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mr. mac earthy

Irish Information Partnership: Summary of Conflict-related Fatal  
Casualties in Northern Ireland in 1988

The total number of conflict-related deaths in Northern Ireland between January 1st and Dec. 31st 1988 was the same as for 1987 at ninety-four. This brings the total such deaths in Northern Ireland since 1969 to 2,724.

There were 39 deaths in the first half of the year, and fifty-five in the second. In the first half of 1988, 20 security force operatives, 4 nationalist paramilitaries, 1 loyalist paramilitary, 13 civilians and 1 unclassified victim died. The second half saw a further 20 security force fatalities, the death of one prison officer, six nationalist paramilitaries, two loyalist paramilitaries and a doubling of civilian fatal casualties to twenty six.

- \* A sharp rise in security forces deaths and a shift towards British Army and Ulster Defence Regiment targets . . . . see pages 4 - 7
- \* Post Anglo-Irish Agreement rise in civilian assassination by loyalist paramilitaries continues . . . . see pages 2 and 3
- \* Deaths by Parliamentary constituency ... .. see pages 11 & 12
- \* Deaths outside Northern Ireland . . . . see page 13
- \* Religion of fatalities . . . . . see page 13
- \* Tables: Overall deaths, status group by agency 1969-1988  
1988 deaths, status group by agency of death  
1988 deaths, monthly by detailed status classification.

Source: Irish Information Partnership  
11 Campion Road, London SW15 6NN  
tel enquiries: 789 5233 or 388 1718

### **Post Anglo-Irish Agreement Trend Continues**

The shift in the pattern of killings which took place after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, most notably the rise in sectarian civilian killings by loyalist paramilitaries (from two in 1985 to sixteen in 1986 and fourteen in 1987) continued, with 18 such killings in 1988. This brings the number of civilian deaths by loyalist paramilitaries almost back to its 1977 level, when there were 19 such deaths, but still well below the 1976 peak year for loyalist killings when they killed six times as many civilians, ie 110 people.

### **Killings by Loyalist Paramilitaries in 1988**

Nine of these fatal casualties were caused by the Ulster Defence Association's "UFF", six by the proscribed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and a further three by unidentified loyalist paramilitaries. Fifteen of the fatalities occurred in Belfast and one each in East Tyrone, North Down and South Down. Sixteen of these civilian victims were Catholics, one was Protestant and another, whose religion is unknown, was drinking with Catholics when the attack took place.

All of the victims were adult men, one aged over 65, and their deaths occurred in assassination attacks. Apart from the attack in Miltown Cemetary in March in which two civilians were killed and a UVF attack on the Avenue Bar in Central Belfast when three died, the deaths happened in separate incidents. Victims appear to have been chosen quite randomly and incidents were spread throughout the year.

Loyalist paramilitaries were responsible for a further four deaths in Northern Ireland in 1988. One was a UDR operative apparently mistaken for a Catholic civilian, one a UDA operative believed to have cooperated with nationalist paramilitaries in the assassination of leading UDA members and two were nationalist paramilitaries, one of whom was killed in the Miltown cemetery incident and the other by UVF operatives in East Belfast.

Since 1969, loyalist paramilitaries have been responsible for a total of 676 deaths, ie 24.8% of all conflict-related deaths in Northern Ireland. 90.5% of its victims were civilians. Loyalist killings account for 40.5% of all civilian deaths. 492 of these civilians were Catholics, 107 protestant and 11 of unclassified/unknown religion.

Note: UDA refers to the Ulster Defence Association, a legal loyalist organisation.

### Rise in Number of Security Force Deaths

A change in the pattern of deaths occurred in 1988 with a rise in the number of security force deaths from 29 in 1985 (24 in 1986, 29 in 1987) to 40 in 1988. All but one of these - a UDR operative believed to have been mistaken by loyalists for a Catholic civilian - were killed by nationalist paramilitaries. PIRA claimed responsibility for all 39 of these deaths.

### Drop in Number of Police Deaths

In what may be a response to calls at the RUC Police Federation conference for a return to unarmed policing in Northern Ireland, there was a dramatic drop in RUC fatal casualties. Six RUC operatives (police), fewer than were killed by nationalist paramilitaries in any year since 1970, died in 1988. This compares with 23 such deaths in 1985, 12 in 1986 and 15 in 1987. Two deaths occurred in the first half of the year and 4 in the second. All happened in separate attacks, two in Belfast, one each in South Antrim, (London)Derry, Fermanagh and West Tyrone. Three were killed by anti-personnel devices, two in ambushes and one was assassinated while on duty.

Since 1969 there have been 251 RUC deaths in Northern Ireland (and at least two in the Republic of Ireland). All except eleven of these were caused by nationalist paramilitaries. Five were by loyalists, four by security forces and two by unknown agencies. 11.6% of RUC fatalities were Catholic.

