

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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April 2012



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**MILITARY  
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**AIR CORPS  
OPERATIONS  
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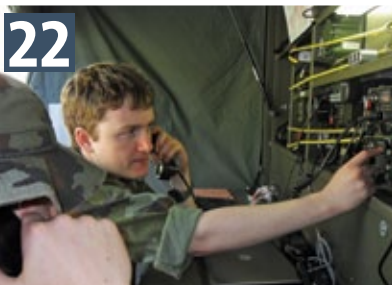
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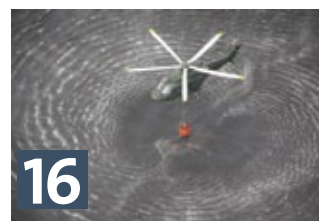


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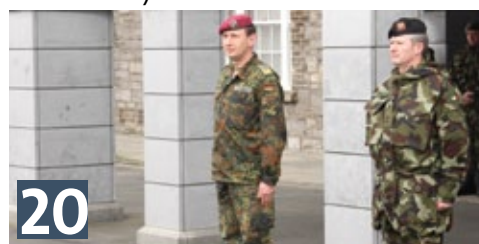
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**Front Cover:**

Capt Ciaran Duignan as No 4 during  
formation training using a GoPro  
Camera. For more Defence Forces  
photographs, checkout: [www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine)

# EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to April's mag, again we have packed it from cover to cover. Starting with our *In Focus* pages on the recent Cadet Commissioning Ceremonies. We have a very interesting feature on *Military Archives* and its staff by Wesley Bourke. Our next main feature is a look at *Air Corps Operations during 2011*. There are some extra articles this month, the first is on the recent *ECDL eLearning launch* by D Trg and the Mil Admin Sch, the other is *Recce Down South* with the 4 Inf Bn. Our *centre spread* is a photographic celebration of St. Patrick's Day Home and Away. In our *Strategic Review* this month we had the opportunity to speak to the EU Battlegroup Comdr Brig Gen Leidenberger in Cathal Brugha Bks. Our *In Reserve* feature is on a CIS Ex with the 62 Res CIS Coy. Military Historian Paul O'Brien MA writes for us in our *History* section about fighting during the 1916 Rising. In *Sport* we have Part 3 of Lt Col Dolan's Cycling feature Travels with Surly and finally our other

regulars - *On Parade*, *Tac Aide*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

Some exciting news for you is Joe Mallon Motors with an exclusive reader offer for a new Renault car (advert page 2), we also have an exclusive discount offer from Funtasia Waterpark in May (advert page 30), and finally next month we will have a new Equipment Review page sponsored by our new partner Team Alpha check out their new website at [www.team-alpha.ie](http://www.team-alpha.ie)

*Wayne Fitzgerald*

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor



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## Writing articles and letters

**Ideally we would like articles and letters submitted in by email or disc (CD/DVD). Hardcopy articles are also accepted.**

As a general rule, we look for 2-3 page articles with 600 to 700 words per A4 page. Larger articles are considered, though they may be spread over two issues or submitted to the 'Defence Forces Review' publication with the author's approval.

All material submitted should have a military related topic or be interesting to our readers.

**Sending in a photograph**

When sending photographs in, especially by email, please consider the following:

- Save as jpeg format
- File size: No less than 1.5Mb and no bigger

than 3Mb (as jpegs)

- Resolution: 300 DPI
  - Dimension: 150x100mm (6x4in) minimum
- Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs, burn them to disc and post in! Clearly mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'. Also submit a short note with details like:

- Who took the photograph
- What was the occasion
- Where did it happen
- Who is in the photograph (left to right, back to front, rank, first and surnames)

If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

**If you can't do this, please send them in as big (size) as you can, unchanged or unedited.**



# ON PARADE



## FOND FAREWELL ▲

Presentation made to Lt Col Joe Scanlon EO 4 W Brigade RDF on his retirement from the Defence Forces by Comdt Ger O'Grady (OC 58 Res Inf Bn) on 25 Feb 2012. *Photo: Lt John Mc Candless (58 Res Inf Bn)*

## ENGINEERS WEEK

Pte Damien Greene and Cpl Alan Veale (4 Fld Eng) are pictured with Teachers and pupils from local schools who visited Custume Bks, Athlone on Tue 28 Feb during Engineers Week. *Photo: Sgt Anthony Feery (HQ 4 W BDE)*



## FOND FAREWELL ▲

Pictured at a recent retirement presentation in Ceannt NCO's Mess to members of the SSU, DFTC are (l/r): RSM Patrick Doyle, CQMS Tom Sweeney (Retd), Cpl Paula Kiely (Retd), Cpl Tony Kinsella (Retd). *Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)*

## YOUNG GUNS

62 Res Cav Sqn members pictured on a recent Gunnery Course in Cathal Brugha Bks are, (back row l/r): Sgt Conran S, Tpr O'Brien R, Tpr Little G, Cpl Heaslip D, Capt Morris M. (front row l/r): Cpl O'Griofa F, Cpl Pendrid G, Tpr O'Brien K. *Photo: Lt Damien O'Herlihy (62 Res Cav Sqn)*



## WITH THANKS

On Fri 09 March 2012, Officers and Men from the 104 Inf Bn UNIFIL, presented a cheque for €2,000 to A/OC 4 W Bde Col G Aherne in Custume Bk, Athlone. Col Aherne accepted the cheque on behalf of Pieta House, and expressed his deepest gratitude to all members of the 104th Inf Bn for their generous contribution. Pictured (l/r): Pte Philip O'Duffy, Sgt Joe Cassidy, Col Gerard Aherne (A/OC 4 W Bde) Capt Gillian Martin, Comdt Kevin McCarthy (DCO 104 Inf Bn), Lt Col Jim Byrne and Capt Mark Lennon. *Photo: Sgt Anthony Feery (HQ 4 W BDE)*



## VIP VISIT

Pictured at Thomand House, Dromoland, on a recent visit by (l/r): CS Kieran Flynn (62 MP Coy), Kevin McCormack (ONEt / Irish UN Living History Group), Piper Daniel O'Halloran (Tulla Pipe Band), Major Paddy Shields (Irish Guards, Queen's Household Division), Maura McCormack (ONE / IUNLHG), Lord Inchiquin Sir Conor O'Brien, Deputy Mayor PJ Ryan (Clare Co-Co), Councillor Patrick McMahon (Clare Co-Co), and Timothy Person O'Connell (NS Retd / IUNLHG). *Photo: Timothy O'Connell*



## THANK YOU

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD took the opportunity to thank Sgt Major John Egan from Ceremonial Section DFHQ who retired at the end of Feb 2012.





## ON RETIREMENT

Lt Col Tony Hanlon presents a statuette to Cpl Mark (Fred) Kennedy (Logs Admin) on his retirement from the DF after 22yrs, pictured on the 9th Mar 2012 in the NCOs Mess, McKee Bks. *Photo by: Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald*



## BFW AWARD ▲

The VEC presented 32 members of the BFW with Communications and IT Skills FETAC Level 5 Certificates; this is the first ceremony of this type to take place in the 2 E Bde. Pictured: Ms Marion Lynch (VEC Head of Dept), Ms Joan Devlin (VEC Course Co-Ord), Tutors and students, Lt Col Farrelly (OC 2 LSB) and RSM Derek Lamb (2 LSB). *Photo by: Armn Neville Coughlan*

## FOR CHARITY ▼

On the 11 Mar, 15 members of the MP Coy and MP Sch, DFTC participated in the DEBRA Ireland, Wicklow Mountain Half Marathon and 10 km Challenge. A cheque will be presented to DEBRA Ireland next week, after bucket collections and a table quiz are completed to raise as much money as possible for the cause. *Photo: Sgt Pat Balfe (MP Coy, DFTC)*



## TRACK AND FIELD ▲

On Wed 29th Feb the inaugural indoor track and field event took place in Nenagh Co. Tipperary between the Defence Forces and the Royal Air Force. This was the first bilateral event of this type with RAF, the event also included guest teams from NUIG and WIT. *Photo: Comdt Tom O'Keefe & Capt Ruaidhri Kedney*

## FOUNDING FATHER ▼

The last founding member of the Kevin Barry Branch of ONet was honoured recently. Micheál Jones was presented with a special medal to mark his 50yrs service to ONE by John 'Gus' Hennessey (National Director, ONet). Micheál now in his 90s from Bagnelstown, formed the branch 54yrs ago and is only the second person to receive such an honour. *Photo: Hughie Kelly*



## ST. PATRICKS DAY ▼

Members of the Father James Gilmore Branch of ONet at the St. Patricks Day Parade Trim Co. Meath. *Photo: Sean Shinnors*





# IN FOCUS

## 87TH CADET CLASS COMMISSIONING

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & JIM O'CONNOR

On the 8 March 2012, after 15 months of rigorous education and training the commissioning ceremony of 87th Cadet Class took place in the DFTC. The ceremony began with a guard of honour provided by 88th Cadet Class, which was inspected by the Minister of State for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD. Also in attendance were the Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Seán McCann, and Brig Gen Xuereb, Commander Armed Forces Malta.

After the marching on of the colours each Irish officer cadet was called up to read out the Oath of Commissioning before receiving their rank markings and sword. Each was then presented with his/her commission as an officer by Minister Kehoe on behalf of An tUachtarán.

The three Maltese cadets were presented with certificates of completion of their training in the Cadet School by Brig Gen Xuereb. The ARCO (Association of Retired Commissioned Officers) Sword An Claiomh Gaiscíochta, awarded to the Best Overall Cadet, was presented to Cadet Shane Walsh by ARCO President Col Brian O'Connor (retd).

After an address by Minister Kehoe, the ceremony concluded with the Irish and Maltese national anthems being played by the Army No 1 Band as the class pennant was handed over to the Cadet School.

For more photos please visit our Flickr page: [www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine/sets/72157629545458585/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine/sets/72157629545458585/)



*Lt Shane Walsh and Family with Col (Retd) Brian O'Connor (President ARCO)*



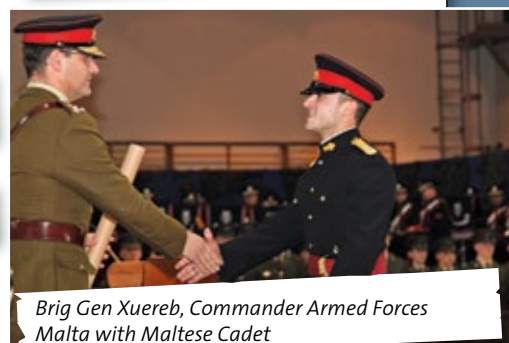
*Cadets swearing their Oath of Commissioning*



*Lt Gen Seán McCann, Brig Gen Xuereb and Mr Paul Kehoe TD*



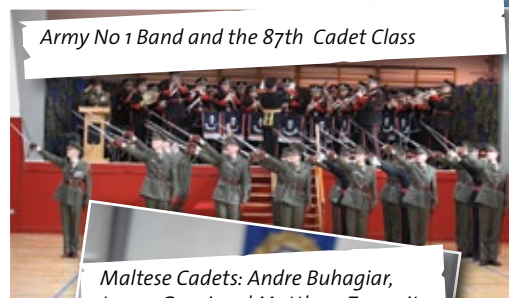
*Lt Peter Condon receives rank markings and sword*



*Brig Gen Xuereb, Commander Armed Forces Malta with Maltese Cadet*



*The 88th Cadet Class GoH*



*Army No 1 Band and the 87th Cadet Class*



*Maltese Cadets: Andre Buhagiar, James Gauci and Matthew Zammit*

# The Generation Game

BY TERRY MCLAUGHLIN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & JIM O'CONNOR

**A**t the Commissioning of the 87th Cadet Class, which took place in the Curragh on Thursday March 8th, An Cosantóir met up with a family whose service in the Defence Forces goes back to the Emergency, and whose roots go back even further.

