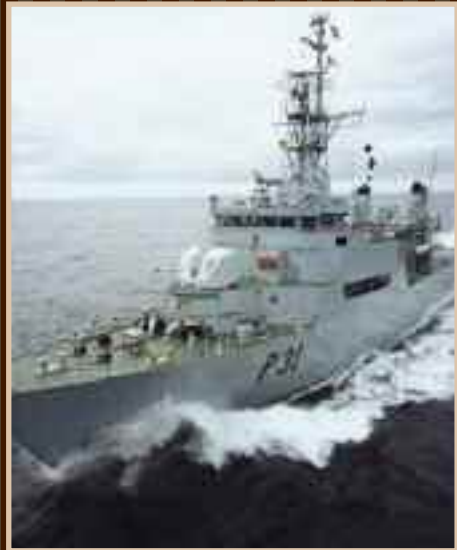
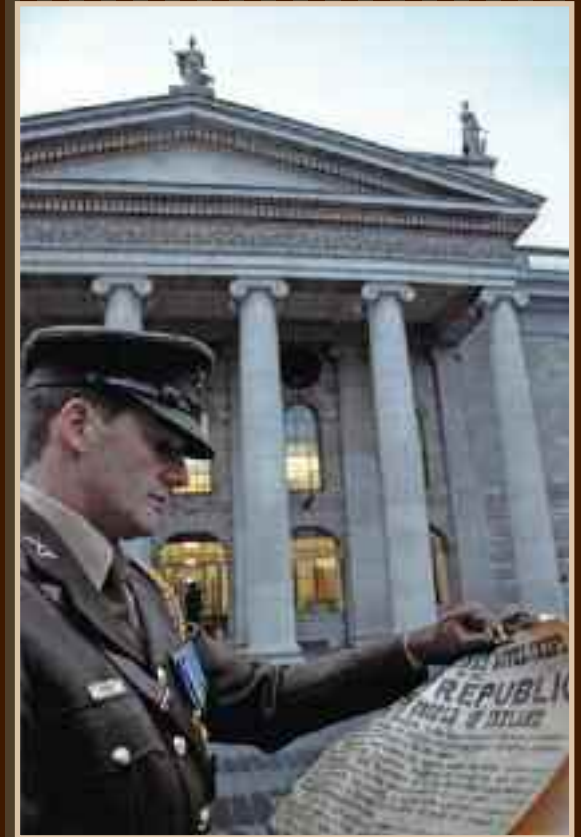




Óglaigh  
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1913–2013  
A Pictorial History



Army, Naval Service and Air Corps flag party on parade outside the General Post Office.



# Introduction

The 25th of November 2013 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Volunteers, which took place in the complex of buildings at the Rotunda. To celebrate this centenary, Óglaigh na hÉireann have undertaken a number of ceremonial events including the ceremonial guard at the National Monument in Merrion Square over the Summer months. This was a new initiative and proved to be very popular with the general public, tourists and personnel of the Defence Forces both serving and retired. This guard will be repeated during the Summer of 2014. The ceremonial associated with celebrating the 100th anniversary culminated with the State Ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance in the presence of An tUachtaráin, An Taoiseach, the General Staff and many other dignitaries on the 24th of November 2013. This ceremonial recognises the crucial contribution Óglaigh na hÉireann has made since its foundation to the defence, security and general development of the State and it remembers all our colleagues who served with such loyalty and dedication, both at home and overseas, and have since passed on.

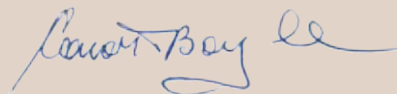
This publication captures, in pictorial form, the development of Óglaigh na hÉireann since its earliest days. It includes some of the most iconic images associated with our history and its structure gives the reader an historical overview of the evolution of the Force from humble beginnings to the modern, well-equipped, highly competent and internationally regarded Force we are today. It also links that evolutionary process with key periods in the development of the State in general.

The Military Archives building is located in Cathal Brugha Barracks and is a facility of National importance. It is a treasure trove of information containing records, documents, personal information and photographs covering the entire continuum

of Óglaigh na hÉireann and the history of the State. I wish to commend Comdt Padraic Kennedy, Officer in Charge of Military Archives, and all his staff for the extensive research and editing that went into this publication, which is an important record in itself for this and future generations. I also wish to acknowledge and thank the various donors of private collections, from which valuable contributions were made to the publication.



This is not an exhaustive or comprehensive history of the Defence Forces, but rather periodic images of some of the seminal personages and events that have dotted our history. To everybody who leafs through this wonderful archive, I hope you get pleasure and a greater understanding of our current Defence Forces through this retrospective on how we arrived at where we are today.



**Lieutenant General Conor O'Boyle**  
**Defence Forces Chief of Staff**



After taking over the GPO as its headquarters, the republicans raised the new flag of the republic over the GPO. Patrick Pearse then read out the proclamation outside the GPO proclaiming Ireland's independence from Britain on 24 April 1916, and thus marking the beginning of the Rising.

**POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.**  
**THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**OF THE**  
**IRISH REPUBLIC**  
**TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

**IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:** In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE,  
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,  
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,  
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.





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# The Revolutionary Period 1913–1921



*IRA members on parade in Donegal c.1920. (Courtesy of Joe Kelly Private Collection.)*

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# Introduction

The period of 1913–1921 marks an important period in the history of military forces in Ireland. Following a reaction to the Irish Home Rule Bill of 1912, to which the Ulster Unionists were strongly opposed, the Ulster Volunteer Force was established and grew in great strength to almost 100,000 by 1913. Inspired greatly by this, the men of the south soon followed and the Irish Volunteers were formed. In 1914, the Volunteers split over whether to fight for Britain in WWI. Amongst those in favour of fighting was John Redmond, a strong nationalist. Those who opposed the decision to fight for Britain remained known as the Irish Volunteers whilst those in favour became the National Volunteers under the leadership of Redmond. The majority of the Volunteers (National) went on to fight in WWI, whilst the Irish Volunteers, partly under the command of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, would soon be involved in the 1916 Easter Rising.

On Easter Monday the Volunteers occupied a number of strategic buildings within the city that commanded the main routes into the capital. As the week progressed fighting became intense and was characterised by prolonged, fiercely contested street battles. On Saturday the insurgent leaders, based mainly in the General Post Office, were forced to agree to surrender. The Rising had failed. The leaders were either executed or imprisoned which resulted in a growth in support from the general public for the events of the rising and its objectives. The rising also took place in Wexford, Laois and Galway.



Following reorganisation, training and recruitment the War of Independence began in earnest in January 1919 with the sitting of the First Dail and a military action at Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary. Following this first sitting of the Dáil, the forces became known as the Irish Republican Army (I.R.A). During the War, approximately 15,000 were actively involved, with around 3,000 in service at any given time. The force had sufficient strength to attempt large scale operations such as the burning of the Custom House, the Kilmichael Ambush in Cork and more notably 'Bloody Sunday' during which 19 suspected British Army intelligence officers were shot (15 fatally) on 21 November 1920.

By the middle of 1921 the British government became amenable to a political settlement and on 11 July 1921 a truce came into effect.



By 1914 the Irish Volunteers had approximately 180,000 members. Although many pictures show that they were well equipped, they had significant shortages of ammunition.



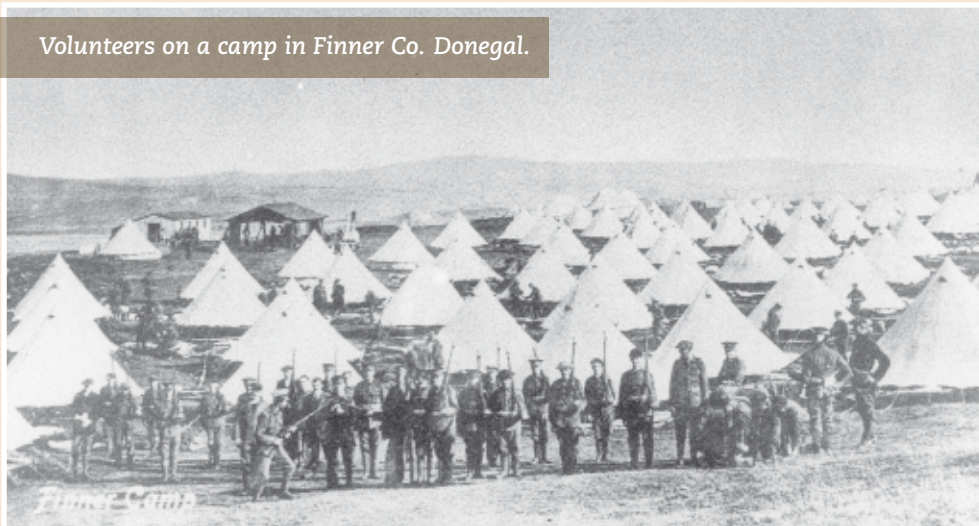




*Irish Volunteer Officers in Athlone 1915.  
(Courtesy of Colm Galligan. Private Collection.)*



*Cumman na mBan was established in 1914 and played  
a large supporting role in the years that followed.*



*Volunteers on a camp in Finner Co. Donegal.*



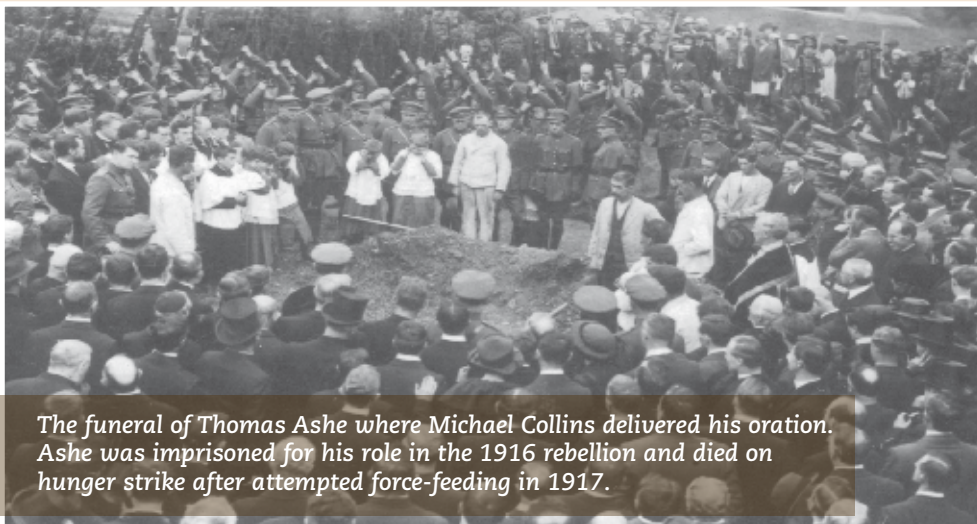
Sketch map of Enniscorthy denoting key sites relating to activity in the town during Easter Week 1916.



