**James Henry Babington**

**4th October 1989**

SEFF remembers James Henry Babington, a Roman Catholic civilian who was murdered on 4th October 1989 by Provisional IRA terrorists.

James was born on 17th November 1936 and he was a son of Colonel Marcus Hill Babington DSO of Coolkeragh, Londonderry. On 4th October 1989 James was shot by the Provisional IRA as he walked to work on the Cavehill Road near his home.

James was a Laboratory Supervisor for Richardson’s Fertiliser’s in Belfast, he married Maura (nee White) originally from Glasgow in 1957 and they had three children, Finuala, Marcus and Jacqueline, James was a professional man who lived for his family.

James’ wife who was a Domestic Assistant in Belfast City Hospital heard on the radio that a man had been shot dead but did not realise it was her husband until she was called to a Sister’s office at 1.30pm.

The family never got over James’ death, Finuala (James’ eldest child) passed away on 16th March 2017, she was laid to rest ironically on the same day as the terrorist and politician Martin McGuinness.

James’s favourite pastime was being out on his boat the MV ‘Reiff’, he loved the boat and spending time on it with his family. After his death the family decided to scuttle the boat as they felt they could no longer use it.

Earlier this year James’ widow Maura wrote a powerful letter to the News Letter in which she made the very poignant point that she wanted comparable resources put into an investigation for her beloved husband as was the case with a German woman murdered the year previous - Inga Maria Houser. Mrs Babington made it clear that she supported justice and the resourcing of the Hauser investigation, she was merely asking for the same treatment.

Extracts from the letter:

Maura Babington said:

“My family have noted with interest the recent publicity relating to the investigation of the murder of Inga Maria Hauser in April 1988. Our family fully support the commitment, resources and measures that have been put in place to apprehend the persons responsible for this terrible murder, and would want nothing more than to see justice for the Hauser family.

We know only too well the pain that family has gone through; having ourselves lost a loved one and we understand that their hurt is compounded by the fact those responsible have not been brought to justice. However, my family feels greatly let down that the same efforts or resources are not being (or are unlikely to be) put into bringing those persons to justice for the murder of my innocent husband and father; merely walking to his place of work.

See the full letter: <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/i-fully-support-the-hauser-murder-hunt-but-want-the-same-for-my-husband-1-8512241>

James is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents.

SEFF’s thought and prayers are with The Babington family today and every day.