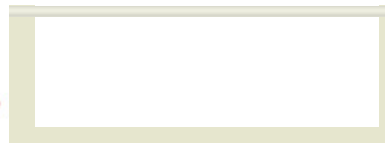




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Last Updated: Friday, December 19, 2008, 10:42

Remains confirmed as 'disappeared' victim

Human remains found on a remote hillside in Wicklow last month have been confirmed as those of missing IRA victim Danny McIlhone.

The west Belfast teenager was taken, killed and secretly buried by the IRA in 1981. He is one of nine of the so-called Disappeared.

The Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains (ICLVR) made a breakthrough in their search for his body last month at Ballynultagh, near the village of Lacken in the Wicklow Mountains.

DNA samples were sent for examination to the State Pathologist's office in Dublin and for a comparative analysis at a laboratory in England where the genetic codes of all the families of the Disappeared have been stored.

The ICLVR said the State Pathologist's office confirmed a positive identification.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the McIlhone family at this time and we hope that the confirmation that the remains of their brother have been recovered will bring them closure," said a spokesman.

"The work of the commission continues and we hope that we can also bring closure to other families of the Disappeared."

The McIlhone family will now liaise with the coroner to have the remains of their brother returned to them for burial.

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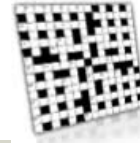
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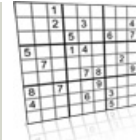
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