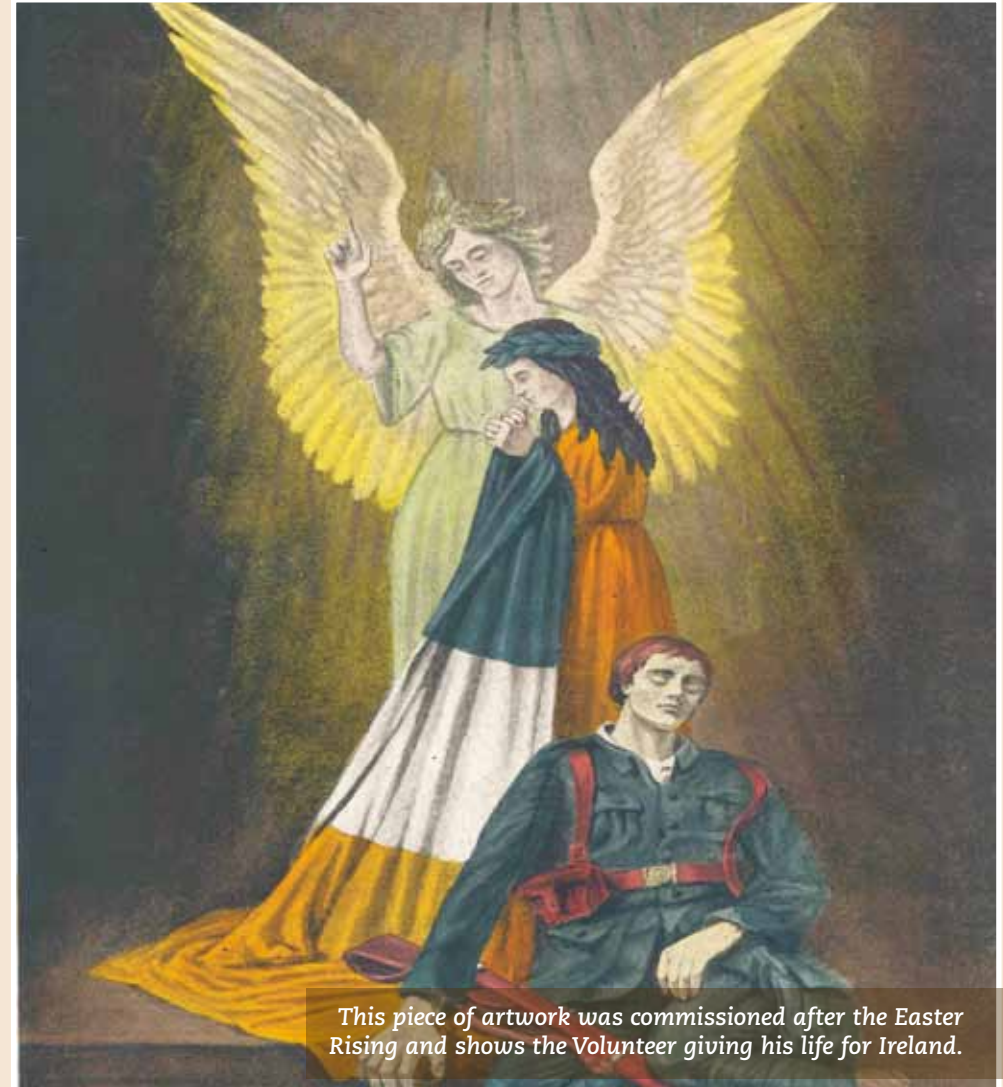




Two volunteers pose for a photograph inside the GPO before it went on fire following heavy shelling. (Copy from Bureau of Military History.)



The funeral of Thomas Ashe where Michael Collins delivered his oration. Ashe was imprisoned for his role in the 1916 rebellion and died on hunger strike after attempted force-feeding in 1917.



This piece of artwork was commissioned after the Easter Rising and shows the Volunteer giving his life for Ireland.





*The last British Troops evacuating Portobello Barracks on 17th May 1922.*

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Troops take a break from manoeuvres.



West Mayo Flying Column. The IRA had a large number of Flying Columns which relied on guerilla tactics and local support.



IRA Company at Ducketts Grove c1921.



# Formative Years 1922–1939

**Oglais na hEireann**

## RECRUITS WANTED

UNMARRIED Men of Good Character  
(Ages 18 to 28) required for the following Branches of the National Forces:—

Infantry of the Line	Armoured Car Corps
Artillery Corps	Army Signals Corps
Army Corps of Engineers	Army Medical Service
Army Transport Corps	Army School of Music
Army Air Corps	Corps of Military Police

All recruits will in the first instance be enlisted for General Service.

**Rates of Pay:— Per day**

SERGEANT MAJOR	7/6
BATTALION QUARTERMASTER SERGT	5/6
COMPANY-SERGEANT	5/6
COMPANY-QUARTERMASTER SERGT	5/6
SERGEANT	5/-
CORPORAL	4/-
PRIVATE (CLASS I)	3/-
PRIVATE (CLASS II)	2/9
RECRUIT	2/6

**Term of Service**  
**2 Years**

ADDITIONAL PAY, ranging from 0d. to 2/- per day, is granted to Tradesmen, Clerks, etc., according to skill and rank.  
Food, Clothes, Quarters, Bedding, Fuel and Light are provided FREE.  
Also FREE LIBRARIES, SCHOOLS, RECREATION ROOMS, GYMNASIA and SPORTS of various kinds—Football, Hurling, Boxing, Athletics, Swimming, etc.

**JOIN TO-DAY.**

Apply to Recruiting Officers at:

- PORTOBELLO BARRACKS, DUBLIN
- MICHAEL BARRACKS, CORK
- NEW BARRACKS, LIMERICK
- MILITARY BARRACKS, KILBENNY
- CUSTOMS BARRACKS, ATHLONE
- FINNER CAMP, BALLYSHANNON

OR ENLIST BY POST, by means of Form N.3, obtainable at any Post Office, Civil Guard, or British Metropolitan Police Barracks.

N.B.—Any further information may be obtained by application to nearest Recruiting Officer, whose address can be got at any Post Office or Police Barracks.





# Introduction

In February 1922, the Department of Defence, under the new Provisional Government began to recruit volunteers into the National Army. The Treaty's opponents criticised it most for its failure to achieve the status of a republic for Ireland. Debates in the Dáil on the Treaty became bitter and personal and a split ensued. The Anti-Treaty IRA seized barracks and public buildings as British civil servants and troops departed. On 28 June 1922, the National Army, which drew largely from the Pro-Treaty IRA, bombarded the Four Courts in Dublin which was occupied by the Anti-Treaty forces' leadership. The Civil War had begun.

Anti-treaty forces soon adopted guerrilla-like tactics destroying lines of communications such as bridges, railways and telegraph lines. Following the death of Liam Lynch, the leader of the Anti-Treaty Forces in April 1923, resistance to the Treaty was broken and the Civil War was over.

After large scale demobilisation and a subsequent effort to reorganise, a Military Mission was sent to the USA in 1926 to study organisation and training methods. It was decided that the tactical organisation would be based on British war establishments, the forces would be divided into permanent and non-permanent and training institutions would be established such as a Military College and also Corps and Service Schools.



*Military Mission to the USA.*





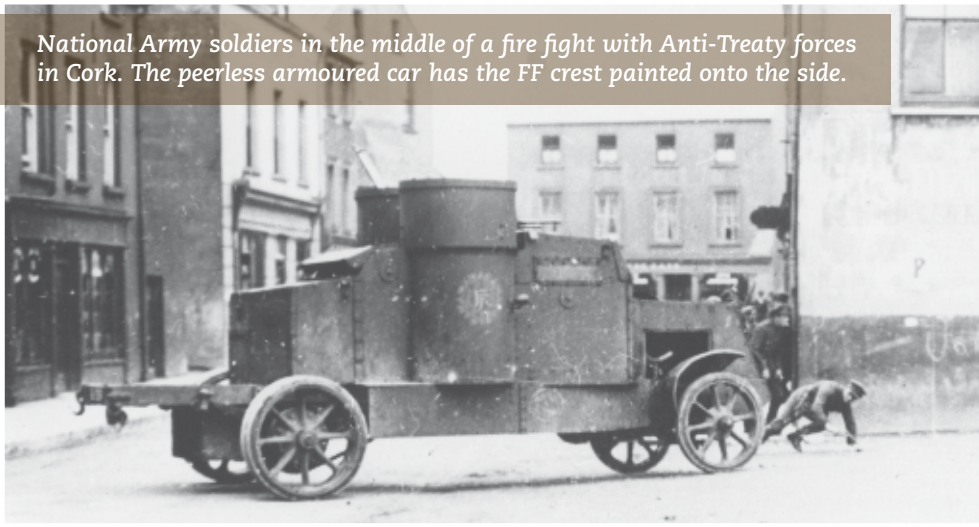
*General Michael Collins, the first Commander-in-Chief of the National Army. He is pictured here with his successor, General Richard Mulcahy.*

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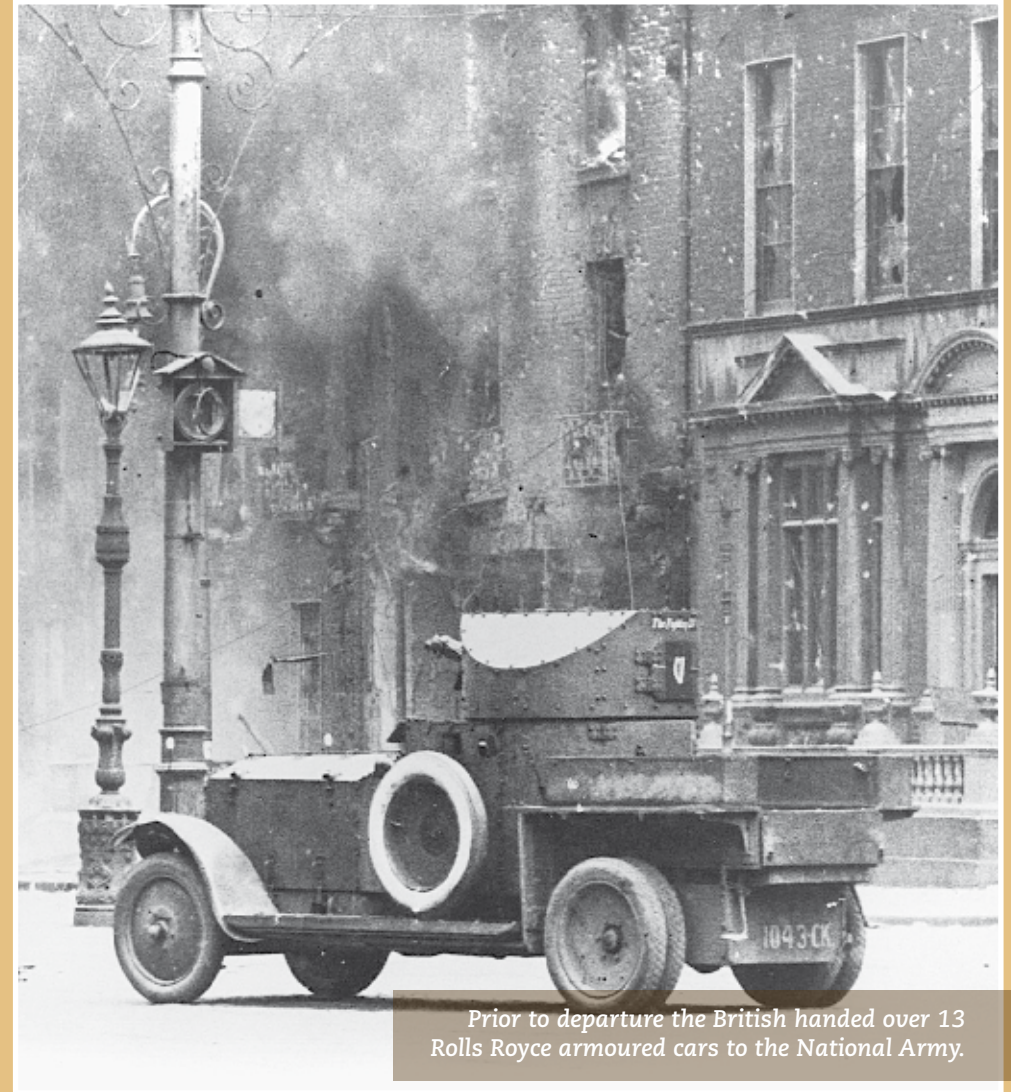
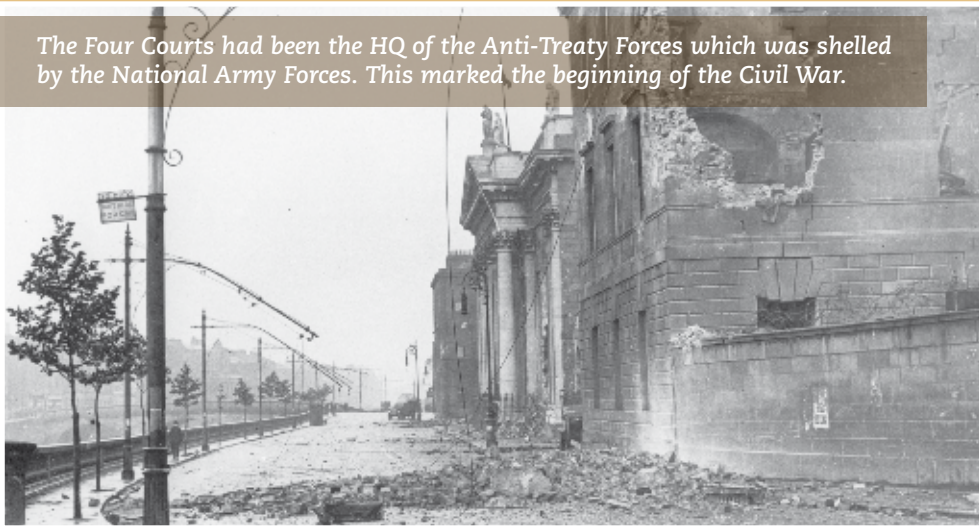




National Army soldiers in the middle of a fire fight with Anti-Treaty forces in Cork. The peerless armoured car has the FF crest painted onto the side.



