

THE TROUBLES COME SOUTH MURDER AND MAYHEM



**JOHN O'BRIEN RECALLS
THE IMPACT AND THE LEGACY**

“The Troubles” Come South

Murder and Mayhem



Talbot Street Car Bomb 17 May 1974 – Sergeant Tom Madden

John O'Brien

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The Future 2023

It was hoped that Government would realise belatedly that this National Police and Security organisation is without parallel in these islands and further afield. It should not be the source of over remunerated employment. Retired members of sister organisations come from very different backgrounds and loyalties. Their culture and experience are not the experience of An Garda Síochána. Axiomatically all organisations can learn from each other, cooperation and coordination should be on the highest level. Lessons from the past should not go unnoticed.

The apparent dilution of the national ethos in policing command must be reversed. It is apparent that domestic policing and security experience has been studiously avoided. This has been evident during the so-called reform process. It is a short-sighted strategy and will be counterproductive in the longer term.

The Centenary of An Garda Síochána which occurred in 2022 provided many opportunities to recognise the contribution made by the men and women of An Garda Síochána to the Irish State. Garda Retired participated in many ceremonies country wide which provided a local focus for colleagues and their families. These events renewed the bond with serving colleagues. It is hard to express the great satisfaction and pleasure which came from the ceremonies. The Garda Band, the Garda Ceremonial Unit added a wonderful almost magical flavour to these occasions. The presence of the Garda Chaplains was an integral part of many ceremonies. It was greatly appreciated that local serving gardai and their leaders wholeheartedly cooperated in making these occasions unique and memorable. The strongest feature was the inclusivity which animated the local ceremonies.

Unfortunately, this was not necessarily the case for Garda HQ. It was intended that the Garda Cenotaph in the Phoenix Park would be fully refurbished and that the Garda Museum in Dublin Castle would be extended and resourced to record the rich history of the organisation. Fully one year later the Cenotaph was restored.

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The expression “The Troubles” describes the Northern Ireland conflict and its impact on the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom between 1969 and 1998.

