**Pte. Robert Hill**

**1st July 1986**

SEFF remembers Pte. Robert Hill who was murdered by Provisional IRA terrorists on 1st July 1986.

It was early on a Tuesday morning when Robert was on his way to his civilian job, it happened outside his house in Drumaness, County Down. He was murdered when an under car booby trap bomb exploded from beneath his red Ford Fiesta, he had just come off duty. He was supposedly targeted because he was a serving part time member of the UDR.

Robert worked at Pinewick Furniture Factory in Ballynahinch, he also served in the 3rd Battalion UDR, Ballykinler.

Robert had many hobbies and interests, he played for 3rd Saintfield Hockey Team, he had also joined the UDR football team in Ballykinler and was planning on playing his first match on Wednesday 2nd July 1986 but it never happened as he was murdered the previous day.

Robert was in Sons of Ulster Accordion Band, he was a member of Cahard, Ballymaglave lodges and the Apprentice Boys Ballynahinch branch. He had an interest in motorbikes and had one of his own, he also liked cars and loved his Ford Fiesta. He enjoyed his holidays abroad particularly in Arenal and Torremolinos. Robert loved animals which wasn’t surprising as he had been reared on a farm but his biggest interest of all was in the UDR.

Robert is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt, A Patchwork of Innocents. The purple chopper bicycle was chosen for Robert’s patch to represent his childhood as it had been given to him one Christmas and there were always fond memories of Robert on it. The UDR cap badge was chosen for his career which was a big part of his life. His family remark that he loved it so much it came a close second to his family.

Robert was single and the UDR was said to be his way of life, loved and lived for the UDR and everything it represented. Lastly the black dog Sam was chosen as one of the last links to Robert as it was in the house when the bomb went off and it ran through the blasted door, it swam a lake and was returned to the family later that day but was so traumatised that it had to be taken to the dog pound at a later date. The dog was one of the family’s last connections to Robert that they had and was quite possibly the last innocent creature to see him alive.

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