The Four Courts had been the HQ of the Anti-Treaty Forces which was shelled by the National Army Forces. This marked the beginning of the Civil War.



Prior to departure the British handed over 13 Rolls Royce armoured cars to the National Army.



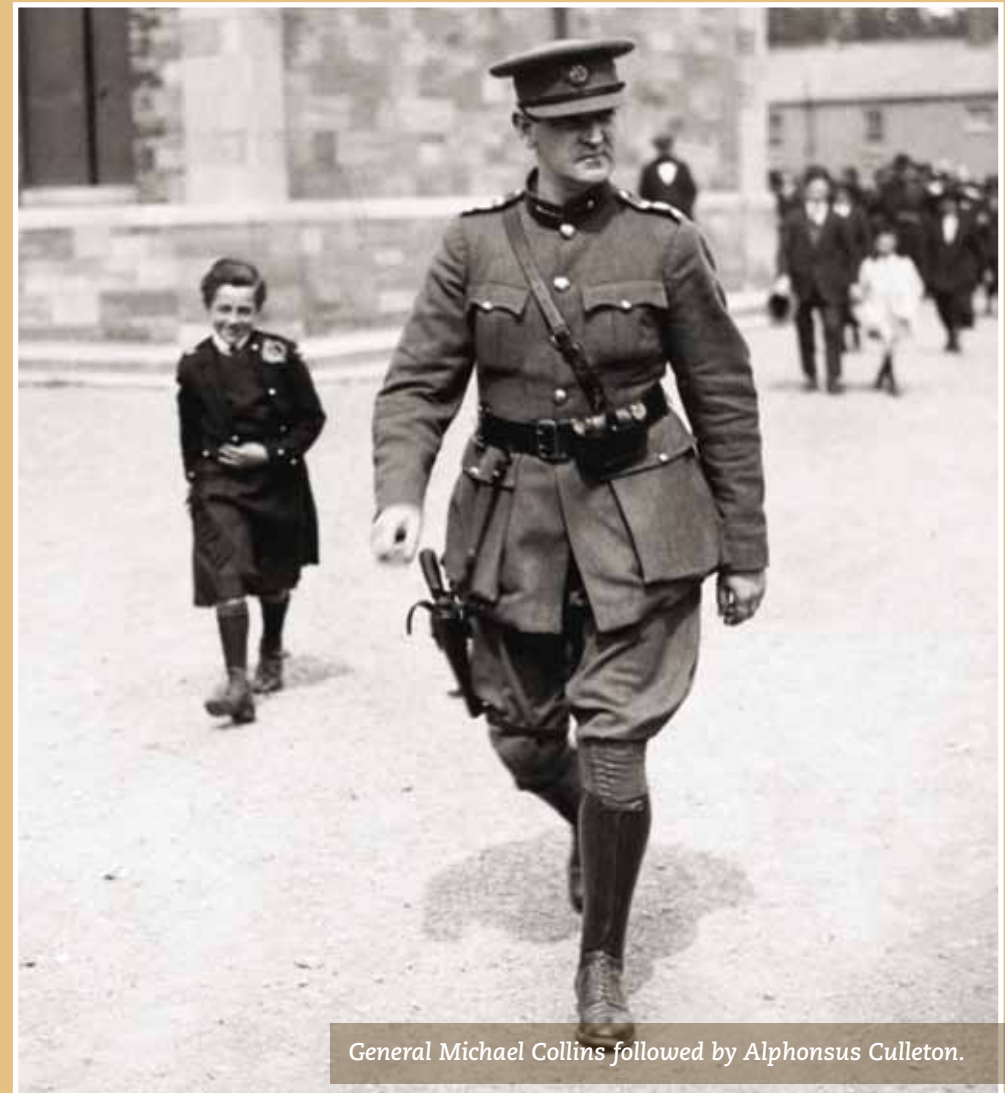
The funeral of Michael Collins after he was killed in an ambush by Anti-Treaty Forces. Collins was killed days after the sudden death of Arthur Griffith. He was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.







Members of the National Army who were well equipped in comparison to those on the Anti-Treaty side. (Courtesy of E.A Lawlor PC.)



General Michael Collins followed by Alphonsus Culleton.



General Richard Mulcahy takes over as Commander-in-Chief of the National Army following the death of Michael Collins.

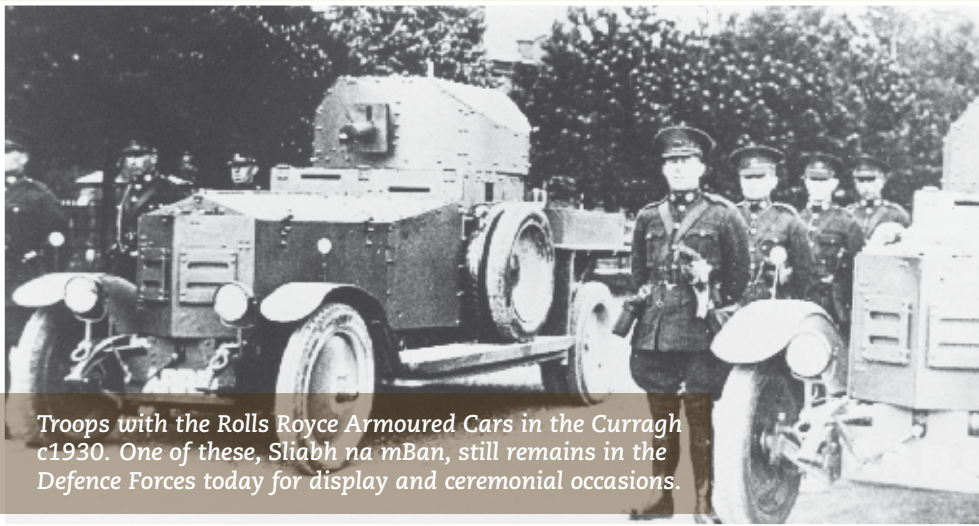




*Irish military aviation began in 1922 when a single-engine biplane, a Martinsyde Type A mark II was bought to permit General Michael Collins to escape from London should the Treaty talks with Britain fail. By June 1922 the Air Service HQ had been established at Baldonnel and 14 pilots flew a total of 13 aircraft.*

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Troops with the Rolls Royce Armoured Cars in the Curragh c1930. One of these, *Sliabh na mBan*, still remains in the Defence Forces today for display and ceremonial occasions.




A recruiting campaign poster designed by Sean Keating in the 1930s.



A group photo with artillery at Custume Barracks, Athlone.





# Emergency 1939–1946

*In April/May 1941 the strength of the Emergency Army reached a high point of almost 41,000 and in June 1943 the Local Defence Force reached a strength of approximately 106,000.*

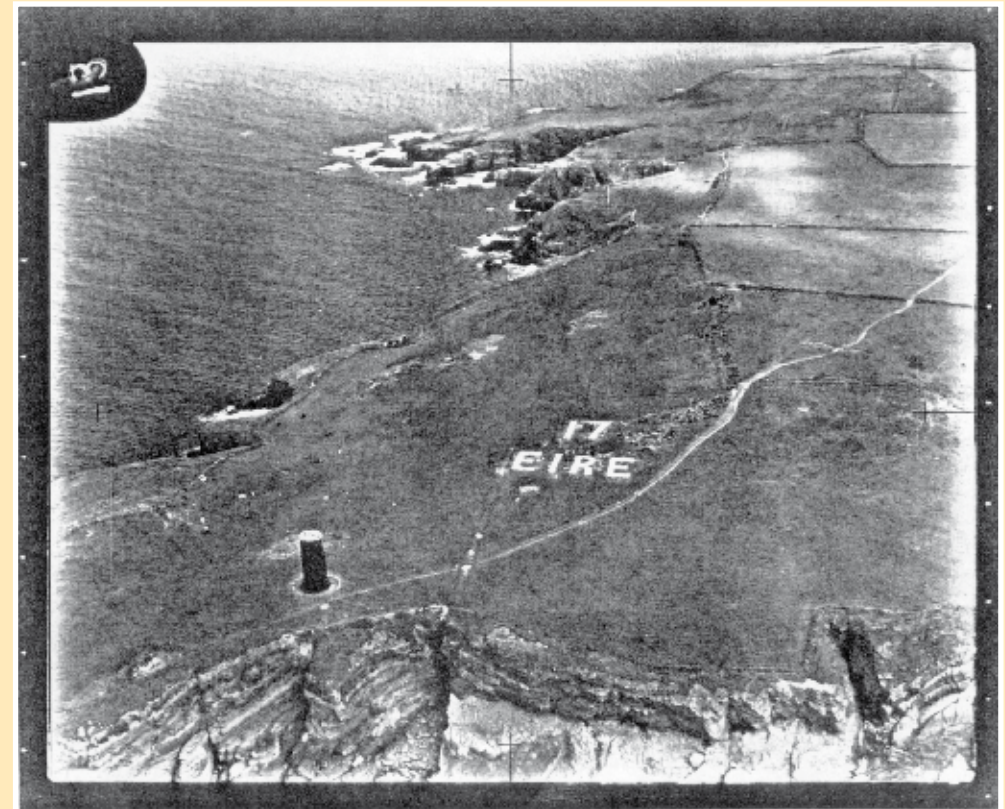
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# Introduction

