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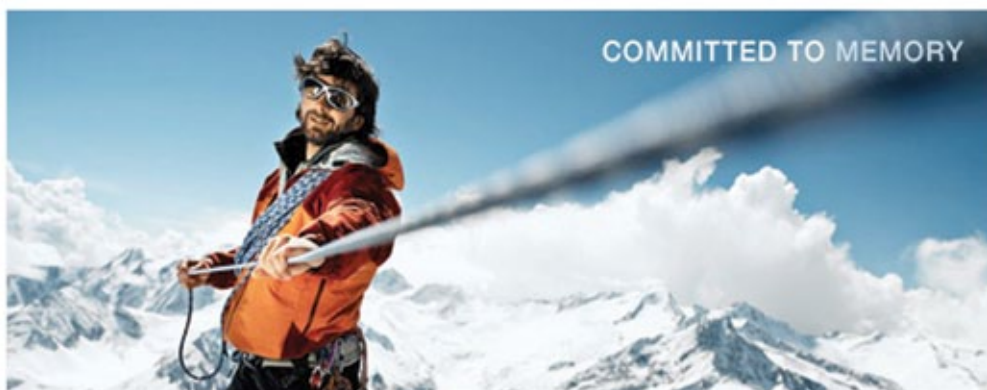
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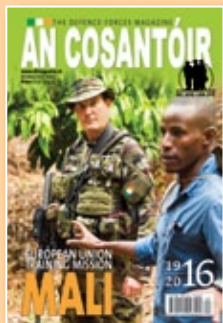
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Sport



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Front Cover

Pictured is DF Instructor Sgt Mark Lane serving with EUTM Mali by Cpl Neville Coughlan.

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout:
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Editorial

Hello and welcome to our December/January double issue; 48 pages with 18 individual stories covering all aspects of military life. We hope you like our free 2017 wallpanner, designed by Sgt Karl Byrne, and we also have our 2017 diaries and notebooks now on sale too.

The always-popular *On Parade* photos start us off this month before *In Focus* looks at the recent reunion of 21 Platoon, Army Apprentice School, and the 29 Inf Bn Association, who are still carrying their flag since the unit was stood down in '98. We have news of our veterans in with our feature on the inaugural *Veterans Gala Ball* held in Dublin's Green Isle Hotel in August. Next, our front-cover article covers the *EU Training Mission in Mali*, which is only in its third year but has already made significant progress. Our second major feature, *70th Birthday Salute to the Naval Service*, by CPO/ERA Ruairí de Barra, is augmented by a NS poster in our *Connect* newsletter.

Hot on its heels, pardon the pun, is *White Lanyard Walk*, reporting on members of units that previously served in Magee Bks, Kildare, who walked to the Glen of Imall on the 18th anniversary of the closing of the barracks. In our strategic review article, *Mali: Back from the Brink*, Paul O'Brien follows up on his 2013 EMPA award-winning article on Mali, before CQMS Mike Barrett reports from Fort Davis for our Reserves feature on *Exercise 'Belt Buckle'*, which was conducted by the NCOTW in early October.

Our centre spread consists of an exclusive look at a short graphic novel sample on the birth of the Irish Republic, designed by artist Danny Coyne and written by military historian, Paul O'Brien. Our next article, *A Historic Accolade: The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal*, written by Comdt Stephen Mac Eoin (Oic Military Archives) and RDF Comdt Lar Joye (Soldiers & Chiefs Exhibition, National Museum of Ireland). This is followed by *Defending with Pride*, which looks at the recent launch of the Defence Forces' LGBT+ Network. After this, Pte Peter McGuinness (27 Inf Bn) rallies the troops in *The Spirit of Castleblaney*, which is followed by a 1916-related piece on the *New Flagpole for the DFTC*, by Capt Emmet Gallagher. Our first history feature James Scannell looks at the little known story of *Submarine Involvement at Pearl Harbour in 1941*. Our second is *Courage, Valour, and the Hound of Culann*, in which Jonny Dillon looks at the life and death of the legendary Cú Chulainn and how his image was central to the Irish nationalist movement of the early 20th century. The colourful 2017 *CISM Triathlon* held in Luxembourg in September decorates our sports pages, and we also have our regular *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do* features.

Finally, check out our competitions and results on pages 43 and 44.

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

Can you help find our hero?

Gráinne Burrows was sitting in KFC on the Childers Rd, Limerick, on Friday 11th November when her two children noticed a soldier. They asked her if they could go and thank him for keeping them safe, an idea she has impressed on them from a young age. The anonymous soldier was very polite and smiled as he finished his lunch. When he was leaving he handed Gráinne a receipt for two ice-creams that he had bought for her children – An act, Gráinne says, "that was greatly appreciated!"



Gráinne wanted to share what happened next as it shows the effect small kindnesses can have. Her son, Donnchadh (4) said to her: "Mom you are right about soldiers; all soldiers are super heroes. All super heroes are gentlemen and that man was a gentlemen and a super hero. The first step to being a superhero must be to be a gentleman!"

To the soldier, Gráinne says: "You have made my life a little easier, and made me a little prouder of our servicemen today. Le gach dea ghui! (With every good wish)"



SGT P J BOURKE BOWS OUT! ▲

On Tuesday 18th October Sgt PJ Bourke from Nenagh retired from D Coy, 3 Inf Bn after a long and distinguished military career. PJ was described as a soldier who enjoyed all his years in uniform both PDF and RDF, an excellent NCO and is held in high esteem. PJ was presented with a small token by Lt Col Mark Browne, OC 3 Inf Bn. PJ is already a member of the ONE so his days in uniform will go on for some time. *Photo: Sgt Mick Burke, PR Branch*



THE UNITED IRISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The United Irish Ex-Services Association of Australia (UIESAA) laid wreaths in honour of all those that served with the UN around the world. Pictured L/R is: Michael Lyons, Myles Mooney and Patrick Armstrong. Myles Mooney had a band in the 60s with the Irish Air Corps called the 'Air Chords', and later went on to be a part of the famous 'Irish Drovers'. *Photo: Ves Campion*



HEADQUARTER SUPPORT GROUP CHANGE OF COMMAND ▲

Col Brian Monahan took over command as HSG Commander, KFOR HQ from Col Tony Cudmore on 21st October 2016 in Film City, Pristina, Kosovo. They are pictured with other DF members and An Garda Síochána members Denis O'Donovan, Daniel O'Donovan who are serving with EULEX, and Kevin Martin and Comdt John Wynne Retd. *Photo: Cpl Kim Turner, HSG, KFOR HQ*



DCOS SP VISITS LEBANON ▲

Maj Gen Kevin Cotter, D COS (Sp) is pictured reviewing a multinational GOH during a recent visit to Irish DF personnel serving overseas in UNIFIL HQ, Naqoura, South Lebanon. *Photo: Sgt Karl Johnston, Head of Mission & Force Commander, Special Staff, UNIFIL HQ*

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE MEDAL

On Friday 28th October 2016, Cadet Antoin Dargan presented his grand-uncle's War of Independence service medal to Limerick Museum, on behalf of the Dargan family. The medal was accepted by the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon and the curator of the museum Brian Hodgkinson. The medal was awarded to John Dargan who served as Adjt 1st Bn of the Mid Limerick IRA Brigade during the War of Independence, and although he died in 1931 it was decided in 2016 that he would be awarded the medal posthumously. *Photo: Pat Dargan*



THE CUNNINGHAM CUP ▲

The Cunningham Cup final was held in Collins Bks on the 2nd November 2016. The match was between Collins Bks team and 28 Inf Bn team. The match was a hard fought affair which required extra time to determine. Collins Bks won the match on a score line of 1 nil. Man of the Match award was presented to Cpl Pat Ryan, 1 CIS Coy by former Gnr Vinny Drumm (1FAR) and President Ballincollig Football Club. Collin Bks Team Captain Cpl Dave Sweeney, 1 Tpt Coy is pictured receiving the cup from A/Bde EO Lt Col John O'Neill. *Photo: Sgt Daniel Sheehan, HQ 1 Bde*



RDF STAND DOWN PARADE ▲

It was a beautiful autumn day in Renmore Bks, Galway on the 29th October to mark the occasion of Capt Seamus Cahalan and CQMS Anne Halewood's stand down from the Reserve Defence Forces. Capt Cahalan served 39 years and CQMS Halewood 25 years in the Transport Corps (5 Fd S&T, 54 LSB and Tpt School, DFTC). We wish Seamus and Anne all the best in their future endeavours. *Photo: Sgt Marie Hennessy, 1 Bde Tpt*



98TH LIFFEY SWIM ▲

Pictured after the 98th Liffey Swim are Lt Col Mick Moran, OC No 4 Sp Wing, Flt Sgt Nick McNulty Retd MAA, ACHQ and Lt Col Ray Flanagan, SSO MAA, ACHQ. They received a one-off special commemorative medal after completing the 2.2Km 'skins' only swim. The swim starts at Watling Bridge near Guinness's Brewery and finishes at the Custom House. *Photo: Nick McNulty, ACHQ*



ATCP MULTI AGENCY EXERCISE ▲

An Aid to Civil Power (ATCP) Exercise was held in West Cork from 16th – 20th October. The Exercise was administered and led by 1 Bde Arty Regt and involved troops from all units of Collins Bks, Cork. Members of An Garda Síochána and the West Cork Civil Defence also took part. Troops and vehicles are pictured on the runway at Bantry Aerodrome. *Photo by: Andy Gibson and courtesy of Sgt Daniel Sheehan, 1 Bde HQ*



DUBLIN CITY MARATHON ▲

Pictured are personnel from 1 Bde who completed the Dublin City Marathon on Sunday 30th October. They are L/R: Cpl Debbie Egan, CMU 1 Bde, Pte Mark Bullman, 1 Bde Tpt Coy and Sgwn Michelle Hurley, 1 Bde CIS Coy. Not pictured is Cpl Mick Colohan, HQ 1 Bde. Well done to all. *Photo: Cpl Christine O'Leary, HQ 1 Bde*



LUFTWAFFE EAGLES OVER IRELAND ▲

Author Justin Horgan presents a framed image of a Luftwaffe Condor to Irish Aviation Authority CEO Eamonn Brennan at the launch of his new book, 'Luftwaffe Eagles over Ireland', which is reviewed on page 45. Pictured L/R: IAA Head of Corporate Affairs Donal Handley, IAA Director of Safety Regulation Maj Gen Retd Ralph James, Author Justin Horgan and IAA CEO Eamonn Brennan. *Photo by Paul Kolbe*



ONE BRANCH OF THE YEAR AWARD ▲

Pictured are members of the ONE Fr James Gilmore Branch (North Dublin/Fingal) who won the Branch of the Year Award at this year's ONE Annual Delegate Conference 2016 was held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, from 23rd - 25th September. *Photo: Dessie O'Hara*

A TIME TO REMEMBER

21st Platoon AAS

BY NEIL O'DONOGHUE
PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE

On Saturday 10th September 2016 a reunion took place that was 40 years in the making, taking 30 months to produce and finally premiered in the Osprey Hotel, Naas, which is built on the site of the Army Apprentice School, Devoy Bks. This date coincided with the date when a group of 38 young teenagers had joined the 21st Apprentice Platoon forty years previously.

The planning for this reunion started in September 2013 with Ciaran O'Grady and myself. Our collective minds started to try and see how many of our platoon could be contacted and were interested in attending a reunion. Ciaran set up the platoon page on

“We were more than an army platoon, we were a family of brothers”

Facebook and we worked tirelessly with interest buzzing the numbers started to increase. Class reps were designated to follow up on their own group getting deposits and trying to contact the few that we had not heard from. As the date got closer more guys started making arrangements to travel from different parts of the world.

At this point I would like to thank Seamus Curran, Brian Cassidy, Phil McLoughlin, Martin Cummins, Christy Murphy, who were the class reps, Chris O'Callaghan who was our lost soul finder, and again to Christy for doubling up as treasurer for this event, without their assistance it was not possible to have such an impact.

I arrived at the Osprey on the Saturday morning at 10am not knowing what to expect, 37 years since some of us had seen or spoken to one another - it was like our initial meeting

40 years earlier.

Those who accepted to meet up arrived, shook hands with smiles of acknowledgement on recognition of those guys who we considered as 'family', having spent three years living and working together. John Concar arrived at the hotel with the

same suitcase he had when walking through the gates of Devoy Bks 40 years previous. He even had parts of his original kit inside.

That morning we boarded a bus for a trip to the Curragh Military Museum, where the staff gave a guided tour during a well worth visit. Then it was back to the Osprey for a wash and change before meeting for dinner.

A moment's silence was held before dinner for the memory of the most prolific person to have guided young apprentices through the Army Apprentice School: Mick Hennessy R.I.P. who sadly passed away at the start of 2016. We were privileged to have this icon as our Platoon Sergeant for our three years. Also in attendance were Chris Brereton and Joe Pearson, who were our Platoon Corporals, and Dave Henry who joined the training in our third year, in absence was Mick Behan.

