UNCIVIL WAR

When Operation Banner was launched in 1969, civil war threatened to break out in Northern Ireland and spread across the Irish Sea. Uncivil War reveals the full story of how the British army acted to save Great Britain from disaster during the most violent phase of the Troubles but, in doing so, condemned the people of Northern Ireland to protracted, grinding conflict. Huw Bennett shows how the army’s inability to repress loyalist violence undermined the prospects for peace and heightened Catholic distrust in the state. British strategy consistently under-estimated community defence as a reason for people joining or supporting the IRA, whilst senior commanders allowed the army to turn in on itself, hardening soldiers to the suffering of ordinary people. By 1975 military strategists considered the conflict unresolvable: the army could not convince Catholics or Protestants that it was there to protect them and settled instead for an unending war.

Huw Bennett teaches International Relations at Cardiff University. He is the author of Fighting the Mau Mau: The British Army and Counter-Insurgency in the Kenya Emergency (2012).
Cambridge Military Histories

Edited by

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UNCIVIL WAR

The British Army and the Troubles, 1966–1975

Huw Bennett
For Claudia, Lina and Orla, with love
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<td>ACC</td>
<td>Assistant Chief Constable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACDS(Ops)</td>
<td>Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>Adjutant General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS</td>
<td>Assistant Private Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS(GS)</td>
<td>Assistant Under-Secretary (General Staff)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAOR</td>
<td>British Army of the Rhine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>British Broadcasting Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGS(Int)</td>
<td>Brigadier General Staff (Intelligence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2(AD)</td>
<td>Central Department 2 (Army Department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDC</td>
<td>Central Citizens’ Defence Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Citizens’ Defence Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS</td>
<td>Chief of the Defence Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGS</td>
<td>Chief of the General Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLF</td>
<td>Commander Land Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col GS</td>
<td>Colonel, General Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS</td>
<td>Chief of Staff/Chiefs of Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR</td>
<td>Chief of Public Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>Chief Scientific Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS gas</td>
<td>2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile gas (tear gas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASD</td>
<td>Director of Army Staff Duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCDA</td>
<td>Derry Citizens’ Defence Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS(Int)</td>
<td>Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS(A)</td>
<td>Deputy Chief Scientist (Army)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DGI</td>
<td>Director-General of Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMO</td>
<td>Director of Military Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D of DOP</td>
<td>Director of Defence Operational Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOpsINTCOM</td>
<td>Director of Operations Intelligence Committee Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPP</td>
<td>Director of Public Prosecutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPR(A)</td>
<td>Director of Public Relations (Army)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>Directing Staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DS6  Defence Secretariat 6
DS10 Defence Secretariat 10
DUP Democratic Unionist Party
DUS(Army) Deputy Under-Secretary (Army)
DYH Derry Young Hooligans
EEC European Economic Community
EOD Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EOKA Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston (National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters)
FCO Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FOI Freedom of Information
GOC General Officer Commanding
GSO 1 General Staff Officer, Grade 1
GSO 2 General Staff Officer, Grade 2
HMG Her Majesty’s Government
HQNI Headquarters Northern Ireland
INLA Irish National Liberation Army
INTSUM Intelligence Summary
IRA Irish Republican Army
IS Internal Security
ITV Independent Television
IWMSA Imperial War Museum Sound Archive
JIC Joint Intelligence Committee
JSCSC Joint Services Command and Staff College
KOSB King’s Own Scottish Borderers
LAW Loyalist Association of Workers
LHASC Labour History Archive and Study Centre
LHCMA Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives
LSE London School of Economics and Political Science
MA Military Assistant
MI5 Military Intelligence, Section 5 (The Security Service)
MI6 Military Intelligence, Section 6 (The Secret Intelligence Service)
MO3 Military Operations, Branch 3
MO4 Military Operations, Branch 4
MOD Ministry of Defence
MP Member of Parliament
MRF Military Reaction Force
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO Non-commissioned Officer
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NEC National Executive Committee
NICRA Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association
NIO Northern Ireland Office
NITAT Northern Ireland Training and Advisory Team
OC Officer Commanding
OIRA Official Irish Republican Army
OP Observation Post
PIRA Provisional Irish Republican Army
PRONI Public Records Office of Northern Ireland
PS Parliamentary Secretary/Private Secretary
PSO Personal Staff Officer
PS2(Army) Personal Services, Branch 2 (Army)
PS4(A) Personal Services, Branch 4 (Army)
PUS Permanent Under-Secretary
PUSD Permanent Under-Secretary’s Department (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)
RA Royal Artillery
RAF Royal Air Force
RARDE Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment
RCT Royal Corps of Transport
RGJ Royal Green Jackets
RM Royal Marines
RMP Royal Military Police
RNAS Royal Naval Air Station
RPG Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RSRM Royal Scots Regimental Museum
RTÉ Raidió Teilifís Éireann (Radio and Television of Ireland)
RUC Royal Ulster Constabulary
SACEUR Supreme Allied Commander Europe
SAS Special Air Service
SCDS Staff of the Chief of the Defence Staff
SDLP Social Democratic and Labour Party
SoS Secretary of State
SPG Special Patrol Group
TNA The National Archives
UDA Ulster Defence Association
UDR Ulster Defence Regiment
UFF Ulster Freedom Fighters
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UKLF</td>
<td>United Kingdom Land Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>UKREP</td>
<td>United Kingdom Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPV</td>
<td>Ulster Protestant Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Ulster Special Constabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVF</td>
<td>Ulster Volunteer Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWC</td>
<td>Ulster Workers’ Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAG</td>
<td>Vice Adjutant General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCDS</td>
<td>Vice Chief of the Defence Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCGS</td>
<td>Vice Chief of the General Staff</td>
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