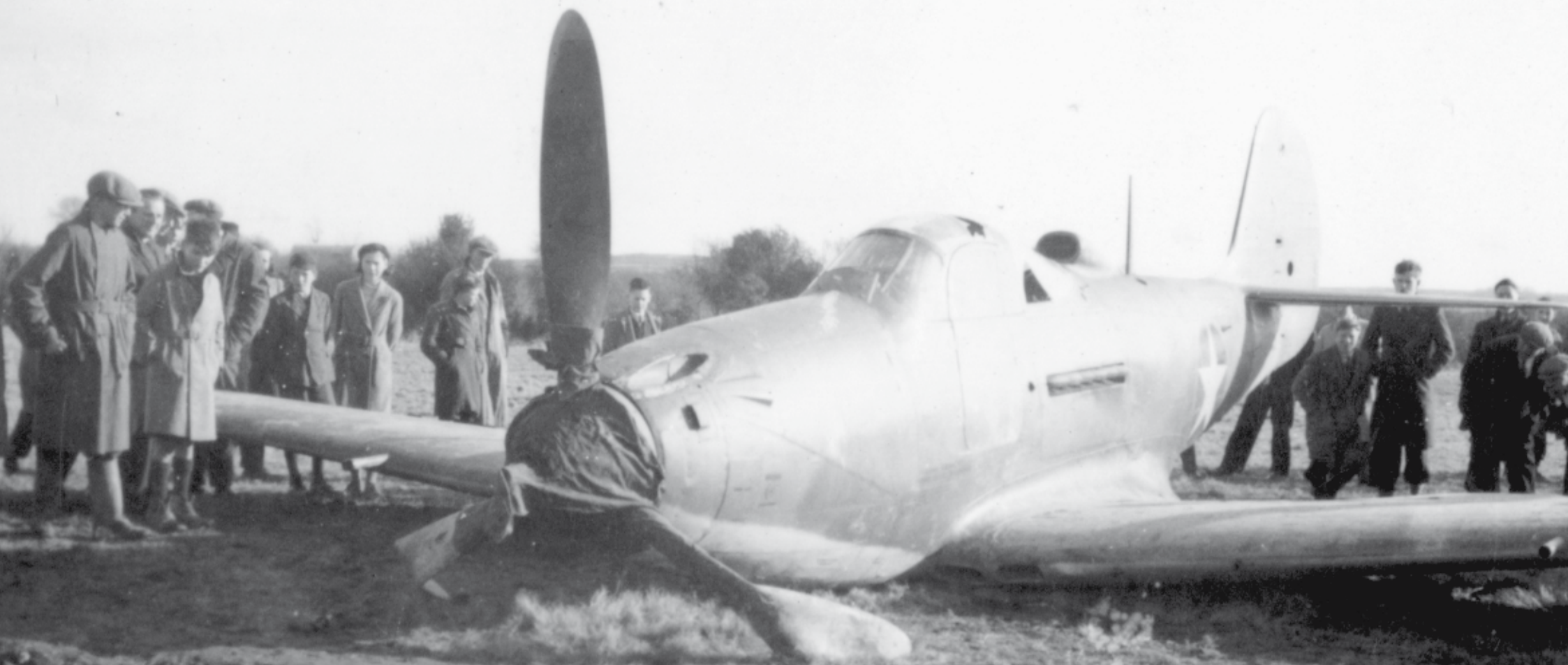
The turn of the 1940s saw a marked decline in personnel and equipment in the Army. An under resourced Army was in no way capable of dealing with any hostilities arising from WWII. A recruiting campaign was initiated to increase the strength of the army to 40,000. With the handing over of the ports in 1938, Irish waters were largely unprotected. The Marine and Coastwatching Service, later to become the Naval Service, was set up. Many, who were mainly Reserve Local Defence Force (LDF) personnel, manned the 83 Look Out Posts (LOPs) around the coast. Some of these had the name 'EIRE' embedded with chalk into the ground (inset) in order to minimise the chances of pilots misidentifying the country for Britain. Along with the LDF, the Local Security Force (LSF) and the Construction Corps were also established during this time. During this time the country's mission was to protect the south against German invasion and to protect the border area from British forces advancing.

A number of planes crashed or made forced landings during this time. In addition to the bombing of the North Strand in Dublin, bombs were also dropped in Campile, Dundalk, Monaghan, Carlow and the Curragh resulting in a number of civilian casualties.





*US plane crash lands during Emergency. (Courtesy of Capt Miller Private collection.)*



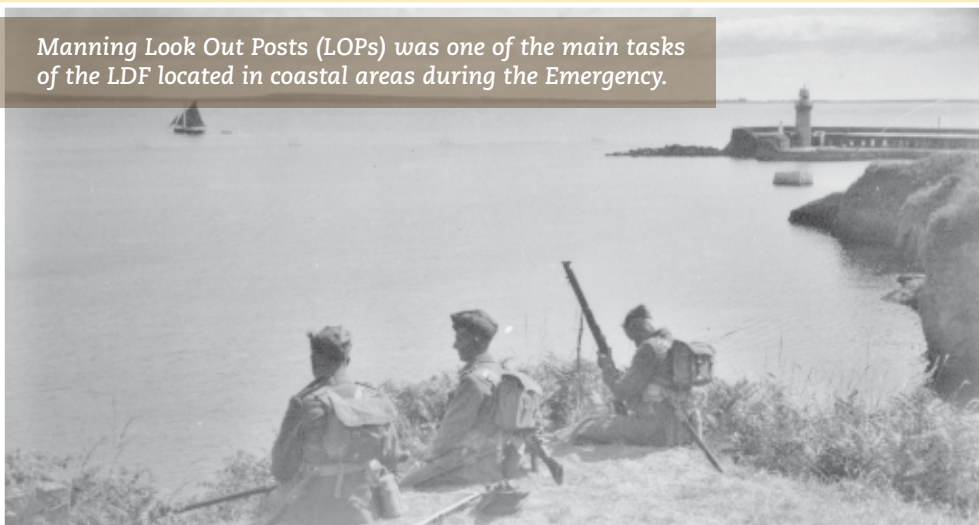




Anti-aircraft training.



Troops observe for foreign aircraft and boats from the Look Out Posts (LOPs).



Manning Look Out Posts (LOPs) was one of the main tasks of the LDF located in coastal areas during the Emergency.



By 1941 the Marine Service consisted of 10 craft (6 motor torpedo boats plus 4 assorted vessels) and about 300 all ranks. Their tasks during the war included mine laying (in Cork and Waterford harbours), regulation of Merchant Ships, upkeep of navigational aids and fishery protection. Three 'Flower Class' Corvettes were purchased from Britain in 1946, the Macha, the Meave and the Cliona. These ships were the mainstay of the Naval Service up to the 1970s. The Naval Base, Haulbowline was reactivated to act as a Base for this Service.

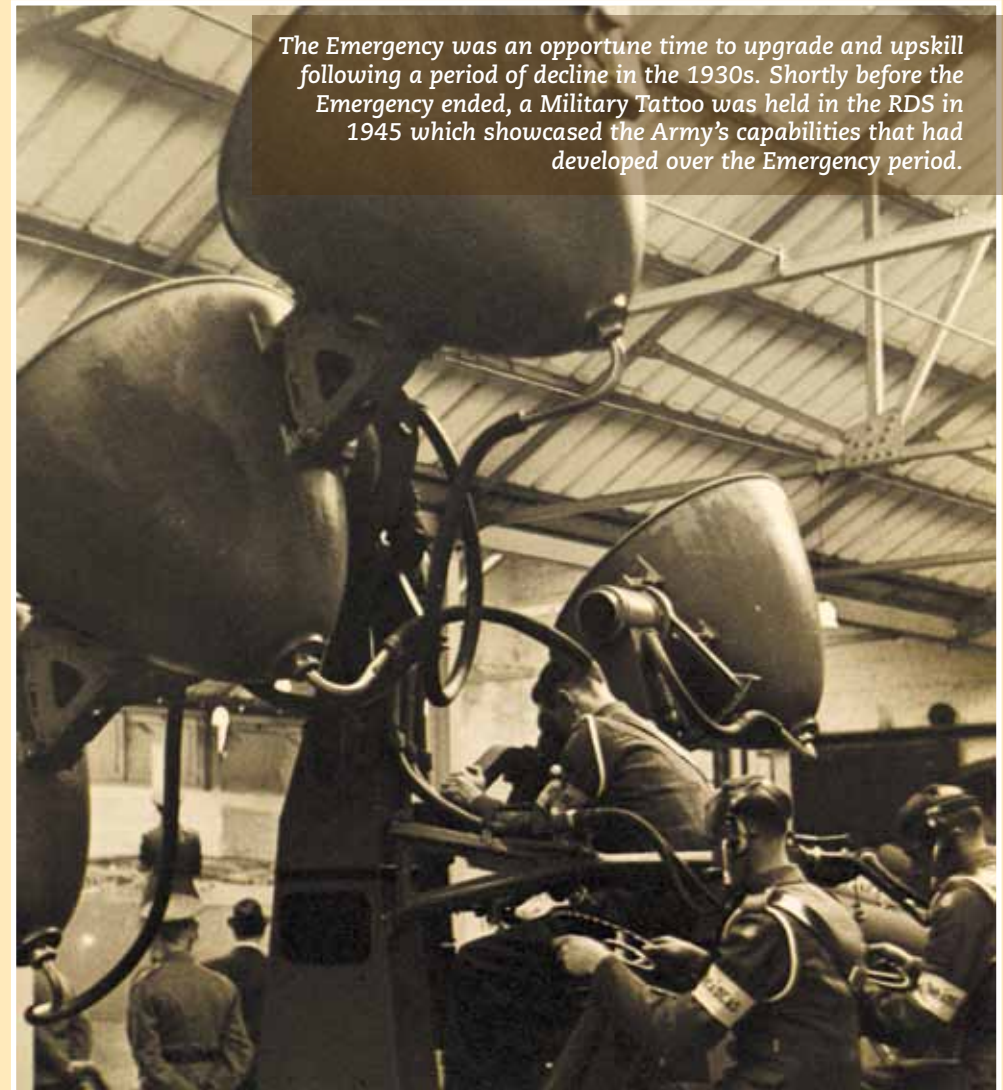


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*Crew from LÉ Macha 1946. Personnel for the Naval Service were initially recruited from merchant seamen, the harbour authorities and experienced fishermen and sailors.*



*The Emergency was an opportune time to upgrade and upskill following a period of decline in the 1930s. Shortly before the Emergency ended, a Military Tattoo was held in the RDS in 1945 which showcased the Army's capabilities that had developed over the Emergency period.*



