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 MONDAY
 02/04/2007
 15:04:35

New search for 'the Disappeared'

A new search has been launched for nine of the so-called Disappeared, republican murder victims whose bodies have never been found.

By: Ivan Little

A team of forensic experts and detectives have been drafted in from Britain by the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains.

Retired detective Geoff Knupfer knows all about searching for bodies in remote places.

In the 1980s he was second in command of the team which discovered the body of 16-year-old Pauline Reed who was buried by the Moors Murderers in England.

Now he is heading up an eight man squad of forensic experts who will renew the search for nine of the so-called Disappeared.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) have admitted killing six of the victims including SAS officer Robert Nairac, but they have denied involvement in the killings of Gerard Evans and Charlie Armstrong from Crossmaglen.

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Newry man Seamus Ruddy is believed to have been murdered by the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) in France.

Four bodies have been found in the Republic including that of Jean McConville. Her body was discovered by accident on a beach in County Louth.

Mr Knupfer who has been liaising with officials from the victims organisation Wave, says he believes new technology can help his team find bodies.

Around six locations along the border and in Wicklow will be searched and the new investigation team have already carried out preliminary work.

The IRA have briefed them.

Members of the new investigation team have had a number of meetings already with the relatives of the Disappeared.


They say they do not want to raise false hopes but they say they will be keeping the families in touch with every move they make.

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On 2 Apr at 16:56 - DJ from Belfast said:

on a day that SF members are over the moon with being made members of the assembly there are families still torn apart by the IRAs refusal to give clear details about mass graves with murdered mothers/fathers and children in them, but of course they will say they dont know where they are buried , if anyone belives this they are livin in cloud cuckoo land..

On 2 Apr at 19:13 - Steven from Edinburgh said:

Not trying to support SF or the IRA here, but DJ, you don't really know how much info the IRA divulged, how detailed it was or anything. So I don't think that's a fair comment.

On 3 Apr at 08:12 - Stephen from Enniskillen said:

Well said DJ..

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

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FILM: THE LAST MIMZY

DIRECTOR: Robert Shaye.

STARRING: Chris O'Neil, Rhiannon Leigh Wrynn, Timothy Hutton, Joely Richardson.

DETAILS: US / 94mins (PG)

RATING: ★★★★★

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