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LISBURN, Co Antrim
Northern Ireland

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3318 Int

See Distribution

15 December 1971

INTSUM No 50 COVERING PERIOD 8 - 15 DEC 71

GENERAL

1. The bombing outrages continue, and there have also been a number of shooting incidents although these have been generally sporadic and loosely aimed.
2. The IRA are still withdrawing from contact with the and are swinging the campaign further towards terrorizing the civilian element. An outbreak of violence occurred on 14 Dec 71 directed against prominent Belfast Citizens.
3. A campaign of rumour and threat has been mounted by the Provisionals, which implies that the main shopping centres throughout Belfast are going to be chaos until Christmas.
4. The Provisionals themselves have had another bad week in the South West and West of Belfast. The have already lost two Company Commanders, five weapons and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. The lost three officers 30 weapons and 6,600 rounds of ammunition. The main threat from the Provisionals now appears to be in the North where A Coy and C Coy 3rd Bn are still in strength despite the loss of some 10,000 rounds during a raid on
5. The Officials have remained relatively untouched losing only four officers throughout Belfast, although two others have been remanded in custody in the South, pending trial.
6. The Cuman Na Bann is apparently replacing the lost manpower of 2nd Brady as three women have been charged during the week.
7. Amongst the finds there have been several items of interest:-
 - a. Three AR 18 rifles have been discovered in the hands. These are Japanese made and would appear to form part of a very recent batch.
 - b. Documents which include:
 - (1) Simple but extremely comprehensive instructions on how to construct many types of bombs.
 - (2) Insights into the work of an IRA Battalion IO.
 - (3) A well written instruction on Security and Intelligence in Guerilla Warfare.
 - c. Military clothing and equipment which could well be used for infiltration into military installations, and a resulting spectacular attack.

CONCLUSION.

8. The [redacted] element has brought a new angle to the campaign, and they remain the potential danger of the future. The Provisionals are likely to step up their bombing campaign during the crowded shopping days before Christmas to add weight to their publicity campaign.

NORTH BELFAST

1. A large find at _____ was the highlight of a relatively quiet week in the Unity/New Lodge area. It included:

1 x 3.5 RL
1 x M1 Carbine
1 x Shotgun
10,000 assorted rounds
3 x Claymores
10 x Grenades
Bomb making equipment

Comment.

- a. This was the property of _____, and possibly C Coy in particular.
 - b. The bomb making equipment was of a highly sophisticated nature.
 - c. It is thought that there had been a large number of weapons with this dump, and these had been moved into the New Lodge just prior to the raid.
2. Information is accumulating that _____ is preparing for a large scale assault on the Security Forces. Weapons have been brought in; outsiders have been brought in, and the fact that the command element has not been touched for some time, means that the Company must be becoming one of the strongest in Belfast.
3. Following the McGurks Bar incident, it has been confirmed that it was a bomb which was destined for another target, but exploded prematurely.
4. _____ recently appointed _____ was detained.
5. Several shooting incidents have taken place in the Ardoyne. It is apparent from numerous reports that most of the _____ hierarchy are in the South or staying in the country, and this would bear out the unusually amateurish attempts of the gunmen.

Comment. _____ the three escapees, appeared on television and threatened to return to the North in January at the latest. _____ seems to have been exonerated from all doubts about his steadfastness under interrogation.

6. _____ Ligonell Coy _____ was detained.
7. _____ in the Ardoyne was the scene of the death of _____ and the injuring of an officer and a sergeant, following an attempt to locate a wanted man believed to be in the Hall. The crowd's attack and the subsequent shooting, indicate that wanted men were in fact present.

Comment. There was no trace on _____ although _____ is being released from Long Kesh to _____

PROTESTANT ACTIVITIES

8. The explosion in the _____ where four people died and 24 were injured demonstrated once again the controlled anger of the protestant population on the Shankill.

9. _____ a prominent and militant protestant, was found not guilty on the charge of illegally possessing a weapon and ammunition in October. Shortly after this verdict _____ was also found with a loaded pistol and has been charged.

10. The _____ at _____ continues its long drawn out saga of hopelessness with the Catholics not turning up to work, and the inevitable result approaching, that the Protestants will take over the 90 vacant jobs.

ANNEX F TO
HQ 39 AIRFIBL BDE 3318 INT
DATED 15 DECEMBER 1971

DIVISION R

1. A very quiet week was experienced throughout Division R, areas, as well as going South are resting up in Country
2. There is believed to be IRA activity in the Glens of Antrim.

SOUTH WEST BELFAST

REPUBLICAN ACTIVITIES

1. Terrorist activity rose slightly during the period with several shooting incidents, two bombing attacks and four armed robberies.
2. In both bombing attacks there were two bombs, one exploding, and the other being defused.

Comment: It may be that the IRA were trying to kill the investigating military using the tactics successfully employed on another occasion.

3. [redacted] was arrested at a VCP by 1 SG, outside his normal area of operations. [redacted] were arrested at their homes on 11/12 Dec 71.