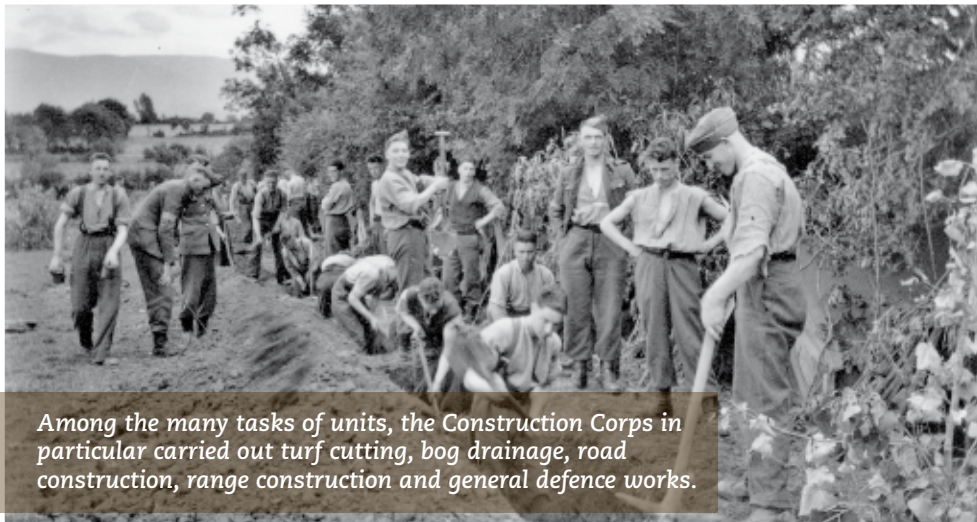
*Members of the Army Nursing Service.*



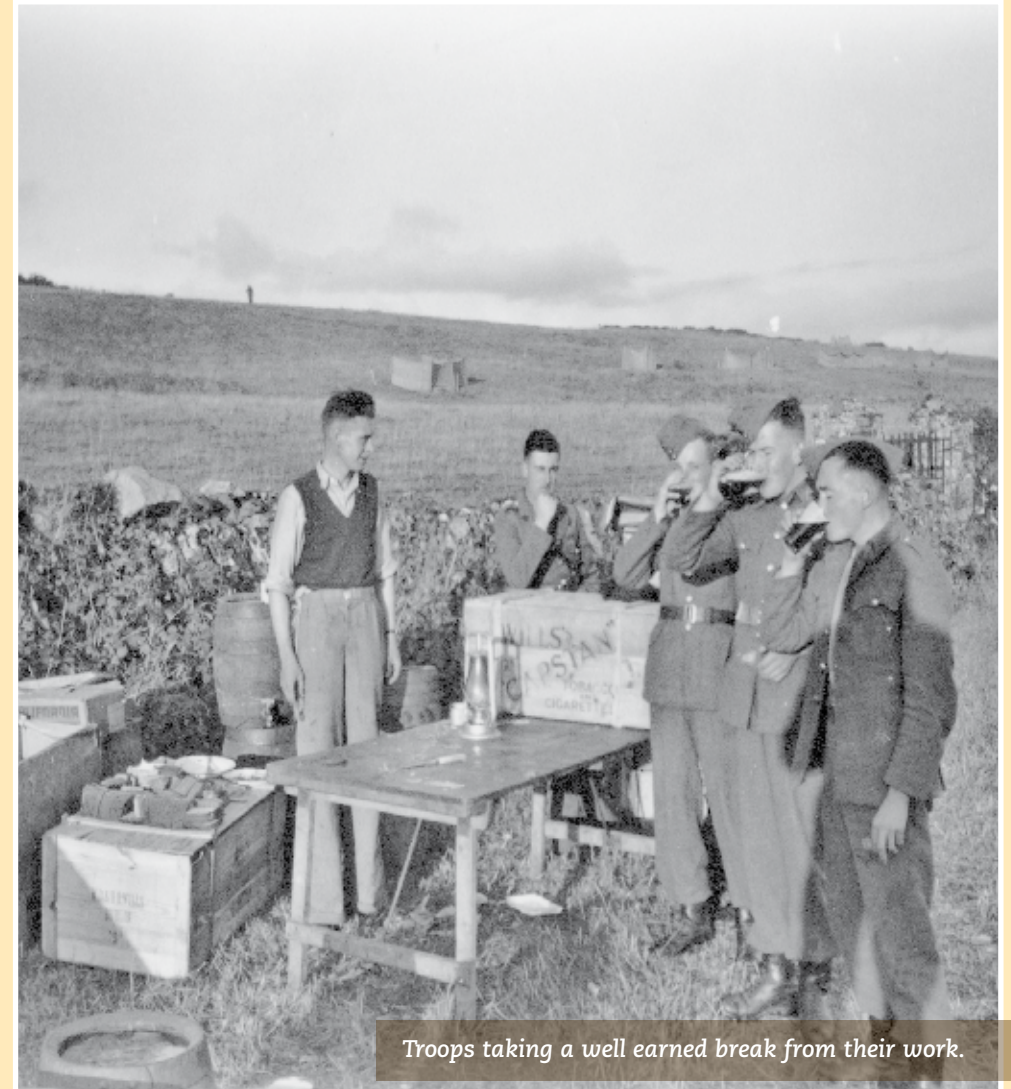
*Route marches were a regular activity during the Emergency. Note the piper on the left.*







Among the many tasks of units, the Construction Corps in particular carried out turf cutting, bog drainage, road construction, range construction and general defence works.



Troops taking a well earned break from their work.



Lunch time during field exercise. (Courtesy of the Hanley PC.)



# Post War 1946-1958



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THE MODERN ARMY CANTEEN IS A BRIGHT AND CHEERY PLACE.





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# Introduction

A post war establishment of 12,500 all ranks saw a rapid demobilisation and reorganisation. A three brigade structure was established along with the training centre in the Curragh Camp.

The late 1940s and 1950s saw a period of stagnation that would not change until 1958, which saw the first overseas mission with the United Nations. Following this, pay, conditions and equipment improved and modernised. Inset shows President Sean T. O'Ceallaigh inspecting a Cadet Guard of Honour on O'Connell Street marking the passing of the Republic of Ireland Act 1949.





The rise in modern equipment and adequate ammunition led to shooting competitions at all levels which continue today. These were an excellent way to boost esprit de corps.



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13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Winners Combined Weapons Cup 1950





Rifle ranges had considerably smaller targets than those used in modern times.



Irish sailors of the LÉ Macha marching to Sunday morning mass in Nice 5.9.48.



Troops in a Morris-Commercial artillery tractor towing a 17 pounder gun. These tractors were used in service from 1953–1969.



An Scot MARCRA

The Comet tank was introduced into service to the Defence Forces in December 1958.



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The Air Corps changed to jet operations in 1956 after purchasing DH Vampires. This was a big step in aviation for the Corps.



Mortar training.



Two dispatch riders on BSA motorcycles. Dispatch Riders were employed mainly in the Signals Corps and Cavalry Corps.





*In June 1963 the President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, visited Ireland. During his visit he laid a wreath on the graves of the 1916 leaders at Arbour Hill. He declared afterwards that this visit had been one of the most impressive experiences of his life. (Courtesy of Irish Times.)*

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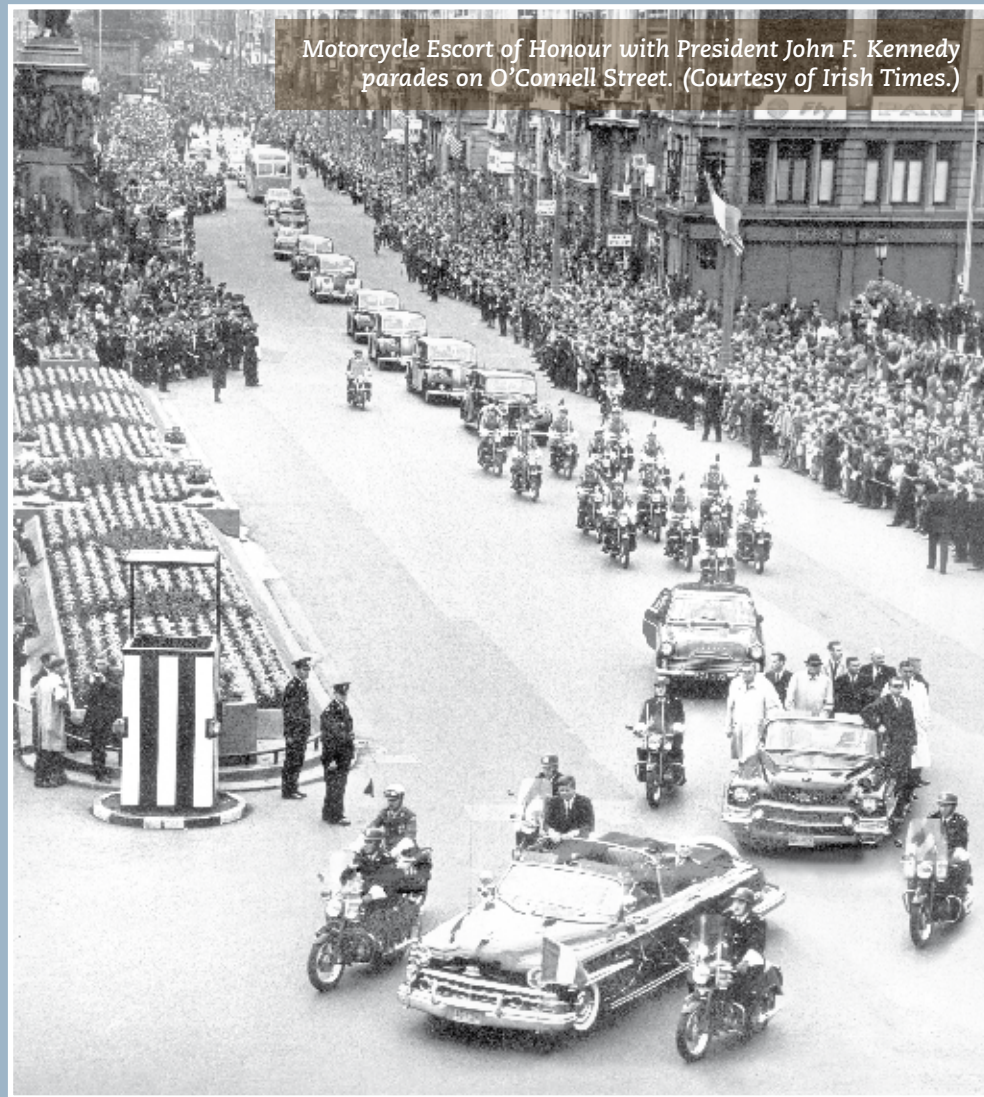




President Kennedy had been so impressed by the Cadets during his visit to Ireland that the First Lady requested that they perform a Guard of Honour at his funeral. (Courtesy of B. Nott PC.)



Motorcycle Escort of Honour with President John F. Kennedy parades on O'Connell Street. (Courtesy of Irish Times.)



Cadets from the 37th Cadet Class at the 'Present Arms' as the coffin of President Kennedy is moved into position in Arlington cemetery. (Courtesy of B. Nott PC.)



# Overseas 1958-2013



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# Introduction

Ireland joined the United Nations in 1956 and in 1958 the first mission deployed to UNOGIL, an observer mission in Lebanon. The first troop mission was deployed to Congo in 1960. Since then the Defence Forces has continuously provided an armed contingent to the UN, except during the period May 1974 to May 1978. These contingents were normally an infantry battalion of approximately 600 personnel or an infantry group of over 400 personnel.

The first peacekeeping mission to which an armed Irish contingent was committed was to the Operation des Nations Unies au Congo (ONUC), from 1960 to 1964. Since then Irish Troops have also served with UN mandated missions led by the EU, NATO and the OSCE. The Defence Forces has contributed to missions in Europe, Africa, Central America, Asia and the Middle East. It receives constant praise for its service overseas and it is no surprise that senior officers have held a number of key positions including: UN Headquarters New York, Force Commander positions in Congo (ONUC), Cyprus (UNFICYP), Syria-Israel Border (UNDOF) and Lebanon (UNIFIL), Chief of Staff of the United Nations Troops Supervision Organisation in the Middle East (UNTSO) and in Liberia (UNMIL). In addition, an Irish Lieutenant General was EU Operations Commander of the EUFOR mission to TCHAD/RCA in 2008/2009 and an Irish General commanded the Multi National Task Force Centre in Kosovo (KFOR) in 2007. To date 86 soldiers of the Defence Forces have lost their lives in the service of peace.



*Officers prior to their deployment to Lebanon in 1958.*



**Cyprus:** Ireland deployed troops to Cyprus between April 1964 and October 1973. In the early stages of the mission in Cyprus, Ireland was contributing over a thousand troops who were responsible for the entire western portion of the island. The Defence Forces withdrew observers from UNFICYP in 2005 after 41 years of involvement in the mission.

**Congo:** Following independence on 30th June 1960, Congo quickly de-stabilised and civil war ensued. Following a request from the UN, the 32 Inf Bn was deployed in July and was joined by 33 Inf Bn in August, bringing the Irish contingent to over 1,000 troops. A total of 6197 all ranks served in the Congo between 1960 and June 1964. On the 8 November 1960, 9 members of a patrol were killed in the Niamba Ambush. A further 3 Irish soldiers were killed in December 1961 in Elizabethville.