Among the family members proudly watching 2/Lt Christopher Humphreys receive his commission were two who had trodden the same path themselves: his grandfather, Col James Fagan (retired), and his mother Capt Gabrielle Humphreys (née Fagan), also retired.

Col Fagan, who was born in May 1923, was commissioned in 1941 and served until 1983. Mainly serving in Athlone and the Curragh. Col Fagan's career included 12 years with the Military Police Corps. It also included overseas trips to Lebanon with UNOGIL in 1958 (the first UN deployment for members of the Defence Forces); Congo with ONUC in 1961/2, where as a captain with 36 Inf Bn he was involved in the Battle of the Tunnel; and Cyprus with UNFICYP in 1966.

His memories of the Battle of the Tunnel are very vivid and he is adamant that the Defence Forces and the people of Ireland should never forget the brave Irish soldiers who lost their lives in the incident.

Col Fagan retired as EO Curragh Command in 1983,

the same year his daughter, Gabrielle, was commissioned with the 58th Cadet Class. Gabrielle served for 13 years, during which she served mainly in CTD W in Athlone and Southern Command HQ. While serving, Gabrielle was involved in setting up the PSS (Personnel Support Section).

However, the family links with the Defence Forces go back even further. Col Fagan's uncle, Tommy Lennon, joined the National Army in 1922, straight after the War of Independence. Also, 2/Lt Humphreys's maternal grandmother was born in the Curragh Camp, the daughter of Comdt Alphonsus O'Neill, who had been a member of Michael Collins's GHQ Int Section during the War of Independence, and who had joined the National Army in 1925.

Such is the weight of history that young 2/Lt Humphreys carries with him as he embarks on his career as a member of 2 Cav Sqn. It is also fitting that he should begin his service in the Eastern Brigade as it means that between them, grandfather, mother and son, have now served in every command/brigade of the Defence Forces.

We wish 2/Lt Humphreys and all his newly commissioned classmates the best for their future careers. ■



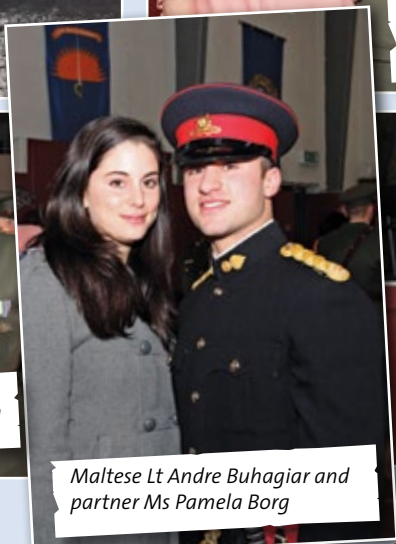
*Captain Fagan with 36 Inf Bn ONUC Congo 1961/2*



*Capt (Retd) Gabrielle Humphreys (née Fagan), COS Seán McCann, Col (Retd) James Fagan and 2/Lt Christopher Humphreys*



*Lt Ian Lonergan with his Father Cpl John Lonergan (MP Coy DFTC) and COS Seán McCann*



*Maltese Lt Andre Buhagiar and partner Ms Pamela Borg*



*2/Lt Keefe Meehan with his Father Garda Sgt Cyril Meehan*



# WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



## EUROPE

After a summit of foreign ministers, **Serbia** became an official candidate for membership of the European Union. There were last minute concerns from Romania. It sought assurances over the status of an ethnic minority group in Serbia who are considered Romanian.

In **Belarus** President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said it would expel Polish and EU envoys. In response the EU withdrew all its ambassadors from the country.

Aleksandr Ankyab, **Abkhazia's** president survived a sixth attempt on his life. He survived but one of his bodyguards was killed.

Former Prime Minister of **Iceland**, Geir Haarde, went on trial charged with gross negligence during his time in office during the financial crash in 2008.



On March 4 as expected Vladimir Putin won **Russia's** presidential election. Some 15,000 people took to the streets of Moscow in an anti-Putin rally the following day.

Two men were arrested in **Ukraine**. It is claimed that they were planning to kill the then Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

## THE AMERICA'S



Florindo Flores Hala, the leader of the ruminants of the Shining Path guerrillas, was captured by **Peruvian** security forces.

In **Colombia** FARC guerrillas said they would end their practice of kidnapping civilians for ransom and holding members of the security forces to swap for their own jailed members.

Five computer hackers arrested in Britain, Ireland and the **US**, with a sixth pleading guilty. The men are accused by the FBI of cyber-attacks aimed at company and government websites. The hackers claim to be part the group LulzSec, who claim to have taken down the CIA website.

## AFRICA

The UN Security Council agreed to pass a resolution increasing the amount of African Union troops in Somalia. A conference of 40 foreign ministers was held in London to discuss ways to co-ordinate the help given to Somalia in security and development matters.

Fighting between government forces and Tuarag rebels in **Mali**, forced tens of thousands to flee the country.

In the Republic of **Congo** a fire in an arms depot in Brazzaville killed at least 200 people. Rescue efforts were hampered by ammunition exploding at the site.

## MIDDLE EAST

**Egypt** lifted a travel ban on pro-democracy activists, including 16 Americans. The country brought forward its presidential elections. The first round will be held on 23/24 May.

Ahead of a forthcoming ban by the EU, **Iran** halted oil sales to British and French companies.

Shia neighbourhoods in Baghdad and other cities were the primary target of a wave of bombings in **Iraq**.



It is speculated that **Syrian** forces deliberately targeted and bombarded the media centre in the city of Homs, where a western war correspondent and photojournalist were killed. Syria's deputy oil minister resigned and joined the rebel opposition. Government forces secured the northern city of Idlib. The UN estimates over 8,000 have died since the start of the unrest.

**Israeli** Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu went to Washington for talks with Barack Obama. Top of the agenda was Iran's nuclear weapons programme.

## ASIA



Only two months after Kim Jong Un's ascent to power in **North Korea**, he agreed to suspend both uranium-enrichment at its Yongbyon plant and further testing of long-range missiles. In return America will provide at least 240,000 tonnes of food aid to the impoverished state. America's secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, said, it was, 'first step in right direction'.

After the burning of Koran's by American soldiers in **Afghanistan** the country saw severe protests across the country. Adding to the government's problems a manhunt was launched for a police intelligence officer in connection with the killing of two senior NATO officers.

An American soldier went on an unprovoked shooting rampage in two villages in the south of the country. He killed 16 people including nine children. The incident provoked a series of revenge attacks.

Continued tensions in **China's** western region of Xinjiang over Uighur and Han Chinese ended in rioting. Some 20 people were killed. In Shanghai a century old bridge was stolen. Two men were arrested. They intended to sell it as building blocks.



# KEEPING THE PAST **ALIVE**

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**M**ilitary Archives, based in Cathal Brugha Bks, has pictures, documents and records dating back to the foundation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913, as well as architectural maps and drawings of barracks dating from the mid-19th century. It houses thousands of boxes comprising hundreds of collections covering everything from action reports in the Civil War to personal diaries from the 1970s.

While it reports directly to D Int, the National Archives Act 1986 requires it also to report to the Director of National Archives.

Comdt Victor Lang, OiC Military Archives since 1987, retired this February and the current acting/OiC is Capt Stephen MacEoin. The staff also includes Pte Adrian Short and three highly skilled civilian archivists: Noelle Grothier, Lisa Dolan, and Hugh Beckett.

The five main areas of records are: Defence Forces material; Dept of Defence material; the Army Pensions Board (a major project planned for release in late 2012); collections from the Bureau of Military History; and private collections.

Military Archives is extremely busy, with inquiries and researchers ranging from serving personnel researching material for a course to civilians looking up relatives' service records, and from students doing a history project to academics working

on a book or paper. "Each week we deal with 20 to 30 scheduled researchers and around 200 inquires via email, post and phone," said Noelle Grothier. "The civilian archivists work on a three-week rotation. This week Lisa is covering the reading room and Hugh is shadowing, which means he will cover for Lisa if she needs a break, deal with any inquiries, and keep up to date on day-to-day stuff, while the third person, myself, is working on the collections."

"I'm somewhat removed from the actual archiving," Capt MacEoin told us. "As acting/OiC I'm involved more in the management side, such as providing advice to the Defence Forces on our obligations under the National Archives Act and overseeing the activities of the archivists. Naturally, to be able to carry out these tasks requires a thorough understanding of the subject and having an MA in Archive & Records Management from UCD is a big help to me."

"I also have responsibility for procurement and drawing up tenders, which again requires a thorough understanding of the subject in order to draw up technical specifications for the equipment and services that we need."

All state archives are governed by the 30-year-rule, so records are not made available to the general public until 30 years after an event. Over the last number of years the archivists have





been dealing with a lot of inquiries regarding events that have just become eligible for release, such as overseas unit histories.

At the moment the archivists are working on their 1982 files. "On release, Dept of Defence files go to the National Archives for a year and then come back to us," Lisa Dolan told us. "Any military and department records that are of a sensitive nature are referred to OIC Military Archives for advice on their release."

"We get a huge range of inquiries," Lisa continued. "Sometimes we simply may not have what someone is looking for and a good bit of our time is spent pointing the person in the right direction."

A common query is from people looking for a relative's service records. However, firstly the person must be next-of-kin (a birth certificate may suffice as proof) and secondly the inquirer needs as much information as possible about their relative, such as name, number, unit, and date of birth. Due to the sheer volume of inquiries it generally takes eight weeks for the archivists to process such an inquiry.

"From the foundations of the Defence Forces up to 1982 we have all PDF personnel records," Lisa explained. "After '82 you have to go to Enlisted Personnel Section and Officers Records. For the Reserves we only have officers' records; enlisted reservists' records are kept in Area Records. Civilian employees' records are kept in the Dept of Defence."

For anyone wishing to research a particular subject for themselves the process is somewhat similar. "You need to write in or email in advance to specify what you are looking for so we can have it ready," Hugh Beckett explained. "Sometimes it may be a question of coming in and going through catalogues and then coming back a second day to do the reading. You have to make an appointment to come in and use the reading room."

The staff can often predict material that needs to be prioritised for use. For instance, in recent years there have been anniversaries regarding the Congo, President Kennedy's visit, and the 80th anniversary of the Eucharistic Congress, all of which sparked interest.

There are also areas always in demand. "We earmark key areas of interest," Lisa explained, "such as the War of Independence, the Civil War, the Emergency, and the UN. However, as universities add more courses, such as the MA in Military His-

tory in Maynooth, people want to research all sorts of topics, such as specific overseas units, for example."

While we often have Military Archives credited in books and papers, its contribution often goes beyond the bookshelf. Readers may remember the story last year about the resurrection of a WWII RAF Spitfire from a bog in Donegal. Archaeologists found that aircraft through the Army's crash investigation records in Military Archives.