### 1988 Sees British Army Displace Police As Main Targets

Fatal casualties to both British Army and UDR operatives increased.

Twenty-one British Army, one Naval Recruitment Officer and 12 Ulster Defence Regiment were killed.

With the exception of 1979, when 36 British Army operatives died (18 in a single incident at Narrow Water), the 1988 total of British Army deaths is the highest since 1974. This compares with only two British Army fatalities in 1985, four in 1986 and three in 1987. Since 1969, there have been 419 British army deaths in Northern Ireland, 410 of them caused by nationalist paramilitaries.

The first British Army fatalities of 1988 in Northern Ireland were the two soldiers who drove into a funeral cortege in West Belfast in March. In June six BA operatives were killed when an anti-personnel device exploded in their off-duty van in Lisburn. An inquest found that they had followed security procedures and had not been negligent in any way. Another eight operatives died when the coach transporting them also fell foul of an anti-personnel device in West Tyrone. The other six (including the naval officer) died in separate incidents, three, in Belfast, two in South Armagh and one in West Tyrone

It may be that the targeting of soldiers was stepped up in response to the Gibraltar events. This policy may have reflected vengeance on the army for the deaths of 3 Provisional IRA operatives in Gibraltar or a

simole conclusion about the greater level of concern caused in Britain by the soldier deaths in West belfast than many other Northern Ireland killings.

This pattern of increased attacks on British Army operatives is accentuated by the activities of the Provisional IRA outside Northern Ireland during the year. A further five BA operatives were killed following the Gibraltar incident, 3 in the Netherlands, one in Belgium and one in London.

The UDR is recruited from Northern Ireland and fatal casualties among its operatives do not make a great impact in Britain. However, it is a regiment of the British Army and although five of its twelve fatalities in 1988 happened before the Gibraltar events, its death toll remained high while that of the RUC dropped. This may indicate that the distinction being made (if indeed the new pattern in the deaths of security forces is other than accidental) is between police and British Army rather than between Northern Ireland recruited and British recruited forces.

#### UDR Death Toll High

Since its inception in 1970, the UDR has had a higher death toll than its 1988 figure of 12 in only four other years (1972, 1976, 1977 and 1981). One UDR operative was killed by loyalist paramilitaries. The other eleven were killed by PIRA in seven separate incidents, three of

which occurred in Belfast, three in East Tyrone, two in South Down and one each in North Armagh, West Tyrone and Fermanagh. 1988 brought the UDR's death toll since 1969 to 180, all but seven of whom were killed by nationalist paramilitaries. Eight of the casualties were Catholic, which is 4.4%. This is a fairly accurate reflection of the Regiment's Catholic membership which was 3% in 1988, but was higher in the early 1970s.

\* \* \* \*

#### Other Killings by Nationalist Paramilitaries

In addition to causing 39 security force deaths in 1988, PIRA was responsible for the death of one prison officer and four civilian contractors allegedly servicing security force personnel. PIRA also caused 14 other civilian deaths. In the case of eleven of these, PIRA issued apologies. Those involving the death of Gillian Johnston in March, and the Hanna family in July the victims were said to have been mistaken respectively for security force operatives and a Judge. Two died in a bombing in West Belfast, two in a bombing in (London)Derry, two in a bombing in Tyrone and one of a heart attack brought on by a mortar attack in Fermanagh. In the case of the other three civilian casualties one was alleged to be a UDR operative, though there is no evidence to support this, one was allegedly a loyalist paramilitary and the third allegedly an informer, although this was denied by his



family.

Of the civilians killed by PIRA in 1988, four were over 65, four were women and one was a 13 year-old girl who died in the Tyrone bombing. Eight of them were Catholic and eleven Protestant.

While most killings by nationalist paramilitaries were carried out by the Provisional IRA, the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) was not totally inactive. The INLA appears to have formed two separate groupings. One, retaining the title INLA (Irish National Liberation Army) claimed responsibility for the death of an alleged UVF member. The other grouping, calling itself the Irish People's Liberation Organisation (IPLO) claimed responsibility for the killing of a man who was visiting his family in Belfast. IPLO alleged that he had been an informer.

Since 1969 nationalist paramilitaries have been responsible for 1,570 deaths or 57.6% of all deaths. 562 (or 37.3%) of their victims have been civilians, while 823 (or 52.4%) were security forces members. Overall, nationalist paramilitaries have caused 38.7% of all civilian deaths. 170 of these were Catholics and 371 were Protestants. In the case of 21 people, religion was either unknown or unclassified.

## Paramilitary Deaths

### Loyalists

Three loyalist paramilitaries died in 1988. One was killed by his own organisation, the other two by nationalist paramilitaries, bringing to 69 the total number of loyalist paramilitaries killed since 1969.

