Cpl Bryan Criddle BEM - 22nd July 1973

SEFF remembers Cpl Bryan Criddle BEM who died 37 years ago today, 4 days after he was injured in a Provisional IRA bomb explosion at Clogher, County Tyrone.

Bryan was married to Julia and had 3 children; a daughter called Sarah who had just turned 3 and twin sons of 9 months old, Gary and Glenn.

Bryan joined the army in the pioneer corps as a dog handler, transferred to the Royal Army Veterinary corps and trained as a dog trainer.

He served in Malaya training American dog handlers in jungle warfare. At the time he had little time to have hobbies but enjoyed socialising. His family, job and his dog Jason were the main things in his life.

On 18th July 1973 Bryan was injured while checking a necklace of milk churns positioned in a field near Clogher (close to the border) while he was checking them the bomb was set off by remote control from across the border.

On Bryan’s patch included within SEFF’s Memorial Quilt - Terrorism knows NO Borders is a German shepherd’s head representing his partner Jason, The Red Paw represents the Army Dog Unit Northern Ireland, which he and several other Royal Army Veterinary Corps set up.

In 2018 Bryan’s family returned to Northern Ireland for a special event held in Clogher Royal British Legion where a plaque was unveiled remembering all innocents within the security forces and Prison Service murdered/killed in Clogher District over the years of ‘The Troubles.’

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with The Criddle family today and every day.