**Nicholas (Nick) Spanos and Stephen Melrose**

**27th May 1990**

SEFF remembers Nicholas (Nick) Spanos and Stephen Melrose who were murdered by Provisional IRA terrorists.

Nick and Stephen were Australian tourists who were together when shot dead in Roermond, the Netherlands on 27th May 1990, they were said to have been mistaken for off-duty British Soldiers.

Nick originally from Sydney was 28 years old and was a lawyer living and working in London. Nick and Stephen were in the Netherlands on a 4-day holiday along with Vicky Cross (Nick’s girlfriend) and Lynda Melrose (Stephen’s wife), they had driven over to Amsterdam from London to see a Van Gogh exhibition.

Meanwhile Stephen was 24 years old and had only been married to Lynda for 9 months prior to his murder.

On the way back to Calais they stopped for a meal in Roermond, a picturesque town which was popular with off-duty British servicemen stationed in Germany. As they returned to their car at 11pm Spanos and Melrose were shot dead by two Provisional IRA terrorists dressed in black with automatic weapons.

Witnesses said up to four people were involved in the shooting, after the attack the terrorists sped across the Belgian border and the car was later found burned out in Belgium.

The women escaped injury. Nick had Greek family background and was buried in the small Greek village of Kertezi where his parents had lived before emigrating to Australia. Meanwhile Stephen was originally from Brisbane, Australia and was working in commercial law in London.

As the car they were driving had British plates it meant they were indistinguishable from British soldiers’ cars.

In recent years Stephen’s parents have travelled to Northern Ireland and took part in a documentary about the murders in a bid to find answers and get justice for the murder of their precious son.

Stephen and Nick are remembered on SEFF’s latest Memorial Quilt, ‘Uniting Innocent Victims’ which includes the 15 innocents murdered as a result of The Provisional IRA’s terrorist campaign in mainland Europe plus 16 innocents of ETA Terrorism.