**Daniel Blinco**

**30th December 1993**

SEFF remembers Grenadier Guardsman Daniel Blinco who was murdered on 30th December 1993.

Daniel was murdered just two weeks after Prime Minister John Major and Taoiseach Albert Reynolds signed the Downing Street Declaration in December 1993.

The declaration was described as “a charter for peace and reconciliation” on the island of Ireland and was followed by the Provisional IRA ceasefire eight months later in August 1994. Daniel is the last soldier to have been murdered in Crossmaglen.

Guardsman Blinco, 22, from Melbourne in Derbyshire had been on foot patrol in the south Armagh village of Crossmaglen - known in military circles as ‘XMG’ - when he was shot by a Provisional IRA sniper. Daniel had performed sentry duty outside Buckingham Palace and had been on his 2nd tour of duty in Northern Ireland.

Daniel is described by his family as having been, “an all-around sportsman and was in the Guards’ cycling and swimming teams, friendly and outgoing, 6’6” tall and handsome.”

On the 20th anniversary of the murder in December 2013, the people of Melbourne rededicated a bench in the town in memory of Guardsman Blinco following a Grenadier Guards parade in his honour. Guardsman Blinco was one of ten soldiers and police officers killed in sniper attacks in the south Armagh area during a two-year period.

SEFF’s Director of Services Kenny Donaldson when aged 13 years and his father John were in Crossmaglen on the day of Daniel’s murder and were in close proximity to the incident.

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