As dinner came to an end I had the chance to speak to the assembled group to recall some of the highlights of our time in Naas. Memories of times long past seemed to come back as we travelled back in time to the trips we took to Paris and Amsterdam, of our training NCOs who in some cases were not much older than we were - that is why we were more than an army platoon, we were a family of brothers. The night started to wind down and we adjourned to the bar for continued reminiscing on past days, which led late into the Sunday.

The new committee now have a database to help continue to arrange these gatherings.

Finally a big thanks to Sgt Mick Burke for photographing this event and a wish of grateful thanks to Ciaran O'Grady who helped make my dream of this reunion a reality. ■



21st Apprentice Platoon 1976 - 1979
Front Row L to R: Mr. Norris, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Kearney, O'Donoghue, J. McGee, Capt. Smith, Lt. Col. Dunlop, Const. Barrett, Mr. Harkin, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Butler, Mr. O'Keefe, Mr. Duggan, 2nd Row L to R: Sgt. Hennessy, App. O'Connell, F. O'Connell, M. Murphy, C. Dunlop, G. Kneale, E. O'Reilly, R. O'Neil, A. Conner, L. Gormley, D. Cassidy, B. Norton, P. Crowley, J. McElwaine, P. Culligan, D. 3rd Row L to R: Cpl. Rogers, App. McGovern, J. McGovern, O'Donoghue, J. Butler, W. McLoughlin, E. Cahill, S. Conner, T. Callaghan, C. Finn, L. Walsh, W. Goss, B. Broun, B. Broun, M. App. Brennan, Cpl. Dunlop, 4th Row L to R: App. Kearney, Hubert, R. O'Reilly, G. Culligan, E. McGee, L. Norton, L. Hollywood, P. O'Grady, N. Meehan, M. Nolan, S. Roberts, T. O'Brien, P. Furey, S. O'Donoghue, C. Not in picture: W. Goss, S. Conner, T. Callaghan.



Neil O'Donoghue & Ciaran O'Grady



The 29 Inf Bn Association

BY ERNIE CARTER, SECRETARY

The 29 Inf Bn ceased to exist as a unit in 1998 and the troops were amalgamated into the 6 Inf Bn and 27 Inf Bn. After the closure of Monaghan Barracks a group was set up in 2013 to commission a stone on the site of the old barracks, now Monaghan VEC College. This task was completed within 12 months, which was a great achievement to those involved.

In September 2015 former members of the battalion and long-term attachments formed the 29 Infantry Battalion Association. A constitution and a dress code were drawn up and it was decided that a set of association colours would be made up incorporating all aspects of the old battalion. Also bespoke bullion badges were made up for blazers and berets.

The 29 Inf Bn Association holds meetings and coffee mornings every month, normally the last Saturday in the Association HQ - The Squealing Pig Bar, Monaghan. Our annual debrief is due to take place on December 16th.

We held our first official local parade in Monaghan Town for the 1916 Commemorations.

We also held our first memorial service in August 2016 at the old barracks site. We intend that this will become an annual event.

In September 2016 the association was invited to attend the 27 Inf Bn Association Day in Dundalk - a good day was had by all. We hope to have many more days with other associations in the future.

In September we also held our first AGM, where our accounts were shown to our 40 members, we are hoping more will join



soon. The 29 Inf Bn Association have members in Monaghan, Cavan, Dublin, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Down, Armagh and Tyrone.

For further information or to join please contact: Ernie Carter, Secretary 29th Inf Bn Association : 29infbnassoc@gmail.com



Inaugural Military Veterans Gala Ball

BY BENNY HILL, SWAN BATT COMMITTEE PHOTOS BY PAT LONG

What a night it turned out to be when 271 personnel from the Defence Forces family attended the first Military Veterans Gala Ball, organised and hosted by Swan Batt in Dublin's Green Isle Hotel on 27th August.

Swan Batt is a social group whose membership encompasses all arms of the Defence Forces, past and present. Membership also extends as far away as America, Finland, Norway and Holland. Swan Batt's admin group agreed that it would be good to organise an event that could bring veterans and serving members, and their partners, together on an annual basis.

To make this a reality they decided to organise a military-themed, black-tie, gala ball. At their first meeting they agreed that ONE's soldiers' home, Brú na bhFiann, would receive all proceeds from the ball, which would be raised by way of donations from those who attended the event.

The organising committee set about selecting a venue, selling tickets, selecting menus, agreeing table layouts, and deciding on the type of music for the night (which, incidentally, proved quite successful).

The committee also undertook a proactive advertising campaign using An Cosantóir and social media.

Military units and associations made their pennants and flags available for the occasion and adorned the venue in full regalia. The colour party, led by the pipers of Post 1 IUNVA (Stefan Reilly) and the 5 Inf Bn Association (Antony Byrne) marched in

the national flag accompanied by the UN and ONE flags. A trumpeter played the salute and the night was off to a flying start.

The keynote address was delivered by Lt Gen Gerry Mc Mahon (retd) who spoke about the work carried out by Brú na bhFiann and thanked Swan Batt for their efforts in raising awareness and also assisting to raise much-needed funds.

With formalities over, the band struck up and for over three hours they played to a full dance floor. During the interval a raffle was held with more than 15 prizes. Following the last dance the pipers took to the floor and entertained the guests with a selection of tunes.

The Gala Ball was supported by many veterans organisations, such as 2 Inf Bn Association, 5 Inf Bn Association, 2 Fd Arty Regt Association, Military Police Association of Ireland, Dublin Artillery Association, Irish Army Transport Association, Military Engineers Association, and various branches and posts from ONE and IUNVA.

It was good to see members from so many different elements of the Defence Forces family mixing and coming together to socialise, as well as to support a common cause.

The committee would like to thank everybody who participated in making the event a success, the sponsors of the spot prizes, the event sponsors in general, and the hotel staff who were courteous and helpful at all times. ■



Former Air Corps members and their wives/partners



Other RDF/PDF members looking good on the night




Swan Batt Committee with John O'Mahony DSM





Ger Cassidy & Karina Molloy, who were members of the first female platoon




Lt General Gerry Mc Mahon DSM with the full Colour Party



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Sgt Shane Whelan

EU SUPPORT FOR MALI



BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD
PHOTOS CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

The Republic of Mali is a landlocked West African country of 17.4 million people, with an area of just over 1,240,000 sq kms, bordered by Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. It consists of eight regions and its northern borders reach deep into the Sahara Desert. Its capital, Bamako, has a population of 1.8 million, and in 2006 was estimated to be the fastest growing city in Africa.

Mali's most famous city is Timbuktu, a remote city on the edge of the Sahara Desert in central Mali. It is now a dilapidated ruin after a nine-month jihadist occupation between April 2012 and January 2013.

In 1960 the Sudanese Republic and Senegal gained independence from France as the Mali Federation. Senegal withdrew after a few months and the Sudanese Republic renamed itself the Republic of Mali.

- In 1968, General Moussa Traore became the country's dictator after seizing power in a coup. Traore's reign came to an end
- in 1991 after another military coup, which returned democratic rule to the country. President Alpha Konare won Mali's first two
- democratic presidential elections in 1992 and 1997 before stepping down in 2002 due to Mali's two-term constitutional limit. He
- was succeeded by Amadou Toumani Toure, who had led the 1991
- coup to end Traore's dictatorship. President Toure won a second
- term in office in 2007.
- Then, in 2011, a significant number of traditionally nomadic Tu-
- areg tribesmen returned to Mali after having fought in the Libyan
- Civil War. These heavily armed fighters formed the National
- Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and rebelled
- against the government in January 2012 with the goal of attaining

independence for the northern region of Mali, known as Azawad.

On 22nd March 2012, low ranking Malian soldiers, frustrated with the poor handling of the rebellion, overthrew President Toure.

Intensive mediation efforts led by the Economic Community of West African States returned power to a civilian administration in April 2012 with the appointment of Interim President Dioncounda Traore.

However, post-coup chaos had seen the Malian military expelled from the country's three northern regions and allowed Islamic militants to set up strongholds.

From early 2012 to 2013, renewed fighting in northern Mali between government forces and the MNLA and their Islamist allies, as well as persistent food shortages, caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Malians. Most sought shelter in urban areas of southern Mali, except for pastoralist and nomadic groups, who abandoned their traditional routes, gave away or sold their livestock, and dispersed into the deserts of northern Mali or crossed into neighbouring countries. Almost all Malians who took refuge abroad (mostly Tuareg and Maure pastoralists) stayed largely in Mauritania, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

In January 2013 a French-led international military intervention to retake the three northern regions began, and within a month most of the north had been retaken. In July and August 2013 democratic elections took place, with Ibrahim Boubacar Keita elected president.

on the basis, in particular, of UN Resolution 2085, EU member states agreed to establish the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) Mali to train the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) on the basis of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

In May 2016 the Council of the EU agreed to continue providing military training and advice to the MaAF with a third mandate that runs until May 2018. During this mandate the mission area was extended towards the river Niger loop, including the municipalities of Gao and Timbuktu, and will move from initially centralised activities towards a more decentralised approach.

The third mandate, consisting of four phases - shaping, initial decentralisation, overall decentralisation, and transfer of authority - will enable the MaAF to take responsibility for its own military education and training system and to achieve successful reform.

EUTM Mali is a non-executive mission, meaning the deployed servicemen and women do not participate in combat activities, but train, advise and educate the MaAF to enable it to restore its military ability, to conduct military operations to re-establish territorial control, and to reduce the threat posed by terrorist groups.

EUTM Mali is considered a proving ground for the EU's CSDP as it has adopted a comprehensive bottom-up and top-down approach through education, training and advice. The mission area divides into five military regions, Kayes, Sikasso, Bamako, Segou and Mopti, as well as the area between Mopti and the river Niger loop.

Lt Col Mervin Farrell with Cpl Nigel Kennedy talking to the COS/Minister



Sgt Kevin Murray instructing on CIS training



Due to the chaos and instability Mali has become a known source-, transit-, and destination-country for human trafficking, with men, women and children being exploited for forced labour and sex. Many migrants travelling through Mali to Mauritania, Algeria, or Libya in hope of reaching Europe are particularly at risk of becoming victims of trafficking. In 2014 the Malian government made a plan to take significant steps to bring the country into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

Additional problems faced by Mali's population include the country's very high incidence of food and waterborne diseases like bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever; vector borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever; and a water contact disease, schistosomiasis.

In February 2013, at the request of the Malian government and

So far, in its three years EUTM Mali has successfully trained eight MaAF battle-groups and retrained five others. Additionally, several leadership courses and specialised training courses have been conducted. Over 8,000 soldiers (two-thirds of the MaAF) have now been trained by EUTM Mali.

Train-the-trainer and monitor-the-trainer courses conducted by EUTM Mali are aimed at establishing an independent MaAF training way of life. These courses are conducted in the military region headquarter garrisons, MaAF schools, or at the EUTM training centre in Koulikoro (KTC).

Brig Gen Eric Harvent from Belgium currently leads EUTM Mali, which has approximately 580 troops from 22 EU member states and four non-EU states, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania.

Mission HQ is located in Bamako, and KTC (100km north-east of Bamako), is the home of the Education and Training Task Force

(ETTF). Additional decentralised training is carried out by the Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Teams (CMATT).

The Defence Forces has 18 personnel currently deployed to EUTM Mali; three staff officers and four NCOs in Mission HQ, and three officers and eight NCOs in KTC.

The current security situation deems north Mali to be a hostile environment, with attacks on peacekeepers and NGOs seen as highly likely. Groups linked to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) are known to be operating in northern Mali, Algeria and Libya, and kidnapping for ransom remains a common way of funding for these terrorist organisations.

Despite a peace accord signed in June 2015 between the Malian government and northern armed groups, an attack was carried out last November by the Al Murabitun group on the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako, which is frequented by UN staff, diplomats, and other expatriates. It is believed that the attackers drove a car with diplomatic plates to the hotel, where they took a approximately 100 civilian hostages, shooting those who were not Muslims.

Mali National Guard (GNM) and local police cordoned the area, while French and American special operations forces supported the gendarmerie and SWAT teams in assaulting the hotel and freeing the remaining hostages.

The attack resulted in 21 civilians, one Malian gendarme, and two terrorists being killed, and seven civilians and two French troops being wounded.

On 22nd March 2016 a lone gunman attacked the Nord-Sud hotel where EUTM Mali HQ was based. The attacker tried to force his way through the entry gate; firing an AK47 assault rifle wildly and throwing two grenades over the fence. Local security guards at the entrance and a Czech soldier on the roof returned fire, killing the attacker, but not before his grenades detonated in the car park and adjoining volleyball court, which was in use by EUTM personnel, including a number of Irish. Thankfully there were no casualties among the mission's personnel and no organisation has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In October, *An Cosantóir* staff visited the EUTM Mali mission area. We received an orientation brief in EUTM HQ from Sgt Gerry O'Gorman (3 Inf Bn), who gave us a detailed brief on the current situation, including an incident the previous morning

in which three civilians were killed while working at a police station on the road from Bamako to Sasasso.

