Douglas Carrothers 17th May 1991

SEFF remembers Douglas (Dougie) Carrothers who was murdered 29 years ago today (17th May 1991).

Dougie, aged 41 years old was an RUC Reservist and was murdered on 17th May 1991 outside his home in Lisbellaw where he, wife Phyllis and children had recently moved.

Dougie was murdered in an under-car booby trap bomb claimed by PIRA terrorists.

The Carrothers family had been advised by the authorities to move from their previous home in Brookeborough after retired RUC Reservist Cullen Stevenson (a close family friend) was murdered in the area.

Dougie's widow Phyllis recalls: "That is a day I will never forget – the day my husband was so brutally taken from me and I was catapulted into the role of provider and head of our family. I had to fulfil those roles for our three children who were deprived of a father".

"I will never forget the afternoon that I had to break the news to my children that their father was dead. Only someone who has gone through that experience can truly know how it feels. It hurts me deeply every time the word ‘atrocity’ is attributed to the loss of multiple lives in a single incident and very seldom to single murders. For an individual family the loss of a husband, father, or other family member is an 'atrocity and a travesty' too".

Dougie was a devoted Christian who lived life for his faith, his family and this community. The principles he lived his life by are carried on within those beloved family members from whom he has been temporarily parted.

Dougie's commitment to his Christian faith is reflected within the patch included on SEFF's Memorial Quilt - the fish symbol of Christianity.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with Phyllis, their children, grandchildren and the wider Carrothers family circle. Dougie's legacy lives on ...