Constable Norman Anderson - 27th January 1961

SEFF remembers Norman Anderson who was murdered 58 years ago today by terrorists via the Border terrorist campaign of 1956-1962, mounted by the Official IRA.

Constable Anderson was stationed at Rosslea when murdered on the Fermanagh-Monaghan border on 27th January 1961.

At the time of his murder the 26 year old’s widowed mother lived at Kintyre Road, Larne. Norman was off duty and had been returning to the station after visiting his girlfriend across the border in County Monaghan. He was on his way back to his van when he was overpowered by his assailants, dragged up a laneway and shot repeatedly.

Constable Anderson’s funeral was described in the Larne Times as ‘the biggest seen in East Antrim in living memory’. Thousands from all over Northern Ireland and County Monaghan attended including the then Minister of Home Affairs, Brian Faulkner and the inspector general of the RUC, Albert Kennedy.

However Norman Anderson was not simply forgotten, a few months later a group of four friends decided to form a band. When the word got around applications to join the band started to flow in and the only concern was, what would they call the band?

Permission was sought from Constable Anderson’s family and with their agreement the band was named, The Constable Norman Anderson Memorial Flute Band.

The Band has an on-going relationship with SEFF and has visited the County twice in recent times, once performing at a SEFF Concert event and also then availing of a Border Trail of South Fermanagh where members were able to visit the scene of Constable Anderson’s murder and to pay their respects, honouring his memory.

Norman is remembered on SEFF’s most recent Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents where his membership of the band is very much to the fore.

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