**Pte. Thomas (John) Hardy**

**14th March 1989**

SEFF remembers Thomas (John) Hardy who was murdered on 14th March 1989 by PIRA terrorists.

John was born at Donaghendry, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone, the son of William and Elizabeth Hardy and older brother of Andrew. John served with the Territorial Army up until he joined the UDR on 2nd March 1970.

On 14th March 1989 he was ambushed and murdered by two Provisional IRA gunmen as he drove his lorry into a loading bay at an abattoir in Granville. The gunmen fired at close range and John died a short time later in hospital, he was 48 years old.

John was a popular man and active member of the local community and his murder was met with revulsion by many.

The Hardy family had moved to Dungannon in 1956 and John took up a job at a local brickworks. John married Anne (from Glencon, Newmills) on 6th July 1968. They set up home at Brooke Street, Dungannon where they spent all their married life.

Together they had two sons, Gary and Stephen, they both remember John as a loving and devoted husband and father.

John later went on to work as a forklift operator and a lorry driver for Dickson’s Builders’ Suppliers, a business also located on Brooke Street, Dungannon. He then

moved to another company known as Gland Supplies where he also drove a lorry.

Outside of his work John was a keen and very able DIY enthusiast who was constantly making improvements and repairs to the family home.

Although he was an avid fan of Tottenham Hotspur (Spurs) Football Club, John’s first love was in sport watching motorcycle racing, he rarely missed a race either on the roads or at short circuits.

John was a member of Stewartstown LOL 171 and the Dugannon Branch of the Royal British Legion.

John is remembered on SEFF’s most recent Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents.

The Hardy family circle are in our thoughts and prayers today and every day.