**Sgt Patrick Morrissey**

**27th June 1985**

SEFF remembers Sgt Patrick Morrissey who was murdered on 27th June 1985 by Provisional IRA terrorists.

Sgt Morrissey was born on 7th March, 1936, he originally came from Belturbet, Co. Cavan. He joined An Garda Síochána on 14th December 1960 but prior to that served in the National Army from 1953 to 1960.  After almost 14 years’ service Patrick was promoted to Sergeant on 24th October 1974.  Sergeant Morrissey served in various locations including Waterford, Drogheda, Dublin, Omeath and Collon, County Louth.

Patrick was an experienced life-saver, his allocation to Headquarters saw him play a major role in the development of the Garda Sub-Aqua Unit. He was married with four children. Sergeant Morrissey was posthumously awarded the Scott Gold Medal on 4th December 1986.

On 27th June 1985, Gardai Peter Long and Brendan Flynn were on mobile patrol at Ardee, Co. Louth. As they approached the town’s Labour Exchange they came upon a robbery in progress. Two armed men had ambushed the manager and stolen £25,000 in cash. When the raiders saw the patrol car, they fled the scene in the manager’s car, discharging their firearms at the two Gardai.

Following in pursuit, the patrol car picked up Sergeant Morrissey along the way. The chase ended abruptly at Rathbrist Cross, when the raiders, now on a motor-cycle, crashed into an approaching car, injuring the occupants of the car. Gardai Flynn and Long stayed with the injured persons while Sergeant Morrissey, alone and on foot, pursued the raiders. As he caught up with them a shot was fired and he fell to the ground grievously wounded.  One of the gunmen stood over him and at point blank range shot the Sergeant dead.

Garda Morrissey died whilst serving the State and the community.

The Scott Medal was posthumously awarded to Sergeant Patrick Morrissey on 4th December 1986.  In 2013 he was also awarded the Freedom of Drogheda by Drogheda Borough Council, it was the first such award of its kind.

As mentioned, Patrick was one of the founder members of the Garda Sub Aqua Unit but he also helped to set up the Garda Male Voice Choir - this is why these two images are depicted on his patch within the Terrorism knows No Borders Memorial Quilt.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the Morrissey family today and every day.