Thomas Loughlin 2nd March 1984

SEFF remembers Thomas Loughlin who was murdered 36 years ago today (2nd March 1984) Thomas lived in Spamount, just a few miles outside Castlederg.

Mr Loughlin was married and had five daughters, the youngest of whom was only 3 months old. Thomas was 44 years of age and worked for the Water Service. He was also a part-time Lance Corporal in the Ulster Defence Regiment, based at Rockwood - just a few hundred yards from his home. Thomas had joined the UDR shortly after its formation in 1970 and he had previously served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Thomas’s wife described him as “a great provider for his family” and said “his children always came first and he was also a very homely man, never wanting to be going places. He was happy just being at home.”

On the morning of 2nd March 1984 Thomas left the house and got into his DOE van to go to work. As he left his home, his wife lifted the couple’s baby daughter off the settee and was on the way to the front door to wave goodbye, when Thomas’s van exploded. IRA terrorists had planted a booby-trap bomb underneath it. Thomas died a short time later of the injuries he received in the blast.

Thomas was one of many off duty UDR soldiers to be targeted and then assassinated in the area of Castlederg and District .Murdered because of his perceived religion and/or ethnicity.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Loughlin and Kerrigan family circles at this time.