James Eames & Alfred Johnston 25th August 1972

SEFF remembers James (Jimmy) Eames and Alfred (Alfie) Johnston whose 48th Anniversary falls today.

The men who were serving members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were murdered on 25th August 1972. Alfie (32) and Jimmy (33), were killed by a Provisional Irish Republican Army remote controlled bomb, hidden in an abandoned car and detonated when their patrol approached at Cherrymount, near Enniskillen.

A surviving member of the four-man UDR patrol described how he saw Jimmy and Alfie die in a 'blinding yellow flash.' Their colleague added that 'they were hurled through the air and just disappeared.' High tension power lines were brought down by the 150lb bomb explosion and windows and doors in a house located 50 yards away were blown in.

Fragments of the car (an Austin 1100) were found by Police forensic personnel up to 200 yards from the scene of the bomb attack and a large crater was left in the roadway. The RUC found wires and batteries in neighbouring fields which, they believed, were used to set off the charge.

Thirteen men of the 97th Battery Field Regiment, who were passing the UDR patrol in a four-ton truck on their way back to a camp at St Angelo, were also caught in the blast. They were treated for cuts and shock at the Erne hospital. Their vehicle had been tossed some 30 yards along the road due to the force of the bomb blast. An unsubstantiated theory exists that it was these group of soldiers were the principle target of the bomb.

Both Jimmy and Alfie were married, each having three children.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the Eames and Johnston family circles. Justice, Truth and Accountability can yet be delivered in this life and we pray that this might follow.