### Nationalists

Ten nationalist paramilitaries died in the same period. Two were killed by loyalist paramilitaries, two were killed by their own bomb in South Armagh and one in similar circumstances in East Tyrone. A further five, one INLA and four PIRA operatives were killed by security forces. This brought to 293 the number of nationalist paramilitaries killed in Northern Ireland since 1969. 123 ie 41.9% of these were killed by security forces. 93 ie 31.7% died in accidentally self-inflicted incidents. 51 ie 17.4% died on hunger strikes or were killed by other nationalist paramilitaries and 18 ie 6.1% were killed by loyalist paramilitaries. In eight cases, 2.7% of nationalist paramilitary deaths, the agency of death was unclassified.

### Killings by Security Forces

An INLA operative was shot by RUC operatives when he attacked a border post in West Tyrone. A PIRA sniper was shot by BA operatives in Belfast in March. Three PIRA operatives were killed, apparently by SAS operatives, in a stakeout operation near the spot where 8 British Army operatives died in a PIRA attack on their bus in August. One of the PIRA operatives is alleged to have opened fire on an SAS operative who was disguised as a former UDR operative. The inquest on these deaths, which brought allegations of a "shoot-to-kill" policy, has yet to take place.

### Killings of Civilians by security forces

A Protestant civilian was shot by the RUC during a PIRA attack on a North Belfast barracks with an RPG7 rocket. In February, Aidan McAnespie, a civilian election work on behalf of Sinn Fein was shot dead by a British Army soldier as he walked to a football match. This brought to 178 (148 Catholic, 38 Protestant and 5 of unknown religion) the number of civilians, excluding paramilitaries, killed by security forces in Northern Ireland. Of the 326 people killed by the security forces in Northern Ireland since 1969, 54.6% have been civilians.

While charges in relation to civilian deaths by security forces have been brought on occasion, convictions have been rare. Following McAnespie's death, it became known that the first British Army soldier to be sentenced for murder committed with an army issue weapon while

on duty in Northern Ireland had been released after serving less than four years of a life sentence. This resulted in a great deal of criticism and to allegations of unfairness. Initially the soldier responsible for McAnespie's death was charged, but the charges were later dropped when the DPP decided that the killing was accidental.

#### Parliamentary Constituencies

A breakdown of conflict related deaths in Northern Ireland for 1988 by parliamentary constituency showed that the largest number occurred in the West Belfast constituency which is represented by Sinn Fein MP, Gerry Adams, where there were 20 deaths. Nine of these were civilians, six killed by loyalist paramilitaries, 2 in a PIRA bomb and one by INLA. Eight were security force operatives, (3 UDR, 4 British Army and 1 RUC) killed by PIRA. Two were PIRA operatives, one, a sniper, killed by the British Army and one by loyalist paramilitaries.

In the Fermanagh/South Tyrone constituency of OUP MP, Ken Maginnis, there were 14 deaths in 1988. The first was of civilian Aidan McAnespie by security forces. This was followed by the killing of civilian Gillian Johnston by PIRA, a UDR operative by PIRA and two civilian contractors to the security forces by PIRA. Eight British Army soldiers were killed in a single incident, again by PIRA. An RUC operative was killed by a PIRA anti-personnel device in October and a pensioner died of a heart attack following a PIRA mortar attack.

There were 13 deaths in the Mid-Ulster constituency represented by Willaim McCrea of the DUP. PIRA was responsible for the deaths of 3 UDR, 1 British Army and 1 RUC operative as well as the deaths of two civilians who died in a bomb attack. One PIRA operative blew himself up. The British Army killed one INLA operative who attacked a border post and the SAS killed three PIRA operatives. A Catholic civilian was killed by unidentified loyalist paramilitaries in November.

Another constituency with a high number of conflict related deaths in 1988 was that of North Belfast, represented by Cecil Walker of the OUP. There six civilians, all Catholics, were killed, three by the UVF, one by the UFF and two by unidentified loyalists. A Protestant civilian was killed by the RUC during a PIRA attack, a loyalist paramilitary was killed by the the IPLO and two other Protestant civilians, alleged to have been members of loyalist paramilitary organisation were killed, one each by INLA and PIRA.

Belfast East (Peter Robinson, DUP) and Newry/Armagh (Seamus Mallon, SDLP) each had 8 fatalities in 1988. Lagan Valley (James Molyneaux, OUP) had 7. South Down (McGrady, SDLP) and South Belfast (William Smyth, OUP) each had four. Foyle (John Hume, SDLP) had 3 deaths and there was one each in Upper Bann (Harold McCusker, OUP) and South Antrim (Forsythe, OUP).

