**Ronald Funston**

**13th March 1984**

SEFF remembers Ronald (Ronnie) Funston, a 28-year-old Protestant civilian, who worked on his family farm at Lowery near Pettigo. Ronnie was a former UDR member but had retired almost 8 years before he was shot dead by 2 IRA terrorists on 13th March 1984.

The farm was on the border with the Irish Republic. The attack occurred at 8:00am as he was preparing to feed cattle. Ronnie was sitting in the cab of his tractor when the gunmen emerged from undergrowth to shoot him. He was living on the farm with his parents.

Ronnie’s mother discovered his body. She told the May 1984 inquest: "As I was walking towards the silo pits the next thing I heard was automatic gunfire. I was about 75 to 100 yards away. After the shooting, the tractor stopped. On hearing this, I walked immediately towards where Ronnie had been working, calling out his name. When I arrived, I saw Ronnie slumped over the wheel of the tractor in the cab". She then went to the home and told her 74-year-old husband to call for help. Eighteen shots were fired into the tractor cab.

This murder like many others committed in these areas was brutal. It was not killing - it was a murder by assassination.

Unlike those who carried out this heinous crime Ronnie led his life the right way - Family first, a strong work ethic and Service to his Country.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Funston family circle on this day and every day.