



An Garda Síochána

SCOTT MEDAL AWARD

Presentation Ceremony
Walter Scott House, Dublin 8



Monday 9th September 2024

Commissioner's Foreword

This year is significant as it marks 100 years since the first Scott Medal was awarded by Colonel Walter Scott to Garda James Mulroy for his bravery having been held up by two armed men on his way home from duty in Broadford Co. Clare in 1923.

The Scott Medal is awarded to Gardaí who, as Colonel Walter Scott put it himself, *"have distinguished themselves for valour in the performance of their duties."*

At the time, An Garda Síochána was the youngest police service in the world and operating largely unarmed in bitterly and sometimes violently divided communities. Colonel Scott recognised that inevitably there would be times when our unarmed police officers would be under threat. But he knew too, that those dedicated Gardaí would rise to the occasion. Often putting themselves in harm's way to do what was right and just.



For more than 100 years now we have seen the truth of this, and today we continue to recognise those Gardaí who have faced danger head on, at huge risk to themselves in pursuit of justice, and an innate drive to keeping people safe. Our member's dedication to keeping people safe and protecting the community remains as steadfast as it was in August 1924, when the first Gold Scott Medal was awarded. The work of all Gardaí is inherently dangerous, complex and can often stretch far beyond our day-to-day duty, but the selfless courage of some stands out.

Today we will gather to award eight Scott Medals – two gold, one silver, and five bronze - to eight members of An Garda Síochána who have distinguished themselves for valour in the performance of their duties. The bravery shown by these Gardaí whose unwavering commitment to protect and serve the people of Ireland has seen them go above and beyond the call of duty. These courageous individuals have risked life and limb, working in dangerous and fraught situations at their peril, to uphold the law. They have done so selflessly and with distinction.

The Scott Medal is the highest decoration that can be bestowed upon a member of An Garda Síochána for their exceptional courage and bravery.

On this occasion, we especially remember our colleagues being awarded Gold Scott Medals posthumously today - Detective Sergeant Denis O'Brien and Superintendent John Curtin. These Gardaí performed their duties with extraordinary commitment to the communities they served. Above all, they set aside all fear and consciously put the safety of others before their own in a moment of danger or threat. Today, we pay tribute to their dedication to duty.

I wish to welcome the families of our Scott Medal recipients. You share a special part in the awards bestowed today. You have been a huge support to our colleagues, knowing the perils of the job they undertake. Today, we pay tribute to their dedication to duty and be inspired by their selfless actions.

I wish to express my gratitude to each one for their exemplary service to the people of Ireland.

Le meas agus buíochas,

J.A. Harris

Commissioner, An Garda Síochána

Réamhfhocal an Choimisinéara



Tá tábhacht nach beag i mbliana mar go bhfuil sé 100 bliain ó bhronn an Cornal Walter Scott an chéad Bhoonn Scott ar an nGarda James Mulroy as a chuid crógachta tar éis do bheirt fhear armtha é a robáil agus é ar a bhealach abhaile ó dhualgas in Áth Leathan, Co. an Chláir i 1923.

Bronntar Bonn Scott ar Ghardaí, mar a dúirt an Cornal Walter Scott é féin, *“a rinne idirdhealú idir iad féin agus iad i mbun a gcuid dualgas.”*

Ag an am, ba é an Garda Síochána an tseirbhís phóilíneachta is óige ar domhan agus bhí sé ag feidhmiú den chuid is mó neamharmtha i bpobail a bhí foréigneach agus searbh in amanna. D’aithin an Coirnéal Scott go mbeadh amanna ann gan dabht nuair a bheadh ár bpóilíní neamharmtha i mbaol. Ach bhí a fhios aige freisin go n-ardódh na Gardaí tiomanta sin go dtí an ócáid. Is minic a chuireann siad iad féin i mbealach an dochair chun an rud ceart agus cóir a dhéanamh.

Le breis agus 100 bliain anois tá fírinne an scéil feicthe againn, agus inniu táimid fós ag aithint na nGardaí sin a raibh contúirt ag bagairt orthu, iad féin i mbaol mór agus iad ar thóir an chirt, agus feachtas

dúchasach chun daoine a choinneáil slán. Tá tiomantas ár mball chun daoine a choinneáil slán agus an pobal a chosaint chomh díoghbháilte agus a bhí sé i mí Lúnasa 1924, nuair a bronnadh an chéad Bhoonn Óir Scott. Tá obair na nGardaí go léir contúirteach, casta go bunúsach agus is minic a shíneann sí i bhfad níos faide ná ár ndualgas laethúil, ach seasann misneach neamhleithscéalach cuid acu amach.