The figures given for 1988 and the overall death totals since July 1969 apply to deaths in Northern Ireland only. There have been a number of conflict-related deaths in the Republic of Ireland, in Britain and in Western Europe, but these are not included in the figures here. An incident which set off a whole trail of deaths in West Belfast actually happened in Gibraltar, where three PIRA operatives were shot by SAS operatives. An inquest found that the killings were lawful. Following the incident, four British Army were killed in PIRA attacks in Western Europe. Another was killed in a PIRA attack on Inglis barracks in London. Also in 1988 a PIRA operative involved in an armed robbery was killed by police in the Republic of Ireland.

The religion of fatal casualties is recorded by the Partnership only in respect of Northern Ireland residents as it is not a significant factor in the deaths of British Army operatives or visitor deaths. Since 1969, 1,051 of the fatalities have been Protestants and 1,218 have been Catholics. As a proportion of the Northern Ireland resident deaths 46.3% have been Protestants and 53.7% Catholics. While there are no exact figures for the proportions of Catholics and Protestants in the Northern Ireland population, a parliamentary reply given on March 31st, gave an estimate as follows: Of those aged over 16, 36.8% are thought to be Catholic, 60.9% Protestant and 2% unknown.

Irish Information Partnership: Agenda  
Violence, Terrorism, Military, Paramilitary, Security and Police Affairs.  
This Table covers 1969 to December 31st, 1988

Number of Deaths in Northern Ireland by Responsible Agency and by Category of Victim.

Status of Victim	Agency Responsible				Total	As % of Total	for graph only
	Security Forces	Nationalist Paramilitaries	Loyalist Paramilitaries	Other + Unidentified			
Security Forces	13	823	10	4	850	31.2	850.00
Nationalist Para	123	144	18	8	293	10.8	293.00
Loyalist Param.	12	18	36	3	69	2.5	69.00
Civilians: Cath	148	170	492	73	883	32.4	
Prot	25	371	107	63	566	20.8	
Religion unknown	5	21	11	1	38	1.4	
Civilian total	178	562	610	137	1,487	54.6	1,512.00
Prison Officers	0	23	2	0	25	0.9	
Total	326	1,570	676	152	2,724	100.0	
Killings by this agency as % of total deaths	12.0	57.6	26.8	5.6	100.0		
Killings by this agency as % of civilian deaths	11.8	38.7	40.5	9.1	100.0		
Civilian deaths as % of deaths by this agency	54.6	37.3	90.5	90.1	55.5		

Number of Deaths in Northern Ireland by Responsible Agency and by Category of Victim.

Status of Victim	Agency Responsible				Total	Victim of this status as % of total deaths
	Security Forces	Nationalist Paramilitaries	Loyalist Paramilitaries	Other + Unidentified		
Security Forces	0	39	1	0	40	42.6
Nationalist Para	5	3	2	0	10	10.6
Loyalist Paras.	0	2	1	0	3	3.2
Civilians: Cath	1	8	16	0	25	26.6
Prot	1	11	1	0	13	13.8
Religion unknown	0	1	1	0	2	2.1
Civilian total	2	20	18	0	40	42.6
Prison Officers	0	1	0	0	1	1.1
Total	7	65	22	0	94	100.0
Killings by this agency as % of total deaths	7.4	69.1	23.4	0.0	100.0	
Killings by this agency as % of civilian deaths	5.0	50.0	45.0	0.0	100.0	
Civilian deaths as % of deaths by this agency	26.6	32.3	81.8	0.0	43.6	

Source: Agenda Database.



Irish Information Partnership: Agenda: Category 8:  
Violence, Terrorism, Military, Paramilitary, Security and Police Affairs:

Table 8iv: Monthly Deaths by Population Group of Victims, 1968

Category of Victim	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Sub-total		July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sub-total		Total
						June	Jan to June							July to Dec		
Civilian	2	1	5	0	4	1	13	7	0	2	5	3	0	25	38	
Elected Rep/ Political Activist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Former Security Forces/Prison Off.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Civilian agent: judge, contractor.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Sub-total Civilian	2	1	5	0	4	1	13	7	0	2	5	3	1	26	39	
British Army / Territorials	0	0	2	1	1	6	10	2	10	0	0	0	0	12	22	
RUC/RUCR	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	4	6	
UDR	2	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	12	
Sub-total Security Forces	3	3	3	3	1	7	20	2	13	1	2	1	1	20	40	
Prison Officer (PO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
Sub-total Prison Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
PIRA	0	2	2	0	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	5	9	
OIRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
INLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Nationalist Paramilitary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Sub-total Nationalist Paramilitary	0	2	2	0	0	0	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	6	10	
UDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
UVF	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	
Other Loyalist Paramilitary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sub-total Loyalist Paramilitary	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	
Unclassified	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Grand Total	6	6	10	3	5	9	39	11	25	4	9	4	2	55	94	

SOURCE: AGENDA DATABASE