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Editorial

Our Papers

An obscene Sunday morning spectacle

Andersonstown News Monday

The weapon of choice of the loyalist mob which took over scaffolding at Fisherwick Place yesterday to 'welcome home' British troops was the can of beer — which tells you all you need to know about the true nature of this coat-trailing British army outing.

To be sure, the loyalist thugs didn't only rain down cans of beer on the police and protesters below. They also threw fireworks, waved flags — including at least one UVF flag — chanted sectarian slogans and jeered the nationalist victims of state violence who took part in a dignified protest against a British army parade which in essence was nothing more than a unionist show of strength.

Why the PSNI failed to secure the scaffolding around Fisherwick Place to prevent loyalists from gaining this dangerous vantage point is anyone's guess.

Suffice to say that only the discipline and dignity of the republican demonstrators prevented violence as the British troops marched by just metres from families who have suffered terribly at the hands of that same army.

One presumes arrests will have been made as the thugs finally came down from the scaffolding after the republican demonstration had dispersed.

Certainly, if the troublemakers were video-taped as assiduously by the PSNI as the peaceable republican protesters were, charges should follow.

Serious questions need to be asked about the unionist leaders who promoted this obscene Sunday morning spectacle. For while Sinn Féin took the moral high ground by changing the route of its parade and the British army scaled back its plans, unionism could not produce even one leader willing to admit that nationalists had the right to object to the glorification of British military might.

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