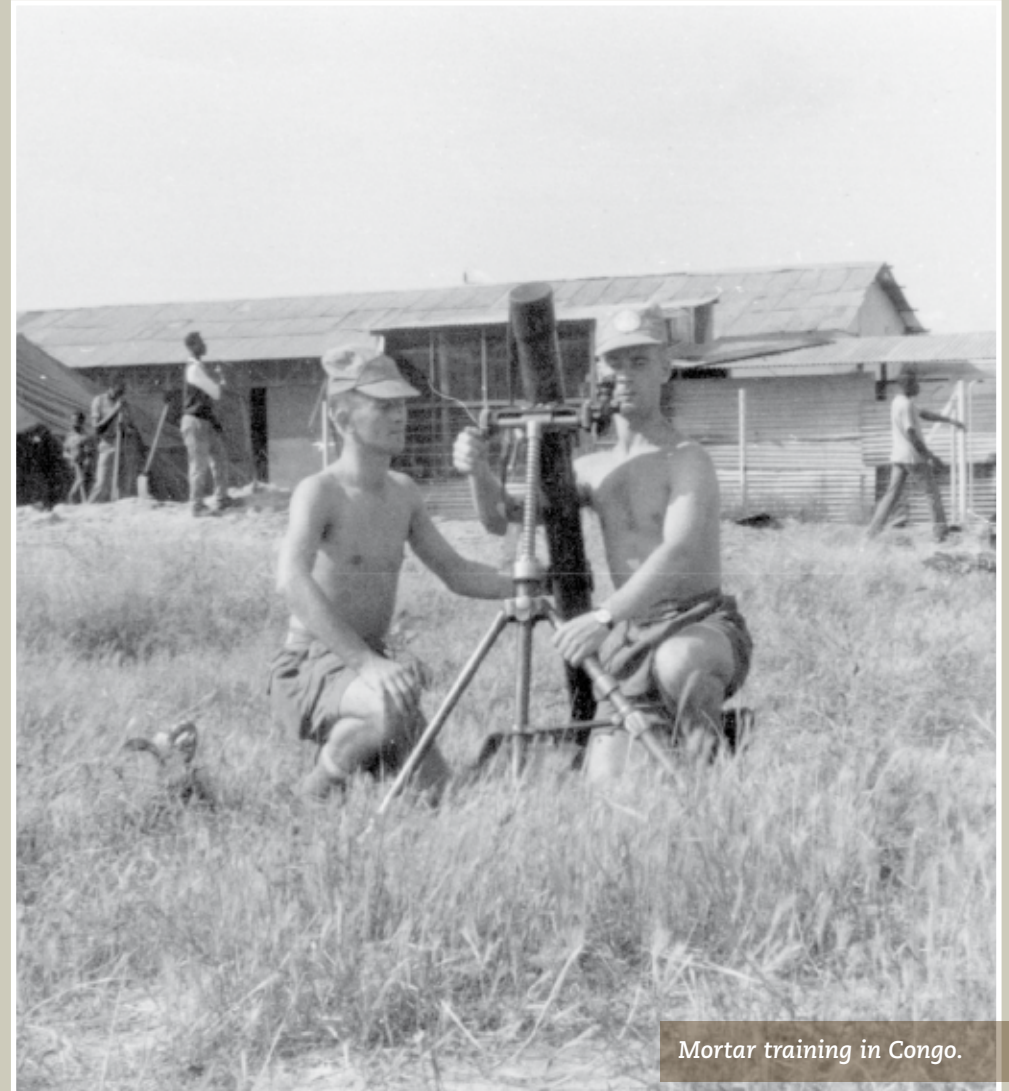




December 1961 at Elizabethville, Congo.



The Irish Armoured Group, equipped with the new Panhard AML60s, acted as the Force Mobile Reserve in Cyprus.



Mortar training in Congo.



*In 1991/1992 inter-clan fighting in Somalia was spiralling out of control resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians. Famine and looting of aid ships and convoys was widespread.*

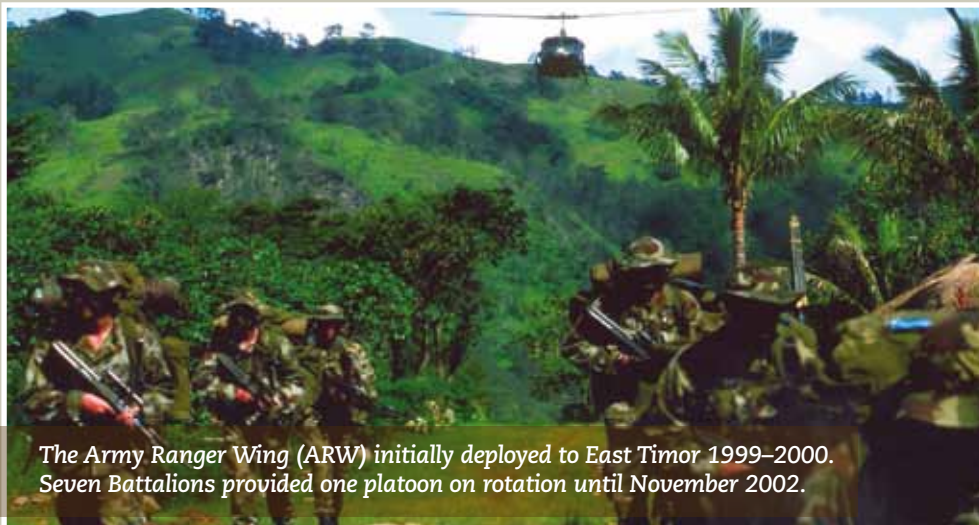


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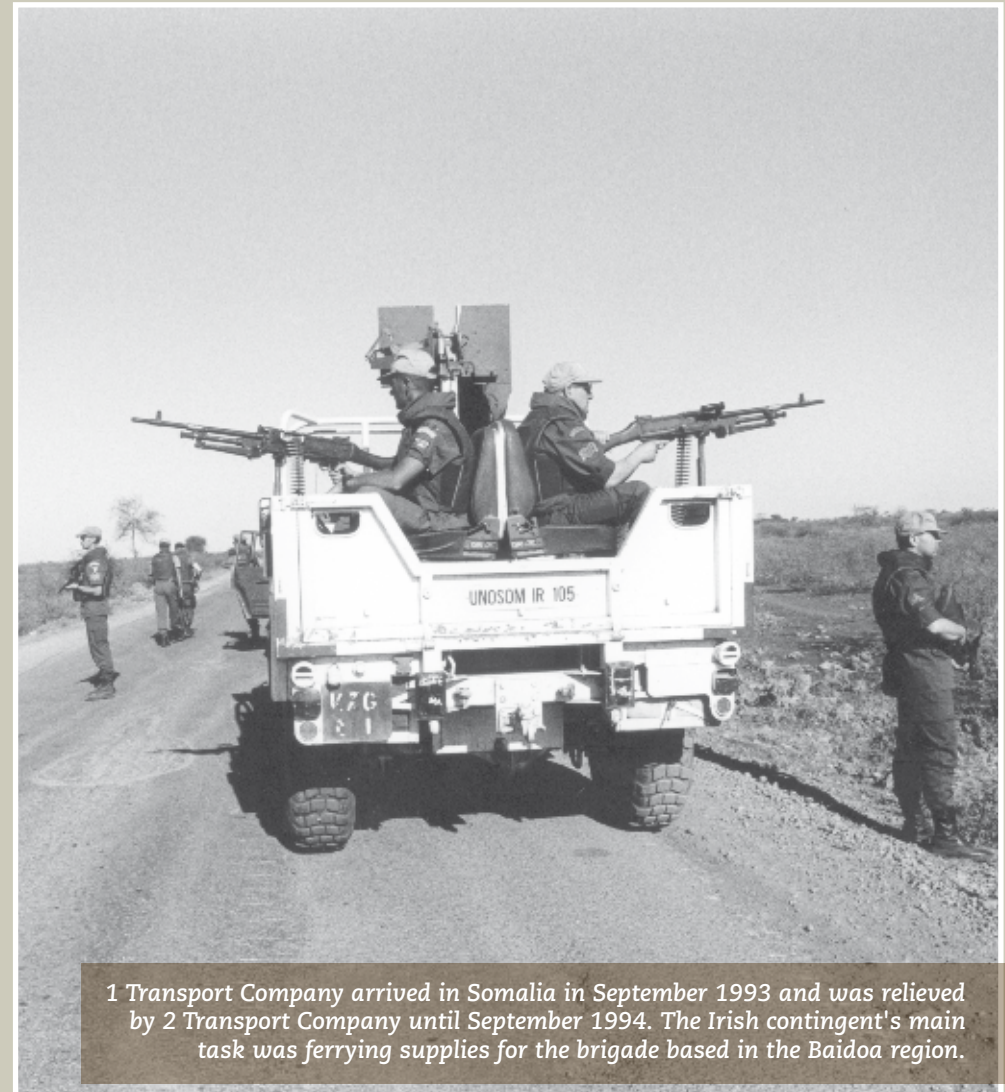




In 1999, the Defence Forces initial contribution to the mission in Kosovo (KFOR) consisted of a transport/logistics company followed by a Mechanised Company in 2004. Members of the Defence Forces currently hold appointments at KFOR HQ in Pristina, Kosovo.



The Army Ranger Wing (ARW) initially deployed to East Timor 1999–2000. Seven Battalions provided one platoon on rotation until November 2002.



1 Transport Company arrived in Somalia in September 1993 and was relieved by 2 Transport Company until September 1994. The Irish contingent's main task was ferrying supplies for the brigade based in the Baidoa region.



The Defence Forces continue to deploy personnel with various skills including communications specialists to UN mandated missions including Chad, Lebanon and Liberia.

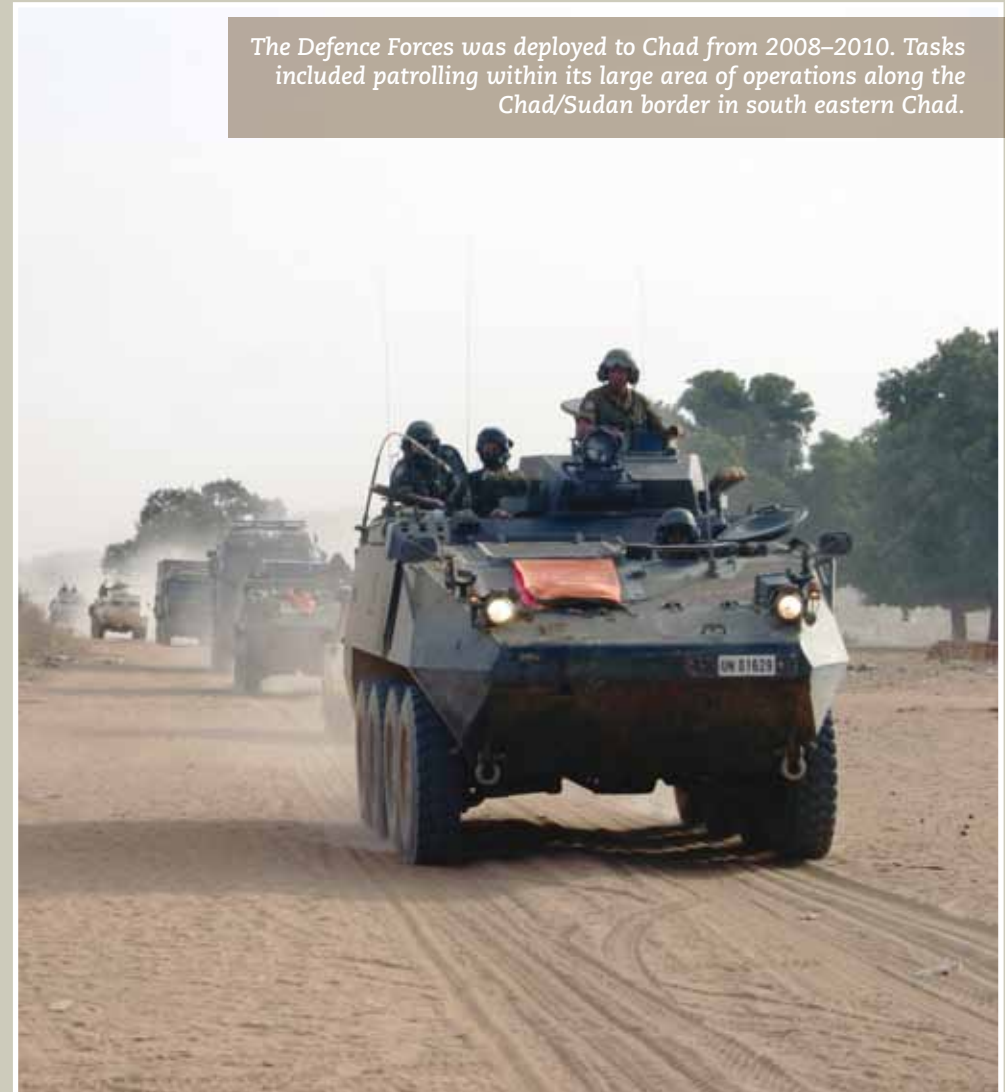


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*The Defence Forces redeployed troops to UNIFIL in 2011. Their taskings include patrolling, ground holding and humanitarian operations. To date over 30,000 personnel have served in Lebanon. Inset a patrol commander issues quick orders.*



*The Defence Forces was deployed to Chad from 2008–2010. Tasks included patrolling within its large area of operations along the Chad/Sudan border in south eastern Chad.*



*A patrol in Liberia preparing to be inserted into their patrol zone by Ukrainian MI8 helicopters.*



# At Home 1958–2013



State visit of Queen Elizabeth II in May 2011.

