**Sir Richard Sykes**

**22nd March 1979**

SEFF remembers Sir Richard Andrew Sykes who was murdered on 22nd March 1979.

Sir Richard Adam Sykes KCMG MC was the British Ambassador to Netherlands who was murdered by Provisional IRA terrorists along with his 19-year-old footman (Karel Straub) in The Hague on 22nd March 1979. Both men were shot dead as they left Sir Richard’s official residence at 9am for their short journey to the British Embassy.

Sir Richard was 58 years old and was married with three children. During the Second World War he was a Major within the Royal Signals and was subsequently awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

As a diplomat he served in Cuba, Peking and Washington, he had been the Ambassador to the Netherlands for two years prior to his murder.

Three years before his murder he had been sent to Ireland to report to the Foreign Office on the killing of Christopher Ewart-Biggs, who was murdered in a Provisional IRA explosion in 1976.

He had helped to produce security guidelines for diplomats as a result of the investigation but neither his residence nor the British Embassy had security guards.

Sir Richard is remembered on SEFF’s latest Memorial Quilt; Uniting Innocent Victims which includes the 15 innocents murdered by the Provisional IRA via their Mainland European campaign and 16 innocents of ETA terrorism.