He also briefed us on the enhanced security in EUTM HQ introduced following the March attack. This included a new exterior protection system including gabions (large wire mesh baskets filled with rocks/sand) stacked on top of each other and incorporating OPs manned by a MaAF security detail. The main entrance is operated by a civilian security contractor and over-watched by Czech force protection troops and there is a 360-degree view from the roof, from which Czech snipers observe 24/7.

In the case of a major incident there is a recall system for the heads of the 'J' sections (J1 Personnel, J4 Logistics and JMed, etc), who would all converge on the J2 Operations Cell to control the situation from there.

We then visited the Role 1 medical station and the South African Starlight helicopter medevac service, which operates two Super Puma/Puma, and a BK 117 equipped to transfer intensive care patients with an aeromedical evacuation doctor and paramedic on board.

Two days after us, Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Defence Paul Kehoe TD and Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM arrived to visit the Irish contingent. During their stay the minister and chief of staff met the Malian minister of defence, Abdoulaye Idrissa Maïga, and Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the special representative of the secretary-general and head of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Discussions focussed on the importance of EUTM Mali and its contribution to the security, stability and peace of the region. Minister Kehoe confirmed the commitment of the Irish government to continue training and mentoring the MaAF.

On their return to EUTM HQ, the minister and the COS met with Brig Gen Eric Harvent, who expressed his gratitude for Ireland's contribution to EUTM and praised the work of Irish personnel serving in the mission.

Following this meeting Minister Kehoe and Vice Admiral Mellett presented CSDP service medals to 15 members of the Irish contingent.

Addressing the Irish contingent, Minister Kehoe said: "Our continued participation in this mission supports Ireland's ongoing commitment to international peace and se-



curity through the deployment of Defence Forces contingents on peace support and crisis management operations". He also spoke of the considerable sacrifices, dangers and hardships soldiers endure as part of their commitment to overseas missions.

Later the VIP guests observed Defence Forces instructors with CMATT conducting infantry training and radio procedures in Kati. With the help of EUTM translators Minister Kehoe and Vice Admiral Mellett were able to chat with the Malian soldiers and ask about their training.

They also spoke with Cpl Nigel Kennedy (DFHQ) who was returning home in a few days after a seven-month trip with EUTM. Nigel's first day in the mission area was the day of the March attack on EUTM HQ and he was playing volleyball that evening with other contingent members when they heard the gunshots and saw EUTM cars being hit by gunfire. They immediately took cover behind the unloading pit as two grenades detonated on the volleyball court. Nigel also told the distinguished guest about how CQMS Niall Jacobs and CQMS Jay Curly risked exposure to gunfire in helping a female Austrian soldier to safety before the attacker was taken out by Czech force protection personnel.

(As it turned out, Nigel's trip also ended accompanied by the sound of gunfire as armed assailants gunned down a man coming out of a bank 300m from EUTM HQ in what is assumed to have been an armed robbery.)

Minister Kehoe concluded his visit by extending his gratitude and that of the government saying: "People at home can take great pride in all that the Defence Forces have done, and continue to do on overseas service, often in very challenging environments." ■

70TH BIRTHDAY SALUTE *to the* NAVAL SERVICE

BY CPO/ERA RUAIRÍ DE BARRA,
FLEET OPERATIONAL READINESS,
STANDARDS & TRAINING



On 1st September 2016, the Naval Service slipped into its 70th year and went about its duties with the same quiet professionalism that it always has done, and hopefully always will. As the principal seagoing agency of the state, the Naval Service performs a host of duties: fisheries protection, narcotics and arms interdiction, search and rescue, are just a few of the tasks that it is called upon to perform.

The NS projects the state's law beyond the horizon, defends Ireland's interests with its presence, and, operating through self-contained mobile units, is capable of undertaking tasks that no other state agency can perform.

Based at Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour, the Naval Service currently has an authorised strength of 1,094. From its home on *Inis Sionnach*, the eight ships of the naval flotilla depart on their maritime defence and security patrols.

The crews of this modern navy, who have in recent years acquitted themselves so well off the coast of Libya, are following in the

footsteps of those who laid the foundations of the Service in September 1946.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 gave the Irish Free State responsibility to police its customs and fisheries, while the UK retained all powers in relation to maritime defence and retained the Treaty ports of Swilly, Cork and Berehaven.

While there was a maritime element to the Civil War, the reality is that from the end of that conflict in 1923 Ireland possessed no real naval force. The Coastal and Marine Service was created that year but was disbanded only a year later.

In 1938 the Treaty ports were handed back to the state and in 1939 the Marine and Coastwatching Service was founded to regulate merchant ships and protected fisheries off the coast, using their six motor torpedo boats and some other vessels. In 1942 this was renamed the Marine Service and in 1946 the Naval Service was established.

The fledgling service required vessels to form the core of a permanent naval force needed to protect Irish sovereignty. This led to the purchase of three corvettes from the UK, which were named *LÉ Cliona*, *LÉ Maev* and *LÉ Macha*.

These served the state faithfully until the lowest ebb of the Service was reached in 1970 when two were scrapped and *LÉ Maev* alone constituted the extent of our naval forces. (For some unknown reason, Ireland had long suffered from a degree of 'sea blindness' leading to this shameful neglect, which has thankfully had no parallel since.)

LÉ Maev was withdrawn from service in 1972 and three mine sweepers *LÉ Gráinne*, *LÉ Banba* and *LÉ Fóla* were commissioned.

The minesweepers kept the Naval Service going until it entered the patrol vessel era, which was a real leap forward that saw new ships being built in Ireland, to an Irish design, for Irish waters.

To keep these vessels at sea requires many different trades, specialist technicians, logisticians and civilian dockyard craftsmen working in what often seems to be organised chaos.

It requires schools and colleges to instruct and educate new generations of sailors in the arts of seamanship, many of which are still as much a part of a working sailor's routine today as they were 70 years ago.

The basic mariner is produced by the Naval College where civilians are transformed into sailors with all the skills required to be part of a disciplined, functional and adaptive force.

The Naval College and its partner the National Maritime College are also where naval NCOs are forged, by training in leadership and by their own individual specialist training, into young leaders who are at the forefront of the professionalism that allows the Naval Service to perform at the level it does.

The Naval Service has always produced strong independent NCOs, due in no small part to nature of their work at sea where it is often necessary to instantly react to save life or limb without reference to higher authority, relying first on their own experience and training: 'A sea captain when he stands upon the bridge.'

The commissioned ranks also have a tradition of producing highly capable officers, who have led the service from those horrendous days of only one seagoing vessel to exciting days of the production of Irish-built ships and on into the modern era.

The main direction of that modern leadership has been provided by the current chief of staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, who, when Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service,



clearly articulated what the Naval Service could and would do at every opportunity.

He led the way in the foundation of the National Maritime College of Ireland in Ringaskiddy, currently the only joint military/civilian third-level institution in the state.

This recognition of the Naval Service as an able and willing partner has allowed it to become a platform of innovation, and, in the years to come, having the Irish Maritime Energy Research Cluster (IMERC) based so close to Haulbowline will surely benefit both the state and the Service.

Current Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service, Commodore Hugh Tully, has successfully guided the service through the last number of years, overseeing much-needed major works on the ships, ensuring that the outputs of the Service were maintained as far as possible. All the while he must control the ever-increasing operational tempo of the Naval Service, in particular the difficult and dangerous rescue operations in the southern Mediterranean.

While the modern Naval Service is equipped with several state-of-the-art vessels, the last remaining Irish-built ship, *LÉ Eithne*, still renders excellent service. Manufactured in the Velrome Dockyard in Cobh in 1986, she proved her continued usefulness when Ireland first committed the Naval Service to render aid to Italy in May 2015.

Other long-serving vessels still in service are *LÉ Orla* and *LÉ Ciara*, coastal patrol vessels whose high speed and manoeuvrability have provided the Service with an unrivalled inshore capability and are a formidable asset.

LÉ Róisín and *LÉ Niamh*, now in their middle life, have proven to be exceptional ships since 2000 and 2001, respectively, and their basic layout and design forms the core of the newer, larger vessels that came after them. They have a balance of size, speed, arma-





ments and crew accommodation that was unmatched when they first hove into view in the lower harbour, arriving from Appledore Shipyard in the UK where they were built.

It was also in Appledore that the patrol vessels *LÉ William Butler Yeats*, *LÉ Samuel Beckett* and *LÉ James Joyce* have been produced and a fourth Writer Class vessel is being cut from steel, welded into sections and assembled in the fabrication yards.

Over the years the Service has been involved in many high-profile operations. In 1948, *LÉ Cliona* was dispatched to bring back WB Yeats' remains from France, where he had died in 1939, to rest "under bare Ben Bulbin's head".

When the Northern Ireland Troubles were at their height, the Naval Service was at the forefront of the interception of arms and munitions destined for the Provisional IRA. The death and destruction prevented by the foiling of these importations cannot be calculated.

In March 1973 the *MV Claudia* was sailing from Cyprus to Helvick Head, having stopped off the coast of Tunis to embark a cargo of arms supplied by Libyan dictator Col Gadaffi, when it was stopped by *LÉ Fola*, *LÉ Deirdre* and *LÉ Grainne*.

In September 1984 *LÉ Emer* and *LÉ Aisling* intercepted *FV Marita Ann*, preventing seven tons of explosives, arms and ammunition from reaching the horrendous conflict inflicted upon the people of Ireland.

June 23rd 1985 will long be remembered for the terrible mass murder of 329 passengers and crew of Air India Flight 182, when a bomb on board caused the aircraft to disintegrate 9,400m above the coast of Cork.

LÉ Aisling was tasked as on-scene commander in the area of the disaster and over the course of the operation in shark-infested waters four of the ship's company, Lt Cdr James Robinson, PO/Sea Muiris Mahon, L/Sea John McGrath and A/Sea Terry Browne, were

awarded DSMs for their actions.

Ireland's position on the west coast of Europe has made it an attractive destination for international and domestic drug smugglers. However, the Naval Service have been involved in huge successes in this area, such as Operation 'Seabight' in 2008 when an estimated €675 million worth of Colombian cocaine was seized from a 60-foot sloop, *Dances with Waves*, off the Cork coast. This was an international operation in which the maritime interdiction teams of *LÉ Róisín* and *LÉ Niamh* were the tip of the sword.

In September 2014 a huge inter-agency operation saw *LÉ Róisín* and *LÉ Niamh* apprehending the yacht, *Makayabella*, at night in challenging conditions 250 miles off Mizzen Head. The trial judge described the €350 million haul as "colossal" and "mind boggling" when he sentenced the *Makayabella's* crew to 73 years in total.

No review of the last 70 years could be written, however, without describing the deployment of Naval Service vessels in the Mediterranean. Wars, conflicts and difficult economic conditions that had erupted in many Middle Eastern and North African countries in 2013 and 2014 had displaced thousands of people and caused a migrant crisis as vast numbers of people sought refuge by crossing the sea to Europe. At the time Italy was dealing almost alone with huge numbers of migrants crossing from Libya in unseaworthy craft of all descriptions, and casualties among the migrants were increasing rapidly.

LÉ Eithne was the first to depart for the Mediterranean to assist in May 2015 and she forged the trail that *LÉ Niamh* and *LÉ Samuel Beckett* followed over the course of the year.

In 2016 Ireland yet again answered the call and dispatched *LÉ Róisín* in spring, followed by *LÉ William Butler Yeats* over the summer. Currently, *LÉ Samuel Beckett* is midway through its second deployment.

These missions are complex and dangerous, not just the recovery of panicking persons from sinking craft but the traumatic task of recovering bodies from dark and cramped bilges.

At the time of writing, 14,648 individuals have been rescued from the sea and, tragically, 72 bodies have also been recovered.

Working in harsh conditions and witnessing suffering normally only associated with the most vicious of conflicts, these men and women of the Naval Service have completed all the tasks assigned to them and the manner in which they have performed their harrowing duties has been in keeping with the finest traditions of the Service and of *Óglaigh na hÉireann*.

Casting our eye back over the last 70 years, we see a service that has completed all the tasks assigned to it with the resources available, during whatever era you chose to look at, demonstrating that the Irish Naval Service is adaptable, capable and responsive.

As we move forward into the uncharted waters of the future no-one knows what challenges our nation will face. We can, however, say a few things with certainty. The quiet professionals of the Naval Service will tend their ships, they will 'slip and proceed' from Cobh, out past Roche's Point, and there, over the horizon, far from sight, they will carry out our nation's work: a physical expression of our sovereign state in the unforgiving waters of the North Atlantic.

Lá breithe shona duit, tSeirbhís Chabhlaigh. ■



White Lanyard Walk

BY BTY SGT MARTIN KELLY (RETD)
PHOTOS BY CIARAN O'NEILL

On 24th September 1998 the national flag was lowered for the last time at Magee Bks in Kildare Town. I remember the sun shining that morning, with not a cloud in the sky, as gunners of all ranks formed up on the square in ceremonial order for the last time: Depot and School of Artillery, 1 AD Regt and 6 Fd Arty Regt. Honours were rendered as the flag was lowered and at the end of the ceremony the gunners marched out through the gates, with their guns in tow, and redeployed to the Curragh Camp.

