**Kenneth Norman Lynch**

**2nd June 1977**

SEFF remembers RUC Constable Kenneth Lynch who was murdered on 2nd June 1977 by PIRA terrorists alongside colleagues Hugh Henry Martin and Derek Davison.

Kenneth Norman Lynch was born on 16th May 1955 to William and Anna Lynch, and brought up near Donemana in Co. Tyrone. He was the third brother of four children, the youngest being a sister. Hazlett was the eldest, then William, Ken, and Lynda. Ken was a big lad, he was tall and well built, and he had a normal childhood and upbringing in a church-attending family.

He joined the Scout troop in Donemana and enjoyed camps in Scotland, the Isle of Man and also in Northern Ireland. He later joined the local flute band. He loved cooking and baking. He was also an avid Manchester United fan and on occasions went to see his team play.

On leaving school in Strabane, he worked for a few months in a Londonderry supermarket before getting a job in Dupont, during which time he served in Strabane in the RUC Reserve before joining the regular RUC in June 1976. On completion of his police training at Enniskillen, he was posted to Cookstown RUC station in September 1976.

On the last Sunday Ken was alive, the whole Lynch family were together. It was a lovely afternoon and after a walk up the back field and along the river, he left late that afternoon to make his way to Cookstown. This was the last time the family saw him alive.

The East Tyrone/Monaghan brigade of the Provisional IRA chose to murder Ken, along with two RUC colleagues, and on the Thursday afternoon of 2nd June 1977, they carried out their wicked deed.

His murder hit the family very deeply, and with lasting effects. He was buried in Mountcastle cemetery following a thanksgiving service in his home congregation of Donagheady Presbyterian Church on Sunday 5th June. A huge crowd of mourners attended the funeral, estimated at the time to be in the region of 3,000. Ken was a ‘larger than life’ character, full of fun and mischief.

Both his parents died without getting justice for Ken. Justice delayed is justice denied!

Kenneth is remembered on SEFF's latest Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents alongside his colleagues Derek and Hugh Henry.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the Lynch family today and every day.