**James (Jim) Alfred Lee - 16th July 1972**

SEFF remembers Pte James (Jim) Alfred Lee who was murdered 48 years ago today by Provisional IRA terrorists.

On 16th July 1972, the Provisional IRA targeted his armoured car outside Crossmaglen on the Carran Road with a 150lb land mine which also killed Lance Corporal Terence Graham from Middlesborough.

Jim was from Otley in Yorkshire, and was a private in the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment.

Jim left behind a widow Susan who was expecting their first child (Donna Marie) His widow, Susan Rimmer was the War widow who came to prominence a few years back in calling for the restoration of a War Widows Pension for widows who had remarried, who had their Pensions removed by The State and who were not then left out of new legislation brought forward to address War Widows pensions.

SEFF continues to support War Widows in their campaign to have a grievous wrong redressed.

Susan recounts that her fondest memory of Jim was “just waiting for him to come home for the weekend” to their married quarters in Catterick, Yorkshire.

She added: “He was pretty quiet. He used to come home and I would forget to put the immersion heater on because I couldn’t get the fire going, and I couldn’t cook - I was rubbish. I was only 19. But he never lost his temper, he just used to help me.”

The couple only lived together for three of their nine months of marriage.

Susan was counting down the 13 days left until Jim was due home when the knock came to the door.

“It was two police ladies and I knew - they didn’t have to tell me - I knew. And I was six months’ pregnant with my daughter. It was hell on earth really. My world just collapsed. I was just 19.”

She added: “You can’t say a funeral is nice, but the army did him proud, they gave him the full works.”

“There are some lovely people in Ireland and I just hope that he [Jim] didn’t die in vain, because I lost a lot and my daughter lost her dad.”

The couple’s daughter Donna Marie was not yet born at the time of the murder, but Susan only saw the true impact of their loss on her on New Year’s Eve last year.

“It was the first time I saw her really break down in tears because she did not know her dad. I never knew she felt like that and she is 44. She doesn’t know how to feel because she has no memories of him.”

Last year Kenny Donaldson (SEFF’s Director of Services) who comes from Crossmaglen brought Donna Marie to the precise location where her Dad was murdered. Donna Marie remarked that she felt “a level of comfort in having visited the place”.

Jim is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt; Terrorism knows No Borders.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan and Donna Marie and other members of The Lee family today and every day.