Tiocfaidh muid le chéile inniu chun ocht mBonn Scott – dhá bhonn óir, airgead amháin, agus cúig bhonn cré-umha – a bhronnadh ar ochtar ball den Gharda Síochána a bhfuil clú agus cáil bainte amach acu as a gcuid dualgas. An crógacht a léirigh na Gardaí seo a bhfuil a dtiomantas díoghbháilte chun muintir na hÉireann a chosaint agus freastal orthu, tá siad ag dul os cionn agus níos faide ná an glaoch dualgais. Chuir na daoine cróga seo beatha agus géag i mbaol, agus iad ag obair i gcásanna contúirteacha agus gránna ar a gconlán féin, chun seasamh leis an dlí. Tá seo déanta acu go neamhleithscéalach agus le gradam.

Is é Bonn Scott an maisiúchán is airde is féidir a bhronnadh ar bhall den Gharda Síochána as a crógacht eisceachtúil.

Ar an ócáid seo, cuimhnimid go háirithe ar ár gcomhghleacaithe ar bronnadh Boinn Óir Scott orthu tar éis a bháis inniu - an Bleachtaire Sáirsint Denis O’Brien agus an Ceannfort John Curtin. Chomhlíon na Gardaí seo a gcuid dualgas le tiomantas neamhghnách do na pobail ar fhreastail siad orthu. Thar aon rud eile, chuir siad gach eagla i leataobh agus chuir siad sábháilteacht daoine eile os a gcomhair féin i nóiméad contúirte nó bagartha. Inniu, gabhaimid buíochas as a ndúthracht i leith dualgais.

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh theaghligh ár bhfaighteoirí Bonn Scott. Tá páirt ar leith agaibh sna gradaim a bhronntar inniu. Thug sibh an-tacaíocht dár gcomhghleacaithe, agus fios maith agat ar na guaiseanna a bhaineann leis an bpost a dhéanann siad. Sa lá atá inniu ann, tugaimid ómós dá ndúthracht i leith dualgais agus a bheith spreagtha ag a ngníomhartha neamhleithscéalacha.

Ba mhaith liom mo buíochas a chur in iúl do gach duine as a seirbhís eiseamláireach do mhuintir na hÉireann.

Le meas agus buíochas,

J.A. Harris

Coimisinéir, An Garda Síochána

Ceremonial Order

- 10:15 am** Medal Recipients, families and invited guests will arrive at Walter Scott House, Military Road, Dublin 8.
- 10:30 am** Medal Recipients, families and invited guests will be requested to take their seats.
- 10:55 am** The Commissioner will meet Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., Minister for Justice at the entrance to Walter Scott House.
- The Minister will inspect the Ceremonial Guard of Honour.
- The Commissioner and The Minister will enter Walter Scott House.
- The Minister will be invited to sign the visitor's book.
- The Commissioner and The Minister will take their seats on the Podium.
- 11:00 am** Superintendent Michael Fleming will invite Father Joe Kennedy and Archdeacon David Pierpoint to say the opening prayers.
- 11:05 am** Superintendent Fleming will invite Deputy Commissioner Shawna Coxon, Strategy, Governance and Performance to make an opening address.
- 11:15 am** Superintendent Fleming will invite Chief Superintendent Raymond McMahon, Mayo/Roscommon/Longford Division to the Podium.
- Chief Superintendent McMahon will read the Citation for Sergeant Kieran Flynn and invite Sergeant Flynn to the Podium to receive his Bronze Scott Medal.
- Chief Superintendent McMahon will read the Citation for Inspector Joseph Finnegan and invite Inspector Finnegan to the Podium to receive his Bronze Scott Medal.
- Superintendent Fleming will invite Chief Superintendent Michael McNulty, DMR West Division to the Podium.
- Chief Superintendent McNulty will read the Citation for Detective Garda Warren Farrell and invite Detective Garda Farrell to the Podium to receive his Bronze Scott Medal.
- Chief Superintendent McNulty will read the Citation for Sergeant Niamh Connaughton and will invite Sergeant Connaughton to the Podium to receive her Bronze Scott Medal.

Ceremonial Order

Superintendent Fleming will invite Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers, Cork City Division to the Podium.

