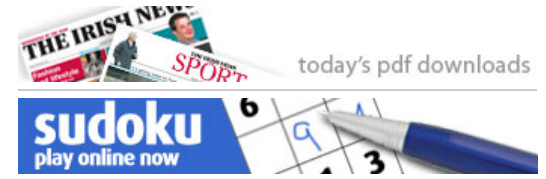


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## Bravery helped save more lives

### Pro Fide et Patria

Editorial

11/03/08

THE UVF gang known as the Shankill Butchers murdered 19 people in the 1970s. There is no way of knowing just how many more they would have killed had it not been for the bravery of one of their would-be victims.

Gerard McLaverty was found dead at his home in the Co Antrim town of Crumlin yesterday. Mr McLaverty had been picked up by the gang in May 1977, and taken to a building in the Shankill area where he was tortured and left for dead.

But Mr McLaverty survived his terrible ordeal, escaped and was taken to hospital.

In a remarkable act of bravery the then


20-year-old went with police and picked out those who had attempted to murder him.

It is impossible to know how this terrible ordeal affected Mr McLaverty. Neither do we know how many more people the UVF gang would have murdered.

What is almost certain is that there are people alive today only because of the bravery of Gerard McLaverty.

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