

THE OFFICIAL IRA

This was made up of most of the older veterans of the IRA border campaign of the 1950's.

This group sought to achieve a United Ireland but its use of violence was more contained

They followed **MARXIST (communist) ideas** which suggested that they should not fight against Protestants to achieve their aims.

They declared a **ceasefire** in 1972

The tensions of the Summer of 1969 had created deep tensions in the republican movement.

The organisation had been caught off guard and **unprepared**. Many nationalists wrote murals **IRA:I Ran Away**

Humiliatingly it was none other than the **British army** that seemed to come to the rescue and protect Catholic communities. The tensions created a major split in the IRA

PROVISIONAL IRA

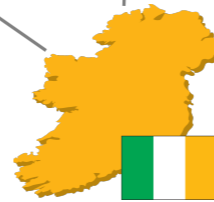
- This group broke away from the Official IRA in 1969.

- It was made up of **younger and more militant members** - They wanted to **fight** using every means to achieve independence and a United Ireland.

THEIR GOALS

- To protect Catholic communities from attacks
- To achieve civil rights for all
- They wanted to destroy the Unionist government at Stormont
- They aimed to remove British Imperialism from Ireland by any possible means

- their campaign of violence would rage for more than 30 years and kill hundreds. They were supported in their aims politically by SINN FEIN



IRA SPLIT



RISE OF THE PARAMILITARIES



LOYALISTS

Loyalist groups grew rapidly fed by fear of the IRA and the growth of civil rights. Many unionists felt deeply threatened by events

Killings by the **UVF** grew as they aimed to match republicans



In 1971 the **UDA Ulster Defence Association** was set up. It attracted over **30,000** members- this was **too big to ban** as it would instantly fill and overwhelm the court system and prisons



BRITISH MILITARY REACTION



FALLS ROAD CURFEW 3-5 July 1970

One of the key targets for the British army to look for weapons and suspects was inevitably the Falls road in west Belfast.

The searches caused a great deal of **destruction** and led to very serious **rioting**. IRA guns were discovered but not in huge quantities. The British army had to use **CS gas** in large quantities to try and control the situation. In the end they resorted to a **36 hour curfew** imposed on residents.

4 civilians were killed in this action and over **300** arrested

The **damage in terms of relations between the British army and catholic community was incalculable**. It turned nationalist opinion heavily against the British army. It was now viewed both as an occupying army and a **legitimate target** for the PIRA.

IRA Membership in the area soared from only 100 to 800

It was a **key turning point in the Troubles**.

The split in the IRA sparked a **change in strategy**. The British army were now clearly **targets** of the IRA.

In response the British army decided to be **proactive** and tried to **remove weapons** before they could be used. This however required **raiding catholic homes** .. a tactic which would **backfire** hugely

The British military were initially **welcomed** into nationalist areas with tea, sandwiches and cheers in 1969. They **stopped the attacks** from loyalist areas and **protected catholic neighbourhoods**.

However, it was noted by the military commander at the time that this arrangement would not last forever and a **political solution** would have to be found quickly before the army began to be part of the problem and not the solution.