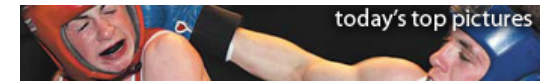


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Provos admitted shooting 19-year-old missing man

By Bimpe Fatogun

11/11/08

THE apparent discovery of Danny McIlhone's body in the hills of Wicklow brings to an end the agony of waiting for his relatives after more than two decades.

The 19-year-old west Belfast man went missing in 1981 but the Provisional IRA did not admit responsibility until 1999.

That year the group released a statement saying he had not been suspected of being an informer but was questioned about stealing IRA weapons and was killed in a struggle with the person guarding him.

It claimed to have later discovered the Mr McIlhone was involved in armed robberies in Belfast and Dublin.

His is the fifth body to be discovered. The last was that of Jean McConville in August 2003.

The remains of the mother-of-10 were found by a member of the public while walking on Shelling Hill beach in Co Louth.

The first person to be found was Eamon Molloy in May 1999 after gardai were directed to a cemetery in Co Louth where a new coffin containing his remains was resting under a tree.

Five weeks later John McClory (18) and Brian McKinney (22) were discovered in a double grave in Co Monaghan bogland following a month-long search.

They had been snatched in 1978 for allegedly stealing IRA weapons.

Each of the dead had been shot in the head.

Searches began at six sites in the Republic in June 1999 as a result of information passed by the IRA to a government-created commission.

Four months earlier, the IRA had vowed to return the bodies of nine Disappeared following mounting pressure in the wake of its 1994 ceasefire.

Special legislation was pushed through the Irish and British parliaments preventing any evidence recovered being used in the prosecution of the IRA men involved.

But almost 20 years later the remaining families still await their turn to give their loved ones the Christian burial.

Those still missing are Seamus Wright (25), from west Belfast who disappeared in 1972, Kevin McKee (25), west Belfast, 1972, Columba McVeigh (17), from Co Tyrone, 1975 and Brendan Megraw (22), from west Belfast, 1978.

Although they do not appear on the list of the Disappeared provided by the IRA, the families of Charlie


Armstrong (55), who went missing in Co Armagh in 1981, and Captain Robert Nairac in 1977, believe they were

also victims.

Newry man Seamus Ruddy (33) was abducted in France by INLA in 1985, with recent searches carried out earlier this year.

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