Const Johnnie Proctor - 14th September 1981

SEFF remembers John (Johnnie) Proctor who was murdered 39 years ago today (14th September 1981) by PIRA terrorists.

On 14th September 1981 Johnnie had been visiting his wife and their new born baby in the Mid Ulster Hospital, Magherafelt when he was shot in the back by IRA gunmen in the car park. Earlier that day he had acted as pallbearer at the funeral of his friend who was also shot by the Provisional IRA.

Johnnie was 25 years old, he was married to June and together they had two children, Adrian (23 months old) and Johnnie (5 days old) at the time of his murder.

Johnnie joined the UDR in 1976, he left a number of years later and joined the RUC (in April 1980). Johnnie was very proud to serve his Country and he wanted to stand up to Terrorism.

One of Johnnie’s favourite pass times was to play darts; he had a great interest in the game. He was also a big supporter of Manchester United.

June NcMullin (nee Proctor) recounts that her last words to her beloved husband were: "God bless... I love you... watch yourself".

June recalls that Johnny then walked on alone, and that she estimated, "Johnny would just have had time to reach his car when I heard the sound of shooting".

She remembers that she ran to the nurses' room which overlooked the car park. June out the window to see an ambulance parked at the back of her husband Johnny’s car.

As she watched, the figure of a man was lifted into the back of the ambulance.

"I recognised it was my husband from the clothing he was wearing", June adds.

June was then taken to the causality unit where minutes later she was told that "Johnny was dead".

Johnny is remembered on SEFF’s most recent Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents.

In recent years and as a result of DNA evidence Seamus Kearney, a PIRA terrorist was convicted of his part in the murder of Johnnie but as per the terms of The Belfast Agreement could serve no more than two years behind bars.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with June and the Proctor family circle today and every day.