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Ex-RUC agent Haddock is charged with feud murder

By David Gordon
Friday, 9 January 2009

A former RUC agent appeared in court yesterday charged with a loyalist feud murder — allegedly committed at a time when he was a paid police informer.

Mark Haddock (40) appeared in Belfast Magistrate's court amid heavy security accused of the murder of Tommy English, a member of the UDA, in October 2000.

He was also charged with UVF membership between 1996 and 2000.

A PSNI detective sergeant, representing the Historical Enquiries Team (HET), told the court he could connect the accused to the charges.

Answering questions from a defence lawyer, the officer confirmed that Haddock had been charged on the basis of statements made by two brothers also charged in connection with the English murder.

They had originally been charged with the murder themselves and had implicated a number of others, the court heard.

The officer denied that they had been offered any "incentive" for their evidence.

Haddock spoke only to confirm that he understood the charges.

He waved to relatives in the public gallery, and was remanded to appear by video link at court on January 12.

His defence lawyer stated that he was due to be released from jail on January 16, having served a sentence for assault.

After the hearing a senior supervising officer from the HET unit, Steve Hobbs, gave his reaction.

"This is a really important development for us," he said.

"We have been working on this case for the last two years and really this marks the start of the second phase of our investigation."

English was gunned down in north Belfast in front of his wife and children during a vicious UVF-UDA feud.

He was a former Stormont talks delegate for the UDA-linked Ulster Democratic Party.

Haddock was charged on Wednesday by officers belonging to the police's HET, a special unit set up to investigate unsolved murders during the Troubles.

Haddock featured in a highly-publicised 2007 report by Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan.

Mrs O'Loan's report — which referred to Haddock only as Informant 1 — said he had been recruited as an RUC Special Branch informer in 1991.

It revealed he had received payments from police totalling at least £79,840 over a 12-year period from 1991 to 2003.

The £79,840 figure included retainers adding up to £34,140, incentive payments totalling £42,000 and welfare payments, the Ombudsman stated.

Haddock is from the Mount Vernon estate in north Belfast.

He was arrested at Maghaberry Prison near Lisburn on Wednesday and taken to a police

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detention centre for questioning.

Haddock survived a loyalist murder attempt in 2006.

He has been seeking a media blackout on his new identity ahead of his forthcoming release date, as he claims his life is still at risk. He also wants to have his name changed by deed poll.

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