**James Barker**

Omagh Bomb - 15th August 1998

SEFF remembers James Barker when he was murdered as a result of the Omagh bomb.

29 innocents perished on that fateful day (15th August 1998) as well as unborn twins with scores of others physically and psychologically injured.

James was a 12-year-old schoolboy from Ballintrae, Buncrana in County Donegal. The family had moved from England to Buncrana in 1997 in order to get a better quality of life but only the following year James was to be taken from them in a heinous act of terrorism committed by RIRA terrorists - an attack which threatened to tear apart the Town of Omagh.

James was a goalkeeper for his local school and was due to go to secondary school in September.

James suffered severe head injuries in the bomb, and died shortly afterwards in hospital. His family waited 3 hours for confirmation of the news. He was buried in a joint service with his friends, Oran Doherty and Sean McLaughlin, in Buncrana.

His Mum Donna-Marie painfully recalls: “To see those beautiful green eyes looking out at me as if he was waiting for me was devastating. I never realised how green his eyes were. That image will stay with me for the rest of my life”.

The images on the quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents depict James’ life in Education but also his deep love of sport
and particularly football. Prior to his murder he had a Republic of Ireland football shirt, an item he cherished.

No-one has ever been held criminally responsible for the Omagh bomb however a landmark ruling was made in recent years within the civil courts holding accountable members of the RIRA.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Barker family this day and everyday as it is with all families and individuals impacted by the Omagh atrocity.