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- NEWS
- SPORT
- ENTERTAINMENT
- LOCAL NEWS
- NATIONAL NEWS
- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
- YOUR STORIES

NEWS ARCHIVE

- 13:54 Cardinal slams new marriage laws
- 13:39 46,000 properties at risk of flood
- 13:24 Devlin attack : man to stand trial
- 12:08 Recession to hit NI hard
- 12:05 Nurse school damaged in fire
- 10:24 Fishermen rescued in county Donegal
- 08:07 Man in court on GBH charges
- 00:27 Batman stunt expert died as car
- 00:27 Public lack facts on community
- 00:27 Over half state schools breach
- 00:27 GPs get £100 for checks on
- 00:27 Mail pays libel damages over
- 00:27 'Costa Metallica' costs Liverpool
- 00:27 Man appears in court accused of
- 00:12 Pakistan warns US general to stop
- 00:12 'World's best golf course'
- 00:12 World losing Aids battle, minister
- 00:12 Security tight as Chinese
- 00:12 Schmidt releases piano CD to mark
- 00:12 A great week in black history?
- 00:12 UN appoints Nigerian to mediate

YESTERDAY

- 15:20 Ireland faces EC finance probe
- 11:52 Movilla students back to class
- 11:50 Man charged with rape
- 10:41 Thousands attend homecoming march
- 10:27 Fire at a Cork golf club
- 09:16 Victim Commission leaks slammed
- 08:36 Manufacturing jobs hit by slowdown
- 00:22 MPs say downturn could save
- 00:22 Report attacks 'national
- 00:22 Olympics officials accused of
- 00:22 MPs revolt over third Heathrow
- 00:22 A Kafkaesque excuse for ignorance
- 00:22 PM admits data losses may be
- 00:22 BBC signals end to big pay deals
- 00:22 Somalian rape victim, 13, stoned
- 00:22 Beijing keeps its interest - and
- 00:22 Why Rwanda holds key to ending
- 00:22 Turkish delight at German cult
- 00:22 Chinese fury at sale of plundered
- 00:22 Deripaska in Montenegro - between
- 00:22 Winning was the easy bit, Mr

YOUR COMMENTS

- N Security alert at school a hoax
19 comments
- E Eoghan through to next round
92 comments
- S Rangers fans warned over song
5 comments

LOCAL NEWS



RIR march in Belfast

Monday 03 November 2008 10:41

Thousands attend homecoming march

A homecoming parade for soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq has passed off largely peacefully in Belfast city centre. Police kept rival loyalist and republican groups apart as a Sinn Fein protest against the soldiers' parade reached Howard Street.

A massive security operation was launched from early on Sunday morning, with police setting up checkpoints on the main routes into and out of the city.

A dissident republican march from the west of the city was prevented from going ahead by police.

Organisers had not received permission from the Parades Commission.

The soldiers then attended a reception at the Waterfront Hall, before making their way to a church service at St. Anne's Cathedral.



Disturbance: A number of large fireworks were thrown by Loyalists as Republican demonstrators stood waiting for the parade. Police in riot gear kept the two groups apart. Liam Creagh reports.

Fireworks were also thrown at police in Royal Avenue and York Street and a car was damaged on the Westlink after a firework was thrown on to the carriageway.

A police officer was injured after a can was thrown in Fisherwick Place.

Police were also attacked with stones at the bottom of Divis Street.

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PAGE# 1 | 2 | 3

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On 2 Nov at 13:20 - east belfast lady from belfast said:

Welcome home boys enjoy your day as you deserve it and its great to see you all back No mater what its your day and hope you all enjoy it.

On 2 Nov at 13:53 - BALLYSILLAN SURPORTER from BALLYSILLAN said:

thank you for such a good parade there was such a good turn im sure the troops felt like thay were on top of the would marching pass the city hall thanks again lads for the parade good to see you all home safe

On 2 Nov at 13:53 - michael wilgar from bangor said:

I was at the parade, it was great to see such a massive turn out supporting our brave troops, a lot of them so young. it was just a dam shame that the republicans felt it necessary to protest against these solders who are out fighting for there country. Shame on those who protested.

On 2 Nov at 14:32 - Paul from Toronto said:

There now they had their wee parade.Hope all concerned are happy about the cost to the taxpayer.Is there not more important things to spend thousands of pounds on.What a waste of money.

On 2 Nov at 15:30 - Steve from Ballymoney said:

As a soldier in 1R Irish it was wonderful to see the public support for our regiment and all those servicemen and women who come from the Island of Ireland to serve Queen and country. Faugh A Ballagh & God Save the Queen

On 2 Nov at 16:46 - tracey hanna from livingston said:

im glad are british soldiers got the welcome home they deserved,its the Queens highway so they had to march

On 2 Nov at 17:07 - ernest from newtownabbey said:

did the protest sf where holding not meant to be about the war in iraq ect ? why was there collusion banners there ? why was sf allowed to let the ira march its parade ? why was sf allowed to break a parades commision ruling by bringing more to the protest than had been agreed ? why did gerry adams say on national tv that belfast was the 2nd oldest city in ireland and is an irish city ? is he getting senile in his old age ? did loyalists not outnumber republican protestors 50 to 1 ? see for ages we have heard that republicans will do everything to stop this parade , what happened today lads ? the people of belfast spoke today with there feet , thousands lined the parade route from start to finish and all the people there where a credit to our great unionist city , belfast is and always will be british mr adams , by the way gerry , what is it like to finally see a real army with real hero's ? we are the people !

On 2 Nov at 18:01 - che from Portadown said:

Congratulations to the participants and organisers of the well deserved homecoming parade in Belfast city centre. The dignified manner in which the spectators conducted themselves is also to be applauded. As usual the Sinn Fein propoganda machine moved at speed to exaggerate the one small incident that did occur. The restraint shown by those spectators that witnessed the shameful protest by Sinn Fein is not to be understated. Perhaps Adams and co should take a moment to reflect on the fact that the reason they have the freedom to protest is because that freedom has been attained and sustained by the sacrifice of the very soldiers they choose to protest against.

On 2 Nov at 18:13 - isabel from belfast said:

what a lovely day it has been for our boys in the RIR it was great to see them marching so proudly and to see and hear the crowds cheering for them. god bless them all.

On 2 Nov at 18:20 - w.mcclelland from armagh said:

Brilliant day,Troops got the return they deserve.Pity about the media reports 30 seconds of the parade 1 minute of sinn fein,Typical.

PAGE# 1 | 2 | 3

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VOTING POLL

Ballymena are switching on their Christmas lights. It's only November 4th. Do you think this is too early?

VOTE NOW!

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