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# Introduction

The troubles in the North of Ireland in the late 1960s and early 1970s placed a new emphasis on internal security within the Defence Forces. The tasks for the Defence Forces included the provision of permanent guards on vital installations, the provision of armed parties for the escort of cash, explosives and prisoners, and the presence of Defence Forces personnel at blasting sites within the state and along the border.

The Defence Forces has continued to be highly regarded for ceremonial duties and frequently provide Guards of Honour and Motorcycle Escorts of Honour for Heads of State and Government and ambassadorial credentials. Continued training in units, Brigade Training Centres and the Defence Forces Training Centre in the Curragh ensure that the highest levels of military skills are constantly maintained.

The Naval Service continues to patrol Irish waters with the support of the Air Corps who also carry out air ambulance services and support communications for Coast Guard long range rescue operations. As a result of multi-role tasking by the government, the Naval Service assisted by the Air Corps, now also has considerable responsibilities in monitoring and conducting surveillance of Ireland's maritime interests.





*During the bus strike in 1979 the Defence Forces provided transport for the people of Dublin.*



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*The Defence Forces provide assistance to the public and public service providers during flooding.*



*Escorting cash in transit is one of the main operational taskings of the Defence Forces.*



*The Defence Forces played a significant role in recent winters when heavy snowfalls disrupted the transport system. Not only did they clear roads and footpaths but they also transported essential personnel such as nurses to their place of work.*



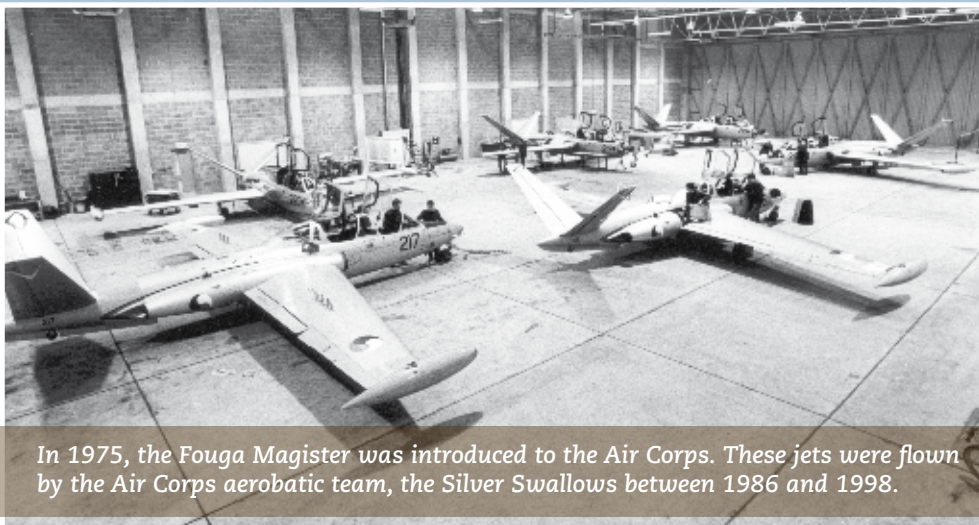
*The 1970s and 1980s saw a big improvement in the capabilities of the Navy with ships such as LÉ Eithne, LÉ Deirdre, LÉ Ciara, and LÉ Orla being commissioned.*



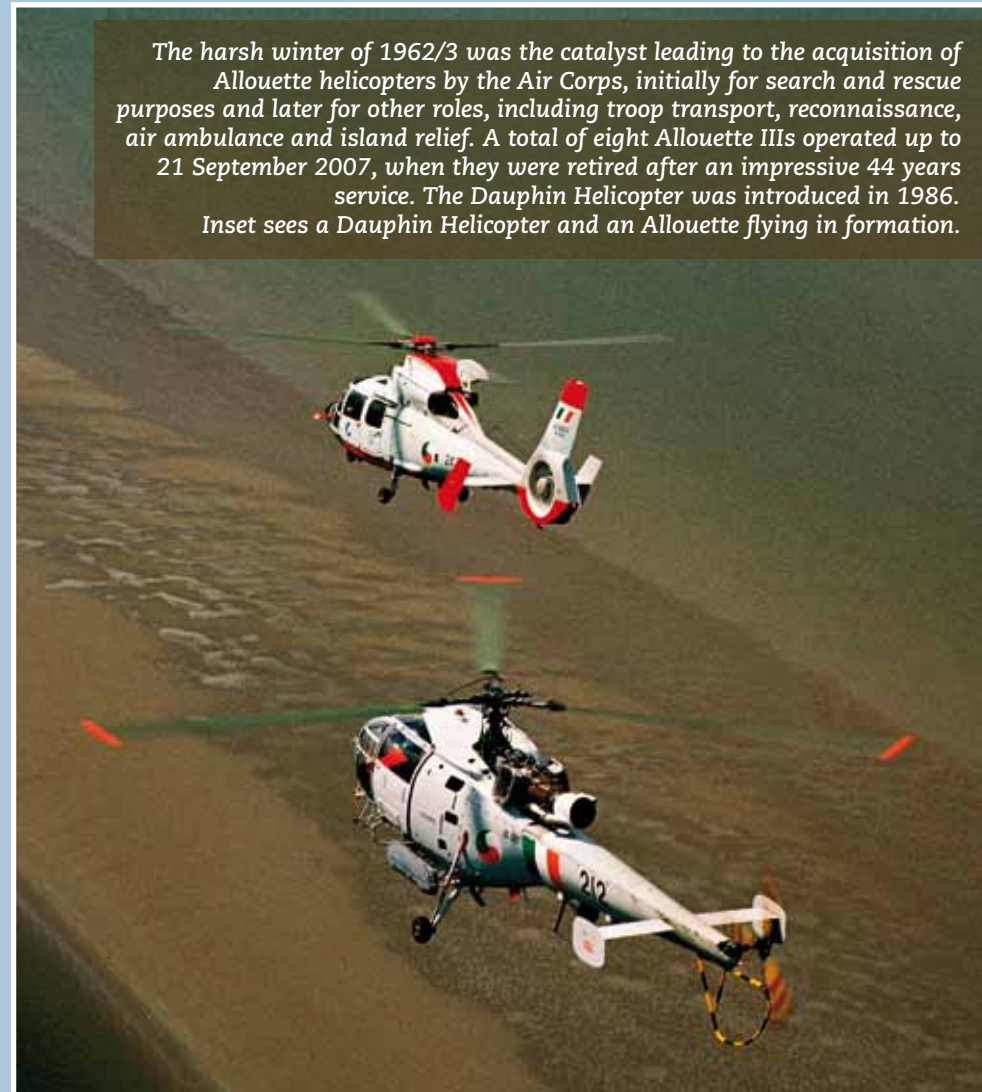




3 Infantry Battalion training in the Glen of Imaal in a Panhard M3 APC. These first came into service in 1972 and remained in service for three decades.



In 1975, the Fouga Magister was introduced to the Air Corps. These jets were flown by the Air Corps aerobatic team, the Silver Swallows between 1986 and 1998.



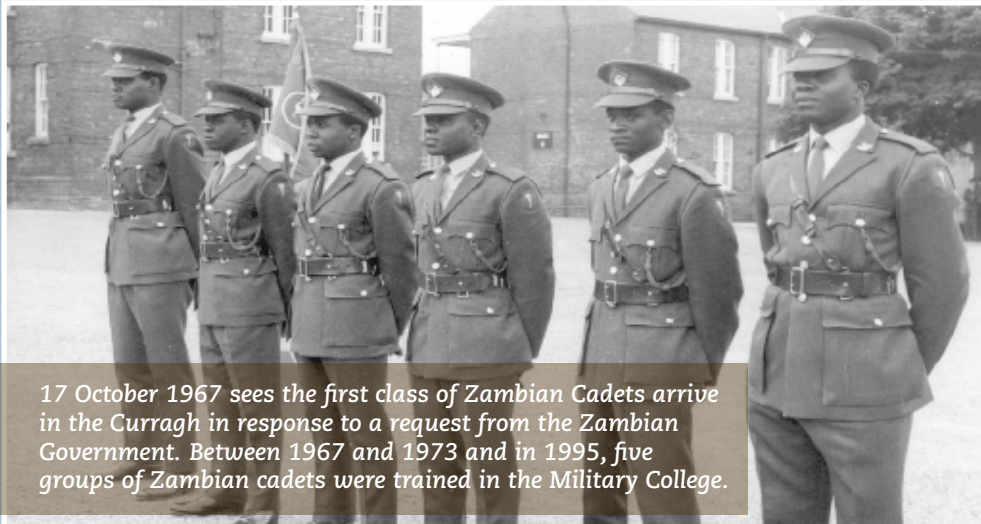
The harsh winter of 1962/3 was the catalyst leading to the acquisition of Allouette helicopters by the Air Corps, initially for search and rescue purposes and later for other roles, including troop transport, reconnaissance, air ambulance and island relief. A total of eight Allouette IIIs operated up to 21 September 2007, when they were retired after an impressive 44 years service. The Dauphin Helicopter was introduced in 1986. Inset sees a Dauphin Helicopter and an Allouette flying in formation.





*The first four Cadets of the Women's Service Corps entered the Cadet School on 10 March 1980. On 29 October 1981, the first female recruit platoon passed out. Women served in non combatant roles and could only serve in headquarter appointments on overseas missions. This policy was withdrawn in 1992 and full integration of women ensued. Inset is the 1st and 2nd Female Cadet Classes.*





17 October 1967 sees the first class of *Zambian Cadets* arrive in the Curragh in response to a request from the *Zambian Government*. Between 1967 and 1973 and in 1995, five groups of *Zambian cadets* were trained in the *Military College*.



Logistical staff providing rations to troops in the field.



The Defence Forces continues to provide a ceremonial function for State occasions through the provision of *Military bands*.



# Modern Capabilities 2000–2013

*Javelin Missile being fired in Glen of Imaal*

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# Introduction

The Defence Forces now has a high level of sophisticated equipment that has enhanced its profile at home and abroad. 2008 saw the introduction of a new fleet of Mowag, Close and Medium Reconnaissance vehicles (MRV/CRV) which replaced the 1960s Panhard AML 90 and 60. The Light Tactical Armoured Vehicle (LTAV) was also introduced in 2010. Similar in capability to the CRV, it has a mounted .5 inch Machine Gun and Remote Weapon System (RWS). The LTAV variants include capabilities such as Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) and the comms vehicle includes wide band technology which enables information such as images from other assets to be received directly to the vehicles comms system.

The Naval Service has a number of offshore and coastal vessels with state of the art machinery, weapons, navigation and communication equipment. Their main armament, the 76mm Oto Melara can engage targets up to 17km. The Naval underwater unit is also capable of underwater engineering, assistance in explosive ordnance disposal at sea and search and recovery. The Air Corps AW139 helicopter has a troop lifting capacity of up to 14 personnel and a variant version can be used as an air ambulance as with the EC135. The CASA maritime patrol aircraft can patrol up to 1440 nautical miles reaching a max speed of 240 knots. It can remain in the air for 8 hours without refuelling.