"As well as producing historical publications," Capt MacEoin told us, "we also give heritage advice and material to the various barracks museums. For example, in the new Curragh Museum we provided scanned photographs and documents for the display boards."

The staff's passion for their job shines through clearly. To the layman some of their projects appear to consist simply of updating or digitalising the collection, but in opening up a box or a ledger they are literally transported back in time. Noelle is currently working on the Civil War period.

"There are a number of different collections," she explained. "For example we have ledgers that list IRA soldiers interned in various locations around the country. To complement that we also have an index of all prisoners who fought on the anti-Treaty side, giving each prisoner's name, address, location of arrest, duration, and where he was interned."

"On the National Army side we have operational and intelligence reports from the various commands, generally starting from December 1922. Some might simply say: 'Six men went on patrol, nothing to report,' or 'Raided three houses, found ten rifles.'"

"Even though our anti-Treaty records generally only come from prisoners you can still see they ran their organisation like any other army. So, from these records you learn that both sides were very well organised."

Hugh is working on the department side of things from the same period. "I'm working on early Dept of Defence files called the 'A' files, which cover 1922-24," he told us. "It's not a complete collection as a lot of the early materials didn't survive. However, you get an overview of everything they were doing, from dealing with compensation claims from people whose property was raided by the National Army to files on the transportation of prisoners."

"Military Archives has three main pillars," Capt MacEoin informed us: "historical, legal, and the requirement to satisfy the National Archives Act. Regarding the legal aspect, our records cover everything from incidents overseas to military police reports and these can be vital in a legal case. For instance, during the Callanan Report on 64 Inf Bn, Mr Frank Callanan SC came here to go through those records."

It is important to understand that Military Archives is about more than just keeping records of 'interesting' events from the past. Capt MacEoin is anxious to stress the link between archives and proper records management. "Our archivists are trained to make judgement calls on the likely future historic value of the records they are working on," he explained. "Obvi-





ously, we can't keep every scrap of paper we receive so someone has to decide on the historic value of each record - to predict what is going to be important, without the benefit of hindsight - and that's what our people are trained to do. And it's not all glamorous stuff either; after all, today's accident and injury report may be required to decide a court case in 10 years time." ■

# Farewell to Mr Archives

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN



**A**nyone who has ever spent time in Military Archives, researching for a thesis or looking up a relation's service-records, will surely have met Comdt Victor Lang, OC Military Archives. Over the last 25 years Comdt Lang, who retired this February, has been one of the main drivers in bringing Archives from little more than a storeroom up to an invaluable national asset. This is his story.

"I joined the Defence Forces in 1974, serving with 4 Inf Bn before moving to QMG's Branch in 1983. Following a tour of duty with UNIFIL in 1985 I was sent to Archives and as I had a degree in history I was looking forward to the posting. On completion of my JCSC I did a post-graduate diploma in Archival Studies in UCD."

"Comdt Peter Young was in charge at that time and Archives was part of Int Branch, based in the Red House on Infirmery Road. When he arrived in 1977 there were 200 boxes of collections: when I went in as a young captain there were 4,000. The Red House was clearly not suitable and in 1987 we identified St Patrick's Hall in Cathal Brugha Bks as a suitable building. At the time it looked like there was ample storage space and reading areas but no sooner had we moved in than we were handed a further 4,000 boxes of collections."

"Since then Archives has grown significantly due to systems in place whereby units around the country and overseas regularly send information to us. Today we have 35,000 boxes, with a further 25,000 in storage. In 1987 there were 63 personal collections; today there are over 1,100."

"Military Archives holds records on every aspect of the Defence Forces from its foundation up to the present, and other material going back to the 1916 Rising and the foundation of the state. Our records aren't all paper based either; there are photographs, film, computer-generated material, maps, plans and drawings."

"I spent the first few years learning the modus operandi and what was in the various collections. Working in Archives back

then were Sgt Billy Norton, Sgt Joe White and Cpl Brendan Mahoney, guys who loved handling the records, and knew how to put them into context and make that information easily available for the public. I have to pay tribute to these fellow archivists who guided me in those early years."

"The people you meet in Archives range from secondary school students to university students, family historians, academics working on a new book or paper, and Defence Forces personnel doing research."

"There are a number of popular collections, such as 1916, the Civil War, the Emergency, and the Congo, but you could also get people coming in to research something like sports in the Defence Forces. Then you have those people who pop in as part of a tour of the barracks. I've met wonderful people who have come in to ask one question and five hours later you are still chatting. A few days later they'll be back with a box full of documents, diaries, letters, and photographs from their grandfather's service."

"Archives is not one of those jobs where you can spend two years and then hand over to someone else. If you talk to any of the staff they will tell you that you are constantly learning, keeping up with the latest publications, books, and theses, especially relating to the Defence Forces. It takes years to build up knowledge and expertise on the various collections to the point where you can hopefully point a researcher towards the relevant collection."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here. It has been a very rewarding career through which I've met many members of the Defence Forces, serving and retired, and their families. I also had the pleasure of meeting people involved in the foundation of the state and of the Defence Forces: people who had spoken to Pádraig Pearse and Michael Collins. There are not many people who can say that!"

"The success of Archives can be measured in the amount of its material that gets published and used by people throughout the country. It is hugely rewarding when you pick up a book in Eason's or read an officer's thesis in the Defence Forces Review and you see accreditation given to Military Archives." ■



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Potential students must apply through the Postgraduate Applications Centre ([www.pac.ie](http://www.pac.ie)).

The closing date for applications is 2012

For further details see the departmental website (<http://history.nuim.ie/>) or contact Dr Ian Speller at the History Department, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland ([ian.speller@nuim.ie](mailto:ian.speller@nuim.ie))

## THE MILITARY VEHICLE CLUB OF IRELAND IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE IRISH VINTAGE SOCIETY PRESENTS

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Lt Gen Dermot Earley DSM

## MEMORIAL CLARET

With the Kind Permission of the Earley family a charity golf event will take place in the Curragh Golf Club on Wednesday 30 May.

Tee Times from 07:00 - 16:45

Proceeds will go to the Irish Alzheimer's Society Building fund and the Army Benevolent Fund



For information please contact 045-445205 [info@rdfra.ie](mailto:info@rdfra.ie)



# eLearning: The Way Forward

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SGT MICK BURKE

IT applications training has evolved significantly in the Defence Forces since 1997 when the then Director of Signals, Col Seán Brennan, and the staff of the Military Administration School (MAS) signed the first contract to incorporate ECDL as an IT qualification standard for DF personnel. This involved face-to-face (F2F) training and testing in one of six designated centres: the MAS in the DFTC (the administration centre for the programme) and satellite centres in 2 E Bde, 4 W Bde, 1 S Bde, and the Air Corps and Naval Service colleges. In 2011 the six centres trained over 191 DF personnel on the ECDL.

However, in 2007 the Director of Defence Forces Training (DDFT) established a project to develop an eLearning suite for IT applications. The project manager, Sgt Will Fitzgerald, says that the eLearning suite incorporates both training and testing and is based on ECDL Syllabus 5, which includes modules on information and technology (theory); using the computer and managing files; word-processing; spreadsheets; presentations and drawings; databases; communications and information.

At the National IT Training Conference in 2011 it was announced that by the beginning of 2012 all ECDL Test Centres would move away from manual testing to online testing using the Automated Testing System (ATS).

DDFT funding of €26,000 in 2012 equates to 100 eLearning accounts and sufficient numbers of test credits for over 300 personnel. The DF is maximising its return on this investment by not only conducting F2F and eLearning courses at home but also providing the option of ECDL training, using CD-ROMs, to troops serving overseas. Currently 65 members of the Irish contingent serving with UNIFIL are undertaking the course.

The MAS, D CIS, DFHQ CIS Coy and DFTC CIS Detachment were central to the delivery of the ECDL programme. Sgt



MAS Instructor staff with the Best Practice award for ECDL.

Pádraig Ging (ECDL Co-ordinator and Defence Forces Point-of-Contact for ECDL Training), Sgt Sandra Murphy (Deputy ECDL Co-ordinator), Sgt Sinéad Wearen and Cpl Mick Cully are members of the team whose expertise and knowledge was key to the success of the entire ECDL project.

In 2012 the DF led the way again, winning the Best Practice award for ECDL at the 15th National IT Training Conference. This award recognised the high standards of DF ECDL training at home and abroad, and is testament to the quality of instruction and instructional staff who conduct ECDL training.

Entry to the eLearning scheme requires no application: simply ring your local test centre and indicate your interest to undertake the eLearning. The staff of the training centre will register you for an eLearning account at a cost of €40. You can then log in to the eLearning suite on any internet PC (work or home). However, personnel need to be aware that training is done in their own time and requires a considerable effort to complete. You must complete the seven modules within an acceptable time period; these modules are continually assessed and monitored by the test centre staff.

Each test centre advertises walk-in test days for the different modules and you can call the test centre to reserve a place. On completion of the final module exam your results will be marked up on the TMS, thus (if you have passed) resulting in the course being registered on the PMS (AF 43/AF108) and you will be awarded an ECDL certificate.

The project for all DF ECDL Test Centres was launched on 16th March in the MAS by Maj Gen Ralph James (D COS Ops), Mr Jim Friars (CEO ICS Skills) and Mary Cleary (ICS Skills) and the first batch of testing using the new ATS has been completed (see photo below).

It is with thanks to all the stake holders through lots of consultation and testing

that this project has been made possible, these include: DDFT, D CIS, MAS, BTCs, DFHQ CIS IT Ops, Air Corps and Naval Colleges, Capt Helen McQuaid (IT Offr SSU), Lt Col Anthony Bracken (OC MAS), ICS Skills and Enlight. ■



ICS SKILLS Conference (Best Practice Awards Defence Forces) © Mick Langan (2012)



eLearning launch with ICS and DF staff, instructors and students



# ALWAYS READY, WILLING AND **ABLE**

BY CAPT BRENDAN O'DOWD, AIR CORPS PRESS OFFICE

PHOTOS BY 105 SQN



*The crew of the Gulfstream IV crew on their return to Baldonnel following the successful NEO in Libya in February 2011. (L/R): Cpl Leona Walsh, Capt Matthew Quinlan, Flt Sgt Peter Plunkett and Capt Arthur Hunter Nolan.*



**N**inety-one years ago a Martinsyde Type A Mark II biplane was purchased and placed on 24-hour standby in Croydon to be used by General Michael Collins to make it back to Ireland should the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations break down. This, the first Irish military aircraft, went on to become the first aircraft of the Irish Air Service,

the forerunner of the Air Corps, when it was formed in 1922. Today, almost a century later, the Air Corps maintains this tradition of always being on-call for the Irish state and its people.

Over the years the Air Corps has matured into a highly professional organisation, currently operating service-level agreements with several state departments and agencies to fulfil this supporting role. Its pilots and technical training programmes meet, and exceed, the required Joint Aviation Requirements (JAR) standards; its air traffic services meet all Eurocontrol operating and training criteria; and its operational and technical oversight processes and quality assurance checking are up to recognised aviation standards.

A look at the past twelve months of Air Corps operations shows how its duties performed for the Irish people are constantly evolving.