Fast-forward to February 2016, 18 years later, when the barracks was eventually sold at auction. It was then that an idea that I had been harbouring for nearly two years began to come to the fore. During my service I had seen many a course of cadets/recruits/three-stars/potential NCOs marching back from the Glen of Imaal to their respective bases on completion of their field exercises. Maybe it was time to go the other way. I started to do some training walks and made the decision that if I could manage to complete a 20km walk by the end of May I would publicise my intention to carry out a walk from Magee Barracks to the Seskin field gun position in the Glen of Imaal.



On hitting my target I sent word out through social media with an invitation to any serving or former PDF/RDF members of any of the artillery units based in Magee Bks to accompany me on this White Lanyard Walk. This gave volunteers nearly four months to prepare, as my intended date for the walk was 24th September, the 18th anniversary of the closing of the barracks.

Service support for the walkers was needed to ensure a successful outcome and in this regard there was no hesitation from Tom Leigh, who offered his services as a support driver as well as providing refreshments along the way, and Peter Webb, who said he would put a team of four steward/medical bikers together to get us safely to our destination. Jim Philips, one of our walkers, offered to provide a campervan to help to facilitate a lunch break for the walkers in Dunlavin, where sandwiches and muffins would be provided by John and Gillian Kinsella. Paddy O'Shea drove the camper and had the kettle boiling for our arrival at Dunlavin and at our final destination – a welcome sight indeed! An offer by Ciaran O'Neill to photograph the event from start to finish was duly jumped at. Insurance for the event was generously sponsored by Kildare Town ex-Servicemen and Women's Association, saving another expense.

I also needed a way to get the gunners home, so I approached the Artillery School for help and was immediately offered a 24-seater bus, which would also act as a support vehicle, following behind the walkers. The plan was coming together.

The day of the walk finally arrived and by 0815hrs all 21 walkers and the other elements of the event had reported in. We busied ourselves with final administration and preparations, a photo shoot, and a few words of encouragement from Brian McEvoy of Pieta House (our chosen charity). After a safety brief we fell in and set off, with the walkers, stewards and medical support groups being escorted by the Garda Traffic Corps as far as Brownstown.

The weather forecast of breezy conditions with some rain proved wildly optimistic as the unrelenting rain driven by strengthening and ever-changing winds made for difficult walking conditions. However, with true artillery determination the gunners kept rolling along.

The importance of the work by our stewards, keeping us safe while allowing traffic easy passage; our support team, keeping us fed and watered; our photographer, who recorded the event from start to finish; and our support bus driver, cannot be overstated.

With the heavy rain causing torrents of water to sweep down the Wicklow roads the walkers completed the task with some sore feet and tired muscles, soaked to the skin but elated by a sense of achievement.

Our journey from Magee Bks to the Seskin field gun position covered 37km (mostly uphill!) and all 21 walkers finished, in times from just shy of six hours to six-and-a-half hours. Our sponsorship cards raised €7,525 for Pieta House, an impressive amount for such a small number of walkers.

Already, we are all looking forward to doing it again next year and maybe turn the walk into an annual event. ■



Walkers: Eric Byrne, Mick Cleary, Martin Cosgrave, Danny Farrell, Gerard Fogarty, Dermot Geoghegan, Paddy Gibney, John Godkin, Martin Kelly (organiser), Paul Kelly, Nigel Marcus, Cathal McAlister, Tony McCarthy, Jason McGannon (representing his father John [RIP]), Dondy O'Connell, Tygo O'Neill, Chris Pender, Jim Philips, Keith Ryan (Kildare), Keith Ryan (Newbridge) and Liam Tiernan.

Steward/medic group: Peter Webb, Willie Webb, Darren Webb, Martin Gorry and John Downey.

Support group: Tom Leigh, Paddy O'Shea, Mark Godkin and Sammy Gilman.

Mali *Back from the Brink*



BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

In 2012, after a Tuareg rebellion in northern Mali and a coup d'état by Amadou Sanogo, Mali and its people were left with no recognisable governing body. Islamic extremists exploited the vacuum, taking control of the northern provinces, implementing sharia law, and advancing south at speed, leaving death and destruction in their wake.

The resultant instability incurred sanctions and an embargo by the Economic Community of African States.

On 11th January 2013, French military forces, at the request of an interim Malian government, and with the support of the Malian military, began a co-ordinated campaign to retake the country. French air support, mechanised units, and infantry, fought their way north, supported by Malian troops, liberating occupied cities. By 30th January, Kidal, the last of the three northern provincial capitals to be retaken and the last remaining stronghold of the insurgents was stormed and secured.

Since the conflict began in 2012, over 400,000 Malians have been forced to flee their homes. The refugee catastro-

phe has further aggravated the food crisis that has affected an estimated 18 million people throughout the Sahel region.

While the insurgents have been defeated in the field, stability needs to be maintained, as a further deterioration of the situation would put at risk the fragile transition process in the south, weaken state institutions and allow insurgent organisations to regroup. Protection of the Malian people and the re-establishment of peace in the country are of the utmost importance in order to allow the population to return to an everyday peaceful existence.

On 2nd February 2013, President François Hollande of France appeared with Mali's interim president, Dioncounda Traoré, in a show of solidarity at the recently recaptured city of Timbuktu.

With the country retaken, the international community





Mali in non-combat roles, mainly being assigned to train and advise the Malian Armed Forces. Three staff officers and four NCOs are posted to the Mission HQ at Bamako, while three officers and eight NCOs are part of the mission's training team stationed at the Koulikoro Training Camp, located approximately 100km east of the capital Bamako.

Training for the Malian Armed Forces focuses on legal and leadership skills; education; strategy and tactics; planning; basic military principles; and international



realised that in order to prevent further incursions into Mali or to prevent insurgents using the country as an operating base, a military mission to assist the Malian military was needed. Consequently, on 18th February 2013 the European Union Training Mission Mali (EUTM Mali) was established with the objectives assisting the Malian authorities to: restore constitutional and democratic order in Mali through the 'road map' for the transition adopted on 29th January by the National Assembly, which included free and transparent elections in 2013 and a national inclusive dialogue; restore state authority and law and order throughout the country; neutralise organised crime and

humanitarian law. Leadership courses and specialised training courses have enhanced the abilities of the Malian military and during the last three years EUTM Mali has successfully trained eight battle-groups and retrained a further five.

The capture and trial at the International Criminal Court in the Hague of jihadi, Ahmad al-Mahdi, is a testament to the work being carried out by the EUTM team. He is the first defendant to plead guilty at the courts for destroying religious monuments in the ancient city of Timbuktu. He openly apologised to the people of Mali and expressed deep regret for his actions. He is currently awaiting sentencing.

Though the country has regained some stability in recent years, north and central Mali remain unstable, with insurgency attacks by al-Qaida and Islamic Maghreb. In November 2015, insurgent gunmen attacked the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako. In October 2016, at a UN camp in Aguelhok, in the Kidal region, peacekeepers came under attack from mortar fire. While on patrol outside the wire, two vehicles were struck by IEDs and one peacekeeper was killed and several wounded. These attacks, though small in scale, are attempting to undermine the legitimate government of Mali that the EUTM is assisting.

While much has been achieved in recent years, the insurgency remains a viable threat not only to the region but to the world. The EUTM team is there to ensure that Mali and its neighbours don't become a base for insurgents to launch attacks. The men and women of the Defence Forces serving with EUTM Mali are conducting an important mission, as their work not only ensures the safety of the population of Mali but that any insurgency in the region is contained and eradicated.



terrorist threats.

Military personnel from 26 countries, including members of the Defence Forces, were deployed on the mission under the command of Brig Gen Eric Harvent (Belgium).

Eighteen Irish soldiers from various units serve with EUTM

About the Author:

Paul O'Brien MA is an accomplished author and military historian and a regular contributor to *An Cosantóir*. He won the European Military Press Association's 'Best Article 2013', with 'At the Gates of Hell (Mali)' (*An Cosantóir* April 2013). Some of his recent books were *Battleground: The Battle for the General Post Office 1916* (2015), *A Question of Duty: The Curragh Incident, 1914* (2014) and *Shootout: The Battle for St Stephen's Green, 1916* (2013). www.dfmagazine.ie & www.paulobrienauthor.ie ■

SUPPORTING *'Belt Buckle'*

Exercise 'Belt Buckle' was conducted by the NCO Training Wing (NCOTW) in Fort Davis, Co Cork, between 3rd and 5th October 2016. The purpose of the exercise was to teach the students of the latest Infantry Platoon Sergeants Course all aspects of fighting in built up areas (FIBUA), in both offensive and defensive roles.

REPORT & PHOTOS BY
COMS MIKE BARRETT,
E COY, RDF, 7 INF BN

Fort Davis, which has several different FIBUA training areas, gives commanders ample space to exercise troops in a range of different scenarios. Located at the entrance to Cork Harbour, the fort contains a myriad of old buildings and tunnels, and offers impressive panoramic views of the seaborne approaches to Cobh, Spike Island and the city of Cork.

The students and their NCOTW instructors were substantially supported by 7 Inf Bn, which provided over 50 personnel for the exercise over its three-day duration. Of these troops 12 were RDF members of the battalion.

Once in location, after departing Cathal Brugha Bks early on the Monday morning and completing the four-hour journey to Fort Davis, the combined strength of all units involved numbered over 100 personnel.

The 7 Inf Bn troops performed a variety of roles for Belt Buckle, including providing an enemy force, exercise security, drivers, and an admin party. Support also came from the Central Medical Unit (CMU), which provided two medics and an ambulance on site at all times, and the cookhouse in Collins Bks, Cork, which provided all meals and fresh water on a daily basis; provisions that were shuttled out to the fort by 7 Inf Bn transport and work parties.

The Spartan living conditions of the fort were a challenge to all involved but, thankfully, the weather remained mild and rain free for the duration of the exercise.

ENDEX was called on Wednesday and the students returned to their base in the DFTC while the 7 Inf Bn convoy set course for home after having made a substantial input to a very successful exercise. ■



olt Buckle'



The University of Revolution

In the aftermath of the 1916 Easter Rising, Dublin city lay in ruins.

After a series of court martials, the seven signatories of the proclamation as well as prominent Republican Commanders were sentenced to death and executed by firing squad, many of them in the stone breakers' yard of Kilmainham Gaol. Others were sentenced to be deported.

The ranks and file of the Irish Volunteers, having already been processed at Richmond Barracks, were marched through the streets of Dublin to the docks. They were guarded by soldiers from the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. The atmosphere in the city had changed dramatically. Instead of hostile crowds threatening the prisoners, they now received cheers and encouragement from those that thronged the city streets as the men marched by.

A crucifix in Kilmainham Gaol, marking the execution spot of James Connolly





Frognoch began life as a whiskey distillery and repurposed by the British government as a POW camp for German soldiers during WW1.

They boarded the ship *Slieve Bloom*, a vessel that was usually reserved for the transport of cattle. The prisoners were without food and water for thirty hours until they reached Wakefield, Yorkshire, in England. On arrival in England, the prisoners were sent to various prisons such as Knutsford, Stafford, Wandsworth, Woking, Lewes and Wakefield where they were held for a few weeks. Here they campaigned for Prisoner of War Status.

Prisoners settled in, with new internees arriving everyday by train. Those held within its barbed war defences, decided to 'make what they could of it'. They saw themselves as an army and Brennan-Whitmore was appointed as their Camp Adjutant. They created a military academy, a University of Revolution.

After roll call in the morning, the men under military command, with a strict routine of marches, drills and military formations. They also planned for the next phase in the campaign, one of insurgency against the British Empire. Classes on strategy and tactics were developed.

Contacts were made and intelligence shared as the men began compiling information on the police detectives, RIC constables and known British informers throughout Ireland. On the 22nd/23rd December 1916, under a general amnesty, the Prisoners were released from Frongoch and returned to Ireland.

A new leadership emerged with men such as Michael Collins, Dick Mulcahy, Joe O' Reilly, Oscar Traynor and Terence MacSwiney leading the way. They would wage a war of spies, counter-intelligence and insurgency, the like the British Empire had never seen before.

