The hunger strike did not end with Bobby Sands' death. Ten hunger strikers would die altogether before they were called off in October 1981.

They were all granted an early release but none were allowed to wear their own clothes or associate with each other in prison.

The hunger strike was transformed into a much more deadly battle of wills.

**1981 Hunger Strike**

Bobby Sands transformed the hunger strike into a much more successful strategy. Instead of a mass hunger strike he introduced staggered hunger strikes with volunteers going on strike over weekly intervals to increase the pressure on the British government.

The hunger strike however faced a very tough opponent - British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher had seen one of her closest advisors killed by republicans in the 1970s. She was dubbed 'The Iron Lady' and was also completely opposed to doing any deals with those she saw as terrorists. This would therefore be a deadly battle of wills.