



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA GALWAY | GAILLIMH

19 20 22

Garda Uniform

The Garda uniform is in this, our centenary year - 2022, about to undergo a change in style driven by necessity as regards operational practicality. The formal shirt and tie will be replaced by a more practical liveried polo-shirt and the trousers will be replaced by navy combats with extra pockets for day-to-day use. This will be the 5th change to the Garda uniform since the inception of the force.

The original uniform of 1922, when eventually issued, consisted of a formal, high-collared tunic and shirts with detachable collars. Up to the issue of this uniform in sufficient numbers, the original members of the force were distinguishable only by their Garda caps.

It was not until 1952 that the first major change took place with the issue of an open-neck tunic with the Garda crests on the lapels, a style which remains with the force to this day for formal occasions. The old police helmet, up to that time worn in Dublin and Cork, was withdrawn. This second issue of the uniform became known as the 'bulls-wool' as the material was stiff and notoriously hard to keep clean. The buttons were silver in colour and required regular polishing.

This 'bulls-wool' uniform was worn until 1987, when the material was changed to a lighter shade of blue with anodised gold buttons and insignia; the cap with the plastic peak was consigned to history. While impressive to look at, this uniform was still more appropriate for ceremonial duties on the parade ground rather than the realities of modern police work.

In 1991, the formal tunic was replaced for outdoor duty with a more functional patrol jacket in an attempt to provide both comfort and practicality for varying weather conditions. A NATO sweater was also introduced for the first time.

In 2005/6, the uniform was again updated, with the patrol jacket being changed to a shorter blouse style. Protective boots were also issued at this time. The fit of the patrol jacket was changed once more some years later and this is the uniform in use today. Stab vests were issued in 2007 to all members of the force.

Despite the changes to the uniform over the years, the Garda cap remained largely consistent in design, with only the material of the peak having been changed in 1987. The only other change was in 2020, when regulations were amended to allow certain members of the force to wear particular headgear associated with their religious and cultural beliefs. Specialist Units such as Armed Support, Scenes of Crime, Mountain Bike, Motor-Cyclists and Public Order Units are issued with uniforms and equipment suited to their operational needs.

The first Garda Síochána Code in 1928 directed that "members on duty are to be clean and regular in their person, clothing and equipment. They are to be properly shaved with hair properly cut and dressed. Their buttons, handcuffs, truncheon and truncheon case are to be clean and polished". Eventually, in 2021, Gardai were permitted to wear beards.



Garda Dan Gallagher. Transferred to Galway on 13th June 1925 from Cahir in County Tipperary. Courtesy of Tony Gallagher.

An Garda Dan Gallagher. A aistriódh go Gaillimh ar an 13 Meitheamh 1925 ón gCathair i gContae Thiobraid Árann. Le caoinchead Tony Gallagher.

Éide

Táimid ar tí Éide an Gharda Síochána a athrú i mbliana, cothrom céad bliain ó bunaíodh an fórsa, toisc go bhfuil gá leis ó thaobh praiticiúlacht oibríochta. Tiocfaidh léinte póla faoi libhré atá níos praiticiúla in áit na léine agus an charbhait fhoirmiúil. Beidh brístí comhraic dúghorma a mbeidh pócaí breise acu ag teacht in áit na dtreabhsar, i gcomhair úsáid laethúil. An 5ú athrú ar éide na nGardaí ó bunaíodh an fórsa a bheidh san athrú seo.

Is éard a bhí san éide bunaidh sa bhliain 1922, nuair a eisíodh

faoi deireadh é, ná ionar foirmiúil le cába ard agus léinte arbh fhéidir na cábaí a bhaint díobh. Go dtí gur eisíodh an éide seo ar dhóthain Gardaí, níorbh fhéidir na chéad chomhaltaí a dhealú ón ngnáthphobal, a gcaipíní Garda amháin a dhealaigh iad.

