John McVitty 8th July 1986

SEFF remembers John McVitty who was murdered 30 years ago (8th July 1986). John was a serving member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and was aged 46 years when he was murdered by the IRA. John had previously served on The Ulster Special Constabulary.

John was off duty, and was working on his farm at Drumady, near Rosslea on the day he was ambushed and shot dead. Those responsible were said to have escaped making off for the southern side of the border.

John was married to Hazel and they were blessed with 3 children, Rosalind (aged 14yrs) Gary (aged 12yrs) and Gillian (aged 9yrs). Gary was with his Dad at the time he was murdered.

At his funeral, the local Church of Ireland minister (Canon Edwin Kille) spoke out strongly about how Fermanagh Protestants had been driven from their border farms. He lambasted the Roman Catholic Church for presiding at funerals of IRA men, known to have killed members of his congregation. He concluded, by reading out the long list of men and women killed in Fermanagh by the IRA.

John is described by those who knew him best as; a good family man, excellent Police Officer and a hard working farmer. John was well respected and his murder was met with revulsion by large sections of the local community.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the McVitty family circle today and every day - John's legacy of service and decency lives on.

The Tractor symbol chosen for John's patch on the quilt represents his love for farming and rural life.