

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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Recent Terrorist Activity in Northern Ireland  
Border Areas\*

- 1st December: Premises belonging to the IAOS in Derry were damaged in bomb explosions
- 8th December: The Ulsterbus yard at Derry was the scene of destruction to nine buses which was caused by incendiary bombs
- Weekend 9th and 10th December: A number of shops were damaged in Armagh on Saturday in a bomb attack
- 17th December: The body of Mr. Thomas A. Smith of Forkhill, Co. Armagh was found on the road at Tullydonnel. He had been shot through the head
- 20th December: PIRA bombs exploded in a number of hotels across the North including hotels at Omagh, Dungannon, Newry and Portadown
- 21st December: Three British soldiers were shot dead in Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh. They were Glenn Ling, Kevin Johnson and Graham Duggan
- 22nd December: The premises of the Rugby Club on Bunrana Road, Derry were damaged by three bombs
- 26th December: The Rosstown shopping centre in Derry was damaged when two incendiary bombs exploded
- 4th January: An RUC constable was shot and wounded at his home near Rosslea, Co. Fermanagh
- 15th January: A reserve policeman and a civilian were taken to South Tyrone Hospital in Dungannon following a shooting incident in the border village of Aughnacloy. The PIRA admitted responsibility for the attack.
- Weekend 20th and 21st January: An RUC man was shot and injured after an attack by the PIRA on two Land Rovers in Newry, Co. Down
- 1st February: A British soldier was injured when shots were fired from a car at troops on checkpoint duty on the Tyrone-Donegal border
- 12th February: The body of Mr. Patrick Sills was recovered by security forces near the border at Castlederg, Co. Tyrone.

\* It is not suggested that there is necessarily a cross-border connection in all or any of these incidents.



- Weekend 17th and 18th February: An off-duty RUC man was shot and seriously wounded while driving on the Ballygawley road near Dungannon
- 22nd February: Gardai on the border were searching for 12 armed men who drove a hijacked truck across the border while under fire from a British Army airborne patrol. The truck was believed to have been fitted out as a launching pad for a mortar attack on Crossmaglen
- Weekend 24th and 25th February: Two 16 year old boys were killed and three others seriously injured in a bomb attack apparently intended for a security forces patrol. The youths were walking on the Keady-Newtownhamilton road when a car-trailer exploded without warning as they passed by. The dead youths were James Keenan and Martin McGuigan
- Weekend 3rd and 4th March: The PIRA claimed responsibility for an attack on a British Army helicopter near Crossmaglen in which three soldiers were injured
- 8th March: A car bomb containing 250 lbs of explosives exploded in the Main Square, Dungannon
- Weekend 17th and 18th March: A 1,200 lb. bomb exploded outside the police station at Kinawley, Co. Fermanagh
- 19th March: Between 8 and 10 "mortar" bombs were fired at the joint army/police station at Newtownhamilton. A British soldier was killed in the attack and nine other people were injured including four British soldiers, two policemen and three civilians. The dead soldier was named as Private Peter Leslie Woolmore.
- 22nd March: The PIRA claimed responsibility for a chain of 24 explosions across the North which included Dungannon, Derry, Lisnaskea, Newry
- Weekend 31st March-1st April: Garda John Barron was shot on the Monaghan-Fermanagh border in an exchange of gunfire at Larnaght
- 2nd April: A PIRA car bomb wrecked the centre of Co. Armagh village of Markethill
- 5th April: A 68 year old man was seriously injured when a shot was accidentally discharged by a soldier in Forkhill, Co. Armagh
- 8th April: Three business premises were damaged by bombs and fire in Derry



