Richard Latimer 7th June 1980

SEFF remembers Richard (Ritchie) Latimer who was murdered 40 years ago.

On 7th June 1980, Ritchie aged 39 was working in his shop in Newtownbutler when he was shot and murdered by an IRA terrorist. The murder was witnessed by a number of people including Ritchie's own son.

Ritchie was an off-duty member of the Ulster Defence Regiment and served with distinction. He was well liked and respected by all who came into contact with him.

The Latimer family had been intimidated and ethnically cleansed from their border homestead which was a strategy used by Republican terrorists to create 'buffer zones' and to push the border back.

Following Richie's murder there was a deep sense of revulsion across the community. Over 10,000 people descended upon Newtownbutler for a rally demanding better security for those living in border areas who were earnestly trying to hold the line against terrorism.

Because of sacrifices made by men like Ritchie (and his brother George who survives him) many others who live inland may well owe their lives to such individuals.

Below is a picture of Richie in his uniform along with his patch on SEFF's Memorial Quilt, Richie enjoyed playing badminton.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie (Ritchie's widow) and the entire Latimer family circle on this day and every day.