Albert Beacom 17th November 1981

SEFF remembers Albert Beacom on this the 37th Anniversary (17th November 1981) of his murder.

Albert was cruelly murdered by PIRA terrorists whilst he worked on his farm outside Maguiresbridge. Albert was a serving member of the Ulster Defence Regiment but like so many others was attacked and murdered whilst off duty.

Albert's surviving brother George painfully recalls: "Albert was milking his cows and of course in November everywhere was black, dark. It was about 7ish or quarter past, twenty past, around that time, my home phone rang - I had just finished my evening meal. My daughter Alison was there and my son Keith - Alison was 16 and Keith was 12 at that stage. The telephone rang and of course Alison was always quick off the mark so she went to the phone first. The message she got was from her cousin, Albert’s eldest daughter who was 17 at that time, to ‘tell Uncle George that daddy’s been shot’. So Alison came flying back into the sitting room, and I immediately went to the phone and I said to Anne ‘what happened?’ She says ‘daddy’s been shot’. I told her that I would come immediately".

(An extract taken from SEFF's Publication 'For God and Ulster' - the vow of those who reject violence)

Albert was a committed family man who had a great love for rural life and of serving the Community. He was a dairy farmer and did the majority of his work with a Fordson blue tractor of which he was said to be "very proud," this gives the significance to the symbol chosen for his individual patch on SEFF's Memorial Quilt.

Albert also played a Cornet in Maguiresbridge Silver Band and he was a keen Badminton player.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Albert's surviving widow Esther (Essie), his children Anne, Trevor, Barbara, Nigel and Julie and the wider family circle.