

Joseph 'Joe' Connolly



Civilian

2nd September 1956 – 8th August 1972

Joseph (Joe) was the youngest of a family of seven – four boys and three girls. Their parents were Frank and Lena Connolly, and they lived in the family home in Claudy Brae, about one mile outside the village.

Joe was a great young fellow, who could have talked to the Queen. He didn't speak or say anything until he was four, but he could talk to anyone once he started.

He went to Claudy every evening for cigarettes for his daddy, and for a game of football before going back up to the house. He was back at nine o'clock every evening – not five past nine, but nine o'clock on the button, every night. You could have depended on Joe with your life.

During the spring and summer months, he worked weekends with a local farmer. He also helped his dad about the fields.

Joseph was a happy and light-hearted young boy of 15 years. He was a very innocent and kind-hearted young boy. He was lightly made up and small in stature, but he was a very witty boy. He was very jolly, and he made everyone around him laugh.

Joseph treated everyone with respect and would not pass you without saying hello. In Claudy, then as now, everybody would have known everybody, and everybody would have known and liked Joe.

He was looking forward to commencing work in the local factory. He missed out on so much because his life was taken away from him. He was just beginning the next stage of his life.

On 31st July 1972 Joe had an appointment with an employment officer in Claudy but on leaving for his appointment that morning, Joseph would never be back home again due to the bomb.

His injuries were so severe that he made no recovery for the better. Joseph died on the 8th of August, 1972.