Winston Howe & Joseph Rose 11th February 1980

On this day 39 years ago (11 February 1980) Winston Howe (35) and Joseph Rose (21) both members of the RUC, were callously murdered by cowardly PIRA terrorists whilst performing their duty as honest, decent police officers in the service of the Country and local community.

The landmine attack occurred whilst Winston and Joseph travelled along the Rosslea to Lisnaskea road. The massive 800lb landmine was hidden in a culvert under the road and was detonated by terrorists lying in wait on a rise overlooking the road. Winston and Joe, were in the second of the two Land Rovers that caught the full force of the blast and were killed instantly.

Another colleague, Reserve Constable Ernest Johnston, who was also badly injured in the blast, was incapacitated for several months before he eventually returned to duty. Tragically, Ernest Johnston's reprieve was to be short-lived. Ernest was later cold-bloodedly shot dead by PIRA terrorists on the doorstep of his house, when he returned home from work one evening.

SEFFs' thoughts and prayers go out to the family circles of both Winston and Joe on this day and everyday. Let their sacrifices not be in vain. Everything good that they stood for lives on within those they left behind.