

Tuesday, November 11 2008

Independent.ie 

9° Dublin Hi 9°C / Lo 4°C

Search

Go **Advanced Search** ▶

NATIONAL NEWS



SOCIAL-NETWORKING
Meet Ireland's answer to Facebook
SEE TECHNOLOGY



News Business Sport Entertainment Health Lifestyle Education Travel Jobs Property Cars Book an Ad

Breaking News National News World News Today's Paper Newspapers Opinion Farming Weather Most Popular Topics Budget 2009

You are here: [Home](#) > [National News](#)

Foot of man shot dead by IRA is found 27 years later

SHARE PRINT EMAIL TEXT SIZE

By Tom Brady and Fiach Kelly
Tuesday November 11 2008

Part of the body of a man shot dead by the Provisional IRA 27 years ago has been found by gardai in the [Wicklow mountains](#).

Victim Danny McIlhone was abducted and murdered by the [IRA](#) in 1981 because he was suspected of stealing some of their weapons. He became one of the "disappeared" -- nine IRA victims whose bodies were the subject of a series of massive searches carried out by gardai throughout the Republic.

The searches were co-ordinated by the [Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains](#).

Gardai disclosed last night that they had found part of a foot, a sock and a boot during a dig at Ballynultagh, 6.5km from the village of Lacken in west [Wicklow](#).

The rugged area around Ballynultagh was well-known in the 1970s and 1980s as an IRA training ground. Reports of terrorist recruits being given basic training there surfaced regularly at the time.

Gardai continued to carry out intermittent searches of the area since the initial operation in 1999 as they believed that the information indicating that [Mr McIlhone](#) had been buried there had been correct.

A fresh dig at Ballynultagh was initiated early last week and the breakthrough was achieved on Saturday.

The remains of a foot and the sock and boot were immediately taken away for a detailed forensic examination.

As a result of the find, further searches are being focused in that area, which has been sealed off by gardai.

Mr McIlhone, who was then 21 years old, was from west Belfast and went missing in the city in 1981.

After the series of searches was underway, the Provisional IRA issued a statement which said that Mr McIlhone had not been suspected of being an informer but was being questioned about stealing IRA weapons.

It claimed that he was killed in a struggle with one of its members, who had been assigned to guard him. It also stated that the IRA had subsequently established that Mr McIlhone had been involved in armed robberies in [Belfast](#) and [Dublin](#) but there had been no evidence he had been using IRA weapons.

Weapons

In 2006, gardai brought in a former senior British police officer, who investigated the infamous Moors murders, to act as an adviser.

The adviser, who is now a forensic archaeologist, played a major role in that inquiry, which resulted in the killers -- [Myra Hindley](#) and [Jan Brady](#) -- being sentenced to life imprisonment in 1966.

Articles Topics

Articles

Hospital protester has dark terrorist past
Slippery Slab's bed warm as farm raid started
Gardai hope gangster sex rap will end bloody feud
'I thought I was right and I still think I was right' - McDowell
Twin probe into IRA's massive international property portfolio
Adams prints murder link?
Carlow man convicted of IRA membership

Topics

Irish Republican Army
Victim Danny McIlhone
Police
War and Conflict
Dublin
Crime
Murder and Homicide

Also in National News

Just four apply for airline's calendar
Judge attacks subprime lender over home repossession 'misery'
'Lying' lawyers hit with €100,000 fines
FF donor gets plum job amid cries of cronyism
Greens bid to woo civil servants

[National News Home](#)

Search

Independent.ie Web

FREE Halloween e-Cards!

Click here!



MyFunCards

JAMESON

Roll over and play



JAMESON

Advertiser Links

[LoadzaJobs.ie](#)

Register your interest and upload your C.V
[www.loadzajobs.ie](#)

More scientific searching methods and equipment were also introduced to the digs in the past couple of years.

It also emerged that the IRA had planned to murder another victim in the same area in 1985. A Corkman, he was alleged to have passed on information to the gardai about a robbery and to be holding onto some of the money belonging to the terrorists.

After a court martial in Dublin, the man was bundled into a car at Ballymun and taken to a deserted shed at Ballynultagh to be shot.

One of the gang stayed in the car, two others kept watch outside while the gunman told the Corkman to kneel and say his prayers.

But he jumped up, knocked over the gunman and then fled across fields to the home of a Yorkshireman, [John Hall](#), who was then general secretary of the [ESB](#) officials' union.

The intended victim was rescued by gardai. He later admitted taking part in a kneecapping in Dundalk and was sentenced to six years in jail by the Special Criminal Court.

At the start of the Garda digs in 1999, the remains of [Eamon Molloy](#) were found in a coffin, which had been placed above ground at Old Faughart cemetery outside [Dundalk, Co Louth](#).

In June 1999, gardai recovered the bodies of victims [Brian McKinney](#) (23) and [John McClory](#) (17) in a shallow grave in drained bogland at Colgagh, Culloville, [Co Monaghan](#), 3km from the border with south [Armagh](#) after a 30-day search of the area.

Gardai expect that the forensic examination of the latest find will confirm that it is part of the remains of Mr McIlhone.

- *Tom Brady and Fiach Kelly*

[Independentsingles.ie](#)

Register for free to find your perfect partner with Independent Singles.
[www.independentsingles.ie](#)

SHARE PRINT EMAIL TEXT SIZE

Sponsored Links

Hic Insurance

Specialist car insurance in Herts Get a free quote.
[www.hertsinsurance.com](#)

Find Your Match at eHarmony - Free Trial

Be matched on compatibility and enjoy a long term relationship.
[www.eharmony.co.uk](#)

Tesco Car Insurance - Get a Quote

Tesco Car insurance - up to 15% discount when you buy online.
[insurancebanking.co.uk/tesco](#)