**Service Number: 24124033**

**27th July 1949 – 9th August 1971**

Winston Donnell late of Hillhead Road, Urney, County Tyrone. Winston was a member of 6th County Tyrone Battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Winston was born on 27th July 1949 and was murdered on 9th August 1971, he was the first member of the UDR to be murdered on duty.

On 9th August 1971 internment was introduced in Northern Ireland, that same day Winston’s patrol was called out and his check point was put on the edge of Clady near the Donegal Border. That night as dusk began to fall a taxi drove towards the patrol from Clady but it turned at the entrance to a nearby farm. A short time later a car approached from the same direction with the back window out and turned at the same place. This time the car started to reverse and Winston and another member, who were covering their comrades, saw what was happening. Winston jumped into the middle of the road to stop them but was fired on by a Thompson sub machine gun. As a result of multiple injuries, he died almost instantly.

Winston showed great courage that night and ultimately sacrificed his own life to save his comrades, one of whom was his own brother. Winston’s funeral took place on Friday 13 August 1971 at Urney Presbyterian Church with full military honours. At his inquest in Strabane Court on 7th April 1972 an Open Verdict was recorded.

Winston was a member of Urney Presbyterian Church and his family put a memorial plaque in the church. In Leckpatrick Parish Church there is also a memorial plaque with Winston’s name on it. The members of Tullywhisker LOL No 1120 dedicated a memorial plaque to all their members who were murdered and Winston’s name is included. Winston was also a very keen member of the Tullywhisker Border Guards Pipe Band.

Winston, was a family man, he was a community man and he was someone who wasn’t prepared to stand by and allow the Country he loved to be torn apart by terrorism and civil strife.