**William (Willie) John & Lesley Gordon**

**8th February 1978**

SEFF remembers William (known as Willie) and his 11-year-old daughter Lesley who were murdered on 8th February 1978.

At the point he was murdered Willie was a School Welfare Officer, he was 41 years old and was a part time member of the UDR, he was married to Georgina and together they had three children.

Willie was taking two of his children, his daughter Lesley and his seven year old son to Culnady Primary School. His car had been parked outside his house at Grove Terrace, Maghera.

A neighbour had seen Willie check underneath his car and in the boot as he would usually do before the children got in but when he reversed his car out and began to move forward an IRA booby trap bomb exploded from underneath the car.

Willie and his daughter died instantly while his young son was badly injured.

Willie and his daughter Lesley are remembered on SEFF’s latest memorial quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents. Lesley is featured within a centrepiece remembering child victims of terrorism.

Willie was a dedicated family man; he was a keen fisherman and enjoyed going fishing in his spare time. This is why the fishing symbol was chosen for his patch on the Memorial Quilt along with the UDR cap badge to represent his service in 5th Battalion UDR.

Meanwhile daughter Lesley was only 11 years old when she was murdered alongside her Dad. After the tragedy Lesley was described as a ‘delightful child’ and it was said that Culnady Primary School where Lesley attended would never be able to forget her.

Lesley was a regular attender of the Brownies and very much enjoyed being a member of the organisation and taking part in their activities.

She was also a keen Showaddywaddy fan, this is why these two images along with the crest from Culnady Primary School were chosen for Lesley’s patch on the Memorial Quilt.

One of Lesley’s school teachers composed a poem immediately after the incident, it speaks of Lesley’s gentle and sweet nature and how the world is a better place for having heard her merry laughter.

This was a particularly heinous atrocity, demonstrating PIRA’s willingness to murder children as part of their terrorist campaign, which was motivated by ethnic and sectarian influences.

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