Chief Superintendent Myers will read the Citation for the late Detective Garda Morgan Lahiffe and invite Jean Lahiffe, wife of the late Detective Garda Lahiffe to the Podium to receive a Bronze Scott Medal which is being awarded posthumously.

Chief Superintendent Myers will read the Citation for Garda Timothy McSweeney and invite Garda McSweeney to the Podium to receive his Silver Scott Medal.

Superintendent Fleming will invite Chief Superintendent Peter Burke, DMR South Division to the Podium.

Chief Superintendent Burke will read the Citation for the late Detective Sergeant Denis O'Brien and invite Meabh McKeown, granddaughter of the late Detective Sergeant O'Brien to the Podium to receive a Gold Scott Medal which is being awarded posthumously.

Superintendent Fleming will invite Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner, Clare/ Tipperary Division to the Podium.

Chief Superintendent Magner will read the Citation for the late Superintendent John Curtin and invite Michael Curtin nephew, of the late Superintendent John Curtin to the Podium to receive a Gold Scott Medal which is being awarded posthumously.

12:10 pm Superintendent Fleming will invite the Commissioner to address the Medal Recipients, their families and invited guests.

12:20 pm Superintendent Fleming will invite the Minister for Justice, to address the Medal Recipients, their families and invited guests.

12:30 pm Superintendent Fleming will call on Deputy Commissioner, Strategy, Governance and Performance to close the ceremony and invite Inspector Pat Kenny of the Garda Band to play Amhrán na bhFiann.

Refreshments will be provided in Walter Scott House for Medal recipients, their families and invited guests.



*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Sergeant Kieran Flynn,
25594G*



On the 25th October 1997, near Lady's Bay, Belderrig, Mayo, a group of people became trapped within a sea cave. The services of the Garda Underwater Unit were sought to assist with the rescue. Rescue conditions were extremely dangerous due to the weather conditions, sea current conditions, wave surges through the length of the sea cave and the fact that it was night-time. An initial rescue conducted by the Garda Underwater Unit which included Garda Kieran Flynn and Garda Joseph Finnegan had successfully rescued three survivors from the sea cave.

Following the rescue of the survivors, a daylight operation was launched to recover the bodies of two men who had not survived. Conditions inside the cave had deteriorated with 15 and 20 foot waves crashing into the cave. In full knowledge of the dangerous conditions, Garda Flynn and Garda Finnegan entered the water with a tow rope and large floating fenders. Garda Flynn and Garda Finnegan proceeding with great difficulty, succeeded in reaching the back of the cave at which point they were both washed up on the rocks by the heavy waves.

On the rocks at the back of the cave, Garda Flynn and Garda Finnegan located the bodies of the two deceased men. Garda Flynn and Garda Finnegan secured the bodies of the two men to the tow rope and buoyed them using floating fenders. The two Gardaí guiding the bodies were carried out through the breaking surf to the water's edge on a pre-arranged torch signal to the boat.

This was a difficult and dangerous operation, which took almost one and a half hours and called for seamanship, co-ordination and bravery of the highest order from those involved in treacherous conditions.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Bronze Scott Medal is awarded to Sergeant Kieran Flynn.



*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Inspector Joseph Finnegan,
24713H*



On the 25th October 1997, near Lady's Bay, Belderrig, Mayo, a group of people became trapped within a sea cave. The services of the Garda Underwater Unit were sought to assist with the rescue. Rescue conditions were extremely dangerous due to the weather conditions, sea current conditions, wave surges through the length of the sea cave and the fact that it was night-time. An initial rescue conducted by the Garda Underwater Unit which included Garda Joseph Finnegan and Garda Kieran Flynn had successfully rescued three survivors from the sea cave.

Following the rescue of the survivors, a daylight operation was launched to recover the bodies of two men who had not survived. Conditions inside the cave had deteriorated with 15 and 20 foot waves crashing into the cave. In full knowledge of the dangerous conditions, Garda Finnegan and Garda Flynn entered the water with a tow rope and large floating fenders. Garda Finnegan and Flynn proceeding with great difficulty, succeeded in reaching the back of the cave at which point they were both washed up on the rocks by the heavy waves.

On the rocks at the back of the cave, Garda Finnegan and Garda Flynn located the bodies of the two deceased men. Garda Finnegan and Garda Flynn secured the bodies of the two men to the tow rope and buoyed them using floating fenders. The two Gardaí guiding the bodies were carried out through the breaking surf to the water's edge on a pre-arranged torch signal to the boat.

