James Mullan

SEFF remembers James Mullan who was murdered 46 years ago today, back on 21st December 1972. James (a Roman Catholic civilian) was murdered by loyalist terrorists (believed to be the Red Hand Commando) as he waited on the Clandeboye Road, Bangor for a lift to his nightshift work at a carpet factory based in Donaghadee.

James lived in the nearby Tudor Park having moved from Belfast some months previously. He had formerly worked as a bread server.

James had a 4-year-old son at the time of his murder. As his regular lift pulled up so too did another car and shots were fired hitting James on the arm and stomach, he died in hospital just 30 minutes later.

James’ murder was the first sectarian killing to take place in Bangor, known as a picturesque North Down seaside Town.

In January 1973 four men from east Belfast were charged with his murder along with two others, Sandra Meli and David McAleese but three months later the charges were dropped.

James Mullan is yet another murder which remains unsolved.

Unfortunately we do not have access to a photograph of James. He had been survived by sister Una whose married name was Moffett. Una and her family joined SEFF some 3 plus years ago after reading an article we had been quoted from within The Belfast Telegraph, she rang the office and asked could her family join, that ours’ was the organisation that she could associate with - she related with our consistent stance on terrorism and criminal violence from whatever quarter it came)

Una was due to speak at SEFF’s Conference earlier this year and the European Day for Victims of Terrorism event held in Stormont in March but tragically she passed away in January 2017.

It was Una’s wish prior to her passing that a patch be added on our next quilt remembering James so we are following through with her wishes.

Una and her husband owned the popular and successful business Balmoral Furniture and were no strangers to being victimised through terrorism, their business - a business which always employed Protestant and Roman Catholic was the business attacked by Bobby Sands and his colleagues and for which they were then incarcerated within the Maze Prison.

James is remembered on our most recent Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents and symbols were used depicting his employment.

James will not be forgotten nor will Una, a lady we are privileged to have known. The Mullan family circle are in our thoughts and prayers today and every day.