David Wynne 7th Aug 1972

SEFF remembers David Patrick Wynne who was murdered 48 years ago today along with colleague Errol Leroy Gordon by Provisional IRA terrorists.

David was 21 years old, single and a soldier with the Royal Artillery holding the rank of Lance Bombardier was murdered alongside colleague, Errol Leroy Gordon. David was married with one child and was a soldier with the Royal Artillery holding the rank of Gunner.

Early on Monday, 7th August 1972 both soldiers were murdered in a Provisional IRA ambush at Lisnaskea, when a landmine exploded under their Land Rover. The landmine was detonated as they were travelling in one of two vehicles on patrol at Forfey about three miles from the village. Several hundred pounds of explosives were in a stone-built culvert under the road when it exploded, the blast blew a ten-foot-wide crater in the road. Both soldiers were murdered instantly.

They were members of the 9/7 Battery of the Royal Artillery’s 4th Medium Regiment. Lance Bombardier Wynne was from Caerphilly, South Wales. David Patrick Wynne was born on the 10th June 1951 to parents Douglas and Anne Wynne, they also had three other children Michael, Terry and Jeanette who all now live in Perth, Western Australia.

His family confirm that David was a happy young boy with a great sense of humour, who liked riding his bike and playing tennis. He was very personable and was well liked by everyone he came in contact with. After leaving school David’s father financed a butcher shop in Abertridwr, a small Welsh village and set David up in business, but David was a soft-hearted individual, he used to let some of the older customers have meat on the basis they would pay later, but of course they never did and his father decided to sell the shop before they went bankrupt!

David then joined the army in 1970, he did two tours in Northern Ireland, he didn’t have to complete the second tour but he was romantically involved with a local girl, so decided to go back. After his death the Wynne family received some lovely, caring sympathy letters from people across Northern Ireland that knew him, telling the family what a great young man he was and offering their condolences. David will never be forgotten and will always be loved and fondly remembered by his family and everyone who was blessed to know him.

David’s death was a huge burden for his mother and it fractured the family, she never ever came to terms with the death of her beloved son. When she died her ashes and a plaque were placed on David’s grave in Caerphilly, as this always was her wish. They now lay in peace together.

David is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt; Terrorism knows NO Borders. His patch sits side by side with his friend and colleague Errol Gordon.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Wynne family today and every day.