



Award of Silver Scott Medal
Detective Inspector Richard Fahey, 22432D
Special Tactics & Operations Command



Following the terrorist kidnap by the INLA of John O' Grady in October 1987 An Garda Síochána was involved in an extensive national policing and security operation.

On 5 November 1987, Detective Garda Richard Fahey was a passenger in an official patrol car driven by Detective Garda Brian Coade, when they responded to a call for assistance at Carnlough Road, Cabra, Dublin 7. Over the Garda radio they were informed that shots had been fired and a member of An Garda Síochána had been injured.

On arrival at the junction between Carnlough Road and Kilkiernan Road, Cabra, Detective Garda Fahey and Detective Garda Coade saw two males one armed with a semi-automatic rifle and one armed with a long barrel pump action shotgun. As Detective Garda Fahey got out of the official patrol car, without warning the detectives were fired upon by both males with bullets striking the patrol car and ricocheting off the ground. Detective Garda Coade also dived for cover out of the patrol car. The patrol car was later examined and found to have been struck multiple times on the passenger door and wing.

Detective Garda Fahey and Detective Garda Coade took shelter behind an empty bus, whilst under continuous fire. The Detectives called on the armed terrorists 'Gardaí – Halt' but both Gardaí remained under fire. The two terrorists retreated along Kilkiernan Road in military fashion, maintaining consistent fire on both Detectives; both narrowly escaped injury or death. Despite the level of incoming fire Detective Garda Fahey and Coade returned fire and continued to pursue the terrorists.

Detective Garda Fahey fired two shots from his official UZI Submachine gun, hitting the terrorist armed with the shotgun. This male continued to return fire. Detective Garda Coade also fired at this male striking him at least once. To evade capture, the terrorists attempted to hijack a vehicle from an elderly couple. They abandoned that attempt and took possession of a corporation road sweeper lorry and made good their escape. Due to the high volume of civilians in the area, the Detective Gardaí refrained from further firing at the terrorists.

Detective Garda Fahey returned to retrieve the patrol car to continue the chase. He came across two Garda colleagues who had located a wounded male in a nearby house. The wounded male stated that he was the victim of kidnapping and identified himself as Dr John O'Grady. Unbeknown to Detective Garda Coade and Detective Garda Fahey, they had been in a gun battle with members of the Dessie O'Hare Terrorist Gang, who had held Dr O'Grady captive for a 23-day kidnapping ordeal. Detective Garda Fahey's priority turned to providing medical assistance to Dr O'Grady, and ensured that he was safely conveyed to hospital for urgent medical treatment.

The two suspects were subsequently arrested, convicted and sentenced to forty years imprisonment.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Silver Scott Medal is awarded to Detective Inspector Richard Fahey.