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Families to mark 1974 coach bombing

By Diana Rusk

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FAMILIES of 12 people who died when an IRA bomb ripped through a British army coach are appealing for

survivors of the explosion to contact them ahead of the 35th anniversary, writes Diana Rusk.

Nine off-duty soldiers and three civilians were killed when the bomb detonated on February 4 1974 as the coach travelled along the M62 motorway near Bradford.

Among the victims was a young family – Corporal Clifford Haughton (23) his wife, Linda, (22) and their sons five-year-old Lee and two-year-old Robert.

Families of those who lost their lives are to gather near the site of the explosion on the 35th anniversary next month to re-dedicate a plaque bearing the names of the victims.

An English oak tree will also be planted in memory of those who lost their lives when the bomb, hidden in the luggage compartment of the coach, exploded.

The families are hoping to make contact with survivors of the atrocity and those who helped at the scene in the aftermath.

Mo Norton whose 24-year-old soldier brother, Terence Griffin, died in the bomb, said she wanted anyone who was affected by the tragedy to know they were welcome to attend the ceremony.

“I know that it might not be an easy day for those who survived, but we would really appreciate any help to find those who were there on the night, whether they were on the coach or who helped in any way,” she said.

Judith Ward, from Stockport, Cheshire, was jailed for the bombing in 1974 but her conviction was later quashed by the Court of Appeal and she was released in 1992.

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