

Discover your dream destination at [lufthansa.com](http://lufthansa.com)

click, book and fly

 **Lufthansa**

EDUCATION PODCASTS

Listen to Brian Mooney's advice on the CAO

Friel@80

On Brian Friel's 80th birthday, The Irish Times celebrates the life and work of one of Ireland's foremost playwrights. Book entitled 'Copies in America', writes Lara Marlowe in Paris

**IRISH TIMES**.com

6 °C Dublin »



In Depth

Other

Today's Paper 

RSS Feeds

Site Map

• Home » • Ireland » • In the North »

• Email to a friend  • Email to Author  • Print  • RSS  • Text Size: 

Monday, January 12, 2009

## Sinn Féin goes ahead with visit to site of bombing

DAN KEENAN, Northern News Editor

SINN FÉIN'S youth wing has defied criticism and visited the site of an IRA bombing in which 18 British soldiers died.

The trip by some 40 members of Ógra Shinn Féin to Narrow Water outside Warrenpoint in Co Down was sharply criticised by unionists and the SDLP who said it glorified terrorism.

Eighteen soldiers died in the bombing in August 1979. It was the British army's biggest single loss of life in the Troubles.

The visit was defended yesterday by Sinn Féin. A spokesman said the visit was neither a glorification nor a commemoration. It was simply a visit to a site of historical significance.

He said the visit, part of a weekend of political debate, was "focused on transition from armed conflict to what we are at now".

He added: "We hope and we think that what happened at Narrow Water doesn't occur again. It was part of the conflict, it's not something that we would be ashamed of in any shape or form. All suffered in the conflict. You can't airbrush it out of history either. But there is no reason for us to go to gloat over anyone's death, including British paratroopers."

The weekend event, held in Newcastle, Co Down, attracted some 50 people from across Ireland. The North's Education Minister and South Down Assembly member Caítriona Ruane addressed the meeting as did West Tyrone Assembly member Barry McElduff. They did not go to Narrow Water.

A planned open forum to which members of other political parties had been invited did not go ahead.

The spokesman said the Narrow Water visit had been "sensationalised" and the invitations had been turned down.



This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

ADVERTISEMENT

### Latest »

- 11:42 Man appears in court over attack on Dublin Bus driver
- 11:29 HSE confirms plan to centralise Midwest hospital services
- 11:26 Ukraine signs gas agreement with Russia
- 11:03 Post mortem due on woman who died in childbirth
- 11:01 Megson ends interest in signing Barton
- 10:58 Benitez continues tirade against United
- 10:48 Man killed, two hurt in Co Down collision
- 10:47 Elan falls 5% as takeover rumours quashed

### Popular Stories

Most Read

- 1 Aircraft makes emergency landing at Shannon
- 2 Woman dies after giving birth in Kerry
- 3 Unions issue warning over threat of cuts in public pay
- 4 United let football do the talking
- 5 No return to Croke Park, says IRFU chief

### Your Vote »

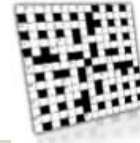
Do you think the Labour Party's call for a general election is realistic?

« Yes

No »

Results

### Crossword Club »



Today's Interactive Irish Times Crosaire and Simplex crosswords, plus 10 years of crossword archive.

ADVERTISEMENT

### Sudoku »



Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid

ADVERTISEMENT

CLASSIFIED

## Homes



Lakeshore Lodge, Lissarda, Co. Cork Price: €1,400,000

Bedrooms: 9 See More »

Select your categories

Next »



At last, Audi makes a four-ring circus out of the middle-class SUV market

Find »



I am a

Looking for a

Located

Only with photos:

Next »

© 2009 irishtimes.com