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4pm BST

Man denies role in murdered soldier's disappearance

[Henry McDonald](#), Ireland correspondent
[guardian.co.uk](#), Thursday May 22 2008

A man accused of kidnapping the murdered British soldier Robert Nairac has denied any involvement in the army officer's disappearance.

Kevin Crilly, 57, of South Armagh, appeared before Newry magistrates court charged with the kidnap and false imprisonment of the Grenadier Guards officer 31 years ago.

The court was told that hairs from the victim's body were discovered in the family car of the defendant.

Detective Sergeant Colin Brown, of the PSNI, said: "We can link him to that vehicle; that is the vehicle that Captain Nairac was abducted and imprisoned in."

Crilly denies all charges but admits being in the Three Steps Inn, in Dromintee, South Armagh, on the night of Nairac's disappearance.

Nairac was captured by the IRA in May 1977. He was taken across the border into a forest in the Irish Republic and shot dead.

Crilly was released on bail to reappear at the same court on July 17.

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