This was a difficult and dangerous operation, which took almost one and a half hours and called for seamanship, co-ordination and bravery of the highest order from those involved in treacherous conditions.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Bronze Scott Medal is awarded to Inspector Joseph Finnegan.



*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Detective Garda Warren Farrell,
33642D*



On the 27th March 2013, Garda Warren Farrell and Garda Niamh Connaughton, were on patrol in a marked patrol van. They were driving down the Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, when Garda Connaughton saw a white Ford Transit van pull up ahead of them outside the Carry Out Off Licence. Gardaí Farrell and Connaughton then observed two males alight from this vehicle and run into the Carry Out Off Licence, they had their hoods up and their faces concealed. Garda Farrell brought the patrol van to a stop outside the off licence; to see inside the shop, both Gardaí could see that a robbery was taking place inside.

One male was observed by Gardaí on top of the counter trying to prise the till open with a screwdriver while the other male appeared to be threatening a female staff member at gunpoint. Garda Farrell entered the off licence followed by Garda Connaughton in the full knowledge that both of the males were armed. Garda Farrell identified himself and shouted “Gardaí, get down on the ground”.

The male armed with a handgun jumped back over the counter and ran down an aisle on the shop floor, followed by his accomplice. Both Gardaí remained at the entrance to the shop to prevent both males from leaving. Garda Farrell continued to shout “put the gun down and get on the ground”. The male with the handgun stood up from behind a pallet of beer and pointed his handgun at both Gardaí. The situation was volatile and both Gardaí feared for their safety and that of the public, both inside and outside the premises.

Both males ran towards the Gardaí in their attempt to escape and a struggle ensued. Garda Farrell attempted to apprehend the male armed with the screwdriver while Garda Connaughton deployed her incapacitant spray towards the male with the handgun. Garda Connaughton was violently assaulted during the struggle. Garda Farrell went to his colleague’s assistance to restrain the male with the handgun. Both Gardaí eventually subdued the male, disarmed him and made an arrest. The male with the screwdriver who had managed to escape was later arrested.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Bronze Scott Medal is awarded to Detective Garda Warren Farrell.



*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Sergeant Niamh Connaughton,
35291H*



On the 27th March 2013, Garda Niamh Connaughton and Garda Warren Farrell, were on patrol in a marked patrol van. They were driving down the Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, when Garda Connaughton saw a white Ford Transit van pull up ahead of them outside the Carry Out Off Licence. Gardaí Connaughton and Farrell then observed two males alight from this vehicle and run into the Carry Out Off Licence, they had their hoods up and their faces concealed. Garda Farrell brought the patrol van to a stop outside the off licence; to see inside the shop, both Gardaí could see that a robbery was taking place inside.

One male was observed by Gardaí on top of the counter trying to prise the till open with a screwdriver while the other male appeared to be threatening a female staff member at gunpoint. Garda Connaughton and Garda Farrell entered the off licence and observed one male jump over the counter while the other male was behind the counter beside a female staff member.

The male armed with a handgun jumped back over the counter and ran down an aisle on the shop floor, followed by his accomplice. Both Gardaí remained at the entrance to the shop to prevent both males from leaving. The male with the handgun stood up from behind a pallet of beer and pointed his handgun at both Gardaí. The situation was volatile and both Gardaí feared for their safety and that of the public, both inside and outside the premises.

Both males ran towards the Gardaí in their attempt to escape and a struggle ensued. Garda Connaughton deployed her incapacitant spray towards the male with the handgun, who grabbed hold of a customer and used him as a shield. Garda Connaughton was violently assaulted when attempting to apprehend this male. Garda Farrell went to his colleague's assistance to restrain the male with the handgun. Both Gardaí eventually subdued the male, disarmed him and made an arrest. The male with the screwdriver who had managed to escape was later arrested.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of her duty, the Bronze Scott Medal is awarded to Sergeant Niamh Connaughton.



*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Detective Garda Morgan Lahiffe,
14647A*



On the 20th August 1971, Garda Morgan Lahiffe was on duty at Togher Garda Station when he received a phone call from Union Quay Communications Room stating that three armed raiders entered the Five Star Supermarket, Togher.

Garda Lahiffe accompanied by Garda Gerry O'Sullivan responded to the call. On arrival at the scene, Garda Lahiffe and Garda O'Sullivan made their way inside the Supermarket.

Garda Lahiffe observed a masked man at the far end of the shop as he began to make his way towards the back of the shop; the masked raider ran towards Garda Lahiffe and Garda O'Sullivan pointing his gun at them and ordered the Gardaí to get out of the shop.

