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Funeral of murdered soldier

By Diana Rusk

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THE funeral of the first of two soldiers shot dead by the Real IRA outside Massereene army barracks is to take place today.

Mark Quinsey (23) an engineer soldier from Birmingham, was killed along with fellow sapper Patrick Azimkar (21) at the gates of the barracks earlier this month.

They were the first British soldiers to be killed in Northern Ireland in 12 years.

Mr Quinsey's funeral will take place at the Anglican Immanuel Church near his family home in Highters Heath, Birmingham at 2pm today.

A statement from the family is expected to be read out prior to the service.

The soldier, from 25 Field Squadron of 38 Engineer Regiment, was preparing to fly out to Afghanistan and was dressed in desert fatigues when he went out to collect a pizza delivery at the gates of the barracks.

Two other soldiers and two pizza-delivery men were also injured in the attack.

In the days following his murder, his family criticised the British army for hiring private security guards to protect the troops at the base.


His uncle, James Parr told the Birmingham Mail: "They should have bullet-proof vests to wear when they are outside the gates.

"And why were there private security guards with handguns on guard, instead of soldiers with proper automatic weapons and rifles?"

The funeral of sapper Mr Azimkar, who had planned to return to live in Northern Ireland with his girlfriend in the future, is expected to take place at the end of the week.

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