Thomas Irwin 26th March 1986

SEFF remembers Thomas Irwin on this the 34th Anniversary since his murder. Thomas was murdered on 26th March 1986 by PIRA terrorists.

Thomas was a part-time member of the UDR. He was a Private with F Company in Omagh when he was shot, but like so many others he was murdered when performing his civilian work.

As Thomas' son Alan (Revd Alan Irwin of Colaghty, Lack) painfully recalls: "My father was murdered whilst he was at his work at Mountfield sewerage works. It was at a time in the afternoon, around two or half two, when he was half way down a service manhole".

"My father’s murder threat on his life was known the evening before and they didn’t do anything about it. They didn’t do anything to ensure that he wouldn’t go to work. My father wasn’t afraid; he wasn’t going to allow the terrorists to control his life. If he had any fear it was for us as a family, and how we would be provided for afterwards".

"It had a great deal of impact on my mother, given that my uncle had been murdered previously".

What was the family’s response after the murder of two brothers? Was it to join a loyalist terrorist organisation and get a form of payback? No - for Alan the answer was found in the deepening of his own Christian faith and contribute towards supporting and serving others.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the Irwin family on this day and every day.