**M62 Coach Bomb**

**4th February 1974**

The M62 coach bombing happened on 4th February 1974 on the [M62 motorway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M62_motorway) in [northern England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_England), when a PIRA bomb exploded in a coach carrying off-duty [British Armed Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Armed_Forces) personnel and their family members. Twelve people (nine soldiers, three civilians) were killed by the bomb, (11 at the scene with a twelfth dying four days later) which consisted of 25 pounds (11 kg) of high explosive hidden in a luggage locker on the coach.

An entire family were murdered in the blast - the Haughtons, whose entire family, consisting of Clifford, his wife Linda and his sons Lee (5) and Robert (2) Numerous others suffered severe injuries, including a six-year-old boy, who was badly burned.

The driver of the coach, Roland Handley, was injured by flying glass, but was hailed as a hero for bringing the coach safely to a halt.

The entrance hall of the westbound section of the [Hartshead Moor service area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartshead_Moor_services) was used as a first aid station for those wounded in the blast. A memorial to those who were killed was later created there following a campaign by relatives of the dead; a larger memorial was later erected, set some yards away from the entrance hall. The site, situated behind four flag poles, includes an [English oak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_robur) tree, a memorial stone, a memorial plaque and a raised marble tablet inscribed with the names of those who died.

A memorial plaque engraved with the names of the casualties was also unveiled in [Oldham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oldham) in 2010.

SEFF thoughts and prayers are with the families of all those affected.

Bombardier Terence Griffins Aged 24

Gunner Leonard James Godden Aged 22

Signalman Michael Eugene Waugh Aged 22

Signalman Leslie David Walsh Aged 17

Signalman Paul Anthony Reid Aged 17

Lance Corporal James John McShane Aged 28

Fusilier Jack Thomas Hynes Aged 20

Fusilier Stephen Whalley Aged 18

Corporal Clifford Haughton Aged 24

Wife - Linda Haughton Aged 24

Children - Lee Haughton Aged 5

Robert Haughton Aged 2