

Border Crossings and Road Cratering by British Troops in the Aftermath of Internment without Trial and Its Effects on the Republic of Ireland

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Abstract: Taking a look at the border crossings and road cratering operations by British troops after the introduction of Internment without Trial in August 1971, this paper considers how the named operations affected Anglo-Irish relations and the impact of road cratering and border crossings on the Republic of Ireland. It takes a look at diplomatic exchanges, Dáil debates concerning events related to border incursions. It also features description of these events by individuals. This holistic approach becomes necessary as the border incursions did not only impact on politics but also disrupted life at the Irish side of the border. Furthermore, it had an economic effect on local farmers. Focussing on the impact of internment and its failures on the Republic of Ireland, this study examines a rarely studied field. Scholars and studies mostly considered how the failed internment policy of the Northern Irish and British Government impacted on the conflict in the North in terms of recruitment for the IRA or the upsurge in violence. Taking a look at the transnational dimension of internment and its failure opens up a new, fresh and challenging perspective on this pivotal period of Northern Irish and indeed Anglo-Irish history.

Keywords: Internment without Trial, Border incursions, road cratering, Terrorism, Anglo-Irish relations