- 11th April: Three men were arrested by Gardai after a border shooting incident in which a customs man was seriously injured at Killea, Co. Donegal
- 12th April: A 63 year old part-time UDR man was shot dead near the South Armagh village of Tynan. He was Mr. Thomas Armstrong
- 16th April: A Northern Prison Officer was shot dead after he left the wedding ceremony of his sister at Augher, Co. Tyrone. He was Mr. Michael Cassidy
- 17th April: Four RUC men were killed when their land rover was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb near Newry. They were Richard Alan Baird, Paul Moore Gray, Noel Alexander Webb and Robert Archibald Lockhart.  
The PIRA claimed responsibility for 14 bomb attacks on a Derry cement works
- Weekend 21st and 22nd April: The PIRA claimed responsibility for blowing up the engine of a CIE goods train hi-jacked in South Armagh
- Weekend 28th and 29th April: A part-time member of the UDR, Mr. Samuel Gibson was shot dead in an ambush by the PIRA between Dungannon and Coalisland
- 1st May: A timber yard in Derry was badly damaged in two explosions  
A former RUC Reservist died after being shot by two gunmen near Moy, Co. Tyrone. He was Mr. Frederick Lutton
- Weekend 5th and 6th May: The PIRA claimed responsibility for killing an RUC detective and a soldier, both of whom were in plain clothes, outside the church in Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. The dead were named as Detective Constable Norman Samuel Price and Sergeant Robert Manghan  
In Strabane, Co. Tyrone a car-bomb exploded causing damage to business premises
- Weekend 12th and 13th May: A soldier on foot patrol was shot and wounded in the centre of Armagh
- 18th May: Car bombs exploded in a number of locations in the North including Fivemiletown, Co. Fermanagh and Dungannon, Co. Tyrone
- 19th May: Mr. Jack McClenaghan shot dead by two men at Garrison, Co. Fermanagh
- 20th May: A part-time RUC Reservist was shot dead in Derry on his way to Sunday service. He was Mr. Stanley Wray



23rd May British Army arrested two men who crossed the border at Lifford after a Garda chase. A rifle and ammunition were discovered in the van.

28th May The British Army defused a 200lb. bomb in Derry

30th May The British Army post at Forkhill and a foot patrol were attacked but no injuries were reported.

3rd June Superintendent Stanley Hanna and Constable Kevin Thompson were killed in a landmine explosion near Cullaville, Co. Armagh.

8th June Two of the seven incendiary devices planted at Derry's Guildhall exploded.

9th June There were two shooting incidents near Keady, Co. Armagh one involving a British Army patrol which opened fire on a lorry and subsequently the occupants of the lorry were involved in a shooting incident with an off duty member of the prison service following which two of the occupants were admitted to Monaghan hospital with gunshot injuries one of whom died. The dead man was named as Peadar McElvanna.

19th June Bombs exploded in a record shop and solicitors office in the Ship Quay Street - Castle Street area of Derry.

21st June A hotel in Beleek, Co. Fermanagh was destroyed by bombs planted by armed terrorists. They held up the staff at the Carlton Hotel while they planted two bombs. Guests were evacuated before the bombs went off and there were no casualties.

22nd June A large car-bomb attack on the Valley Hotel, near Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone failed when a British Army Ammunition and Technical Officer defused the detonating device following a telephone warning. The 250 lb bomb was packed into two churns and left in a car outside the hotel.

The offices of Strabane District Council were slightly damaged in a fire-bomb attack. Three devices exploded in the early hours of the morning but the local fire brigade dealt with the fire outbreak.

24th June A part-time U.D.R. man, 63 year old Joseph James Porter was found shot dead on his farm near Mountmorris in South Armagh.



- 30th June: The post office in the border town of Killeter, Co. Tyrone was destroyed by 3 bombs placed by four armed men.
- 7th July: Private Alan MacMillan died in a booby trap explosion in the square at Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh.
- 10th July: A series of 10 attacks on Post Office property in South Down and South Tyrone took place.
- 11th July: A British Army helicopter engaged a boat on Lough Ross in a shoot-out.
- 12th July: Michael Kearney was found shot dead on the Northern side of the Fermanagh border.
- 17th July: Miss Sylvia Crowe was killed and six others injured when a bomb exploded near Roslea, Co. Fermanagh.
- 18th July: There were explosions at Aughnacloy Customs Post, Monaghan Rd. Customs Post in Armagh and the car tax office at Customs House Square, Derry.
- 23rd July: Road and rail links with the Republic were cut as armed men hijacked vehicles along the border.
- 27th July: An Ulsterbus and a lorry were hijacked and left at a Border Crossing near Monaghan.
- 31st July: Constable George Walsh, a plainclothes RUC man, was killed by gunmen outside Armagh Courthouse.
- 19th August: Two policemen were slightly injured in a booby trap explosion near Newtownbutler, Co. Armagh.
- 24th August: A car bomb exploded in Dungannon which injured six people and caused extensive damage to property.
- 27th August: Eighteen soldiers were killed in two separate bomb incidents near Warrenpoint, Co. Down. Immediately south of the border Michael Hudson was shot dead following the explosions.