

# SPEAK

BRITISH SOLDIERS' IMPRESSIONS OF THE  
NORTHERN IRELAND CONFLICT

compiled by  
John Lindsay



# BRITS SPEAK OUT

Thousands of young British men spent long periods of their youth walking the streets of Belfast and Derry and the country lanes of Fermanagh, Tyrone and South Armagh armed with lethal weapons. Occasionally they were welcomed, more often, they were spat at, pelted with missiles, shot at or ignored. They were here to 'keep the peace', to 'assist the civil powers' and to 'fight terrorism'. On their return to Britain there were no street parties or victory parades to welcome them home.

How did it feel to be a British soldier in Northern Ireland? How did the Army prepare them for their tours of duty here? What did they see as their role? How did they feel about the land and the people that they patrolled? How did they feel about those who sought their removal by violent means?

In *Brits Speak Out* fourteen soldiers' relate their own personal accounts of their time in Northern Ireland. Their stories reflect life lived close to the edge, the development of the conflict and the effect of fear and trauma on the human condition.

"The stories of the former soldiers are riveting, depressing, frightening, horrifying and occasionally transcendent and uplifting. They are fast moving and utterly believable."

Anne Cadwallader *Ireland on Sunday*

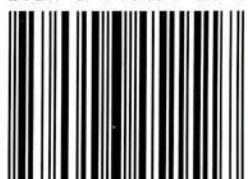
"Forthright views, many regrets, disturbing memories and littered with humorous anecdotes"

Stephen Gordon *Sunday Life*

"Fascinating reading..."

Niall Stange *Hot Press*

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