Derek Davison 2nd June 1977

SEFF remembers Samuel (Derek) Davison, a 24-year-old Protestant, married and an RUC police officer who was murdered on this date, 43 years ago

Kenneth Norman Lynch, a 22-year-old Protestant, single and an RUC police officer along with Hugh Martin, 58-year-old Protestant, married with 7 children and a Reserve RUC police officer, also died alongside Derek.

Const. Davison was from Donegal. Const. Lynch was from Donemana and Res Const. Martin was from Stewartstown.

All three policemen were murdered on 2nd June 1977 when their patrol car was ambushed by IRA gunmen. The gunmen were armed with Armalite rifles and came from behind a hedge, on a lane at Ardboe near Lough Neagh.

A 22-year-old Coalisland man was jailed in 1972 for life for the murders of the police officers.

Derek Davison’s sister Margaret painfully recalls: “The three of them were just killed outright. I was over in England at the time and I remember listening to the 6 o’clock news about three policemen in Ardboe - and you were hearing that sort of thing all the time. I remember I was sitting out - it was the loveliest 2 June - and I says to my neighbour, ‘that’s near Cookstown’. I put my wee fella to bed and I was tidying up, down on my hands and knees with a scrubbing brush, when the door knocked. It was my brother from London, he said ‘right get packed’, and I said ‘no, it’s not Derek’, he said ‘yes’.

“There’s not much I can remember about it. It just never goes away. The 2nd June anniversary is just as depressing as ever. I have photographs, but I don’t need photographs to remember him”.

Derek’s father subsequently took a massive stroke, that Doctors put down to the associated excessive stress, worry and hurt. Those who murdered Derek and his colleagues effectively also took the heart away from Derek’s father. The evil within the killer’s hearts was in stark contrast to the love and sense of service within the hearts of the three Policemen murdered.

The patch for Derek on SEFF's Memorial Quilt is of a motorcycle. Derek was fond of sports but in particular he was an avid motorcycling fan.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Gault and the Davison, Lynch and Martin family circles. Their legacy lives on.