Three Scottish soldiers - 10th March 1971

SEFF remembers three Scottish soldiers (Dougald McCaughey, John and Joseph McCaig) were murdered 48 years ago today in Belfast on 10th March 1971, when the Provisional Irish Republican Army shot the three men dead.

The soldiers are unarmed members of the 1st Battalion, Royal Highland Fusiliers.
Dougald McCaughey, 23, was murdered along with brothers John, 17 and Joseph McCaig, 18 respectively, all three men were from Scotland.

They were murdered when off- duty and in civilian clothes, having been lured from a city-centre bar in Belfast, driven to a remote location and shot whilst relieving themselves by the roadside.

Three Regular Army soldiers had been murdered prior to this event; all had been on duty and murdered during rioting.

The brutality and premeditated nature of this triple murder had a transforming effect upon U.K. military policy and also the climate within Belfast.

The killings illustrated the difference between war and murder caused through terrorism.

A memorial to the three soldiers was dedicated in 2010 in North Belfast near to where the three men were assassinated. The Royal British Legion Oldpark / Cavehill branch raised money through the sale of badges to erect the memorial.

The murders sent shockwaves across the community and following the incident, the Army raised the minimum age needed to serve in Northern Ireland to 18 years.

Family, former colleagues and friends of the three Scottish soldiers continue to fight for justice for three young men, much loved by many.

The three Scottish soldiers are remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt; Terrorism knows NO Borders.

This quilt, along with our other three Memorial quilts will form an exhibition being held in Athlone Castle and Visitor’s Centre, launching this Wednesday evening on European Day for Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the McCaughey and McCaig families today and every day.