Garda Lahiffe and Garda O'Sullivan refused to leave the shop, then a second armed raider came from an office to the left of the Gardaí and ordered the Gardaí to leave the shop. Garda Lahiffe and Garda O'Sullivan were forced to retreat.

As the armed raiders left the premises to make good their escape, both Gardaí were again threatened at gunpoint. The armed raiders got into a car and drove onto Clashdub Road and were pursued by Garda Lahiffe and Garda O'Sullivan.

Garda O'Sullivan got out of the car at a phone box to alert Headquarters and request assistance. Garda Lahiffe followed the armed raiders to the College Road area where he was joined by other Garda members, in a marked patrol car. Garda Lahiffe provided details to these members who took up the search for the armed raiders.

One of the armed raiders attempted to escape on foot and the Garda members gave chase. Subsequently the armed raiders were apprehended.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Bronze Scott Medal is awarded posthumously to Detective Garda Morgan Lahiffe RIP.



*Award of Silver Scott Medal
Garda Timothy McSweeney,
26324K*



On the 24th March 2022, a call was received by Gardaí to attend at a house in Douglas Co. Cork, where there was a domestic incident taking place and the injured party was in fear for her safety and that of her children.

Garda Timothy McSweeney, who was on patrol in the area, responded to the call.

Garda McSweeney entered the house and spoke with a male who was intoxicated and in an agitated state and was demanding to see his children. Garda McSweeney was talking to the male trying to resolve the situation in a calm manner, when the male made his way to the kitchen and grabbed a large knife from a kitchen drawer. The male held up the knife in a threatening manner towards Garda McSweeney.

In order to protect himself and the occupants of the house Garda McSweeney instinctively grabbed his wrist with the intention of disarming him. A violent struggle ensued where Garda McSweeney suffered a number of knife wounds to his arms and an injury to his knee and back when he was dragged to the floor. The male continued to resist and made threats to kill Garda McSweeney.

Garda McSweeney continued to struggle with the male for some time until he managed to get the male onto the ground, drew his baton and restrained him. Garda McSweeney managed to take possession of the knife and subsequently called for assistance.

Responding to a domestic violence incident, the actions of Garda McSweeney prevented the risk of harm / loss of life to others in the household.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Silver Scott Medal is awarded to Garda Timothy McSweeney.



Award of Gold Scott Medal
Detective Sergeant Denis O'Brien,
8288



On the 9th September 1942, Detective Sergeant Denis O'Brien left his family home at Rathfarnham and got into his motor car. Unknown to him, three IRA men in trench coats and armed with Thompson sub-machine guns lay in wait and as he drove down his driveway, two gunmen fired on him. He abandoned his transport and moved towards the gate of his home.

Despite being confronted by gunmen who had the advantage of cover, planning, superior firepower and superior numbers Detective Sergeant O'Brien drew his firearm and discharged a number of shots.

Another gunman was lying in wait for the eventuality that Detective Sergeant O'Brien would escape the fire from his accomplices and arrive at the gateway. Detective Sergeant O'Brien was fatally wounded by a shot to the head.

The gunmen mounted their bicycles and fled the scene. A further gunman left on foot and was subsequently arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to death by hanging.

For exceptional courage and bravery, which led to the loss of his life in the execution of his duty as a member of An Garda Síochána, the Gold Scott Medal is awarded posthumously to Detective Sergeant Denis O'Brien RIP.



Award of Gold Scott Medal Superintendent John Curtin, 783



On the 21st March 1931, Superintendent John Curtin was on duty and was conducting a late night inspection of Golden Garda Station, Co. Tipperary. There was criminal paramilitary activity in the area throughout this period of time and despite being threatened by way of letter in November 1930, Superintendent Curtin carried out his duty diligently at a time of great uncertainty. In the days prior to his death Superintendent Curtin brought a number of suspects before the Circuit Court in Clonmel in relation to paramilitary activity.

On the night in question, Superintendent Curtin returned to his house late and the gates to his house had been closed which was unusual. Superintendent Curtin exited his Morris Cowley car leaving his lights on in order to open the gates. As he returned to his car, armed gunmen who had hidden behind a wall at the entrance to Superintendent Curtin's house revealed themselves. The armed gunmen opened fire on Superintendent Curtin and shot him a number of times ultimately fatally wounding him. Superintendent Curtin was unarmed at the time.