On February 21st 2011, as civil unrest worsened in Libya, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) called on the Air Corps to assist in the evacuation of

Irish citizens. The Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Cowen approved the immediate deployment of two Air Corps aeroplanes, and within hours the Learjet, 'Irish 258', and a CASA, 'Irish 253', with eight aircrew were repositioning to Luqa Airport in Malta to provide an evacuation platform for a possible airlift.

On the first day of the operation 'Irish 253' was tasked with transporting DFA officials to Tripoli Airport in an effort to co-ordinate the evacuation. The attempt was unsuccessful and after four hours of intense negotiations the aircraft departed Tripoli empty.

As the crisis deepened the Gulfstream IV, 'Irish 251', was called-on to collect the Irish Ambassador to Italy, Pat Hennessy, in Rome and bring him to Malta to assist in the negotiations with the Libyan authorities.

On day three of the operation 'Irish 258' was tasked with an air ambulance operation and successfully brought a British family from Tripoli to Malta for urgent medical treatment.

Finally, on February 27th, 'Irish 251' transported an international processing team to Tripoli, which at last allowed for the evacuation of the awaiting Irish nationals.

As the operation wound down 'Irish 258' returned to Casement Aerodrome carrying seven passengers who had been evacuated by HMS Cumberland from Benghazi, and 'Irish 251' returned with seven Irish evacuees and DFA staff.

The return of 'Irish 253' on March 1st marked the end of the seven-day operation and



the first Air Corps involvement in a NEO (non-combatant evacuation operation).

During this international deployment the rest of the fleet were carrying on with routine operations back in Casement Aerodrome. An air ambulance mission to London was completed by No 3 Operations Wing; ballot boxes for the 2011 general election were transported to Tory and Innishbofin islands; and maritime patrols, Garda air support and cash escort top-cover were also provided; all during the time of the Libyan operation.

At the beginning of May 2011 the Air Corps was called upon again, this time to assist fire-fighting services in the north-west who were struggling to contain gorse and forest fires that were sweeping through thousands of acres in Donegal, Mayo and Galway.

The Air Corps deployed its Agusta Westland 139s, equipped with specialised under-slung 'Bambi buckets', capable of dropping 1,200 litres of water in seconds, to the region to help with the fire-fighting operation.

'AW 279' and 'AW 278' operated extensively in the Donegal region, with crews operating from first light until last light and dropping over 500,000 litres of water over the four-day operation.

The Air Corps' Eurocopter EC 135 'Echo 271' was also deployed and transported a Defence Forces' fire-fighting specialist to the area who operated as the on-scene commander for the co-ordinated operation with the County Fire Officer.

The helicopters operated out of Carrickfin Airport, Donegal, and flew close to 100 hours over the four days, proving a vital asset in the Air Corps' first major fire-fighting support role.

While the helicopters battled the gorse fires in the north-west, back in Casement Aerodrome plans were being drawn up for the upcoming official visit of HRM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to Ireland. The Air Corps were tasked with establishing the Joint Air Defence Task Force in Casement Aerodrome, and with deploying assets to provide airspace protection during this historic visit.

Operation 'Bealtaine', a comprehensive air surveillance, interdiction and defence operation, was developed, integrating all Defence Forces assets to cover the visits to Dublin, Kildare and Cork. This operation required detailed planning and liaison with the Irish Aviation Authority, An Garda Síochána and civil Air Traffic Control, as well as developing complicated communications network, airspace management and rules of engagement for the combat air patrols.

Casement Aerodrome became a nucleus for the security operation and in preparation for the Queen's only visit to a Defence Forces barracks a company was deployed to secure the airfield, in addition to the aerial operation. An ISTAR company from 1 S Bde and an infantry company from 4 W Bde also assisted inside and outside the boundaries of the aerodrome. Following months of preparation, the RAF BAe146 aircraft carrying Queen Elizabeth II touched down at Baldonnel, and Brig Gen Paul Fry had the pleasure of welcoming the Queen to Ireland for the first time.

Over the next ten days the whole Air Corps fleet was committed to Operation 'Bealtaine', with over 250 flight hours completed. The Pilatus PC 9s provided combat air patrols and ceremonial flights; the CASA took on the role of an airborne command-and-control platform, as well as providing military transport for the operation; helicopters provided army support, VIP and military transport, and an air ambulance capability; the Cessnas conducted visual air patrols; and the Gulfstream IV and Learjet were on standby for VIP transport.

The success of the co-ordinated effort of the Joint Air Defence Task Force meant that only one aircraft had to be intercepted in the Temporary Restricted Area and shepherded out of the zone by a Pilatus PC 9.

As the Queen departed Ireland attention quickly changed focus to the pending visit of President Obama. Again the Air Corps provided co-ordinated airspace protection during the visit, which was unfortunately cut short due to fears that Air Force One could be grounded by a new volcanic ash cloud blowing down from Iceland.

During all these operations the Air Corps continued with its daily taskings, including 71 air ambulance missions in 2011 (now with an increased capability to transport patients in our helicopters at night with the use of night vision goggles) around Europe with specialist Life Port stretcher systems and even a transatlantic mission with the Gulfstream IV.

Almost 300 maritime patrols were completed; top-cover provided to nearly 300 cash escorts; and 11 calls for search-and-rescue top-cover from the Irish Coast Guard were answered.

From the one aircraft on standby ninety-one years ago the Air Corps now have dedicated fixed- and rotary-wing crews on standby to answer calls for air ambulances and to facilitate round-the-clock Garda air support and the myriad of other taskings that it receives throughout the year.

Since its formation the Irish Air Corps has striven, and still strives, to provide the best service it can to the people of Ireland and to be true to its motto, 'Foraire agus Tairiseacht' (Vigilance and Loyalty). ■



# ST PATRICK'S DAY

## Home and Away

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN (UNLESS OTHERWISE ACCREDITED)

**O**n St Patrick's Day 2012, 524 Irish soldiers were deployed in 14 countries across the globe on peace-support missions. From Congo to Kosovo, Afghanistan to Uganda, Irish troops not on duty celebrated our national day with a mixture of military and national tradition.

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann sent this message to the members of Óglaigh na hÉireann who are serving overseas: "Let me express my best wishes and gratitude to you, the men and women of the Irish Defence Forces, as you celebrate our national day far from home: your commitment and professionalism remains a source of great pride." ■



Blessing of the shamrock in Mullingar by Father Bob McCabe, with Lt Col Ray Yorke (OC 4 Fd Arty Reg) and RSM Noel O'Callaghan (4 Fd Arty Reg). The Regiment was appointed Grand Marshall of the 2012 St Patrick's Day Parade. Photo: RSM O'Callaghan



Just one among many RDF berets decorated with shamrock on St Patrick's Day. Photo by Pte David Flood (62 Res Fd Eng Coy)



62 Res RDF Inf Bn with members of the Republic of Belarus Army Band, taken just before the start of the Dublin Patrick's Day parade. Photo by: Mike Barrett CQMS (62 Res RDF Inf Bn)



The Doyle family who attended the parade in Bandon Co Cork, with eight out of nine marked present. Photo: BSM Leslie Doyle (HQ 1 S Bde)



Pte Freddie Strutt (DFTC) plays outside the Berg Theatre on St. Patrick's Night for Irish Ambassador James Brennan and Embassy Officials in Vienna, Austria. It was turned green for the occasion. Photo courtesy of Simon Bopp, Tourism Ireland - Austria



St Patrick's Day medal parade in Camp Shamrock, South Lebanon



Members of 105 Inf Bn patrolling the Blue Line on St Patrick's Day



Lt Col Pat O'Leary, Senior Irish Officer EUFOR Bosnia, and Maj Gen Robert Brieger (Austria) Commander EUFOR Bosnia, pictured with the Irish contingent in HQ EUFOR, Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.







# Brig Gen Frank Leidenberger Commander EU BATTLEGROUP

BY TERRY MCLAUGHLIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY CPL NOEL COSS

**T**he Defence Forces' commitment to the German-led EU Battlegroup, due to go on standby for six-months on July 1st, consists of a fully equipped ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target-Acquisition and Reconnaissance) company. On Tuesday 13th March Brig Gen Frank Leidenberger, Commander EU Battlegroup, visited Cathal Brugha Bks for a briefing on 2 ISTAR Company and to meet its personnel.

After a comprehensive briefing from Comdt Colin MacNamee (OC 2 ISTAR Coy) Brig Gen Leidenberger reviewed an equipment display by troops from 2 ISTAR Coy on the Main Square, which included different Mowag variants, the LTAV, sniper and CTR equipment, an Orbiter UAV, and comms equipment and containers. Brig Gen Leidenberger displayed an in-depth knowledge of, and interest in, the various items of equipment and spent a good deal of time speaking to the ISTAR company personnel about various aspects of their equipment and their capabilities.

Following this display Brig Gen Leidenberger addressed the assembled personnel of 2 ISTAR Coy. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the company's personnel and also how impressed he had been by what he had seen during his visit. While he said he could not guarantee that the battlegroup would deploy during its standby period, he knew that they would be

ready to do so if required.

Brig Gen Leidenberger was then escorted to the Visitors' Centre to meet with staff officers and NCOs of 2 ISTAR Coy in a relaxed setting. During this time the EU Battlegroup Commander kindly gave an interview to An Cosantóir.

**An Cosantóir:** Can you tell us a little about your military background?

**Brig Gen Leidenberger:** I joined the army in 1977 and my background is armoured cavalry. I have had three overseas missions: one in Bosnia as a battalion commander, and two with ISAF in Afghanistan. In my first deployment to Afghanistan in 2004 I was DCOS in HQ ISAF, and on my most recent deployment, in my capacity as commander of the 31st Airborne Brigade, I was the regional commander for RC North. This was the most difficult and challenging of my overseas deployments.

**An Cos:** Will you explain to us something of the structure of the battlegroup and the challenges it presents?

**Brig Gen Leidenberger:** It's not that long since certain EU countries came together and developed the concept of establishing a rapid-response capability for the European Union. This grew to the establishing of two battlegroups at a time that are available to deploy within five days notice to act on behalf of the EU. The basic building block of the battlegroup is infantry in battalion-size

formation. However, in times like ours when deployed forces face complex environments in which they may have to deal with civilian actors and a diversity of potential opponents, any such force needs a variety of capabilities, many of which are not nested within an infantry battalion. Therefore, the concept evolved to the point that for this battlegroup II/2012 we are currently preparing more than 3,000 soldiers, with a full range of capabilities, from a variety of contributing nations: Germany, Ireland, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, and, for the first time, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With so many nations contributing elements and capabilities, and with so many different systems, especially in the area of communications, and different philosophies on how to lead troops, it's a real challenge to pull that altogether.

We have two headquarters, one at operational level, the Force HQ, and one at the tactical level, the Battlegroup HQ. The Force HQ, with some 150 staff, oversees the overall approach, provides the strategic communications and interacts with the higher echelons. Force HQ is also capable of integrating air elements, naval elements, or, if needs be, Special Forces or a psychological task force. Below that is the Battlegroup HQ, which is more or less a beefed-up battalion headquarters. Specialists from all contributing nations must be brought into the HQ as all want to play an im-



portant role in the overall setup. However, we have to ensure that, despite all the national contributions and diversity, it is still a functioning military HQ.