Artillery 105mm Gun in action in a shoot in the Glen of Imaal.



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Comms variation of the LTAV with wide band capability pictured with the remote controlled Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) vehicle.



The Reserve Defence Forces is made up of the Army and Naval Reserve.



Engineers are trained for mine searching and awareness.



*The Naval Service has navigated seas all over the world and is constantly patrolling our waters and protecting our shores. It can patrol waters in high seas and harsh weather conditions.*

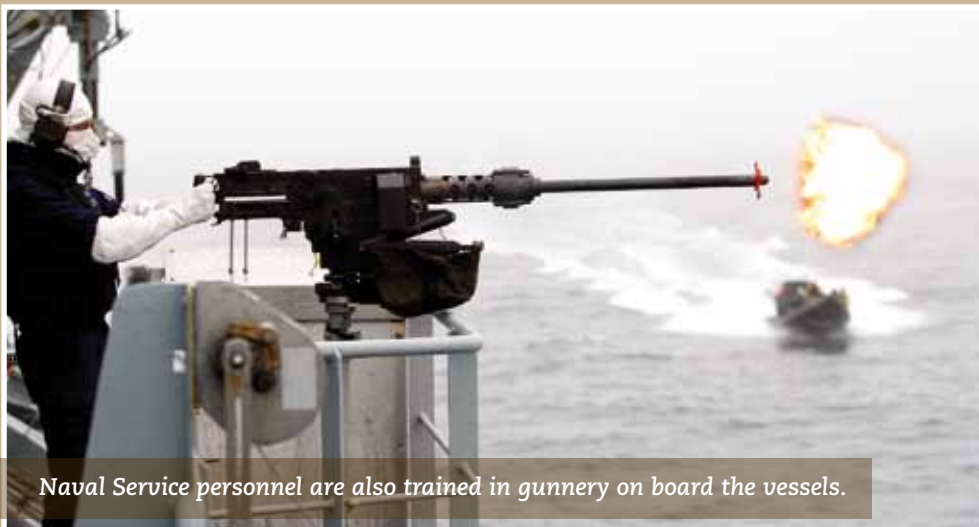


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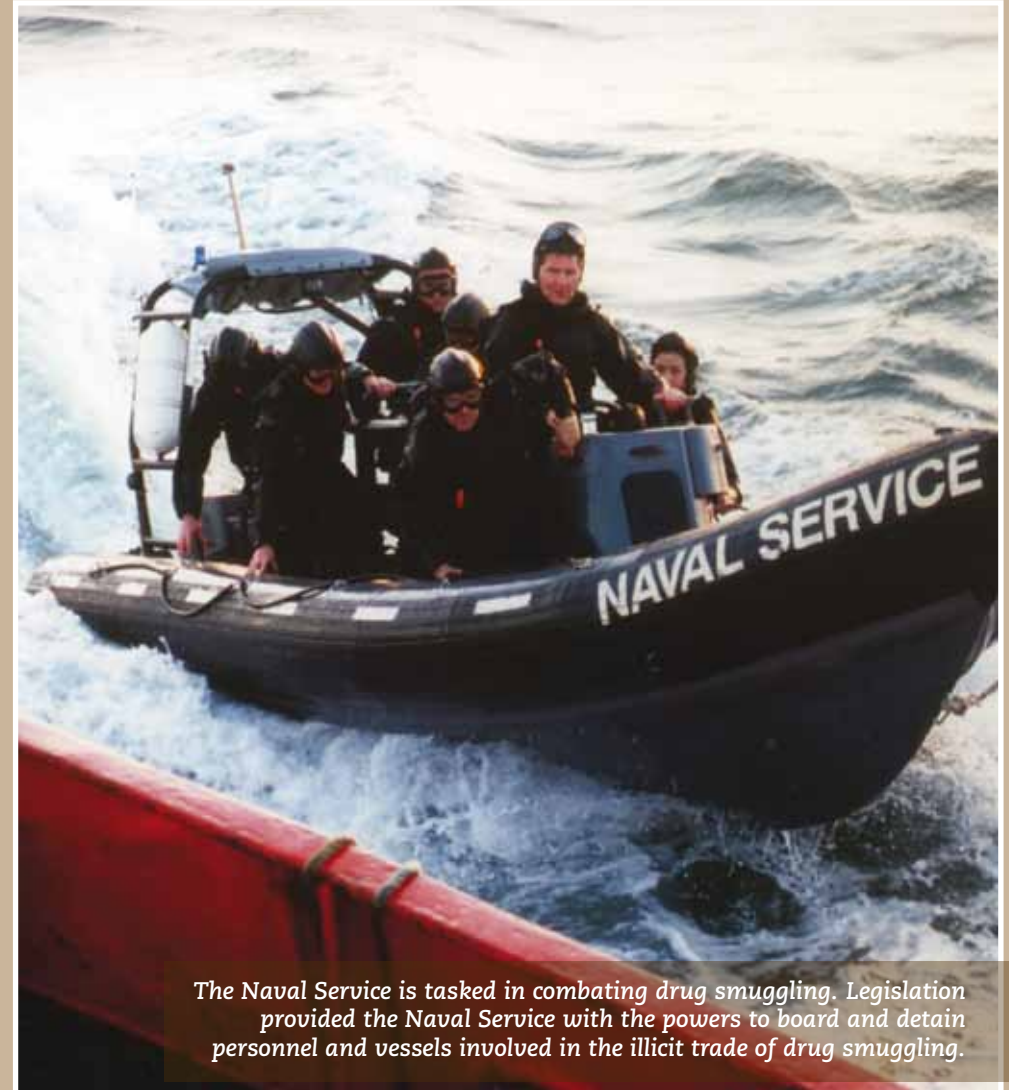




*LÉ Eithne (P31) is the largest vessel in the fleet containing a helicopter capability and can operate in harsh environments for extended periods. The Air Corps frequently work with the Naval Service for surveillance and reconnaissance operations and training.*



*Naval Service personnel are also trained in gunnery on board the vessels.*



*The Naval Service is tasked in combating drug smuggling. Legislation provided the Naval Service with the powers to board and detain personnel and vessels involved in the illicit trade of drug smuggling.*



An AW139 conducts a winching operation. The AW139 is a medium-lift twin-engine helicopter with a troop lifting capacity of up to 14 personnel.



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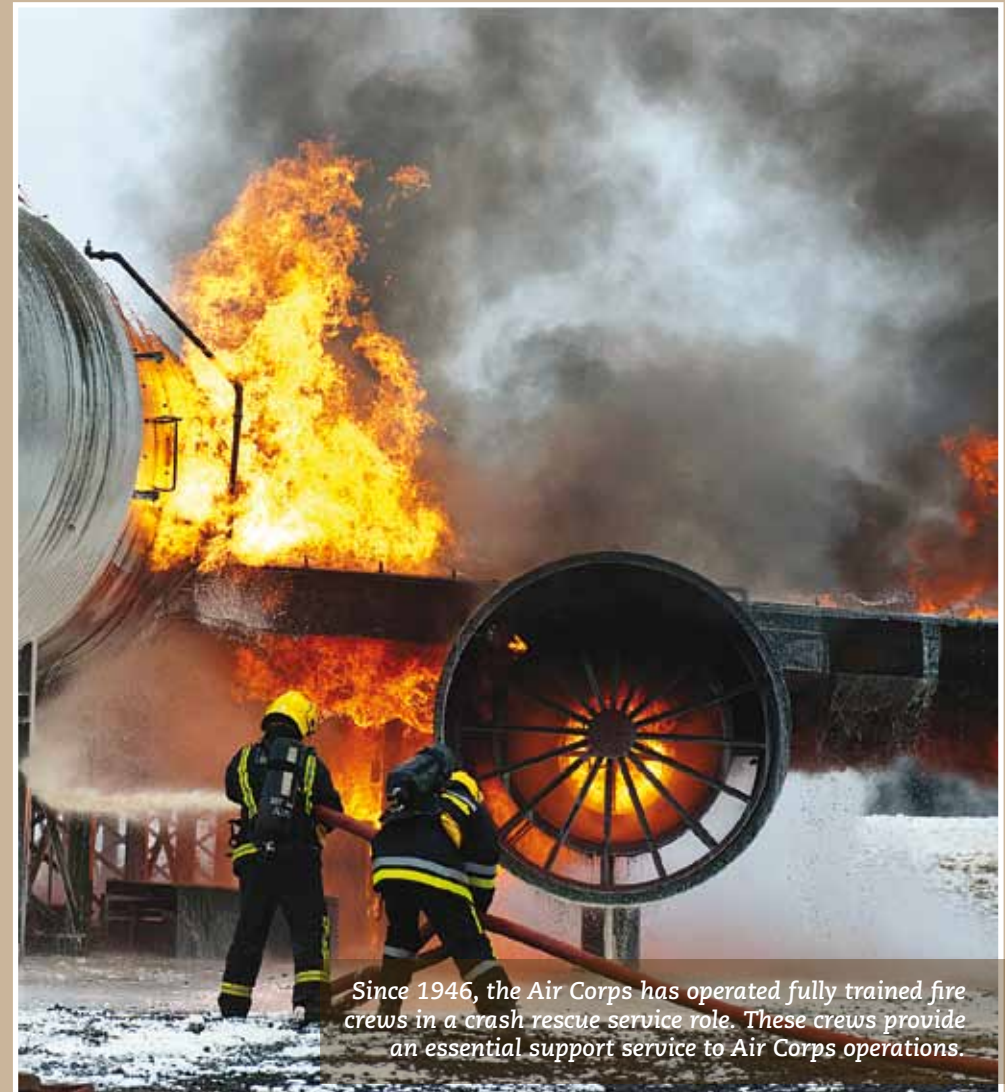




*ARW personnel are highly skilled with extremely sophisticated equipment to deal with specialist taskings.*



*The Casa CN 235 entered service in 1994 and operate seven days a week usually in the off shore maritime patrol arena. Working with the Naval Service, the Casa CN 235 provides an aerial platform for patrolling the Irish Economic Zone, (132,000 square miles or 16% of the total EU sea fisheries).*



*Since 1946, the Air Corps has operated fully trained fire crews in a crash rescue service role. These crews provide an essential support service to Air Corps operations.*



# Acknowledgements

It is from the foundation of the Irish Volunteers on 25th November 1913 that the Military Archives collection policy commences, marking a period of 100 years. This pictorial history presents a sampling of the images available within our photographic collections during the period 1913–2013. It was not possible to include each and every significant activity or event nor highlight the role of particular people who participated throughout this period. It is hoped that this publication will create an awareness of the wide range of collections available to the public to research through the Military Archives and not to emphasise one period over another. I would like to thank Captain Claire Mortimer who took the project lead on this publication. I would like to also thank the staff of the Military Archives, Public Relations Section and the Printing Press for their assistance throughout this project.

I wish to acknowledge the following private collections held by the Military Archives which were used in this publication:

*Joe Kelly Private Collection*

*Colm Galligan Private Collection*

*E.A Lawlor Private Collection*

*Frances O' Rafferty Private Collection*

*Col B. Nott Private Collection*

*Capt Jack Miller Private Collection*

*Hanley Private Collection*

This collection was arranged in chronological sequence and theme commencing with the revolutionary period up until present day both at home and overseas. In total, seven chapters are included covering the revolutionary period, emerging/formative years, the Emergency, Post War, Overseas, At home and Modern capabilities.

This exhibition was drawn primarily from the Military Archives with a few exceptions who kindly provided permission for their use.

The Irish Times – Images of the visit of President John F. Kennedy to Ireland 1963.

**Commandant Padraic Kennedy**

*Officer in Charge*

*Military Archives*

**www.militaryarchives.ie**







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