WORDS: PAUL O'BRIEN

DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION: DANNY COYNE



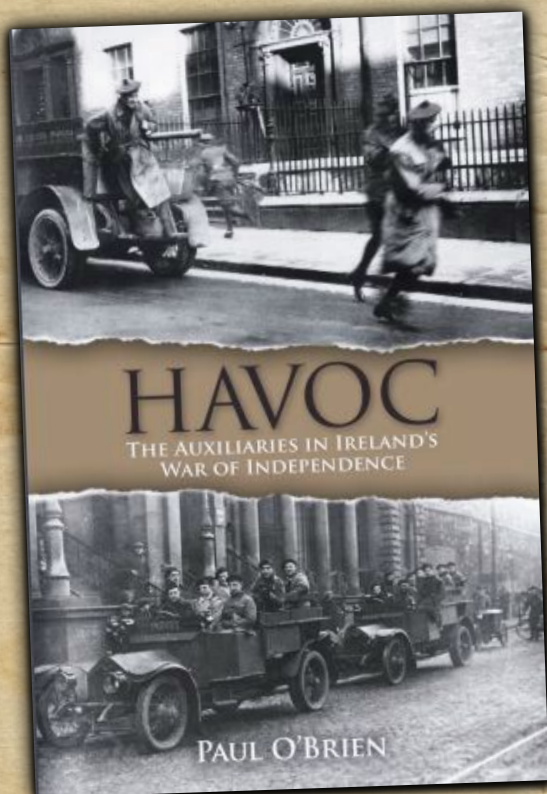
(From left to right) Terence MacSwiney, Dick Mulcahy, Oscar Traynor and leading the way, Michael Collins.

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Some of his recent books:

Battleground: The Battle for the General Post Office 1916,
A Question of Duty: The Curragh Incident, 1914 and his latest,
Havoc: The Auxiliaries in Ireland's War of Independence
 is due out in April 2017.

www.dfmagazine.ie
www.paulobrienauthor.ie

A Historic Accolade

THE 1916

CENTENARY

Commemorative Medal

BY COMDT STEPHEN MAC EOIN, OIC MILITARY ARCHIVES & COMDT LAR JOYE, RDF, SOLDIERS & CHIEFS EXHIBITION, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND



Cadet Class at the State Commemoration Ceremony in Arbour Hill, 24th April 2016.



The Easter Parade passing by the GPO on O'Connell St, Easter Sunday 2016.

By any standards 2016 has been a special and momentous year for the Defence Forces (*Óglaigh na hÉireann*). In addition to ongoing training, administration and operations, at home and abroad, our soldiers, sailors and aircrew played a pivotal role in assuring the success of the State's programme to mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

That event 100 years ago, regarded as crucial in the birth of modern Ireland, led to a sea-change in public opinion and political support for independence over Home Rule and set in motion a chain of events that would eventually lead to the War of Independence and the achievement of an Irish Free State.

The Defence Forces traces its origins back to that revolutionary period and the foundation of the Irish Volunteers (*Óglaigh na hÉireann*) in November 1913. The Volunteers, who in 1914 included some 200,000 personnel, were the prototype Irish Army, pledged in open service to the people of Ireland, and played a critical role in the Rising, the War of Independence, and the genesis of what would become the National Army. For a variety of reasons, most of the

Volunteers who joined before the onset of the First World War served in the British Army and many went on to make a significant contribution to the Irish Republican Army during the War of Independence, and also to the ranks of the new Army post-Independence.

Since the foundation of the State, *Óglaigh na hÉireann* has served the people of Ireland, providing the security that is the bedrock of any democratic state and playing no small role in ensuring the relatively smooth transition to peacetime, post-Civil War, following nearly a decade of political and military unrest.

Óglaigh na hÉireann mounted a small but credible defence of Ireland during the Emergency, marshalling meagre resources to train and equip some 140,000 personnel, including an Air Corps and fledgling Naval Service.

Throughout the post-war internal-security threat and the period of the Troubles, both permanent and reserve forces played a crucial role and since 1958 Irish soldiers, sailors and aircrew have distinguished themselves overseas under the banner of the United Nations.



Fittingly, then, in the centenary year of the Rising the Government decided to award a special commemorative medal to each member of *Óglaigh na hÉireann* in service in 2016. The medal honours *Óglaigh na hÉireann*'s continuous service to the State since its foundation and also acknowledges the central role it played across all seven strands of the centenary programme throughout 2016.

This is a unique award as never before have all PDF and RDF personnel in service during a particular year been awarded a medal. The nearest precedent was the Emergency Service Medal, for service during the period 1939 to 1946; the largest single award of medals in our history.

Maj Gen Kevin Cotter (DCOS Sp) appointed a board, under the chairmanship of Lt Col Johnny Whittaker (OIC 'A' Admin Sec), to investigate and report on the introduction, striking and criteria for the award of the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal. Meanwhile, the Dept of An Taoiseach formed a working group comprising; DF, DoD, the Ireland 2016 office (the State Centenary Programme Office), and the OPW, to plan the medal award ceremonies as an integral part of the Centenary Programme in Q4 of 2016.

The medal design, taking its inspiration from the 1916 Medal and the 1916 Survivors Medal, recognises our forebears who fought in Easter 1916 and the obverse is based on the crest of the Irish Volunteers – an emblem still in use by *Óglaigh na hÉireann* today that has remained unchanged since it was introduced in 1913.

Among those who designed the crest was the Volunteers' chief of staff, Eoin MacNeill, Professor of Early Medieval Studies at UCD and a key mover in the Gaelic revival movement that inspired many who fought during the revolutionary period. The design included the sunburst (representing the legendary Fianna), the warrior's belt and the eight-pointed star – all of which are replicated in the design of the 2016 medal.

In deference to the veterans of 1916, the Cúchulainn motif has been replaced with the original Volunteers' emblem, including the 'FF' (standing for Fianna Fáil), a reference to the legendary army of elite warriors sworn to defend Ireland. The addition of the 'IV' at the three- and nine-o'clock positions on the medal emphasises the historic connection with the Irish Volunteers, in the same way that the buttons on a soldier's uniform today still bear the same logo.

The reverse of the medal carries the emblem of the Ireland 2016 State Centenary Programme, incorporating seven diamonds, which remind the wearer of the seven signatories of the Proclamation, as well as the seven strands in the Centenary Programme of events.

The ribbon design exactly matches the colours used in the original 1916 ribbon and incorporates a white strip down the centre.

Each medal will be contained in a presentation case, with a message to each recipient from Government, as follows:

An Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916 / The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal

"Bronntar an bonn seo ortsa, comhalta atá ag fónamh in Óglaigh na hÉireann, i mbliain seo an chomórtha, 2016. Is comhartha speisialta buíochais atá sa Bhonn Comórtha Céad Bliain maidir leis an tseirbhís neamhleithleasach a thugann saighdiúirí, mairnéalaigh agus aerchriúnnna Óglaigh na hÉireann, atá ag fónamh ar son na hÉireann agus mhuintir na hÉireann ó bunaíodh an Stát. Tríd an mbonn seo a bhronnadh ort, déanaimid comóradh ar chéad bliain ó Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 agus aithnímid an ról tábhachtach a bhí ag Óglaigh na hÉireann i saol na hÉireann san am a caitheadh agus atá acu i mbliain seo an chomórtha." - Rialtas na hÉireann, Mí na Nollag 2016

"This medal is hereby awarded to you, a serving member of Óglaigh na hÉireann, in this centenary year of 2016. An Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain is a special token of our appre-



The National Flag Raising Ceremony at Dublin Castle on New Year's Day 2016, highlighting the role of Óglaigh na hÉireann in supporting ceremonial events across all 31 local authorities.



'Flags for Schools' was launched in Castlebar, Co Mayo. With over 3,200 schools visited across the Republic, educating some 500,000 children about the true meaning of our National Flag by DF personnel.

ciation for the selfless service of the volunteer soldiers, sailors and aircrew of Óglaigh na hÉireann, who have served Ireland and the Irish people since the foundation of the State. In awarding you this medal, we commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising and we recognise the central role played by Óglaigh na hÉireann in the past and in this centenary year." - The Government of Ireland, December 2016.

The centenary year formally opened on a cold, wet New Year's Day in Dublin Castle, where members of Óglaigh na hÉireann paraded with flags representing each of the historic organisations, battalions and garrisons who participated in the Rising.

Well before that day, however, the centenary programme had begun on a sunnier day, 1st August 2015, at the centenary of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa at which PH Pearse had given his iconic graveside oration in Glasnevin; a funeral that has come to be regarded as a crucial turning point for nationalist revolutionaries and their decision to engage in armed rebellion nine months later.

At the 2015 event Óglaigh na hÉireann provided a national colour party; a captain's guard of honour; the motorcycle escort of honour; a firing party; the Army No 1 Band; military police; and other elements. The event was reported as a resounding success and set the tone for our involvement in over 60 State ceremonial events in the year to follow.

While the preparations for the O'Donovan Rossa commemoration were in their final stages, plans were also being finalised for the significant and logistically challenging task of presenting flags to every primary school in the country (including private, special and island community schools) in 3,300 individual ceremonies.

The National Flag for Primary Schools initiative involved units from all three services of Óglaigh na hÉireann covering thousands of kilometres between 14th September 2015 and 14th March 2016. In a half-hour, set-piece ceremony, officers and NCOs presented each school with a high-quality, Irish-made national flag, a copy of the 1916 Proclamation, a copy of Amhrán na bhFiann (the score for which was originally set by the Army School of Music) and a formal certificate from Óglaigh na hÉireann. Schools in the gaeltachtaí and gaelscoileanna were visited by serving personnel with proficiency in Irish.

The dedicated staff of the DF Printing Press carried out all of the printing as well as a purpose-made folder for the commemorative documents. Staff from J4, the logistics directorate, planned and controlled the significant logistical effort, while J6, the CIS directorate, mapped the entire operation across the DF intranet.

Events over Easter weekend drew unprecedented numbers (estimated by the Irish Times at more than a million) onto the streets of Dublin. The Easter parade was the largest military parade since the 50th Anniversary in 1966, and included PDF and RDF personnel from all three services; veterans organisations; An Garda Síochána; and detachments representing the other 'blue light' emergency services.

While that parade, and the incredible aerial footage taken by RTÉ, courtesy of Air Corps helicopter assets, will live on in the public imagination, there were many other

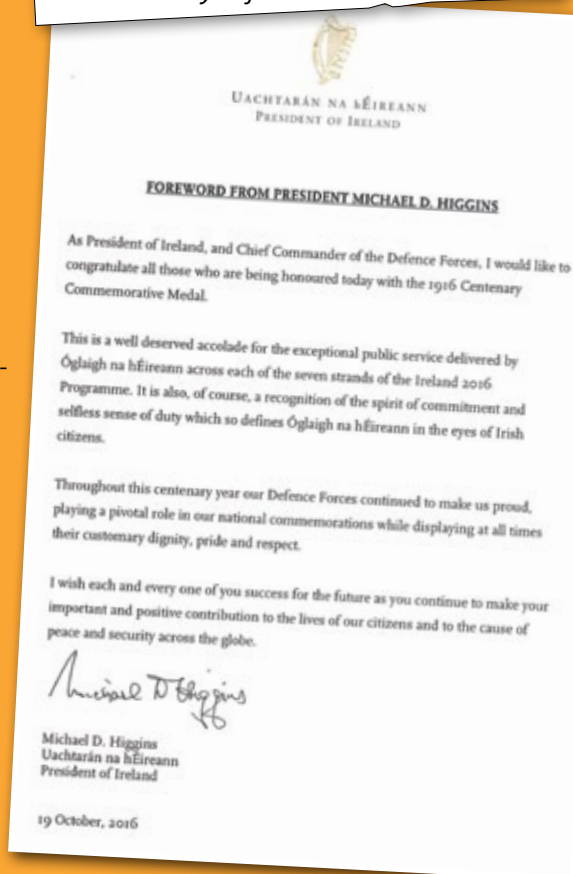
smaller-scale ceremonies that were important in their own right. Every day since January 1st members of Óglaigh na hÉireann have ceremonially raised and lowered the national flag at the GPO, in the centre of our nation's capital. This will continue every day until it is lowered for the last time on New Year's Eve

2016. (It is worth pointing out that flag-raising/lowering ceremonies at sunrise and sunset are an honour that is paid to the flag every day in every barracks and military post at home and overseas, on land and at sea.)

Outside of Dublin, DF personnel raised the national flag at

31 individual civic ceremonies this year – one for each local authority area. Together with the Flags for Schools initiative, this has allowed many communities to experience our professionalism at first hand and to have their own commemorative ceremonies imbued with all of the dignity and solemnity that Óglaigh na hÉireann brings. ■

Foreword from President of Ireland and Chief Commander of the Defence Forces Michael D. Higgins:
"...a recognition of the spirit of commitment and selfless sense of duty which so defines Óglaigh na hÉireann in the eyes of Irish citizens."



Capt Peter Kelleher reads the 1916 Proclamation at the GPO on Easter Sunday 2016, while hundreds of thousands of citizens line the streets of the capital.

DEFENDING WITH PRIDE

The LGBTA Network Launch



BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD & CPL LEE COYLE

GOC DFTC Brig Gen Joseph Mulligan, Brian Sheehan (GLEN), COS Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, Catherine Vaughan (Ernst & Young), Sgt Richard Muldarry, Emer O'Reilly, (GLEN's senior lead on Workplace Diversity), Col Anthony McKenna and Comdt Eoghan McDermott.

On 11th October 2016 the chief of staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, attended the official launch of Defend With Pride, the Irish Defence Forces Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies (LGBTA) Network, which aims to provide support, information and guidance for LGBT personnel and allies who wish to support their colleagues, friends and family.

