



PICK THE SCORE for your chance to win £2,500 and some super prizes

FREELANDER 2 NOW WITH UP TO £5000 OFF

TEST DRIVE BROCHURE DEALER



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



GO BEYOND

- News Sport Business Opinion Life & Style Entertainment Jobs Cars Homes Classified

- Local & National World Politics Property Health Education Business Environment Technology Video Family Notices Crime Map Sunday Life The CT

The digital gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion

Home > News > Local & National

'Money row kept FBI spy from Omagh case'

Wednesday, 25 March 2009

A row over money stopped an American businessman who infiltrated the Real IRA from giving evidence at the Omagh bomb civil action, it has been claimed.

Lawyers for jailed terror chief Michael McKevitt alleged in the High Court that FBI spy David Rupert took no part when his former handlers refused to pay him more. During closing submissions at the landmark legal case being brought against five men held responsible for the atrocity which claimed 29 lives, Rupert was portrayed as a fraudster who was ready and willing to perjure himself.

The trucking boss-turned intelligence agent was a key prosecution witness at the criminal trial in Dublin in 2003 when McKevitt was convicted of directing terrorism.

But Michael O'Higgins SC urged Mr Justice Morgan to take note of his failure to appear at the multi-million pound compensation case, or even to give evidence by video-link.

The barrister, representing McKevitt, stressed how lawyers for the victims' families who brought the lawsuit had tried in vain to get an explanation from the FBI about why Rupert was not being supplied.

He said: "It gives rise to the inference that Rupert fell out with the FBI over money.

"When his contract ran out he was looking for more money, they wouldn't pay it and because the price wasn't right he more or less told them in colloquial terms 'Hump off'."

Mr O'Higgins compared the situation with the trial in Dublin where, he said, the FBI put in a "mammoth effort" to ensure Rupert's attendance.

"The fact the shutters were literally pulled down and a responsible agency would not give any explanation is a huge cause for concern," he claimed.

McKevitt, who is serving a 20-year-sentence for directing terrorism, Liam Campbell, Seamus McKenna, Colm Murphy and Seamus Daly are being sued by relatives of some of those killed in the August 1998 Real IRA attack on Omagh. All five men deny liability.

According to Mr O'Higgins, the defence has suffered prejudice by not being able to cross-examine Rupert.

He told the court that he would have wanted to question the spy about meetings he claims to have had with McKevitt — encounters which were not witnessed by others.

"We say that nowhere in any of the conversations is there any suggestion Mr McKevitt was involved in the Omagh bombing," the barrister said.

The court also heard that the grouping his client was alleged to have been "busy" in was not the Real IRA but a new organisation which drew on strands from three republican paramilitary factions.

Although Mr O'Higgins accepted the plaintiffs' submissions that Rupert was not classed as an accomplice in the case, he argued that neither could he be described as an ordinary witness.

Referring to emails and correspondence from the businessman, the barrister said: "At all times, even when reading the document, bear in mind the mind which created it, and it's a bad mind."

Also in this section

- Belfast Telegraph compact revolution: a message from the Editor
Daft, Smeille, Cocks - UK names facing extinction

In Pictures: Fashion & Showbiz



Tesco unveils new lingerie range

Advertisement for Land Rover Freelander 2 with promotional text and image of the car.

Advertisement for Discovery 3 with promotional text and image of the car.

- Decision time for IFA
- Blanchflower Stadium: plan for airport train station
- Complex will be major boost for homeowners

Results by

GLAMOUR

Specialising In Ladies
Shoes, Handbags, Hats &
Accessories
Shoe Shops

Stanley Woods & Co

Certified Accountants &
Registered Auditors
Specialising In Small To
Medium Businesses &
Tax ...
Accountants

Gilbert Ash

Sunrooms, Garages and
Extensions, Custom Made
Conservatories &
Sunlounges
Builders

Martin McKernan

Chartered Architect
Individual Houses /
Apartments-Residential
Developments-
Conservation / Listed
Buildings-Commercial
Architects

nibc Ltd.

Northern Ireland Business
Communications Corporate
Mobile Solutions, Fleet
Management Solutions
**Mobile Phones &
Accessories**

VIOLENCE RETURNS

BOOK OF CONDOLENCE: Victims of terror
Two guns found near murder scene
Plans for military parade in Belfast halted
PSNI quiz nine over dissident murders
Hundreds attend vigils to show support for families
Only 300 dissidents but they are a danger: Orde
Rioters pelt police after murder suspect arrests
Republicans and unionists side by side at funeral
Police hunt for bomb in bid to stop Real IRA attack
Bodies of murdered soldiers flown home
Loyalist praises McGuinness but warns of 'Real UDA'
Thousands attend peace vigils
PSNI widow: They've taken my life
Patrick Azimkar: A fun-loving friend to all
Mark Quinsey : A charismatic young soldier

You know you're from Belfast when . .



-isms: 'Yous should click here - it's class like'

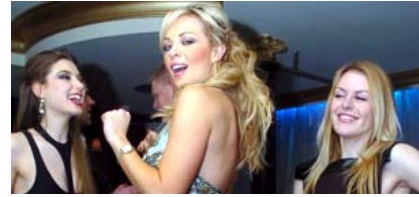
Northern Ireland Troubles Gallery



Holy Cross Primary School protests

In Pictures: Northern Ireland

Nightlife



Had a big night out? Click here to send us your pics

In Pictures: Fashion & Showbiz



Tesco unveils new lingerie range

In Pictures: All Our Yesterdays



Most popular

1. The 50 Best Computers and Gadgets
2. In Pictures: You know you're from Belfast when . . .
3. Google Maps Street View 'may be a security threat'
4. In Pictures: Funny football chants
5. Plans for £128m city stadium unveiled
6. Teen in court on officer Carroll murder charge
7. Stars out for Boat That Rocked premiere
8. Jade Goody and Natasha Richardson - dying in the spotlight
9. Dad's shock over NHS rubber penis
10. Stormont's grand idea: Victory party for Ireland's rugby heroes

An advertisement for the Sony Ericsson C510 Silver mobile phone. The phone is shown on the left, with the Orange logo on its screen. To the right, the text reads: "with a Sony Ericsson C510 Silver exclusive to Orange". Below the phone, there are several small, colorful cartoon characters holding signs. The Orange logo is in the bottom right corner.

spg.com
STARWOOD
PREFERRED
GUEST

Hotels
that compete
with their
surroundings

Save up to
40% online

Book now ▶

Sheraton
FOURPOINTS
W
loft
THE LUXURY COLLECTION
MERIDIEN
WESTIN
ST REGIS

spg STARWOOD
PREFERRED
GUEST

Results by

[US SPAS DIRECT](#)

Leading Supplier Of Luxury
Hot Tubs Gazebo's Sauna's
& Swim Spa's In N. Ireland
Hot Tubs & Spas

[nibc Ltd.](#)

Northern Ireland Business
Communications Corporate
Mobile Solutions, Fleet
Management Solutions
**Mobile Phones &
Accessories**

[Martin Phillips Carpets](#)

Carpets, Wooden Floors
And Laminate
**Carpets & Rugs - Retail
& Repair**

[DANNY OTTERSON](#)

MUSIC
Guitars & Amplifiers,
Keyboards Microphones,
Violins, Bodhrans Mail
Order, Folk Instruments
**Musical Instrument &
Sheet Music Shops**

[T Dickey](#)

Manufacturers Of Roof
Trusses, Engineered
Beams, Self Build &
Commercial
Roofing Materials

Search [Go](#) [Advanced Search ▶](#)