Comment:

a. [redacted] and has long been sought as a leading influence on subversive activity in the South West.

b. [redacted] of C Coy

c. [redacted] of the [redacted] of C Coy

4. In [redacted] a briefcase and electronic devices were found. The electronic devices were a tape recorder and telephone microphones. The briefcase contained a substantial collection of notes on Special Branch, T & AVR, military personnel, their cars, and areas of operations, and photographs of personnel. There was also a collection of notes, connected with [redacted]

Comment:

a. These documents were undoubtedly the property of the [redacted] although it is thought that some of them had originally belonged to the [redacted] organization, and had been stolen.

b. Fairly extensive surveillance is carried out by the terrorists on prospective targets, and considerable attempts are made to obtain details of members of the Security Forces.

c. The notes confirmed that a form of interrogation is carried out on those released from detention. It also appears that extensive inquiries are carried out to find out who talked and the reasons for doing so, from among those who have been interned. Suspensions are placed on those who are under suspicion.

5. Although there have been several shooting incidents, they have been relatively amateur attempts and not typical of the hard core element of the area. There is evidence that the Fianna is reappearing which might account for this.

PROTESTANT ACTIVITIES

6. Activities in the area have been negligible and the resulting fall off in vigilante activity was predictable

WEST BELFAST

REPUBLICAN ACTIVITIES

1. Terrorist activity in West Belfast has been kept to an absolute minimum following an extremely successful week by the Security Forces. The local population have come to accept the raids, and this has reduced the discomfort experienced by both sides.

2. C Coy and D Coy lost a few more men including

Comment: was an extremely lucky man having been grazed by more than one bullet at the time of his arrest. He has been charged with causing various explosions.

3. Following these arrests some 10,000 rounds of assorted ammunition and five weapons were recovered from a field. This was the property of the

4. lost their , and a considerable number of weapons and ammunition including

1 x AR 18
2 x M1
2 x Pistol
3,000 rounds assorted ammunition

Comment: These weapons were found in the house of was found dead in Divis following a shooting incident :

5. lost seven members including the and the Two Volunteers, were charged with a member of the Cumann Na Bann, with stealing a car at gunpoint.

Comment:

a. Following the arrest of it became apparent that Cumann Na Bann were trying to take some of the terrorist activity off the mens hands for the present. was named as the of the Ballymurphy Cumann Na Bann.

b. Following the arrest of the arms and ammunition were recovered

1 x AR 18
1 x M1
1 x .303
154 assorted rounds

were found in the house with these items.

6. Four further finds were made, all the property of
They included:-

4 x 11lb Stick bombs
30lbs gelignite
3 x Nail bombs
50 x 9mm rounds
27 sets of Fianza uniform
Detonators various
Plans for future bomb targets

7. lost two volunteers, and a large haul of weapons
and ammunition was found in their area including

15 assorted weapons
3,445 assorted rounds
10½lbs gelignite
3 Stick grenades
Assorted fuse, detonatore etc
1 Radio Transceiver
1 pr bloodstained trousers

Comment:

- a. This find may well have been
- b. C Coy Command structure is now

Other appointments are at present vacant

8. is still somewhat of a mystery although two
reported officers are

9. has been inactive and only one volunteer was
detained

10. Two women were arrested for being in
possession of several time switches, fuse wire and detonatore.

Comment: This adds strength to the reports that
have a strong Cumann Na Dann element who work actively in conjunction
with those volunteers that are left. sisters,
the former is married to before his detention

11. has been inactive on location although the activity
on the morning of 14 Dec 71, involving attempts to attack prominent Belfast
Citizens in the South and South West, may have been their work.

- a. B Coy lost a Volunteer.
- b. C Coy lost

Comment: has suffered more than the other two
battalions, and C Coy itself has suffered more than any company.

12. Four officers from various Fianna units have been arrested and questioned in an attempt to keep the juveniles under careful surveillance.

PROTESTANT ACTIVITIES

13. There has been very little reaction in the Lower Shankill to the two explosions on Protestant territory. There is still rumour of the 'Third Force' but it is still a long way from reality.

ANNEX C TO
HQ 30 AIRFIELD BDE 3318 INF
DATED 13 DECEMBER 1971

CENTRAL AND SOUTH BELFAST

REPUBLICAN ACTIVITIES

1. There were numerous shooting incidents during the week, and an increase in bombing, although none of the bombs and very few of the shooting incidents were actually directed at the Security Forces.

2. [redacted] were remanded in custody for offences perpetrated in the South. They are unlikely to receive more than a fine and a free ticket back to Belfast, so they will return.

Comment:

3. The body of [redacted] was discovered on [redacted]. He had been shot, and it was publicised by the [redacted] that he had accidentally shot himself whilst lying up in an ambush position.

Comment:

[redacted] was a volunteer in

EAST BELFAST

REPUBLICAN ACTIVITIES

1. continued to be hit by Security Forces activities. During a cordon and search following unusual activity in the area, were detained.

Comment. had just been appointed OC following the arrest of was EO. It is also thought that he was responsible for killing two policemen, although he has only been charged with the firing of a weapon at present. The only remaining officers are:

2.

3. were also detained, or charged with various offences. known to be an active member of the IRA company.

Comment. With the company near its end the members have allowed me involved in shooting and bombing.

4. Citizens Defence League forming in East Belfast. It is reputed to have its own supply of weapons and a command structure.

Comment. With the downfall of the local IRA, a substitute is needed by the locals for their defence, and this organisation may well be that substitute.