Speaking at the event the chief of staff highlighted the importance of diversity for both our personnel and the organisation, stating: *"The provision and fostering of a diverse and inclusive workplace environment, reflective of Irish society is our moral duty and, for the Defence Forces, it means better decision making, better agility, better resilience."*

A number of guest speakers attended the launch, including Brian Sheehan the executive director of Gay Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), an NGO that aims to deliver positive change for LGBT people in Ireland.

In his address, Brian said: *"In a changing Ireland it's easy to think we've done the gay thing now – but we haven't... I can't tell you how proud I am to be here and how brave the young LGBTA are out there and there's no profession barred to them. You have brought the message to the world."*

The official launch was also part of the Defence Forces involvement with GLEN's Diversity Champions programme. Catherine Vaughan, a senior manager from Ernst & Young and a diversity champion, spoke on inclusive workplaces: *"Diversity isn't an option; you should help everyone be themselves as it helps the organisation."*

Sgt Richard Muldarry, PSS, Athlone, is the chair of the LGBTA

Network and he thanked everyone on behalf of the committee. Richard captured the room with his humorous tale of how he came to terms with being gay, and how he chose this life instead of feeling fake. After coming out he says he was relieved to find that *"my friends are still my friends!"* Richard's personality captured everyone's attention as he spoke openly of his life experiences with humour and candour. He also thanked the chief of staff and the general staff for their support; Comdt Jane Lawlor *"for her passion and determination in bringing the LGBTA Network forward"*; and Comdt Eoin McDermott, the Defence Forces Gender, Equality & Diversity Officer, Comdt Lawlor's successor.

To the committee he said: *"It couldn't have happened without you. It's about joining the dots, because it's as a group that we will complete this, not as individuals."*

The LGBTA Network can be contacted by email: defendwithpride@defenceforces.ie ■



Sgt Caroline Sexton and Cpl Lynn Ryan



Sgt Sue Brennan and Sgt Richard Muldarry

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Money Matters with ANSAC Credit Union

BY SGT BRENDAN HEALY & CPL RICKY MCCAUSLAND



At this time of year most of us begin to worry about the financial problems that are associated with the Christmas period. Be it presents, bills, parties, etc we all need to prioritise what is and what is not necessary when it comes to budgeting for Christmas.

THE ANSAC GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SURVIVAL AT CHRISTMAS:

Know your limit: sit down and plan your festive holidays before you head out to the shops.

All gifts large or small can add up leaving you short of cash. So allocate money for each present and stick to it.

Plan Ahead: So you have done your budget and are ready to “shop till you drop”. There are some things to consider when shopping for the family:

1. What do they have already?
2. How many people will give them more (think of Grandparents)?
3. What do they need?
4. What do they want?

At present, members of the Defence Forces are feeling forced to take high interest loans from pay day money lenders. The rates that they offer are extortionate and add more financial pressure on households that are already struggling. These loans are very easy accessible but very hard to pay back. However, there is an alternative. On the 1st November ANSAC launched the Christmas express loan. The maximum loan that can be applied for is €2,500 at 7.9%pa (T&Cs apply).

This initiative was launched to assist members who might be feeling worried about the festive season due to lack of planning or children's expectations.

Use cash this Christmas, save yourself some credit card shock tomorrow by spending only cash you have today (think ANSAC Christmas loan). Using your credit card to purchase gifts is so tempting however it can be one of the most expensive forms of borrowing. A credit card should be used as a credit ambulance, i.e. only when you really need it.

Enjoy the Christmas Holidays, in the end the holidays are about enjoying family and friends and putting financial stress in perspective by focusing on the time we spend with our children and family. If you are hosting a family gathering then plan and budget for the occasion and stick to your budget. Don't forget your family may be eligible to join ANSAC - *get the kids saving from an early age!*

ANSAC Credit Union are determined to ensure that your Christmas is enjoyed and financially stress free, and the launch of the Christmas express loans initiative is a welcome introduction to the festive calendar.

Contact ANSAC on 01-8554489 or contact your local Barrack Representative.

REMEMBER: Don't get stuck with a high interest loan this Christmas!

Merry Christmas to all members of the Defence Forces from all the staff and volunteers at ANSAC Credit Union.



The Spirit of CASTLEBLANEY

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

In 1997 members of 27 Inf Bn were fundraising for Capt Bradley's child who was ill with leukaemia. They had raised nearly £700 punts when Pte Peter McGuinness, Sp Coy, offered to walk from Castleblaney to Dundalk to raise the money up to £1,000. Pte McGuinness recalls: "My CO rang Capt Bradley to say I was on the way over. A while later Capt Bradley rang to say 'He's taking his time', to which the CO replied – 'Oh, he's walking over!'"

In 2016, at 50 years of age and completing 30 years service Peter wanted to do it again, plus he wanted to show some of his old comrades and those currently serving the spirit and endurance he still had. Consequently, on Friday 15th July he walked the old Support Company pennant back from Dundalk to Castleblaney.

At the end of his feat of endurance Pte McGuinness said: "I have marched here to Castleblaney today from Aiken Barracks, Dundalk. With me I carried the original Support Company, 27 Infantry Battalion, pennant. This march of endurance I would call 'the spirit of Castleblaney'. The pennant signifies the comradeship, the strength, the discipline, character and the command that all combined to give us a unit to be proud of.

"On my march over here, I remembered all of my comrades that I served with here in Camp Muckno; those who are now retired and those who have passed on. As this pennant is now being replaced with a new one, I could not let this occasion pass by without doing something memorable to honour its decommissioning. The pennant now shows age with wear. As do the soldiers, like myself, with the passing of the years. But this in turn makes way for the new life which is being pumped into the existing Support Company in Aiken Barracks. On top of this pennant you also see a spear head; it signifies the direction of the Company as spears are always used in a forward position. While Camp Muckno was inhabited by Support Company back in the hard times, the men who served here continually pushed forward in a variety of hardships and commitments.

"In doing their service they gave this country a better life and provided stability. I remember you today, men of Support Company, 27 Infantry Battalion. Let us always remember our dear friends and comrades who have gone before us, for they too have marked their place in our military history. May we never forget them, thank you."

Post script:

The original pennant that Peter carried with him is now displayed in the museum in Dundalk.

On November 7th, to celebrate completing 31 years service, Peter marched from Aiken Bks, to his parents' grave in Drogheda and then on to his old home in Trinity Gardens that he left to join the Defence Forces on November 7th 1985. Peter said: "It was a great day, full of emotions and many memories, and a nice way to complete my 31 years' service." ■



Peter outside his old home in Drogheda 2016



Pennant on memorial stone in Castleblaney



Castleblaney gang with Sp Coy pennant 2016



NEW FLAGPOLE *for* DFTC



BY CAPT EMMET GALLAGHER, PSO TO GOC DFTC

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MR REGGIE DARLING, SGT KARL BYRNE AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

The Defence Forces Training Centre (DFTC) in the Curragh, as its name suggests, is the main training centre of the Defence Forces, incorporating many Corps schools and the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI).

Although the Curragh has been a military assembly area since early medieval times, the first permanent military buildings did not go up until 1855 when the British Army erected wooden structures that included a post office, fire station, ten barracks, two churches, water pumping station, courthouse and a clock tower.

In 1879 the first modern barracks were built and by the late 1800s the camp became a divisional headquarters and training ground for soldiers fighting in the Boer War.

The handover to the Irish Free State army after the War of Independence took place on May 16th 1922. In line with British Army tradition the departing troops cut the flagpole down, which meant that the first time the tricolour was raised the flag pole had to be physically held upright by Irish officers.

In 1928 the seven remaining barracks were renamed after the executed signatories of the Proclamation: Plunkett, Connolly, Ceannt, Clarke, MacDermott, MacDonagh and Pearse.

The Curragh Camp was used to intern Allied and Axis prisoners during the Emergency (1939-1946) and Republican prisoners during the Troubles (1969-1999).

In recent years the Curragh Camp has seen extensive renovation and development, which continues today.

The flagpole is the heart of any military post or installation and holds pride of place in all barracks and camps throughout the country. The DFTC has recently relocated the Formation flagpole from McDermott Square to a central location at the entrance to the Curragh Camp, on the road dividing the east and west of the camp.

As this project was undertaken during the centenary of 1916 it was decided to incorporate a theme relevant to the Easter Rising in the design. Accordingly, seven standing stones surround the new flagpole in a half crescent, representing the seven signatories after whom the DFTC's barracks are named.

The driving force behind this venture was Bty Sgt Eric Byrne, DFTC HQ, who oversaw all elements of the project from its inception, with assistance from Engineering Group, DFTC, led by Comdt Dominic Noone, and the Office of D Engineers.

The first flag raising on the new flagpole was marked by a simple ceremony at 0800hrs on Monday 17th October 2016. A representative body from all DFTC units and members of ONE attended the ceremony. The flag was raised by Lt Kenneth Deegan and Sgt James Pearse (a grandson of James Connolly) both from Transport Group, DFTC. ■



View of the water tower from McDermott Square.



This picture of the Curragh Camp (circa 1850) was taken from the Garrison Church facing west towards Dunmurray Hill, with the camp in its infancy of development. A British flag can be seen flying from the flagpole located on the site where the current water tower now stands.



The Curragh Camp today, with the new formation flagpole standing close to its original site.



Brig Gen Joe Mulligan, GOC DFTC, with Sgt James Pearse at the first flag raising on the new flagpole.

Submarine Involvement at Pearl Harbour



BY JAMES SCANNELL

Battleship Row with torpedo tracks leading to USS West Virginia and USS Oklahoma

In October 1941 as Japanese military planners finalised the details of their attack on the US Pacific Fleet at the Pearl Harbour naval base in Hawaii, using aircraft launched from aircraft carriers, one minor addition was made; the deployment of five midget submarines to attack between the first and second airstrikes.

The Imperial Japanese Navy's two-man, Type A, midget submarine, which entered service in November 1940, was 23.9m long, 1.8m wide, and 3m high. Its 600hp electric motor gave it a 23kt surface speed (19kt submerged). It had a range of 33km, a diving depth of 30m, and was armed with two 17.7-inch torpedoes in individual tubes.

In August 1941 submariners came up with the concept of using them to penetrate enemy naval bases to attack their ships. They proposed that, due to their limited operation range, they could be carried to their target area by larger submarines acting as mother ships and then released to carry out their missions.

Feasibility studies on attacks against naval bases at Pearl Harbour, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Sydney, were followed up by a series of night exercises in Hitajo Bay, which, unknown to the crews, resembled Pearl Harbour.

In October the planners of the Pearl Harbour attack decided to include five midget submarines, which would be transported to the target area by five Type C-1 submarines. The midget submarines were fitted with net cutters and propeller guards, and 140kg scuttling charges, as their crews were under orders not to allow them fall into enemy hands.

In November three Japanese officers travelled to Pearl Harbour where they spent four days on a reconnaissance operation before returning to Japan where the plan for the attack on Sunday December 7th was finalised:

- In Washington DC, two hours before the attack, the Japa-

nese ambassador would present a diplomatic note to the US Secretary of State severing diplomatic relations. (Due to a delay in typing up the formal note, it was not delivered until the attack was in progress.)

- At 8am in Hawaii the first wave of carrier-borne aircraft would commence their attack on the Pacific Fleet at anchor in Pearl Harbour and the surrounding infrastructure.
- The midget submarines would enter the harbour and commence their attacks after the departure of the first wave of aircraft and before the arrival of the second wave.

On November 27th the Japanese strike force of six aircraft carriers, two battleships, two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, nine destroyers, three submarines, and eight tankers, set sail in great secrecy from Takan Bay, Japan, maintaining strict radio silence.

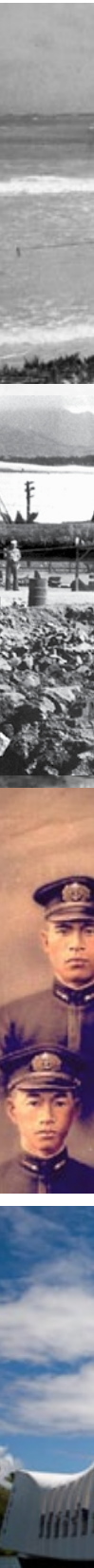
Proceeding separately to Pearl Harbour were the five midget submarines carried on their mother ships.

On December 2nd the striking force received the coded message 'Climb Mount Niiaka!' confirming that the attack on Pearl Harbour was to proceed.

In the early hours of December 7th the midget submarines, M-16, M-22, M-18, M-20, and HA-19, were launched from their mother ships, starting their approach to Pearl Harbour under orders not to commence their attack before 8am.

At 3.42am the mine-sweeper USS Condor spotted what they took to be a submarine periscope that changed direction as they approached. At 3.58am she signalled the destroyer USS Ward: 'Sighted, submerged submarine on westerly course, speed nine knots.'