**An Cos:** In your opinion, what will 2 ISTAR Company bring to the battlegroup?

**Brig Gen Leidenberger:** An integrated intelligence, surveillance and target-acquisition capability is one of the key elements that lead us into the future. Given the complexity of the environments into which today's forces must be prepared to deploy, commanders are desperately in need of intelligence and knowledge, because it is only on a fundamental understanding of the situation, and of the actors, that you can base your operations. As such, the ISTAR company that is set up by Ireland is key to the success of the battlegroup because it provides me with all the sensors, all the eyes and the ears, I require to understand the situation. So, from that perspective, it is something that is new and promising, and really provides an added value.

**An Cos:** How does the certification process apply to this battlegroup?

**Brig Gen Leidenberger:** Basically, certification is a national responsibility. The various elements of the battlegroup, such as the ISTAR company, are certified by their national authorities. Normally, we expect their authorities to observe and rate their performance during a field-training exercise and to certify them on the basis of that performance. The multinational Force and Battlegroup HQs will participate in a big exercise in Germany, where they will be assessed by my boss, Lt Gen Bentler. After the respective national certification I have to report to the Political Security Committee in Brussels that Battlegroup 2012 is deployable.

**An Cos:** Will you have observers at the national certification exercises?

**Brig Gen Leidenberger:** As the designated force commander I receive invitations to all these exercises. So far I have received invitations for the Irish and Austrian exercises and of course I will see the German exercises as well. I expect to receive invitations to the other contributing countries as well.

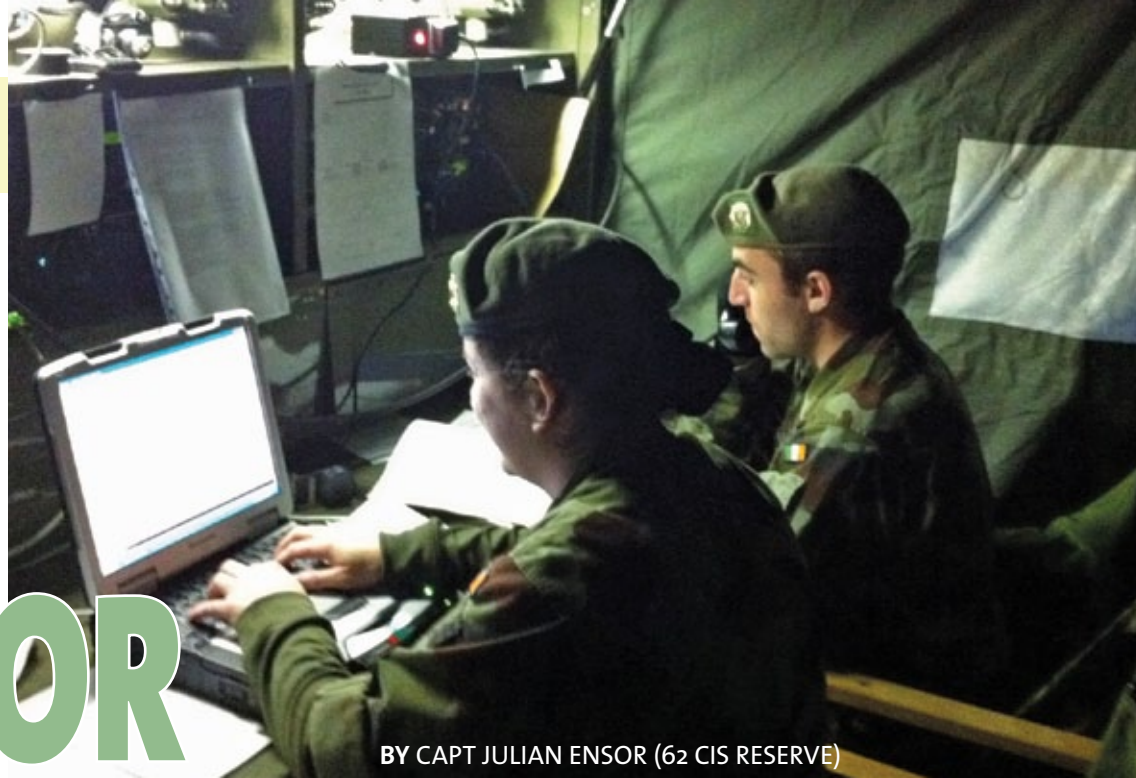
However, there is no requirement for observers from contributing nations at any of the other nations' exercises. In my opinion, there is a minimum trust necessary among the contributing nations that they will each do their business appropriately. Experience shows this to be the case.

**An Cos:** How confident are you that the battlegroup will be fit-for-purpose when it goes on standby on July 1st?

**Brig Gen Leidenberger:** I think...no, I know that we will be ready. I am happy with my own HQ, which is in principle the building block for the higher echelons; I know that Germany is contributing battle-proven troops just returned from Afghanistan, and who will redeploy to Afghanistan, as the infantry nucleus of the battlegroup; and I know from what I have seen and heard here in Ireland that 2 ISTAR Company, with many highly experienced personnel in its ranks, will be a key enabler, particularly in the way we move information. ■



# THE CIS FACTOR



BY CAPT JULIAN ENSOR (62 CIS RESERVE)

When my mobile rang and I saw it was Comdt Gerry Maguire of the RDFTA, I knew it was time to prepare for the 2011 RDF Assessments. These always provide a number of challenges from a CIS perspective but I thought that this year's would be less challenging for 62 CIS. The Assessments are usually held in the Glen of Imaal but this year's were to be conducted in Kilworth and, hence, we would be operating in a supporting role to 31 CIS.

At our first planning conference in July I was asked to provide a CIS detachment to assist the 2 Eastern Brigade infantry units involved, and to liaise with the lead unit, 31 CIS. As usual a C2 container was also required and Capt Sean Murphy of 31 CIS requested this for us through 1 Southern Brigade. I reported our tasking to OC 62 CIS who was more than happy that we could fulfil our limited role.

By the time of our second planning conference in September the location had shifted to the Glen of Imaal and we were back to being the lead unit. We were now tasked with providing the C2 container, a CIS detachment and a technical crew. We were also responsible for providing the Signal Plan and a rear-link to the Curragh. Thankfully, Capt Iain Conlon from 62 LSB was at this conference and he agreed to supply a Drops vehicle for the C2 container. This was a great boost as getting a Drops vehicle can be a real challenge and it is as important as the C2 container itself. Next, a quick e-mail to Capt Jimmy Barber of 2 Fd CIS to give him a 'heads-up' on my request for a C2 container, detachment car and trailer, plus an additional FFR. This was followed by an official request through the relevant channels detailing the equipment we needed from 2 Fd CIS for the Assessments.

As usual all the equipment was made available to us, this time by 2 Fd CIS and the CIS School in the DFTC. Next up was the plan to make the comms work and this year it presented a bigger challenge as comms were required from Coolmoney Camp right through the Glen, up to and including Stranahely Wood. Anyone who knows the basic rule of VHF radio operations will understand that line-of-sight is essential and with Cemetery Hill in the way this would not be possible. After I spoke to Capt Murphy about this problem he agreed to provide a detachment car on

trailer on Cemetery Hill to act as a manual rebro. This was preferred to an automatic rebro so his personnel would get the opportunity to practice voice procedure and commcen drills, etc.

Coincidentally, the final attacks were to be put in at on Cemetery Hill and I suggested to Comdt. Maguire that the attacking units should not take the CIS deployment as an objective as I had a vision of the 31 CIS personnel in POW cages and no comms on the exercise!!

With this in place and having carried out a recce of the C2 site, which was close to the briefing shed in the camp, I was happy that this approach would work. Our chances of success were boosted considerably by a mast that was placed beside the hard-stand for the C2 with two aerials cabled to a junction box. This, along with electrical power points for the C2, immediately reduced our workload as we didn't have to deploy a Clark Mast or diesel generator.

As the Assessments grew nearer we planned our tasks. Capt Martin Mulvey was to look after the C2 and act as the CIS officer in the Exercise HQ. Lt Declan O'Reilly was responsible for ensuring no units left the camp without the comms plan and establishing comms with the control station. He was assisted in this by crews drawn from each of the three RDF CIS units, which allowed us to get this done in the frantic time before the units crossed the start line. Cpl Gareth Corcoran was tasked as commander of a detachment of three for the Exercise HQ commcen. My role was liaison officer with the RDFTA. This allowed me sit in on the exercise orders, which provided me with a lot of useful information. Each of the CIS units also had a crew offering tech support to the infantry units on the ground, along with battery runs to keep the radios running for the 36-hour duration of the exercise.

All-in-all a large number of personnel were required to deploy, maintain and close down this operation; 19 from 62 CIS and close to 30 altogether when you include the personnel from the other CIS units.

Along with the exercise net we had to have an admin net to support the MPs, medics, transport, exercise assessors, etc. We used Motorola radios for this net and it had nearly as much traffic as the exercise net itself! Casualties are part



and parcel of such exercises and much of the traffic on this net related to minor injuries that occurred in the field.

Finally we had a small security net as armed parties were deployed with each brigade on the ground. (After our own unit debrief of the exercise it was felt that with this number of nets in operation a larger crew was required for the Exercise HQ commcen.)

I have been involved with the Assessments for the last number of years and I have to say that this year was the best performance I have seen to date from the infantry units with regard to comms. Each year we request additional Sincgars radios as people have shown up in the past with one radio for a whole company. This year we only issued four radios and at least one of those was to replace a faulty set.

Work is still required on the maintenance of a radio watch

and voice procedure but I have to salute the effort made this year. In fact this effort helped make the exercise a real CIS success story and I am still slightly dazed by it!

The C2 container was well utilised by the exercise staff and we used Tac Chat between it and the trailer to provide its comms support. It has additional features we would love to use but time and equipment compatibility make this challenging. For instance, we could use the tactical battlefield management system (TBMS) to show where each unit is located and track them as they move via the Sincgars radio. Unfortunately not all the radios have the GPS attachments required, but for next year I plan to at least have each company HQ tracked in this way.

Finally, I would like to say "Well done!" to all those who took part in the Assessments and express my thanks to all of those who assisted 62 CIS by way of equipment, advice and support, before, during and after the exercise. See you all later this year! ■





# RECCE Down South

BY CAPT GAVIN EGERTON (4 INF BN)

In an age where information and up-to-date intelligence is key to success in the battlespace, the role of the recce soldier has never been more important. He/she is the battalion commander's eyes and ears, tasked with providing accurate and timely information by day or night, in all weathers, in all operations of war, up to 10km forward of friendly lines.

During last October/November, 4 Inf Bn conducted a five-week recce course for 12 students from the battalion in Collins Bks, Cork. This comprised the four-week Infantry Basic Recce Course preceded by a prelim week involving map reading and practical navigation by day and night, weapons handling, support weapons characteristics, fieldcraft, patrolling and, of course, some battle PT.

The course proper began with a written test on general military knowledge and a 12km battle fitness test, which all the students passed with 15 minutes to spare, showing a high level of battle fitness from the outset. The first week focused on low level patrolling skills and drills, and close target recce (CTR), with the students completing their first CTRs in Kilworth. The instructors conducted a walk-through, talk-through demonstration CTR by day showing how to best use the ground to approach an objective, and the safe distances to be maintained in order to avoid compromise. The information acquired during these first CTRs was impressive, reflecting high levels of enthusiasm and interest from all students.

