



Award of Gold Scott Medal
Detective Sergeant Patrick McKeown 11919
Detective Branch, Dublin Castle



On 16 August 1940, Detective Sergeant Patrick McKeown, 11919, accompanied by four colleagues, set out to execute a search warrant under Section 29 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939, at a suspected IRA training headquarters at 98A Rathgar Road, Dublin.

The Garda members were aware that it was likely that armed members of the IRA were inside the premises.

On reaching the premises, Detective Sergeant McKeown, accompanied by Detective Garda Hyland and Detective Garda Brady approached the front door to gain admittance. Detective Gardaí Mullally and Wilmot went to the rear of the premises.

A young girl appeared at the front door but did not admit the detectives. Detective Sergeant McKeown, along with his colleagues, became suspicious as they had heard movement coming from the premises, but were unable to see anyone.

Detective Sergeant McKeown went to the rear of the premises and he was informed by Detective Garda Mullally that movement had been heard. Detective Sergeant McKeown returned to the front of the premises.

The front door was opened by a youth of about fifteen years of age, who appeared to attempt to stall the entry of the detectives. Detective Garda Hyland pushed the door open and Detective Garda Brady led the way into the shop, followed by Detective Sergeant McKeown. The youth asked for identification and retreated behind the shop counter. The youth was informed "We are Police Officers" and shown identification by Detective Garda Hyland.

Without warning, there was a burst of gunfire from a Thompson sub-machine gun from a hidden gunman. Detective Sergeant McKeown suffered one gunshot wound.

Despite his injuries, Detective Sergeant McKeown was able to escape from the premises and was able to warn his colleague Detective Garda Wilmot, who was approaching from the rear of the premises. Three armed IRA members then ran from 98A Rathgar Road. The warning signalled by Detective Sergeant McKeown saved Detective Garda Wilmot from directly confronting the armed IRA members. Detective Sergeant McKeown died from the gunshot wound the following day, 17 August 1940.

Detective Garda Hyland died from multiple gunshot wounds at the scene and Detective Garda Brady was hospitalised as a result of a single gunshot wound.

Two members of the IRA were arrested nearby by Detective Gardaí Mullally and Wilmot, and were convicted on 20 August 1940 for the murder of Detective Sergeant McKeown and Detective Garda Hyland.

During the search at 98A Rathgar Road, Dublin, evidence in support of the suspicion of the existence of an IRA training headquarters was discovered, which included an array of weapons including a Thompson submachine gun, revolvers, pistols, ammunition and documentary evidence. Following the arrest of the two IRA members a Thompson submachine gun and revolver were recovered.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Gold Scott Medal is awarded posthumously to Detective Sergeant Patrick McKeown.