Níor cuireadh aon mhóráthru i bhfeidhm ar an éide go dtí an bhliain 1952 nuair a eisíodh ionar muineál oscailte a raibh suaithiantas an Gharda Síochána ar na liopaí, agus is stíl é sin atá fós in úsáid ar an bhfórsa ar ócáidí foirmiúla. Cuireadh deireadh leis an seanchlogad póilínachta chomh maith, a chaití i mBaile Átha Cliath agus i gCorcaigh roimhe sin.

Tugadh 'bulls-wool' ar an dara tréimhse seo den éide ós rud é go raibh an t-éadach crua agus bhí cáil air as bheith deacair a choinneáil glan. Cnaipí airgid a bhí ann agus theastaíodh snasú rialta uathu.

Bhí an éide sin in úsáid go dtí an bhliain 1987 nuair a tugadh isteach éadach a raibh dath gorm níos éadroime agus cnaipí agus ionchomhartha óir anóidithe air. Caitheadh an speic caipín phlaisteach i leataobh freisin.

Ba bhreá an radharc iad na Gardaí agus an éide seo orthu, ach mar sin féin, bhí sí ní b'oiriúnaí fós do dhualgais searmanais ar thalamh na paráide seachas d'fhírinne obair nua-aimseartha na bpóilíní.

Tugadh isteach seicead patrúil ní bhfeidhmíúla do dhualgas lasmuigh sa bhliain 1991, in áit an ionair fhoirmiúil, mar iarracht chun compord agus praiticiúlacht a chur ar fáil tráth a mbíonn an aimsir luaineach. Tugadh geansaí NATO isteach den chéad uair freisin.

Tugadh an éide cothrom le dáta arís in 2005/6 nuair a athraíodh an seicead patrúil le go mbeadh stíl casóige níos giorra air. Eisíodh buataisí cosanta ag an tráth seo freisin. Cuireadh athrú ar thomhas



Garda Mick Lernihan, Eyre Square, 1956. Courtesy of Michael Lernihan (Retd. Supt.) An Garda Mick Lernihan, An Fhaiche Mhór, 1956. Le caoinchead Michael Lernihan (Ceannfort ar Scor.)

an tseiceid patrúil roinnt blianta ina dhiaidh sin, agus is é sin an éide atá in úsáid sa lá atá inniu ann. Eisíodh seiceid sá-dhíonacha chuig gach comhalta sa bhliain 2007.

In ainneoin na n-athruithe ar fad ar éide an Gharda Síochána i gcaitheamh na mblianta, bhí dearadh chaipín na nGardaí seasta tríd is tríd, cé is moite den athrú ar éadach na speice sa bhliain 1987. An t-aon athrú a rinneadh air seo ná sa bhliain 2020 nuair a leasaíodh na rialacháin chun cead a thabhairt do chomhaltaí áirithe ceannbheart ar leith a bhaineann lena gcreidimh reiligiúnacha agus cultúir a chaitheamh.

Eisítear éide agus trealamh a oireann dá gcuid riachtanas oibríochta chuig Sainaonaid amhail an tAonad Tacaíochta faoi Airm, Aonad na Láithreacha Coire, Aonad na Rothar Sléibhe, Aonad na nGluaisrothaithe agus an tAonad Oird Phoiblí.

Ordaíodh leis an gcéad Chód don Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1928 nár mhór do chomhaltaí ar dualgas "a bheith glan agus dea-chóirithe, idir a gcuma féin, a gcuid éadaí agus an chuma atá ar a dtrealamh. Tá siad le bheith bearrtha i gceart agus a gcuid gruaige gearrtha agus cóirithe mar is cuí. Ní mór na cnaipí, na glais lámh, an crann bagair agus an cás crainn bagair atá acu a bheith glan agus snasta". Tugadh cead do Ghardaí féasóg a bheith orthu faoi dheireadh sa bhliain 2021.



Bottom left: Garda Imelda Flynn and Garda Maureen Ryan, the first female Gardaí in Galway. Courtesy of the Connacht Tribune. An Garda Imelda Flynn agus an Garda Maureen Ryan, na chéad Ghardaí mná i nGaillimh. Le caoinchead an Connacht Tribune.



Bottom right: Garda Jim Cuddy. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána. An Garda Jim Cuddy. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

