

## **Sergeant Kenneth Smyth**



**Service Number: 24208915**

**24<sup>th</sup> November 1943 – 10<sup>th</sup> December 1971**

Kenneth was a hard working soul who only ever wanted to contribute to his fellowman whether that meant helping with some practical task or donning the uniform of the Ulster Defence Regiment and contributing to securing their safety along the Border.

He wanted to develop the building contracting business which he ran, hoping to expand and make a success of it.

Kenneth was an innocent, loving and gentle person whose standards and principles drove him to be the man he was.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 1971 Kenneth got married and was looking forward to building a life together and hoping to start a family with his new wife but that was not to be.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 1971 Kenneth was murdered on the Strabane / Donegal border as he was going to work when he stopped to pick up a colleague. He was shot because he was a Protestant serving in the UDR and living on the Border beside the Republican village of Claudy just outside Strabane. Kenneth's work colleague who had recently retired from the UDR was also killed at the scene.

Kenneth and Winston Donnell were best friends, Winston was murdered on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1971 and Kenneth a mere 4 months later.

Amongst Kenneth's interests and hobbies were hunting and shooting, Kenneth represented the UDR at Bisley and he also won several woodwork trophies and accolades