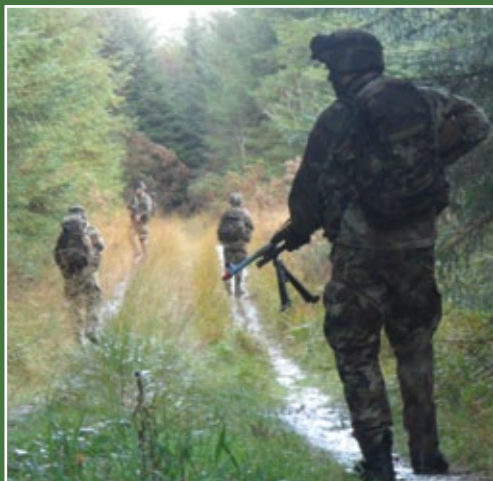
During the second week the students were required to build and occupy observation posts (OPs) over-looking target areas of interest (TAIs). Over a 48-hour period various serials of enemy activity, and long periods of inactivity, tested the students in observing, logging, and reporting via the SINCGARS. The routine was strict and concealment was maintained but due to a vigilant enemy, all OPs were compromised on the final morning and a casualty serial was included to exercise the students in their first aid and casevac drills.

Week three saw the students conduct a river-crossing at the Fermoy reservoir and a patrolling exercise in the Galtee Mountains designed to test all the patrolling skills and drills acquired so far but under the context of a CTR and route recce. The students were ambushed on their withdrawal and required to conduct a casevac of a wounded enemy to rendezvous with an Air Corps EC-135 at Kilcoran range. This required the students to complete a MIST casevac report and transmit a NATO '9-Liner' to the medevac pilot prior to their arrival.

Week three also saw the arrival of the dreaded night navigation test that some students had feared. But, thanks to the detailed revision during the prelim week and some one-on-one coaching, all bar one student passed the test with ease. (One student passed all day and night navigation exercises and the test, showing a good natural ability.)







During a search of the wounded enemy, the students discovered a map of Bere Island and a warning order to an enemy commander instructing him to deploy to the island to receive an arms shipment. With assistance from the Naval Service the students deployed to Bere Island via LÉ Emer and were inserted under cover of darkness to establish a lying-up point before first light.

The platoon commander, Lt Dunne, quickly deployed an OP team and got eyes on a TAI that he expected the enemy to occupy. Sure enough, at midday the enemy platoon arrived and began occupying positions. Thanks to Pte Manning's OP, accurate and timely information on the enemy was relayed through the platoon commander and on to the battalion S2. This led to the students conducting CTRs to get more detailed info and also to select potential forming up points (FUP) and fire-support base (FSB) locations for a possible company attack. After delivering a brief to the battalion commander, the students were instructed to set the conditions for a company-night-attack. This required a NATO-T to be marked, routes to be manned and marked, and troops to be guided from their respective drop-off points and into their FUP and FSB.

The final exercise culminated in a high tempo raid to destroy the few remaining enemy who escaped the company attack. After CTRs were conducted, Lt Dunne led the platoon to destroy the enemy camp, which they did successfully but suffered a casualty during the operation, requiring the students to conduct a casevac and extract to a pick-up point to meet the Naval Service. This required maintaining communications with LÉ Orla throughout, (again sending a MIST report and 'g-Liner') and moving quickly to meet her boats before the tide went out. The students, exhausted but filled with pride, boarded LÉ Orla to be welcomed with a hot cup of tea and the knowledge that they were now recce soldiers.

Ten of the original 12 students passed the course, which is a very impressive pass-rate. The students and instructors largely attribute this to the use of the prelim week to cover the basics, and revise students in areas where they may have suffered 'skill-fade'. The revisionary lectures and lessons conducted on basic soldiering skills such as patrolling, movement, fieldcraft, weapons

handling, field admin and, most importantly, map reading and navigation, were deemed highly beneficial.

The students themselves all appeared very well trained and professional, which is an indication of the standard of basic training in the Defence Forces at present. The function of coaching and mentoring was utilised by instructors to guide and assist students who were struggling in a particular area. Informal chats and questioning were a great way to assess the learning and tweak the instruction in order to ensure students got the best possible education.

The ten new soldiers to join the ranks of the 4 Inf Bn recce platoon are also joining a long-existing and continuously evolving community of recce soldiers. This is thanks to the high standards and efforts of the battalion's recce NCOs and officers over the past ten years, constantly running courses and refreshing the battalion's skills during exercises.

Additionally, the recent commitment to the Nordic Battle Group saw a lot of 4 Inf Bn personnel honing their recce skills as well as gaining some new ones. The result is that the recce platoon is both steeped in tradition and constantly evolving.

During the course debrief, the students all commented on how confident they felt having operated at a very high standard, with constant feedback, encouragement and criticism for five weeks straight. Their exposure to so many sets of detachment- and section-level patrol orders has also set them up nicely for a potential NCO course in the future.

If you are looking for a challenge and a change of tempo, then maybe an Infantry Basic Recce Course is for you. Talk to the recce qualified soldiers in your unit and ask the recce commanders for advice on how to prepare. Best of luck!

#### Notes

1. MIST reports and 'g-Liners' are NATO standard medical reporting systems used in a casevac. The MIST is handed over with the patient at each handover stage and covers the mechanism of the injury (M), the nature of the injury (I), the patient's vital signs (S), and any treatment given (T). The 'g-liner' is a comprehensive pro-forma completed and transmitted at the time the casevac is requested in order to provide accurate information to the medical responders. ■



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# FISH & CHIPS & THE 1916 RISING

BY: PAUL O'BRIEN MA

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MILITARY ARCHIVES

Much has been written in relation to the Easter Rising of 1916, yet this event is still providing new avenues for research. The insurrection is considered a pivotal point in Irish history and also a first for many military strategies and tactics that are still in use today.

The 1916 Rising was one of the first conflicts of the 20th century that saw the use of urban combat. The Irish Defence Forces call it 'Fighting in built-up areas' or "FIBUA", the American army call it "military operations on urban terrain" or "MOUT".

**F**or the ordinary soldier, urban combat has become known as Fighting in Someone Else's House (FISH) and Causing Havoc in Peoples Streets (CHIPS).

Joseph Plunkett, on the first meeting of the Military Council of the Irish Volunteers, produced a plan of the insurrection on which he had worked on for years. This plan involved the seizing of a number of strategic buildings throughout Dublin city.

These buildings were in turn supported by a number of outer posts. The Irish Volunteers had undergone months of rigorous training in relation to fighting in built up areas. Weekends were spent in Finglas and the Dublin mountains, learning assault and defence techniques.

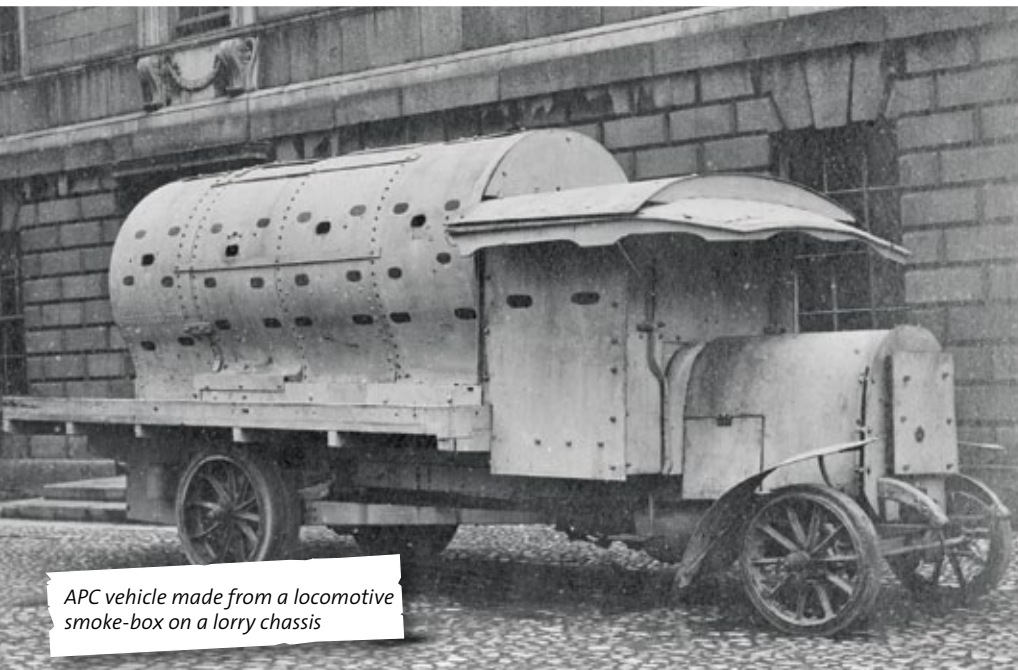
On Easter Monday morning, the rapid deployment of each Volunteer battalion in their designated area of operations ensured

a strong defensive perimeter had been established before British assaults began.

The Battle of Mount Street Bridge is an example of Fighting in a Built-Up Area and this case scenario is still used today in the briefing of young recruits. Under the command of Lieutenant Michael Malone seventeen Irish Volunteers killed or wounded 240 British soldiers in one of the bloodiest engagements of the week. Fighting from four well defended and mutually supporting positions, the Volunteers caused havoc among the ranks of the British troops before the Volunteers withdrew from their positions.

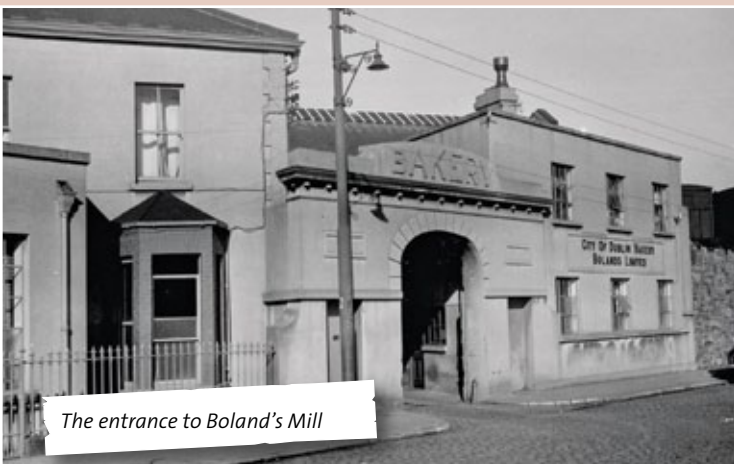
In the South Dublin Union (now St. James Hospital) Commandant Eamonn Ceannt's unit fought from building to building, delaying British forces as they attempted to regain control of the city. Vicious close quarter combat resulted in heavy casualties on both sides.

