**R/Con Joshua (Cyril) Willis**

**24th July 1990**

SEFF remembers R/Con Joshua (Cyril) Willis who was murdered on 24th July 1990 as a result of a landmine explosion carried out by Provisional IRA terrorists.

The landmine exploded on the Killylea Road, Armagh. Cyril was murdered along with Constable William Hanson (37) and Reserve Constable David Sterritt (34). A nun who had been travelling in the opposite direction, Sister Catherine Dunne was also murdered in the attack. Another woman who had been travelling in the car with Sister Dunne, was seriously injured in the blast.

Cyril has been travelling with his fellow RUC officers in a grey Sierra Sapphire car. The vehicle, which took the full force of the blast, was flung over a high hedge and landed on its roof in a neighbouring field. The bomb left a crater measuring 30ft wide and 20ft deep. It was reported that around 1,000lbs of explosives had been packed into the ditch.

It later emerged that a family, including young children, had been held hostage in their bungalow in the area, which overlooked the road. It is thought the bomb was detonated using a command wire which had been run across a freshly-cut hay field to a trigger.

Cyril was described as a committed family man and committed Christian who sought to do his very best by the community and that this was his motivation for joining the RUC. Cyril is survived by widow Fiona and their two sons - David and Andrew.

Cyril is remembered on SEFF’s latest Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Willis family today and every day and we also remember the Hanson, Sterritt and Dunne families.