An Garda Síochána

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

100 Years of Keeping People Safe
Foreword

An Garda Síochána’s On-line Photography Archive is one of the initiatives undertaken to mark the 100th Anniversary of An Garda Síochána and will ensure we preserve our history in a digital age.

This project was completed under the auspice of the Centenary Commemoration Steering Group, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Ann Marie McMahon, the Garda Centenary Assets sub-committee chaired by Assistant Commissioner Orla McPartlin and the Garda Centenary Communications sub-committee, chaired by Mr Andrew McLindon.

It is also important that we acknowledge the significant work of our colleagues in the Garda National Technical Bureau (Photographic Section), who both maintained and catalogued the collection ensuring its retention as an important part of our organisation’s history. In particular the late Errill Meagher, who saved the collection in 1979 from being disposed of when the Bureau moved from John’s Road, and for the last 20 years Detective Garda Ian Redican, who has worked on digitising and restoring the images which has taken thousands of hours of painstaking work, and assisted in recent years by Detective Sergeant Dave Conway.

An Garda Síochána is delighted to launch the initiative on the 13th July 2022, in the Chapel and grounds of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, which has a historical link to the commencement of An Garda Síochána. The Royal Hospital had been built during the 17th century to accommodate wounded soldiers and army pensioners. Kilmainham had been retained by the British Government following independence in 1922, but by 1929 the last military pensioners had departed and it was handed over to the Irish Free State, becoming Garda Headquarters in 1931. Commissioner Eoin O’Duffy suggested using the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham as temporary headquarters until Dublin Castle became available. The Royal Hospital remained as Garda Headquarters until 1950 but was vacated when some of the buildings were found to be in a dangerous and unstable condition. Garda Headquarters returned to the Phoenix Park Depot where they have remained to this day. Commissioner O’Duffy’s ‘temporary’ move to Kilmainham had lasted for almost 20 years.

The On-line Photography Archive represents a unique collection of what will be thousands of historical photographs of An Garda Síochána, providing a fascinating insight into An Garda Síochána. The collections, which date back to a time before the foundation of An Garda Síochána in 1922, have been filtered into various categories, including a ‘What’s new’ section enabling users to scan the website easily. The On-line Photography Archive will develop into a significant digital resource with new photographs from the Garda Historical archives being added every month, enticing users back to see new collections as they come on-line.

An Garda Síochána On-line Photography Archive is an incredible resource, which will give a unique perspective into the history of An Garda Síochána and no doubt that they will generate huge interest both at national level and internationally.
R.I.C. Depot, Phoenix Park, Dublin, c.1909

Funeral of Kevin O'Higgins, O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1927
Catholic Emancipation Centenary, Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1929

Saorstat Éireann Van, Kevin Street Garda Station, Dublin, 1930
Garda Sports, Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 1931

Motor Accident, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, 1932
Garda & German Boxers, Garda Depot, Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1934

(L - R: M.H. Horgan, M.P. Wall, M.P. Saul) Photographic Section, Dublin Castle, 1935
Crime Scene, Roscommon, 1936

Ford Model Y, Garda Car, 30th July 1938
Garda Choir, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1939

Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1939
Crime Scene, Clarendon Street, Dublin, 1945

Gardaí, Rochfortbridge Garda Station, Co. Westmeath, 1947
Ballistics Test, c.1970

Bridewell Gardaí on the beat, Dublin, 1971
Garda Recruit, Garda College, Templemore, 1977
First Women Gardaí Marching, Dublin, 1959
‘The Civic Guard’, Collinstown, Dublin, 20th November 1922