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**NEWS ARCHIVE**

- 14:12 Bomb alert declared a hoax
- 13:10 Tests start on cocaine seizure
- 12:27 Consumers paying `too much` for oil
- 12:03 Former RUC chief dies
- 10:57 800 piglets perish in farm fire
- 08:12 15,000 children sit final 11 plus
- 07:39 Woman dies after road accident
- 00:26 Recession watch
- 00:26 Will we ever see a British Obama?
- 00:26 Record opium harvest in
- 00:26 Saville delays Bloody Sunday
- 00:26 Security body chief goes after
- 00:26 Animal rights activist cleared of
- 00:26 Older sister tells of last sight
- 00:26 'Rock-bottom' Republicans begin
- 00:26 Socialists seek new leader to end
- 00:26 French happiest at 65, says study
- 00:26 Fox News and McCain aides turn on
- 00:26 First punch is thrown as novices
- 00:26 Poland forced to sell off

**YESTERDAY**

- 01:33 Surprise Glenrothes byelection
- 11:20 Blast bomb attack in Lurgan
- 11:04 Software company to create 62 jobs
- 11:02 Couple tied up in kidnapping
- 10:04 Halloween sex attack
- 08:36 Committee raises maternity deaths
- 07:50 £124m owed in rates arrears
- 07:35 Man arrested over Larne murder
- 00:09 Voters sign up for rainbow


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- 00:09 Gurkha soldier killed in search
- 00:09 Litvinenko family can go home
- 00:09 'I've been in this country for 35
- 00:09 After Bush, the world looks on in
- 00:09 Critics alarmed as Medvedev
- 00:09 Marbella holiday homes saved from
- 00:08 General's interpreter convicted on
- 00:08 De Menezes police 'had unclear
- 00:08 Plenty of ideas for freeing

## YOUR COMMENTS

- E** The X Factor: Eoghan`s story  
98 comments
- N** Cardinal slams new marriage laws  
7 comments
- N** Ruane welcomes church proposals  
14 comments

## LOCAL NEWS



Soldiers seek help

Thursday 30 October 2008 12:02

### Troubles soldiers seek help

More than 300 former soldiers have sought specialist treatment to help them deal with the legacy of the Troubles in the last year.

Full-time and part-time troops who served in the region during the worst of the conflict received psychological counselling under the army`s £2m Aftercare Service.

Soldiers still troubled by injuries sustained in the campaign were also treated.

There are now plans to expand the care programme, which was set up in November last year, to cope with the numbers seeking help.

The initiative was established to help ex-soldiers adjust to civilian life after the Royal Irish Regiment`s home-based battalions were stood down.

More than 3,000 applied for assistance under the wider scheme, which also offers retraining opportunities, welfare assistance and other services.

Around 400 former troops signed up for the career development programme.

Peter Baillie, director of the Aftercare Service, said dealing with the Troubles had taken a physical and mental toll on former soldiers and their families.

During the conflict, 271 serving and former soldiers were killed directly by terrorist activity with 640 left physically disabled.

More than 60,000 troops served in Northern Ireland during that period.

The Aftercare Service is based in Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co Down and has 12 of its 25 staff located in offices in Coleraine, Enniskillen and Portadown.

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On 30 Oct at 14:04 - confidential from Belfast said:

I support these lads getting ht ehelp they need. Somewhere though in todays compensation culture, I wonder when we will see the legal hit for compensation??? everyone else is at it so I wonder if there are a few nests looking to be feathered using that argument?

On 30 Oct at 14:12 - Tom from Crossmaglen said:

No mention of care for their victims!

On 30 Oct at 19:45 - colin from monkstown said:

ref tom, dont you think there are more victims of republican paramilitaries than of british soldiers?

On 30 Oct at 20:22 - jan from n.i said:

tom they didnt do anything wrong!! they was doing a job!! just like you doing your job if you have one.

On 31 Oct at 12:28 - mal from Omagh said:

Tom, Crossmaglen wrote "no mention of the care for victims" I wonder if that also refers to the victims of IRA acts, i suspect not.


On 31 Oct at 13:38 - OBSERVER from NW said:

I wonder how much of it stems from a guilty conscience rather than stress? These troops should never have been sent against the Irish anyway; the British Government is culpable and should pay them compensation and also pay all the Irish civilians victimised by British Government Policy.

On 31 Oct at 15:08 - Eammon from dERRY said:

Tom tell that to the fellow shot in Derry by dissidents this week. The IRA wrecked more grief on their own community than any other group if it hadnt been for them we wouldnt have had the brits here

## VOTING POLL

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

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