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## Local & National

### Stakeknife may be the 'republican Haddock'

**Ombudsman's investigation could reveal another scandal**

Friday, March 23, 2007

By Brian Rowan

The latest collusion investigation by the Police Ombudsman could reveal yet another spy scandal.

This time it involves an Army informer - the one-time senior IRA figure Freddie Scappaticci - whose code name was Stakeknife.

A senior intelligence source has accepted that the latest investigation could produce findings similar to those that emerged in the Ombudsman's report on the Special Branch handling of the Mount Vernon UVF informer Mark Haddock.

That report - at the end of Operation Ballast - linked the senior loyalist to a range of crimes, including multiple murders.

And the intelligence source, who spoke to this newspaper, agreed that Scappaticci could be revealed as "the republican Haddock".

The Belfast republican - now in hiding - is under the spotlight because of a complaint by the parents of John Dignam, who was murdered along with two other men by the IRA in July 1992. All three were labelled as informers.

Dignam's parents believe that Stakeknife - then a senior figure in the IRA's internal security department - is linked to what happened to their son.

Scappaticci was an Army agent, but the Special Branch knew of his role.

"He was military run - purely military," the intelligence source told the Belfast Telegraph. "I remember the whole talk about him. The whole talk was that he had topped (killed) people to keep himself in place."

Keeping himself in place is a reference to Scappaticci's then role in IRA internal security.

The intelligence source who spoke to this newspaper said the Ombudsman would find it difficult to get to the truth of Stakeknife.

He believed the military and MI5 would try to "push her away from it" .

The investigation is still in its initial stages after the complaint was received last month.

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