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- NEWS
- SPORT
- ENTERTAINMENT

- LOCAL NEWS
- NATIONAL NEWS
- INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- YOUR STORIES

NEWS ARCHIVE

- 17:36 From high life to low ebb
- 17:36 A punitive crackdown will never
- 17:11 Increase in C-Diff linked deaths
- 12:29 Air quality better since ban
- 12:28 Timeline: Labour's funding travails
- 11:49 Residents protest against dumps
- 11:32 TV deception: Channel 4 and Five
- 10:59 Cluster bomb ban agreed in Dublin
- 09:44 Shutdowns and plunging profits
- 09:40 Dublin commuters face severe delays
- 09:14 Man charged with Tyrone shooting
- 08:59 Jury exemptions may be swept away
- 02:46 Fifa suspends ban on high-altitude
- 01:23 Cardinal urges Muslim leaders to
- 00:53 Police question ex-boss of EADS
- 00:53 What a waste: dream of free energy
- 00:53 Moscow diary
- 00:53 Food diary: Surrey, UK
- 00:52 QinetiQ has £200m expansion
- 00:52 Country diary

YESTERDAY

- 20:47 McCartney murder trial
- 20:45 Stone`s bombs could have killed
- 20:43 Price hikes hit hard
- 19:08 Former Bush press secretary claims
- 19:00 The many problems of Sellafield
- 15:54 170 new jobs for NI
- 14:08 Double firebomb inquiry
- 14:05 Three suicide deaths in a week
- 13:18 Food diary: Banaue, Philippines

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- 11:30 The Final Week
- 11:07 Background: Royal regimes
- 11:07 Fall of the house of Shah: end of
- 07:30 Telegraph hosts anti-immigrant
- 03:32 Poland stalls Bush's 'lame duck'
- 03:20 Spacemen call up Earth and ask for
- 02:37 Exam pits pop's lyrical prowess
- 02:26 How rag and bone man left grandson
- 02:26 Oxford's £1.
- 00:38 Nuclear submarine seeks port after
- 00:07 Germany remembers gay victims of
- 00:06 Police staff to patrol youth

YOUR COMMENTS

-  ` Loss of a true Champion `
173 comments
-  Civil servants sick 14 days a year
15 comments
-  Price hikes hit hard
14 comments

LOCAL NEWS



Robert McCartney

Thursday 29 May 2008 19:27

McCartney witness received IRA visits

A crown witness giving evidence in the Robert McCartney murder trial revealed he decided to tell the truth to police after being given clearance from the IRA.

Ed Gowdy, 40, said he *"can't remember 90%"* of what happened that evening.

However he told the court that following the killing, IRA members called to his house on several occasions.

He said: *"as soon as I got clearance from the IRA, I made a statement to police."*

During cross examination, Mr Gowdy had already admitted lying to police because of perceived paramilitary involvement in the murder.

He said that because of where he lived, he *"didn't know the situation at the time, what I could say or what I couldn't say"*.

On Wednesday, he detailed for the prosecution how he had been drinking in a Belfast bar with Robert McCartney and his friend Brendan Devine when a fight broke out which spilled out into the street.

Robert McCartney died after suffering a stab wound outside the bar in January 2005.

Terence Malachy Davison, 51, denies murdering him.

Along with two other men - James McCormick, 39, and Joseph Gerard Emmanuel Fitzpatrick, 47 - he is also facing charges of affray.

All three defendants deny the charges.

The trial continues.

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