1972 was by far the deadliest year in 'the Troubles'

This has much to do with the events leading up to it: 497 PEOPLE KILLED IN N.IRELAND IN 1972: a grim record



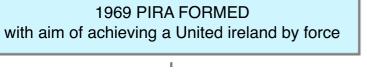
OPERATION MOTORMAN In response to the violence the British army launch their biggest military operation since the 1950's

BRITISH ARMY

It's purpose was to destroy the so called 'NO GO areas' which were controlled by paramilitary groups.

It was a relative successful and peaceful operation which succeeded in opening up all areas of N. Ireland again

BACKGROUND



July 1970 FALLS ROAD CURFEW British troops seal off and search nationalist areas using force in a move which lost a great deal of nationalist hearts and minds

SUMMER OF 69

British troops arrive

1971 INTERNMENT

Introduced by Faulkner but spectacularly backfires as few paramilitaries and no loyalists are lifted and nationalist anger deepens. IRA support and violent campaign gathers pace

January 1972 BLOODY SUNDAY 14 shot dead in Derry by British paratroopers Deep nationalist anger and Unionist fear.

March 1972 DIRECT RULE IMPOSED Stormont suspended and NI ruled from Westminster Deep unionist anger and republican hope



1972 **NORTHERN IRELANDS BLACKEST YEAR**

IRA Violence

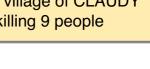
A spate of 20 car bombs terrorises Belfast and kills 9 people.. nearly all

BLOODY FRIDAY

civilians



CLAUDY BOMBING An IRA car bomb explodes in the village of CLAUDY killing 9 people



Unionists believe that they have lost 'their Parliament' due to IRA violence. Many loyalist groups like the **UDA** and **Ulster** vanguard get huge support.. loyalist violence therefore increases too. They want to defend NI against the threat of a United ireland

OVER 130 BRITISH SOLDIERS KILLED In 1972





So why 1972?



Republicans believe with the suspension of Unionist dominated Stormont that they have achieved one major part of their strategy for a United ireland... events like Bloody Sunday pour money and volunteers into the IRA. They believe continued pressure could prove decisive