William Temple Claudy Bomb 31st July 1972

SEFF remembers the 9 innocents who perished 48 years ago today when PIRA bombed the Village of Claudy.

The Claudy bombing occurred on 31st July 1972, when three car bombs exploded mid-morning on the Main Street of Claudy in County Londonderry. The attack killed nine civilians; Elizabeth McElhinney, Joseph McCloskey, Kathryn Eakin, Rose McLaughlin, Patrick Connolly, Arthur Howe, David Miller, James McClelland and William Temple. It became known as "Bloody Monday".

Amongst those murdered were men, women and children transcending political affiliation and religious background.

The attack on Claudy was a shameless act of barbaric terrorism which was indiscriminate, attacking the sanctity of life. Just as was the case through the terror campaign, terrorists were not particularly concerned with who the 'collateral damage' of their evil actions were. Their 'political cause and ideology' enabled them to justify their heinous deeds.

David Temple, SEFF member and brother of 16 year old William Temple who was amongst those murdered reflects in the recent 'For God and Ulster - the Vow of those who reject violence' SEFF Publication: "I remember that day as if it was yesterday. I remember my uncle calling us at work and telling us to come home. We all came home and sat in the house. My father and mother were there, we were all sitting on the sofa and my uncle Ernie said, ‘there’s one of yous missing’. And I said, ‘what’s wrong?’, and he said, ‘I want to tell you that you lost your brother - he’s been killed in Claudy’. At that time it was hard to take. We didn’t know why this had come upon us, because we liked both sides of the community and we were a well-respected family in and around Donemana".

And reflecting on the need for Justice, Truth and Accountability, David had this to say: "I want a future where we work together, we die naturally together. I want a future where everyone’s culture is accepted and respected, where everyone is equal under the law, and where justice is done and is seen to be done. That’s the kind of future I want, and not the one that’s being offered to us today".

"As a family we will not leave this unturned. I will use every court in the land to get justice for my brother. The Roman Catholic Church always tried to cover their tracks on this one. As time moves on there have been other tragedies that they tried to cover up. There are even people in Belfast who know about who is responsible for Claudy. The politicians - they always talk about it but they never seem to admit what they know".

"To me justice means that at least when I go to heaven I will know that I tried my best for wee Billy, for all the people of Claudy, all the victims in the ‘Troubles’ - I want to keep fighting for them".

SEFF commends the families of Claudy and the consistent battle and campaign they have fought for a period not that much short of half a century. Those who bombed Claudy and those who were involved in the subsequent aftermath who did not fulfil their obligations under law or under the moral clode they claimed to operate within should and must be held accountable.

A patch remembering William through an image of Claudy Village and cricket back (his favourite past time) appears on SEFF's Memorial Quilt and hangs in our offices, Lisnaskea.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Temple family and all the other families of Claudy on this day and everyday.

The Victims of Claudy:  
Go to: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-11026426](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fuk-northern-ireland-11026426&h=UAQHMSFgSAQGEDgg6I-XJxgZV-8KA7T8MjyWx225C10vWUA&enc=AZNoCTWJp6rTYWrYwuKhmxj9WyNl_g4FZI8ze68cX8embGzEemtY8je6o1FvtE-303Dxu3UpI-VRUPZHMDz4iV7kEIfnkY0D_arUdoeZdCSUGlWtT2gTdTmTjBisSE5_3xR1vvJTTAP_8SrsEIkTVylrWuTRgH1g86GCSL8c4Q9MStUprCKtafTOYryvlgijis0IFQiVXkgkFmdrOZVdSYWg&s=1)