27th March 1973 - Second Lt Andrew Somervell

SEFF remembers Second Lt Andrew Somervell who was murdered 48 years ago today by Provisional IRA terrorists.

Andrew was 21-years-old, single and a soldier with 16/5 Lancers holding the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was murdered when the Ferret armoured scout car he was travelling in was blown up by a 500lb IRA landmine.

Andrew died almost immediately. His 2-vehicle patrol had just passed en route to Omagh when the culvert bomb was detonated.

Andrew was taken to hosptial by an ambulance from the Republic that had been on its way from Lifford to Dublin. The driver of the lieutenant’s vehicle suffered only minor injuries but was treated for shock.

Andrew was in the vehicle's turret at the time of the explosion. A soldier in the 2nd vechicle said he saw smoke and rocks falling and could vaguel see the other vehicle. He said he heard a cry for help from the driver and the Lt. was lying near the burning car.

Andrew’s murderers were described by an RUC officer as "another sad statistic in the present orgy of violence". The coroner said Andrew’s death was "another tragic chapter in the history of the country. It seems to be fruitless and with no object". Andrew was from Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire. He was based in Omagh.

In 2018 Andrew’s family returned to Northern Ireland for a special service held in Clogher Royal British Legion where a plaque was unveiled remembering security force personnel and Prison service members murdered/killed as a result of ‘The Troubles’ within Clogher District.

Andrew is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt Terrorism knows NO Borders and his family remain in our prayers, each and every day.