northern Ireland was ungovernable. It was the authorities who got it wrong, that they did not mean to kill those innocent civilians. Whatever way you look at it, it was a very important event, because what it did was that it distanced those in the Unionist community who might have been prepared to give some thought to doing deals with people in the Catholic community. What it did was that it polarized the situation very, very badly. It persuaded the British government that you cannot do business with the Republican movement. So, for all of those reasons, Bloody Friday had very serious consequences. But they also killed two young boys in the same boat that he was in. So, there were mixed feelings about it. There was great glee in the Republican movement. The British authorities were able to make much propaganda out of the death of the two young boys. On the same day, the IRA pulled off probably their most spectacular military operation when they blew to pieces 18 British soldiers--[at Warrenpoint] and they happened to be British paratroopers, the people who were responsible for Bloody Sunday. So, among their followers, this was a huge, huge victory. But the downside of that was that the soldiers had been killed on the Irish border. It was both a win and a loss, but it became a win later on. So, the death of Mountbatten and all the rest of it actually turned out to be a propaganda coup for the IRA rather than a loss for them. The Enniskillen Bombing When the IRA exploded the bomb in Enniskillen in November of , they did their cause irreparable harm from the military perspective. Because they blew up 11 innocent Protestant civilians in probably the most sacred day of their year commemorating their war dead. So, what it demonstrated to begin with was a total insensitivity of Protestant peoples. Secondly, they tried to claim that this was something which actually had been created by the British. That backfired very badly and they lost out very badly in that respect. Thirdly, they lost out electorally insofar as four of their eight elected representatives

were not selected again the next election in that area. Fourthly, it led them in the direction of going into dialogue with the SDLP. And that was one of the big turning points. The Brighton Bombings The Brighton bombings were very simple and very complex. Simple, they wanted to destroy Margaret Thatcher. They hated her with a passion. And, if they could destroy the British government with her, even more so. Nowhere else could it happen that a complete government was being wiped out with one bomb. It demonstrated the vulnerability of the British security system. It was a huge propaganda victory for the Republican movement, which they played up very strongly. And in going to London, they were saying to the British political establishment, "We are moving into the heart of your country. In particular, there was a bomb in a British town called Warrenpoint in March of , when two young boys were blown to pieces. That was one which went very badly wrong. The images of those two boys shows how an organization which operates through symbolic capital can have that turned on its head, so that the propaganda that came out of Warrenpoint was, "This is an organization that takes the lives of innocent young children. I think that was one of the telling points in actually going for a cease-fire. The second attempt to blow up the British Cabinet occurred in when the Cabinet was meeting, dealing with the affair in Kuwait. It was a war cabinet. One security expert said it was five to ten degrees off. If they got it right, it would have been their greatest spectacular. What they demonstrated was just how vulnerable London was. But, in some ways, it was the last throw of the dice, they had to go for the spectaculars. But, they also realized that if they were going into negotiation, they went into negotiation from a position of military strength. And these bombs were occurring

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