**Robin Bell**

**22nd October 1972**

SEFF remembers Robin Bell who was brutally murdered by PIRA terrorists on 22nd October 1972.

Robin was the eldest child of Olive and Sidney Bell. He had one brother and four sisters.

Upon leaving school Robin attended agricultural college in Strabane, before returning home to the family farm. After serving in the 'B' Specials he joined the UDR upon its' formation in 1970.

Robin, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment aged just 21 years was murdered when the car his father was driving was ambushed by PIRA terrorists close to their home on the Fermanagh-Monaghan border. The car came under a period of sustained gun fire causing Robin's death. His father was also injured.

Robin's brother Richard who was also in the car and a part-time member of the UDR returned fire. The cowardly PIRA terrorists then escaped over the border by boat.

Robin was but a young man starting out in life when cruel terrorists claiming to represent a legitimate and honourable political cause declared that he had no right to live. They in fact represented a fascist organisation motivated by ethnic and sectarian hatred.

PIRA's objective was clearly to extinguish the lives of all those in the car but mercifully this did not happen.

Robin was a Boy Scout leader in Newtownbutler and a regular attender at Galloon Parish church.

His memorial quilt patch contains a Friesian cow and a digger which depicts Robin's love of farming and the digger work he carried out in improving his own family farm and those of many neighbours.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bell family today and everyday.