**Christopher Ewart-Biggs**

**21st July 1976**

SEFF remembers British Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland, Christopher Ewart-Biggs who alongside civil servant Judith Cooke was murdered by Provisional IRA terrorists.

The civilians died following a Provisional IRA landmine in Sandyford, Dublin, on 21st July 1976.

Ambassador Ewart-Biggs was 57-years-old and his fellow passenger, Judith Cooke was 26. His driver Brian O'Driscoll and a third passenger Brian Cubbon, a high-ranking civil servant in the Northern Ireland Office, were injured but survived the attack.

In 2016 and to mark the 40th Anniversary since the murders, Mr Ewart-Biggs' daughter Kate Ewart-Biggs planted a tree at Glencairn House in Dublin, the British ambassador's residence in the Republic.

Mr O'Driscoll, the British Ambassador to the Republic, Dominick Chilcott, and the Republic's Foreign Affairs minister Charlie Flanagan all attended the ceremony.

Mr Chilcott said Mr Ewart-Biggs' family had worked hard to build bridges between the Republic and the UK. In 1977, the family established the Ewart-Biggs Memorial prize, awarded to published, performed or broadcast work that promotes peace and reconciliation.

When Christopher Ewart-Biggs left school, he was described by his headmaster as "an admirable mixer, capable of getting on well with anyone". He took that philosophy to the role of Ambassador and even after his savage death his widow jane continued to press ahead fulfilling his legacy in attaining better British-Irish relations between closest neighbours.

Christopher Ewart-Biggs already had a very full life before he came to Dublin in the summer of 1976. Indeed, like many of his generation, he had enjoyed a packed life before he had even entered the Diplomatic Service.

After university, Christopher joined the army in 1941 and eventually fought in the key battle in north Africa, El Alamein, in the Eighth Army, where he lost his eye.

His career in the Foreign Service, which he joined in 1949, was very heavily orientated to the Arab world. He served in the Lebanon, Qatar and Algiers, as well as Manila, Brussels and Paris in the early 1970s.

Mr Ewart-Biggs is remembered on SEFF’s Memorial Quilt; Terrorism knows NO Borders.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ewart-Biggs family today and every day.