Superintendent Curtin lay on the ground for some time before being discovered by his sister-in-law, who went to investigate the car lights. With the help of neighbours, Superintendent Curtin was brought into his house by his sister-in-law and his heavily pregnant wife. He died that same night without regaining consciousness.

For exceptional courage and bravery, which led to the loss of his life in the execution of his duty as a member of An Garda Síochána, the Gold Scott Medal is awarded posthumously to Superintendent John Curtin RIP.

Scott Medal Recipients

*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Sergeant Kieran Flynn, 25594G*

*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Inspector Joseph Finnegan, 24713H*

*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Detective Garda Warren Farrell, 33642D*

*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Sergeant Niamh Connaughton, 35291H*

*Award of Bronze Scott Medal
Detective Garda Morgan Lahiffe, 14647A (Posthumously)*

*Award of Silver Scott Medal
Garda Timothy McSweeney, 26324K*

*Award of Gold Scott Medal
Detective Sergeant Denis O'Brien, 8288 (Posthumously)*

*Award of Gold Scott Medal
Superintendent John Curtin, 783 (Posthumously)*

Colonel Walter Scott



Colonel Walter Scott
(1861 – 1935)

The donor of the Medal for Valour in the Garda Síochána, a noted philanthropist, friend of the international police community, leader in the Order of Scottish Clans in the United States and Canada, was born in Montreal in 1861, of Scots-Canadian parents, Walter and Mary (Sharp) Scott.

In 1864, the family moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where young Walter found a job in the grocery business, probably as a messenger boy, at \$2 a week. By the age of ten, he was manager of a small fruit store near Harvard University. At fifteen, the precocious young businessman joined Butler Brothers, a firm of general wholesalers. In 1889 he was appointed manager in New York. He retired in 1932 after 55 years' service with the same employers.

In his letter to General Eoin O'Duffy confirming the offer to endow a Medal for Valour for the new Irish police force, he wrote: "It has always been a practice of mine to present flowers during life, when one can enjoy their beauty and fragrance".

He sponsored scholarships at Smith College, the Stevens Institute of Technology and the American International College; he was a founder of the New York Broad Street Hospital, President of the Walter Scott Free Industrial School for Crippled Children and, among his many other charities, he endowed numerous hospital beds.

A lifelong interest in police work was prompted, perhaps, by his contacts with the service in the course of his charitable work. He endowed medals for bravery by policemen in New York, Boston, Worcester, Holyoke, Detroit, in Argentina and, of course, in Ireland. The New York City Police made him one of their own by appointing him an honorary Commissioner.

Walter Scott died in 1935 at the age of 74, laden with honours at home and abroad. He was a knight of the French Legion of Honour, a member of the Belgian Order of Leopold and held the Silver Grand Cross of Austria. He was, also decorated by the British Government.

History of the Scott Medal

In 1923, Colonel Walter Scott, an Honorary Commissioner of the New York City Police and a well-known philanthropist, presented An Garda Síochána, then the world's youngest Police Force, with a \$1,000 gold bond, the interest of which was to pay for an 18-carat gold medal to be presented Garda members who had performed the most heroic act of bravery in any one year.

There was only one condition attached to the award of the Scott Medal: “No action, however heroic, will merit the award of the Scott medal unless it takes the shape of an act of personal bravery, performed intelligently in the execution of duty at imminent risk to the life of the doer, and armed with full previous knowledge of the risk involved”.

The Scott Medal Award is the highest award for bravery that An Garda Síochána can bestow upon a member of the service and will only be awarded to the most deserving of members who have performed an exceptional act of bravery, risking their life in full knowledge of the risk concerned.

The medal is in the form of a Celtic cross. There are five panels on the face of the medal that depict the words “The Scott Medal”, “For Valor”, the eagle and the shield of the USA, the harp and sunburst and the Garda Crest. The reverse of the medal carries the inscription, “Garda Síochána na h-Éireann”. The 4 outside panels are the arms of the four provinces of Ireland - Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught.



Gold, Silver and Bronze Scott Medals

History of the Scott Medal

Scott Medals of Gold, Silver and Bronze are awarded by the Commissioner. Gold medals may be awarded to members who have displayed exceptional courage and heroism involving risk to life in the execution of duty. The Silver and Bronze medals may be awarded to members who have performed similar acts in the execution of duty, but with less risk to their lives and who are next in order of merit.

Each member receiving a Scott Medal will also receive a wooden citation outlining the details of the incident for which they received the award.