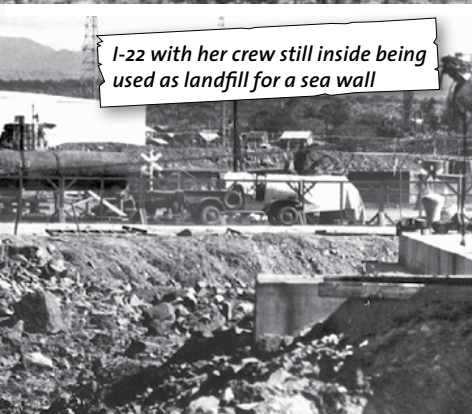
USS Ward went to battle stations but, despite an extensive search using lookouts and sonar, found no trace of the submarine, so the crew stood down at 4.43am.



HA-19 Grounded on the Surf on Oahu



I-22 with her crew still inside being used as landfill for a sea wall



Japanese midget submarine crewmembers lost in the Pearl Harbour attack



USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbour

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

USS Ward received further information from USS Condon on where the submarine had been sighted and went back to search that area. Around 6.30am as USS Antares, towing a target raft, approached the outer gates, a small conning tower following behind it just above the waves was spotted by the lookouts on USS Ward and by a Catalina aircraft, which dropped smoke markers on the contact.

As USS Ward raced towards the submarine it fired a round at a range of about 100 yards that passed overhead its target. About 30 seconds later, when the range had fallen to 50 yards, she fired another shell that struck the base of the conning tower. Passing over the target USS Ward dropped four depth charges in quick succession. The crew of the Catalina, who had a grandstand view of the action, also dropped depth charges in accordance with their orders to 'Depth bomb and sink any submarines found in the defensive sea area without authority.'

USS Ward signalled naval HQ: 'We have attacked, fired upon, and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea area.' The submarine was the M-20 but USS Ward wasn't credited with her sinking until 2002 when her remains were found at the bottom of Pearl Harbour with her torpedoes still in their tubes

underway immediately and contact the [USS] Ward in the defensive sea area.' By this time USS Ward had detained a sampan acting suspiciously in the restricted area and depth charged another midget submarine contact.

At 8.30am, with the air attack underway, M-22 was spotted entering Pearl Harbour by a number of ships. Several minutes later USS Monaghan spotted the submarine's periscope and conning tower and increased her speed to ram. Meanwhile a torpedo fired by M-22 at the seaplane tender Curtiss missed and hit a dock.

After being hit by a five-inch shell and raked by machine-gun fire, M-22 turned to face USS Monaghan, firing her second torpedo at the onrushing warship. The torpedo missed, eventually exploding against the Ford Island shoreline, before the Monaghan rammed her and pushed her down to the harbour bed. Two depth charges brought M-22 to the surface momentarily before she shipped beneath the waves for the last time. This submarine was later used as landfill for a pier and was uncovered again in 1952 but was so badly corroded that she was reburied at the same location. Her crew's remains are still entombed in her.

M-18 was damaged by depth charges and her hull was found in 1960 east of the Pearl Harbour entrance with her conning tower hatch open with no trace of her crew and her torpedoes intact. Raised by the US Navy at the request of the Japanese Government, her hull was returned to Japan where missing portions were replaced and she is now on display at the Naval Tactical School, Hiroshima.

M-16 made it into Pearl Harbour and fired her two torpedoes, one of which may have struck USS Oklahoma and accelerated her capsizing. After firing her torpedoes, the crew of M-16 scuttled her in West Lock to prevent her falling into American hands. A massive ammunition explosion in 1944 saw the remains of this submarine being scooped up with all the other debris and dumped at sea. In 2009 her remains were found during a seabed survey of the debris.

HA-19, which was launched with a broken gyrocompass, reached the entrance to Pearl Harbour, struck a reef three times and grounded. The stranded submarine was spotted by USS Helm, which blasted her off the reef but failed to destroy her. When the submarine resurfaced she was attacked again by the Helm but managed to escape.

HA-19 made another attempt to enter the harbour but struck the reef again where she was depth charged and so severely damaged that she could not fire her torpedoes. The crew tried to return to the mother ship but were overcome by fumes and she was carried away by the currents. Coming around and discovering themselves grounded on a reef, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki ordered Chief Warrant Officer Kiyoshi Inagaki to abandon ship while he set the scuttling charges, which subsequently failed to detonate due to seawater damage. While Inagaki drowned, Sakamaki made it ashore and was found unconscious the next day, becoming the first Japanese prisoner of war. (He died in 1999.)

HA-19 was salvaged by the US Navy, subjected to a detailed technical examination and sent to the US mainland on war bond tours. She is currently on display at the National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, Texas. ■

and a shell hole in her conning tower. It's believed that the remains of her crew are still inside and she remains where she sank.

When USS Ward's message arrived in naval HQ 25 minutes later, a lack of urgency and the fact that it was a Sunday meant that the message was not acted upon promptly and it was not until 7.50am that the ready-duty destroyer USS Monaghan was ordered to 'Get

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COURAGE, VALOUR, and the Hound of Culann

BY JONNY DILLON

Just above ground level in the broad window of the GPO on O'Connell Street, stands an iconic statue, familiar to many; a figure that since its unveiling in 1935, has quietly borne witness to the endless flow of people that daily pass along Dublin's main thoroughfare. The statue is Oliver Sheppard's *The Death Of Cú Chulainn*, and the figure portrayed is one of this country's earliest mythic champions; a heroic demigod fated to attain fame and renown that would far outlast his short life, and a figure whose valour and courage in defence of his people has served as an inspiration to countless generations who came after him.

Sheppard's sculpture shows the slain Cú Chulainn in his death pose; his limp frame tied to a rock, sword and shield still in hand, a large scald crow having alighted upon his shoulder. The scene portrayed reflects the final moments of the *Táin Bó Cuailgne* ('The Cattle Raid of Cooley'), the saga in which Cú Chulainn is the protagonist; an epic narrative that come down to us down through ancient written and oral traditions.

The hero of the *Táin* found resonance as a symbol of Ireland's nationalist struggle in the twentieth century and Sheppard's statue stands today in the foyer of the GPO as the official memorial of the Easter Rising of 1916. A symbol, as Éamon de Valera put it, of the 'dauntless courage and abiding constancy of our people'.

But what of this slain youth and what, likewise, of his dauntless courage? Tradition tells us that Cú Chulainn was born with the name Setanta, in Dundalk, Co Louth, and the narrative in which he features is thought to be set in Ireland around the time of Christ. A prophesy made over the infant child foresaw that his praise would be in the mouths of all men, and that charioteers, warriors, kings and sages would all recount his deeds.

From his earliest days Setanta was capable of incredible feats of agility, and strength. As a five-year-old Setanta would amuse himself with his little shield, his bronze hurley, his javelin and wooden staff. First, taking his hurley he would strike a sliotar as far as he could, before promptly throwing hurley, javelin and staff through the air after it. Not sufficiently entertained by the above, Setanta would make a mad dash after his playthings; catching the hurley and picking up the sliotar before proceeding to snatch up his javelin and, finally, catching the wooden staff, which had not yet touched the ground!

While travelling to a feast that was being laid out for him one day, Conchobhar MacNeasa, the king of Ulster, was astonished to see the young Setanta's skills and invited the young fellow to attend the

feast that evening. Setanta promised to come along after he had finished sporting and playing for the day.

The feast being prepared for the king and his entourage that night was held in the fort of Culann the smith. With Conchobhar having forgotten to mention the invitation earlier extended to young Setanta, Culann supposed all guests were assembled for the evening and duly stationed his much-prized watchdog on the green outside the fort. Setanta, arriving late to the feast, was now faced with the threat of Culann's ferocious, baying watch-hound. As the creature leapt to devour him, Setanta used his hurley to unerringly drive the sliotar down the dog's throat, dashing it against a pillar with such force that it was killed.

Culann was greatly dismayed at the death of his beloved hound but Setanta offered wise compensation: to raise a whelp of the same breed until it was fit to do the business of its sire, and that until that time he, himself, would be the hound who would protect Culann's flocks, land and family. In commemoration of the boy's first deed of valour, the warriors assembled there conferred upon him the name that would be known throughout the ages, the name



Cú Chulainn in battle, from T.W. Rolleston's *'Myths and Legends of the Celtic Race'*, 1911. Illustration by J. C. Leyendecker



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prophesied to be 'praised in the mouths of all men'; Cú Chulainn – the Hound of Culann.

Having grown into a noble youth and in need of military training, Cú Chulainn travelled to the Isle of Skye off the coast of Scotland, where he learned wonderful feats and arts of combat from the warrior woman, Scáthach. At the end of his apprenticeship, she gave him the dreaded Gae Bolga, an awful barbed spear, thrown with the foot. Cú Chulainn is further described as having darts, a straight sword, a razor-sharp, dark-red shield, and a helmet surrounded by demons and spirits who screamed above and around him as he went into battle in his chariot (itself bristling with lancelets and spears, and manned by his faithful charioteer, Láeg).

In the *Táin* Cú Chulainn is famed for single-handedly defending Ulster from the advancing armies of Connacht's Queen Meadhbh and her husband Aillil, who set forth in order to steal Ulster's famed Brown Bull of Cooley. It is in the midst of this battle that the hero had his *riastradh* (twisting-fit), a spasmodic frenzy that caused him to change into a bewildering and terrible form. He became awful to behold; one eye gulped down into his head while the other sprang out upon his cheek, and the loud clap of his beating heart was heard as thunder on the battlefield. His hair bristled and stood on end, and the heroic 'champion's light' shone around him, while a thick spout of blood arose from the crown of his head, 'so that a black fog of witchery was made thereof'.

'Witchery' and the supernatural abound in the *Táin* and it is by such powers that Cú Chulainn is eventually undone, when magic and trickery is used by his enemies to bring a horror upon

the royal hero's mind. Duly afflicted, he begins to see phantasms of armed battalions marching against him out of the undergrowth and leaves of the forest, and is tormented by the smoke of burning dwellings that he imagines rising on every side. Coming to a stream, he sees a woman washing military costume and armour in the waters. Weeping, she raises a bloodied vest from the water. Cú Chulainn recognises it as his own, whereupon she vanishes from sight.

Cú Chulainn is eventually struck by a spear that disembowels him. Never one to do things the easy way, he gathers up his innards and goes to a lakeside to bathe himself and drink of its waters, before returning to a tall, westward facing pillar stone to die. It is over this stone that Cú Chulainn slings his girdle in order that he might die standing to face his enemies, who, despite vanquishing their foe, are fearful of approaching him until a crow alights upon his shoulder – a sign that the life force has ebbed from him entirely.

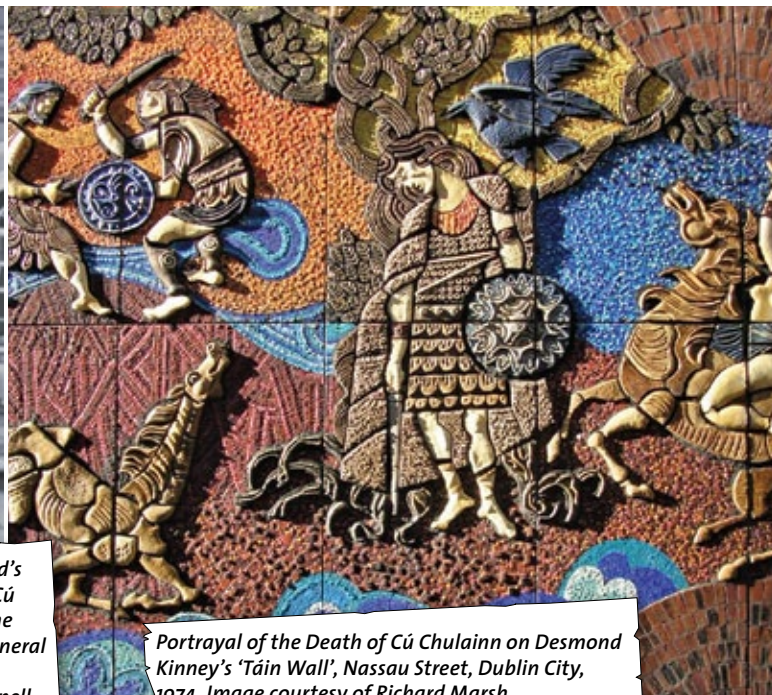
According to local lore, this stone stands today in a field in Knockbridge, Co Louth, and at over three metres in height is aptly named Clochafamore (*Cloch an Fear Mór*/Stone of the Big Man).

It is this final scene; that of the slain champion still standing against his enemies even in defeat, that we see reflected in the bronze statue that rests quietly in the foyer of the GPO.