The occupation of the Four Courts and the buildings in the surrounding area was an excellent tactical plan. This large area was seen as a blocking action against British forces that would come from the west of the city. Commandant Edward Daly's force barricaded the streets and occupied key buildings in the area which they heavily fortified. Any approaching force was channelled into kill zones that were



APC vehicle made from a locomotive smoke-box on a lorry chassis

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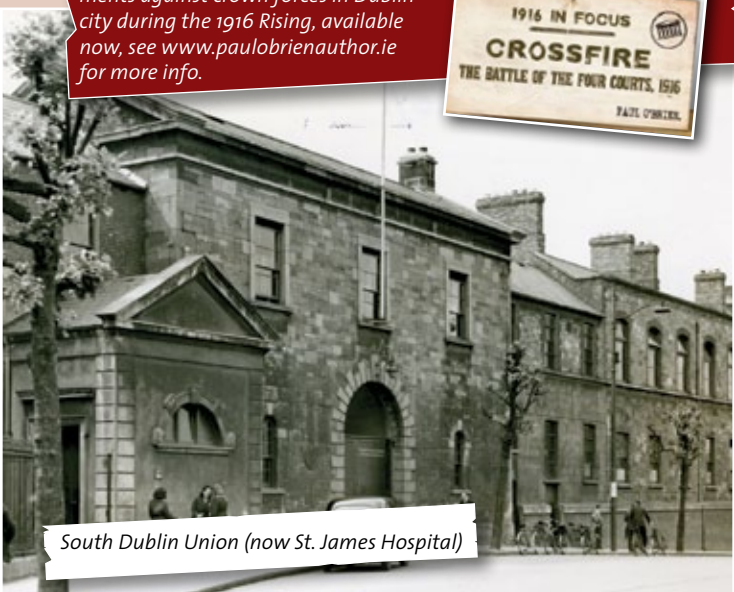
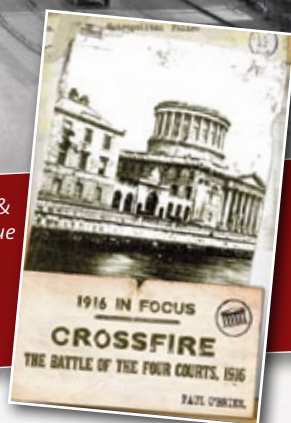


The entrance to Boland's Mill



Mount Street Bridge (facing Ballsbridge)

Paul O'Brien's new book *Crossfire, 1916 & the Battle for the Four Courts* - is the true story of one of the bloodiest engagements against crown forces in Dublin city during the 1916 Rising, available now, see [www.paulobrienauthor.ie](http://www.paulobrienauthor.ie) for more info.



South Dublin Union (now St. James Hospital)

covered from a multitude of posts.

The area around Sackville Street (now O'Connell St.) was covered from multiple positions, each mutually supporting. Fortifications consisted of barricading, mouse-holing and the sandbagging of posts.

In order to retake Dublin city, the British army found themselves up against a well organised and well entrenched force that had high morale and dedication.

There is no doubt that British crown forces were taken by surprise in relation to the events that took place on Easter Monday. However, they managed to regain a number of key positions by the end of the first day and reinforcements began arriving into the capital from a number of barracks outside the city. Having secured and reinforced a number of positions in Dublin city such as Dublin Castle and Trinity College, Brigadier W.H.M. Lowe then established a number of "jumping off points" throughout the capital. An outer cordon was thrown around the city and an inner cordon was placed around each Volunteer position. By mid week the British army were in a position to begin the retaking of the city. The British army possessed no equipment specially designed for urban operations, nor did they have much in the way of formal doctrine to guide their efforts. Like many urban conflicts of today, they depended on trial and error. During the battle for Dublin city, improvised Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) were used for the first time and 'marching fire' and artillery were used to neutralise Irish positions.

Despite the outcome of the Rising, the battle for Dublin city remains a classic study in urban warfare that clearly demonstrates not only the rigors and demands of fighting and defending in a built up area but also the valour and fortitude demanded of the soldiers and volunteers who fought in such a situation. The British army retook Dublin city from the Volunteers and paid a high price in doing so. Today, military operations in an urban terrain are still in its infancy. In drawing a comparison with Dublin of 1916, many of the lessons learned are just as valid in today's urban combat environment.

Please note that the Bureau of Military History will be available as a fully online collection in the near future, visit Military Archives website for more info: [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)



Inside the entrance to the South Dublin Union



# Travels with Surly

## part 3

BY LT COL MICHAEL DOLAN

If you're still with me, whether out of curiosity or genuine interest, you'll be aware that as we head into spring the number of daylight hours will increase and the reasons for not getting on a bicycle will become fewer – so it's time to introduce a little bit of accomplishment to the pleasure/pain equation. In this submission I'm looking at the Wicklow Military Road, built between 1800 and 1809 as a means of clearing out the Irish rebels in Wicklow.

Engineered by Alexander Taylor and running a distance of 77kms, from The Yellow House in Rathfarnham to Donard in Wicklow, it was protected by garrisons placed in barracks at Glencree, Laragh, Glenmalure, Aughavanagh and Glen of Imaal, and provided the first direct route south through the Wicklow Mountains. It intersected the existing east-west routes at Sally Gap, Laragh and Glenmalure. Much more information can be found in Michael Fewer's book 'The Wicklow Military Road: History and Topography'. I travelled it in June of 2011 and can confirm that an appreciation of bicycle gears is of far greater importance than an appreciation of scenery on a fully-loaded, solo journey like this one.

To understand the effect of gears, simply put the bicycle in the highest gear (that's the biggest ring at the front of the chain and the smallest at the back) and cycle up an incline. A number of things might happen – you won't move, the chain might break, or you will grind your way uphill standing out of the saddle – none of them pleasant. Now put the bicycle in the lowest gear – your legs will turn the pedals effortlessly as you inch upwards. Why is this? In the old penny-farthing bicycles, one revolution of the

pedals gave one revolution of the wheel. Now, gears allow for the transfer of force to reduce effort. The maths of this are beyond me but they involve a certain ratio between the circumference and the diameter of a circle (pi, which is approximately 22/7) coupled with the number of teeth on both the chain-ring and the cog on the cassette. The distance covered by one revolution of the pedals is found by dividing the number of teeth on the chain-ring (the big one in front) by the number of teeth on the cog (the small one at the back) and multiplying the result by the diameter of the wheel. The result will either be in inches or millimetres – depending on the units used for the diameter.

All soldiers are familiar with cadence – the number of paces per minute. Applied to cycling, this is closely allied to gears and is what determines the actual speed. There are those who say that cadence is king, and others, normally those with heavy or loaded bikes, who maintain that momentum is your friend! Both camps are right. Speed and momentum is built up by changing gears while maintaining a regular cadence. Just like a car, you don't start in fourth gear! Pedalling at a relatively high cadence – about 80 rpm – is something which can be achieved with practise and it saves wear and tear on both the body and the bike.

So to the road trip! My thanks to 2 Fd Arty Regt for a sleeping space at the end and I recommend Clodagh Duff's Café in Laragh as a stop. I've composed a bit of an ode, which I hope captures the journey. You decide. ■



I left Yellow House, as quiet as a mouse,  
I was bound for the Glen of Imaal.  
Travelling Taylor's Road  
With my bike and my load,  
Not knowing if I'd make it at all.

Turn on Stocking Lane and my legs take the strain  
Of the hill going to Kilakee.  
As the gradient increases  
My cadence decreases,  
Going from twelve miles-an-hour to just three.

Heading down to Glencree, there were just sheep  
and me  
In that area of wild desolation.  
The speed kept increasing,  
The hard breathing ceasing.  
At least that was some consolation.

The sight of Kippure was a sign, I was sure,  
I was approaching the top of the hill.  
A small bit of "flat"  
And then, that was that.  
Sally Gap was another hill still.

At the top of the height, a few trees on the right  
Showed the entrance to Kippure relay station.  
But for poles in the ground  
And the mast on high ground,  
There was no sign of civilisation.

As I passed Luggala, I looked back in awe  
At the hills I'd already ascended.  
I pointed downhill  
And it was quite the thrill  
To be moving as Surly intended.

There in all majesty, stood proud Tonlegee  
With Arse to the wind over there.  
But the wind in my face  
Dictated my pace  
And I screamed to the air "It's not fair!"

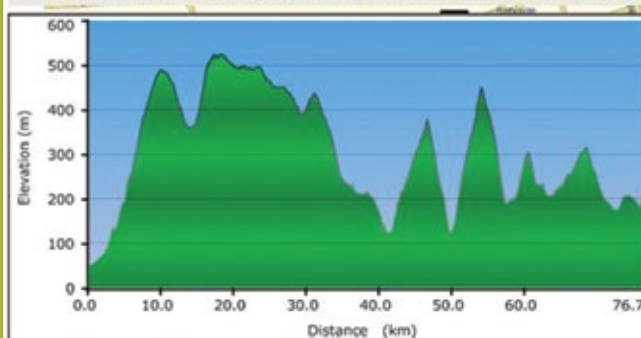
A Clodagh Duff flapjack gave me my strength back  
For the climb to Shay Elliott memorial.  
To get there by bike  
With a load if you like  
Is still quite a good testimonial.

Overtaken by flies, attacking my eyes  
I struggle up the last climb I'm sure.  
Aghavanagh Bridge  
Is below the ridge  
Of Slievemaan above Glenmalure.

Filling water bottles now, on the banks of the Ow,  
I ponder my trip nearly ended.  
The final big ask,  
I bend to the task,  
Legs weary and energy expended.

Turn left for Donard, now that wasn't so hard,  
Army land beckons with Fenton's.  
Pilgrimage complete,  
A sandwich to eat,  
Seskin Bridge is the last destination.

The Wicklow Military Road – 15 June 2011 (with Surly fully loaded)







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# HYPERTHERMIA

**H**yperthermia is defined when the body's core temperature of 37°C is increased due to high physical activity, hot weather, excessive perspiration and dehydration, and their core temperature rises over 40°C, this is very dangerous.

Hyperthermia known also as Heat Exhaustion or Heat Stroke is a problem that has plagued military recruits in basic training, physically fit well conditioned military personnel and among well trained seasoned athletes for a very long time.

Hyperthermia like hypothermia can also be a serious problem for the soldier whether on operations or exercises at home or overseas missions, examples would be the Middle East and Africa where our troops are and have served.

Hyperthermia can be just as treacherous and can also prove fatal if the soldier suffering its effects is

not treated quickly and properly. In recent years overseas missions have seen the Defence Forces deployed around the world to such extreme places as Somalia, Eritrea, Liberia, Chad and now Lebanon again, where soldiers perform their daily duties in very high and humid temperatures and from time to time while wearing heavy kit and patrolling on foot.

The soldier should carry sufficient amounts of water, sun protection cream, protective sun glasses and most importantly a soft wide brimmed hat to cover the head and back of the neck. These are just a few small steps a soldier can take to look after himself in hot weather, however if you or a buddy should suffer the effects of hyperthermia, the following is a short guide on what to look out for and what to do while awaiting proper medical assistance.



## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF HYPERTHERMIA:

- The person is suffering dizziness, headaches or feeling faint: Fainting can occur if a person suffering the effects stands up suddenly after a short rest.
- The Person is suffering from shivers and chills: Hyperthermia is often considered a form of sunstroke but it can make the person feel cold and shiver. This can sometimes confuse the person suffering the effects as well as others around him or her.
- The person is or is not sweating: Sweating aids in the release of heat from the body and maintains the body's temperature. Hyperthermia stops sweating and so excessive heat does not leave the body.
- The person suffering from vomiting or vomiting sensations: Lack of water in the body can cause these reactions indicating dehydration.