The largest number of awards was between 1971 and 1980, the worst decade for political violence, when 96 medals were awarded, followed closely by the period 1981 to 1990 when 88 medals were awarded. This period of heightened subversion contrasted sharply with the period 1951 to 1960 when medals were awarded to only six members of An Garda Síochána. To date, over 400 medals have been awarded to members of An Garda Síochána.



Walter Scott House, Military Road, Dublin 8.



Original design of the Scott Medal rear, Iris an Garda, 1923



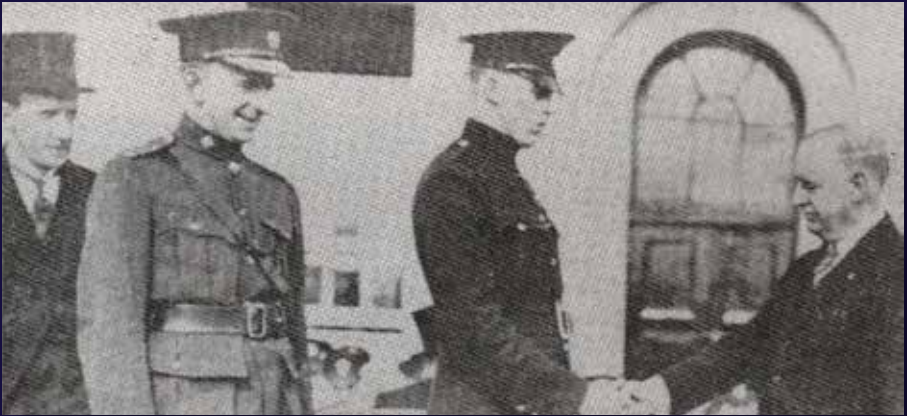
Original design of the Scott Medal front, Iris an Garda, 1923



Walter Scott and his daughter Edith Scott Magna in Ireland



Original dies for the Scott Medal made by Dieges & Clust, New York 1924.



*18th August 1924, Presentation of the first Scott Medal to Garda James Mulroy.
Left to right, Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Kevin O'Higgins, T.D., Commissioner Eoin
O'Duffy, Garda James Mulroy, Colonel Walter Scott.*

WALTER SCOTT
FUCHS SIXTY-FOUR BROADWAY
NEW YORK

January 8, 1924.

General E. O'Duffy,
Board of Trade Building,
Dublin,
Ireland.

My dear General O'Duffy
It is with some little ordinary
pleasure that I at last announce the
fact that you and your committee, Mr.
Patrick Walsh, when you were present here
at the International Follen Conference
which office was suggested by you as an
honorary member, will send to be
known as the "Irish Gold Medal for Valor",
and will be awarded annually by you
or your Department to the member of the
Irish Guard who in your judgment, in the
course of your service, has during the calendar
year especially distinguished himself for
valour in the performance of duty. It is
understood that this medal is given in
recognition, and for that purpose I have
much pleasure in enclosing a list of the
names of the members of the Irish Guard
Company, Detroit, Michigan, (1923),
attached to this, this time in the form
of your appointment as City Treasurer, the
interest thereon to pay for the gold
medal annually.

Before separating under the idea was
also being forwarded to you. They were
made by George Hagen & Co. of this
city, who also made the first medal.

I am also forwarding to you by
registered mail the first gold medal, and it
has been my custom to present the first one
in addition to the honor and the size of
amount, since the medal is intended you will
have the recipient's name engraved on the
back.

It is the wish of those making
the medal, to see it utilized to its full

WALTER SCOTT
FUCHS SIXTY-FOUR BROADWAY
NEW YORK

January 8, 1924.

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an act of heroism performed during the
year, the named interest shall become
a part of the principal.

Why I say in connection with
this medal matter that great credit is
due your people who prepared the drawing
the medal has been struck from very fine
silver and is made of 18K gold. As
you will perceive, the entire design is
Celtic, and embodies the Famine Celtic
Cross.

And say I say in closing, to
your General O'Duffy, that it affords me
heartfelt pleasure to donate this medal
in perpetuity to the Irish Guard of the
Irish Free State. While I am not of the
belief that it is necessary to offer medals
as an incentive for the performance of duty
yet it has always been a practice of mine
to present winners during life when men
and women their beauty and noble their
fragnance. Hence, this gift of the medal
is perpetuity to your Department.

