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LOCAL NEWS

Tuesday 24 June 2008 17:15

Family welcome HET findings

The family of a man who was shot dead at a checkpoint in county Tyrone have welcomed an inquiry into his death.

Aidan McEnespie was killed at an Aughnacloy border checkpoint in February 1988 as he walked to a GAA match.

The report by the Historical Enquiries Team has found that the British soldier's version of events - that Mr McEnespie was hit by a ricochet when a bullet from a heavy machine gun discharged accidentally - was the least likely scenario.

The soldier, Greandier Guardsman David Holden had claimed he was moving the machine gun when his fingers, which were allegedly wet from cleaning the sanger ten minutes earlier slipped onto the trigger.

Holden was charged with manslaughter, but that charge was later withdrawn by the DPP.

Relatives have always maintained he was murdered.

Mr McEnespie's niece Una McCabe says this is just the start of their fight for justice.

She said: "The family are very pleased that finally they have got an official report by the HET to say that this was the least likely way he died. At long last the truth is coming out. We've always thought that he was murders. We see this as a starting point, not a conclusion."

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