**If you notice any of these symptoms in yourself or others:  
SEEK IMMEDIATE QUALIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**While awaiting medical assistance to arrive you and your buddies can help by:**

- Moving the person to a cool shaded area
- Loosening and removing helmet, PLCE, clothing & boots
- Elevating the persons feet
- Using cool damp cloths to aid in the reduction of body temperature
- Giving cool liquids to drink (water or fruit juices only)
- Talking to and reassuring the person suffering



# NOTICEBOARD

This page is designed to give our readers an easy-to-follow list of upcoming events or notices for our wider Defence Forces Family. Readers that want to submit notices that may be of interest to others should keep their notices to the point, include contact details and send by email to: [magazine@military.ie](mailto:magazine@military.ie) or by post to: Editor An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland. PS. Our old noticeboard will still be made available on [www.dfmagazine.ie](http://www.dfmagazine.ie)

## DF Handball Calendar 2012

There are open days in Custume Bks once a month (Wed) from Jan-May. These open days will be used for training & coaching, they are open to all DF pers.

Date	Event	Location	Remarks
6 Jun	DF Vs Gardaí	Athlone	Exhibition
4 Jul	One Wall Champs	2 E Bde	Bde Champs
11 Jul	One Wall Champs	1 S Bde	Bde Champs
18 Jul	One Wall Champs	4 W Bde	Bde Champs
2 Aug	One Wall Champs	TBC	DF Champs

If you require any more info, please call Cpl Eric O'Brien (USAC, ext. 1763) or your BPEO

## Leading Seaman Michael Quinn DSM Memorial Weekend

Drogheda 26th and 27th May 2012 hosted by the Michael Quinn Branch (Dublin) of the Naval Association.

## Uniform Services

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## Curragh Military Museum

**Opening Times:** Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 2.30 to 5.30pm; Closed Friday, Saturday and Bank Holidays.

**For all queries contact:** 045-445342 or email: [curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie](mailto:curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie)

# SUDOKU

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SUDUKO NO. 007 (MEDIUM)

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## APRIL O&A COMPETITION



1. What is the An Cosantóir's website address?
2. How many jobs will PayPal create in Ireland over the next 4 years?
3. What was the final score in Ireland's recent rugby match with Scotland?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win an Irish Air Corps variant of a Hawker Hurricane MkI 1:72 Airfix Model Plane (inc. paints & glue). Last month's winner of Tim Newark's book 'The Fighting Irish', reviewed in our Feb issue was CPO Michael Laffan, NMCI, Cobh, Co Cork.

Simply fill in the blanks spaces with the numbers 1-9.

Every row, column and 3x3 block must contain all nine digits with no number repeated in:

- Each of the nine vertical columns
- Each of the nine horizontal rows
- Each of the nine 3x3 boxes

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# REVIEWS

reviews

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## BOOK

### BLOOD UPON THE ROSE

EASTER 1916: THE REBELLION THAT SET IRELAND FREE

**Written and Drawn**

**by:** Gerry Hunt

**Published:** O'Brien Press Ltd.

(www.obrien.ie) (2nd revised edition - 2 April 2010)

**Pages:** 48 (PB) **Size:** 297x210mm

**ISBN:** 978-1-84717-217-4 **Price:** €9.99

**THIS BOOK CENTRES** on the two week period of 23 April – 4 May 1916, known as the Easter Rising. Everyone has heard of the Easter Rising, but never has it been told in such a colourful and exciting way as this graphic novel. These pages bring to life many of the names from our historic past. With the likes of Padraig Pearse, Joseph Plunkett and James Connolly pictured here in some real action scenes. This book brings you back to your youth when comics were all the rage, but now you can enjoy all that again by reading a graphic novel about our great and proud history.

*"The Easter Rising: an unlikely band of freedom fighters – teachers, poets, writers, patriots, trade unionists – declare an Irish Republic. From this dramatic gesture, a nation is born..."*

In 1916, during the Easter period there was an attempt by a small group of militant Irish republicans to win independence from Britain. This was the most significant rebellion in Ireland's history. Though called a military failure, it was the key to Ireland's freedom from the rule of Great Britain.

Gerry Hunt worked for 25yrs as an architect, eighteen of them with the IDA. In 1986 he left architecture and began drawing political cartoons. From this, he moved on to drawing entire comics, his first, self produced comic was a rhyming Spanish-language work that he gave away to friends. He has since published 'In Dublin City' and 'The Streets of Dublin'.



**The Easter 1916 Rising:**  
an unlikely band of freedom fighters  
— teachers, poets, writers, patriots,  
trade unionists — declare an Irish Republic.  
From this dramatic gesture, a nation is born...

## DVD

### TOWER HEIST

**Director:** Brett Ratner

**Genre:** Action/Comedy

**Certification:**

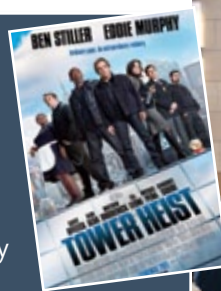
**Run Time:** 1 Hr 45 Min

**Rental Release Date:** 02 Mar 2012

**Starring:** Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Casey Affleck, Matthew Broderick, Téa Leoni, Michael Peña, Gabourey Sidibe, Nina Arianda, Judd Hirsch, Michael Shulman, Charles Q. Murphy, Scottie Knollin, Juan Carlos Hernández and Alan Alda.

**FROM THE DIRECTOR** of the Rush Hour series, Tower Heist is so fun, it's criminal! Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy lead an all-star cast in this hilarious comedy caper. Staff at a luxury Central Park apartment complex discover that a Wall Street billionaire Arthur Shaw (Alda) has embezzled their hard-earned retirement money. With only days until the billionaire gets away with the perfect crime, they are determined to get their money back, they decide to dispense with the law and take matters into their own hands. Armed with their precise knowledge of the building, they enlist the help of petty crook Slide (Murphy) and plan a heist to steal back the \$20 million they believe is hidden in Shaw's penthouse.

[www.towerheist.com](http://www.towerheist.com)



## GAME

### MASS EFFECT 3



**IN MASS EFFECT 3**, an ancient alien race known only as "Reapers", has launched an all-out invasion of the galaxy, leaving nothing but a trail of destruction in their wake. Earth has been taken, the galaxy is on the verge of total annihilation, and you are the only one who can stop them. The price of failure is extinction. You, as Commander Shepard, must lead the counter assault to take it back. Only you can determine how events will play out, which planets you will save from annihilation and which alliances you will form or abandon as you rally the forces of the galaxy to eliminate the Reaper threat once and for all. Groundbreaking interactive storytelling drives the heart-pounding action in which each decision you make could have devastating and deadly consequences.

**Genre:** RPG **Platform:** PC, Xbox 360, PS3 **Price:** €44.97 (€36.97 PC) ([gamestop.ie](http://gamestop.ie))

**Release Date:** 09/03/2012 **PEGI:** Age 18+ <http://masseffect.com>

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# WHAT I DO

NAME

DAMIEN O'HERLIHY

RANK

LIEUTENANT

UNIT

62 RES CAV SQN



"A Reservist has to be committed to his family, his work, and still go out there and put on his uniform and serve his country"

I am a Support Troop Commander in the 62 Res Cav Sqn. In my day job I work as a Fraud Analyst in the Credit Control Dept in Eircom. I am originally from Knocknaheeney in Co. Cork. I moved up to Dublin in 1985. I did a degree in Computer Science and Software Engineering in Kevin Street, and then a degree in Computer Science in Trinity College Dublin.

I started working for Eircom in 2001, as a Fraud Analyst we vet all applications for high ends or high value handsets that come in from either e-mobile or Meteor, or sub-vendors such as Carphone Warehouse. We have an early shift and a late shift so there is always continuity. So no matter what time of day a customer puts in an application they will be vetted and up and running as quickly as possible. We do catch up to 5-10 people a day using fraudulent documents or ID's. Sometimes this is a genuine honest mistake, such as a passport out-of-date, but there are offenders. There is what we call an intelligence share with the likes of the Garda Síochána and other licence operators. If there

are well known repeat offenders we pass on that information. I really like my job, it's different every day, and it's very challenging. Some of the fraudsters are very very technically capable and have some fantastic documents and ID's.

I joined the Reserve in 1991. Back then with the 11 Cav Sqn we had a regular parade of 140 every week. Great unit. Over the years we have produced some high calibre people including TD's, doctors, ARW commanders, PDF unit commanders, and even the current Director of Cav Lt Col Gerry Brennan was a Trooper in 11 Cav Sqn. Getting a presidential commission was a great honour for me. The Spt Trp is the heavy armoured section of a cavalry squadron. Spt Trp consists of three Panhard AML 90's. Basically Spt Trp provides fire support for Recce Trp, which uses Panhard AML 20's, get in trouble. We lay down either heavy fire or smoke so the AML 20's can make a withdraw. As the tip of the spear it is vital that the Recce element get their information back to HQ.

I took part in the reserve integration with the PDF. Our parent unit is 2 Cav Sqn. I felt the integration was a great success. The Cavalry Corps is small so we tend to work closely with our PDF counterparts on a regular basis. We had the benefit of that relationship already built. During the integration I did courses on AML 20 gunnery, truck driving, the M203, the HK USP, CBRN. I told them not to treat me any different than a regular soldier I'll pass and fail on my own merit. They didn't. It was great. The camaraderie that was built was brilliant. Our working relationship with 2 Cav Sqn is still fantastic.

I am the person I am today because of what I have learnt in the Reserve: team-working, teambuilding, team-leading, motivation, discipline, loyalty, problem-solving, and project-management. All these skills I apply everyday in my job here in Eircom. As an employer Eircom benefit from all these skills. I think all companies would benefit from having a Reservist as an employee because they have an understanding of what it takes to stand up and step up to the mark. ■





# Making your money go further



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Petrol Card Scheme • Members Draw

## Members Draw

### Results Sheet for 23rd February 2012

**1st Prize, €10,000:** Gerry Savage, Dundalk, Co Louth

**2nd Prize, €5,000:** Anthony White, Bettystown, Co Meath

**3rd Prize, €2,500:** Patrick O'Leary, Bandon, Cork

**4th Prize, €1,500:** Jonathan Browne, Mullhuddart, Dublin 15

**€500 Prize:** Jamie O'Grady, Foulksmills, Co Wexford; Ciaran Sheridan, Dundalk Co Louth; Glen Moody, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5; Derek Knowd, Prospect Hill, Dublin 11

**€100 Prize:** Thomas Campbell, Ballybofey, Co Donegal; John Francis Murray, Athlone, Co Westmeath.; Francis Derek Kiely, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare; Ryan McKinley, Newtowncunningham, Co Donegal; Fintan O'Toole, Bray, Co Wicklow; Liam Forde, Ballinamuck, Co Longford; Stephen Byrne, Swords, Co Dublin; Eamonn Cosgrave, Portarlinton, Co Laois; Liam Swift, Clontibret, Co Monaghan; Thomas Gahan, Cloyne, Co Cork; Michael Burke, Donnycarney, Dublin 5; James Tiernan, Rush, Co Dublin; Theresa Mullally, Blackhorse Ave, Dublin 7; Stephen Carr, Turloughmore, Co Galway; Gerard Campbell, Donegal Town, Co Donegal

### Congratulations to all our winners

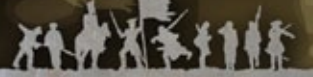
*The next draw will take place in 29th March 2012.*

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EIREANNAIGH AG TROID IN  
ÉIRINN AGUS I GCÉIN Ó 1550



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