With best wishes to your Civic
Guard, also to Mr. Walsh and your good wife,

Believe me,
Very sincerely yours,

Walter Scott

W. S.

Original letter from Colonel Walter Scott
to Commissioner Eoin O'Duffy,
8th January 1924



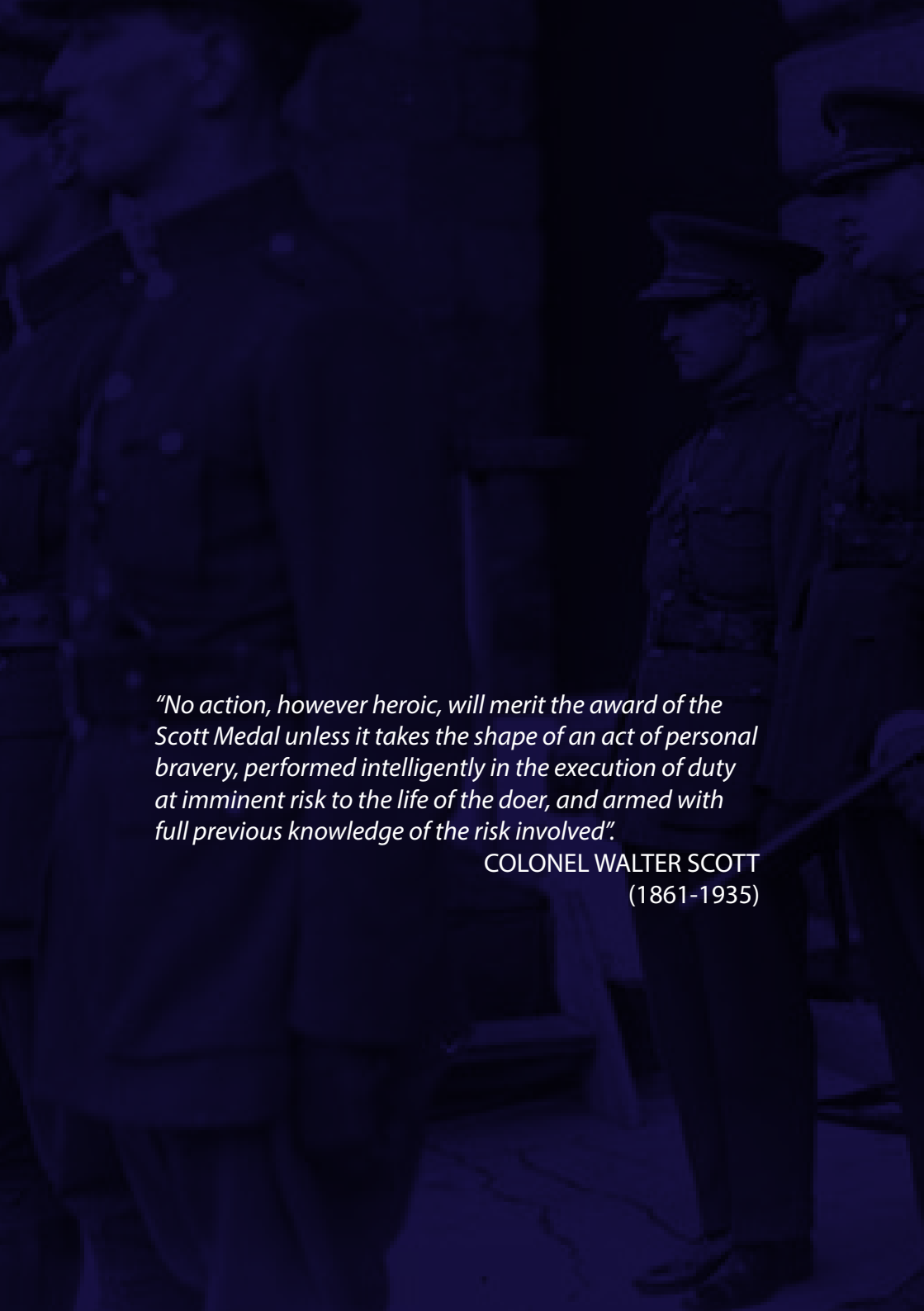
An Garda Síochána

SCOTT MEDAL AWARD

Presentation Ceremony
Walter Scott House, Dublin 8







"No action, however heroic, will merit the award of the Scott Medal unless it takes the shape of an act of personal bravery, performed intelligently in the execution of duty at imminent risk to the life of the doer, and armed with full previous knowledge of the risk involved".

COLONEL WALTER SCOTT
(1861-1935)