**William Hassard - 4th August 1988**

SEFF remembers William Hassard (civilian) who was murdered by Provisional IRA terrorists 32 years ago today alongside his lifetime friend and work colleague Frederick Love.

The two men were murdered on 4th August 1988 when they were ambushed by the Provisional IRA near Belleek after finishing routine maintenance work at the village’s then RUC station.

When they reached nearby Slater's Crossroads, IRA gunmen riddled their car with about 100 bullets.

At the point he was murdered William was aged 59 years and was married with four children, he was a building contractor by trade but had previously served in the UDR although had retired a number of years before his murder.

A Monument honouring dead Republican terrorists had been callously sited in 2002 at the crossroads where William and Fred had been murdered. However following  concerns raised by the Hassard family the Memorial was removed.

Marina Hassard, (William’s daughter) then commented: “We don't really understand why others have to erect these provocative memorials, why for them a headstone in a cemetery is not enough. That IRA marker, on the very ground where my father and his friend were murdered, reopened all these wounds from 14 years ago”.

William was a contractor, a builder, a carpenter, a joiner, a plasterer and a designer, he was said to be very gifted and was able to turn his hand to anything.

He was self-taught and built houses that would last, he had a care and a flair for wood that he crafted. He worked on the interior and exterior of houses, he was able to master it all with his talented hands and mind.

William had an office and workshops at his house and so he was to do all this from home.

Fishing and tennis were also amongst William’s interests, he always had cats and dogs at his home and was a former member of the Orange Lodge.

The image depicted on William’s patch within the SEFF Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents is of him working on the design of a Communion Table, he often took on tasks like this and always made a first class job.

He is fondly remembered by his family working away with his pencil behind his ear.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Hassard family today and every day.