Patrick (Paddy) Kelly 16th December 1983

SEFF remembers Patrick (Paddy) Kelly who was murdered 35 years ago today by PIRA terrorists on 16th December 1983.

Known by his family, comrades and friends as “Paddy”, he was married with four sons. He joined the Irish Defence Forces in 1968 as an army Private. He served on four oversees United Nations peacekeeping missions, three in Lebanon and one in Cyprus.

He was murdered by Provisional IRA terrorists during the search and rescue of kidnapped businessman Don Tidey in Derrada Wood, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim. He was aged just thirty-six years old.

A native of Ballinamuck, Co Longford, he was a great family man with a good sense of humour. His interests included repairing cars and listening to country and western music.

On 16 July 2012, he was posthumously awarded the Military Star medal by the Minister for Justice. “He died as he lived, working for peace” Bishop Colm O’Reilly.

A patch was added to SEFF's Memorial Quilt, ‘Terrorism Knows NO Borders’ which shows a man working at and repairing a car as this is what Paddy enjoyed doing in his spare time.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the Kelly family circle this day and everyday.