

Constabulary Heroes 1826 – 2009: RUC GC/PSNI and their forebears including the USC

Compiled and edited by Sam Trotter, BEM

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ISBN 978-1-906689-22-3, 512pp., 513 illus., £25.00 plus £5.00 p+p.

This work, covering a period of 183 years, lists all constabulary members killed in the territorial area which is now Northern Ireland. Included are members of the Ulster Constabulary, the Constabulary of Ireland, the Londonderry Municipal Police, Royal Irish Constabulary, Ulster Special Constabulary, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Belfast Harbour Police and the Irish Revenue Police.

The book opens with a magnificent colour plate of HM the Queen presenting the George Cross to the Force, and its acceptance by Constable Paul Slaine, on 12 April 2000, at Hillsborough Castle. This is followed by Her Majesty's speech.

In the author's introduction he refers to the homily of Pope John Paul II at Killiner, Co. Louth on 29 October 1979: "Nobody may ever call murder by any other name than murder" and comments that, sadly, the situation in Northern Ireland did not improve.

The main body of the work consists of the date, time, location and details of the incident that caused each constabulary member's death. Where available, a photograph is included, and details of the funeral and burial service. The entries are arranged chronologically and 535 names are recorded.

The dates of death reflect the political situation in the country. From 1920 – 1922, during the period of the partition of the country into Northern Ireland and Eire, there were ninety three deaths, whereas in the 1930s there were two. In the 1940s nineteen deaths occurred, twelve of these being due to air raids. Between 1956 and 1961 there were seven fatalities and none from 1962 until 1968. 1970 saw a heavy loss of life begin with the "Troubles". In 1999 there were no deaths and between 2000 and 2009- two.

Seven appendices cover lists of all Inspectors-General and Chief Constables from 1836 to date; police forces and ranks; awards; members killed, by rank and the names of all female officers killed.

After the index of names the book closes with a colour plate of the RUC GC Memorial Garden- an appropriate conclusion.

The author is to be commended on the enormous amount of research he undertook in the compilation of this comprehensive work. It is a huge contribution to the history of the RUC GC. Part proceeds of its sales will go to the Widows' and Parents' Associations of the RUC GC.

The book is compelling reading and can be obtained from most bookshops or Impact Printing, 59 Leyland Road, Ballycastle, BT54 6EZ.

email: info@impact-printing.co.uk



Constabulary Heroes

1826 – 2009

Incorporating the
RUC GC / PSNI
and their Forebears including the USC

*Let those who come after see to it
that their names be not forgotten*

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