A noble figure embodying the values of honour, courage, and duty, Cú Chulainn is one who paid the ultimate price in defence of his people. It is this heroic sacrifice, this undaunted valour that, true to the prophecy, causes his deeds to be recounted to this very day; deeds that we would do well to know and learn, that we might instil some aspect of them in our own lives. ■



Oliver Sheppard's 'The Death of Cú Chulainn', in the foyer of the General Post Office on Dublin's O'Connell Street. Image courtesy of An Post



Portrayal of the Death of Cú Chulainn on Desmond Kinney's 'Táin Wall', Nassau Street, Dublin City, 1974. Image courtesy of Richard Marsh



Clochafamore Standing Stone, Knockbridge, Co Louth. The site where Cú Chulainn is said to have tied himself in his dying moments. Image courtesy of Richard Marsh

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CISM Triathlon

BY CAPT MICHAEL BARRY, CISM TRIATHLON TEAM CAPT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CORINNE KRAUS [HTTP://CORINNEKRAUS.JALBUM.NET](http://corinnekraus.jalbum.net) & KETTY A ROM HANKES [WWW.RTL.LU](http://www.rtl.lu)



For the first time since 2011 a Defence Forces team participated in a CISM (Conseil International de Sport Militaire) triathlon competition during the Eislek Triathlon in Lutzhausen, Luxembourg, on 17th September 2016. Ireland submitted a team of five athletes: Capt Michael Barry (DFHQ), Sgt Jackie Wykes (EUBG), Cpl Gavin Crawford (28 Inf Bn), Pte John Joyce (6 Inf Bn), and Pte Barry Smyth (Air Corps). Sgt Joanna Tilley-Rock (DFTC) was Team Coach.

Ranged against us were some of the top military athletes from Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. Competitors also faced an exceptionally challenging course in the form of a middle-distance triathlon (half Ironman). Typically this consists of a 1,900m swim, a 90km cycle, and a 21km run. However, due to a build-up of algae in the Lac de la Haute Sure, the swim was unfortunately cancelled, and replaced with another 5km run at the beginning of the race, making the event a duathlon instead. The bike route boasted a massive 1,650 vertical meters of climbing - the equivalent of riding from

Coolmoney Camp to the top of Lugnaquilla, twice!

Undaunted, the team travelled to Luxembourg and enjoyed the superb hospitality of the Luxembourg military in their barracks near Diekirch. On the morning of the race, the bikes were fine tuned and oiled, and the athletes were rested and raring to go. On the advice of Joanna Tilley-Rock, each athlete had a race plan worked out to capitalise on their own strengths.

At the start line, 200 civilian and 36 military competitors lined up for a tough journey through the forests and steep valleys of the Ardennes. When the starting gun fired and the first 5km run started, Gavin Crawford shot ahead with the lead group. An exceptionally strong runner, Gavin already had numerous half ironmen to his name, and knew well what his capabilities were. The remainder of the team, conscious of another four to five hours of intense racing, decided to pace ourselves.

Gavin completed the 5km run in a very good 16mins 34secs, grabbed his bike in Transition 1, and set off on the 90km cycle. I was close behind, and used my experience as

Sprint

a road cyclist to attack the first few climbs, settling into a fast but sustainable tempo.

Cycling in triathlons typically takes place on a flat course, where riders try to cycle as aerodynamically as possible on a straight road. The Eislek Triathlon, however, had perhaps 5km of flat roads, and 85km of steep climbs and hairpin descents, which demanded big efforts uphill and technical handling of the bike downhill. Unfortunately Barry Smyth came down on one turn but showed great resolve to pick himself up and finish the race.

Halfway through the cycle legs and minds were beginning to tire and the initial excitement of taking part was replaced by the realisation that this course was much

line first by mere seconds. Completely exhausted, we both collapsed on the ground, taking several minutes to recover from the effort. John, Barry and Jackie also finished, having given everything they had.

It says a lot for our team that over one third of the CISM competitors did not finish, while all five Irish competitors crossed the finish line with good times. The individual CISM victory went to Pieterjan Penne of Belgium (who finished 2nd overall in the race), and the Belgians also scooped the prize for Best Team. The Irish team finished the military competition in 7th, 8th, 16th, 20th, and 22nd places, re-



tougher than a typical (flat) Irish course. The Belgian team, coming from a country with such great cycling tradition, stormed ahead on this stage. Nonetheless, we ploughed on, taking energy gels and water to keep ourselves fuelled.

As the athletes arrived at the Clervaux Castle they dropped their bikes in Transition 2, and launched into the final 21km run. For many, the phenomenon of 'jelly legs' (where legs used to cycling for hours on end suddenly go weak when forced to run) was made much worse by yet more hills on the punishing route around Clervaux. Now, Gavin, John Joyce, and Jackie Wykes began moving up the field.

For all competitors, hunger, thirst, sunburn, and muscle fatigue was beginning to take its toll and rather than agonising over the distance remaining, each person focused on the next milestone, the next hill or the next lap, to help them carry on. The end-of-race shower and pasta also served as good motivation.

Coming into the final kilometre, Gavin Crawford was closing fast behind me. The final 100m was decided by a sprint between the two of us and I held on to cross the

sulting in 3rd place in the military competition. Jackie also finished 2nd in the Ladies Competition. Overall, these results reflect a fantastic performance.

Afterwards, the showers and pasta were as good as the athletes hoped they would be, and the stories of the race were relived with the other teams at the post race party.

CISM events are a great opportunity to meet and race against top quality competitors from other militaries, and the Irish team would like to thank the Luxembourg military for their kind hospitality and assistance during their time abroad.

The 2017 CISM Triathlon World Championships will be held next year in Germany, with the Irish team hoping to put in another strong performance. ■





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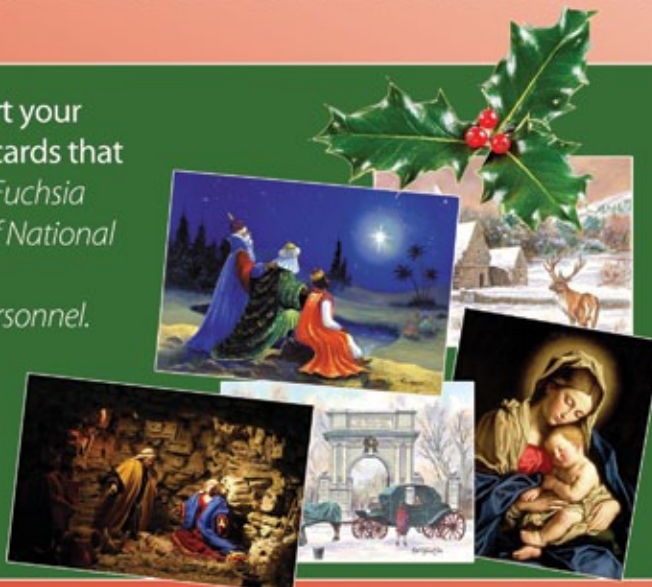


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Last month's winner was: Pawel Augustyn, Co Kildare

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BOOKS BOOKS

RIGHT TO KILL (Nathan McBride Series #6)

Author: Andrew Peterson
Publisher: Thomas & Mercer (November 2016)
www.andrewpeterson.com

ISBN: 978-1503940376
Price: €4.66 eBook / €11.33 PB
Pages: 316



The action starts off with a home intruder alarm going off belonging to retired CIA station chief Linda Genneken and turns in to an intense gun battle of wits in a close confined space between her and a well equipped Cartel hit squad. Former Marine Snipers and retired CIA operatives Nathan McBride and Harvey Fontana now running a successful security company, had installed Linda's alarm when she retired 7-years-ago. Fearing the worst they react to the

alarm and instinctively, rescuing LG in the nick of time. They are giving the green light by CIA Director Cantrell to trace the Cartel hit squad to their source.

Another great addition to the Nathan McBride series, the story spans out over a number of hours with plenty of gun battles and street chases through back alleys and a luxury car dealership and finishing up in sniper v sniper battle in snow covered peaks. Will they succeed? **WF**

WORD SEARCH

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Word searches are fun, they also bring benefits you may not realise and can play an important role in keeping you mentally fit.

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Y	P	J	Q	K	H	H	Y	G	L	A	I	W	R	Y
S	K	D	R	T	O	C	T	O	B	E	R	E	C	C
P	W	H	E	K	D	G	G	W	E	R	B	J	I	N
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Z	C	Z	V	U	T	X	G	E	F	L	E	T	V	W
P	A	L	Y	L	U	J	Y	R	A	U	R	B	E	F

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Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Eoghan Brady, Co Dublin. Closing date is 20th January 2016.

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IRELAND'S AVIATOR HEROES OF WORLD WAR II

Author: John C. Hewitt
Publisher: Mercier Press (June 2016)
www.mercierpress.ie
ISBN: 9781781173886
Price: €31.50 H/B



This book contains some remarkable research and detail and has a pleasing and easy to read format with plenty of contemporary pictures. I found it a substantial hardback book offering an enthralling and informative read. It's a fascinating and enlightening journey through individual Irish

war stories, bringing Dalkey, Clones, Longford, Hamiltonbridge, Ballymoney, Dundrum, Keady, Rathmines, Clogh, Tipperary, Mullaghmore, into the text, adding great interest to the story.

My taste and tolerance for aviation literature advanced with my years and I became more aware of the individual pilots' stories which spanned the globe, Antoine de St Exupery, Douglas Bader, Bob Stanford Tuck, Chuck Yeager and then of course Adolf Galland and Erich Hartmann to name a few. You will probably recognise these names, especially those of the RAF, but it became apparent that quite a few Irishmen had also served, fought- and died - in the air battles of World War II.

The story of Sqn Leader Eric Esler DFC, born in Donahadee, Co Down filled a gap in my own volume of Air Corps history, when I learnt that it was he who flew the legendary and recently now late-Commander Winkle Brown RNAS to Gormanston in 1945 to retrieve the latest version Junkers Ju88 Night Fighter variant, whose crew had escaped from Denmark as the war ended. A photograph of the crew is hanging in the Officers' Mess in Gormanston Camp to this day.

The book contains all the elements of adventure, luck, tragedy, success, endeavour, fear and humour that typify such personal war stories. If you are a student of WWII, if you have an abiding interest in all things aviation, if you have an Irish background or are searching for the details of Irishmen who fought in the air in WWII - then I can highly recommend this book to you!

LUFTWAFFE EAGLES OVER IRELAND

Author: Justin Horgan & Paddy Cummins
Publisher: Horgan Press (October 2016)
www.horganpress.com
ISBN: 978-0995553002
Price: €35.00 H/B

From the outset it is apparent that the authors of this book have worked hard over a long time to compile a quality product and the proof is there for any reader to appreciate. The late Paddy Cummins would be proud to have his name associated with it and Justin Horgan has rendered to Paddy's family a fine and enduring tribute to his memory and their friendship.



Justin and Paddy clearly painstakingly trawled through every Irish, German and British archive available looking for material on air operations over and around Ireland during the course of World War II. This rich volume containing meticulous detail about the missions, crews involved and the various circumstances that

contrived to arrange for their arrival on the shores of Ireland during 'The Emergency'. The entire book is laced with contemporary photographs, some obtained from the crews themselves many years after the war, some even dedicated to one or other of the authors.

Of particular interest to many will be the story of the Ju88 which flew in from Denmark in the dying days of the war, landing at Gormanston. A top-of-the-range night fighter, it was duly collected by the famous Commander Eric 'Winkle' Brown RNAS and flown to England for analysis. The only surviving memory of this event in Gormanston is a black and white picture in the Officers' Mess, reproduced in the book on page 283.

I found the chapter concerning the German War Cemetery in Glencree very interesting and moving; it's an illustration of how two nations combined to commemorate with dignity the German dead of both World Wars I and II in a central and fitting context in the Wicklow Mountains, beside the modern-day Reconciliation Centre.

This is a fascinating and enthralling production with a great range of photographs and extracted contemporary notes, records and logs. It tells in a very readable fashion the human stories behind the aircraft and the missions of the various Luftwaffe crashes in the State during The Emergency years and is recommended as a quality addition to any aviation readers' book collection.

Both reviewed by Brig Gen Paul Fry, GOC Air Corps & Director of Military Aviation

LEAVING 'THE ROCKET HOUSE'

BY CPL LEE COYLE

Cpl John Ferns, TIS Kilbride, recently retired from the Coast Guard after 36 years voluntary service, having served as OiC of the Greystones/Wicklow Unit since 2009, with his father and brother having held the appointment previously.

The Coast Guard, Ireland's fourth blue light service, promotes safety and security standards; helps to prevent the loss of life at

sea, on inland waters, on mountains and in caves by providing effective emergency response services; and safeguards the quality of the marine environment.

John grew up in Greystones, where his father served in the local Coast Guard unit from 1952. In April 1980, when John was 16, his father brought him and his 14-year-old brother, Niall, to join the Coast Guard. Later they were joined by their brother Issac and sister Joyce.

John referred to the Coast Guard station house as 'the Rocket House', after the Breeches Buoy rescue rockets that were in use years ago. (Breeches Buoy was a system used to take people from a vessel that had run aground.)

Training was carried out over four training sessions a year at the time, covering Breeches Buoy recovery techniques and search skills.

When he finished school John applied for the Defence Forces, which he had an interest in from an early age, but as there was no recruitment at the time he decided to make use of his knowledge of the water in the meantime and went to fishery school in Greencastle, Co Donegal. Over the next while he worked on trawlers until the DF made contact to see if he was still interested in joining.

John finally enlisted into the DF in August 1983 with 2 Inf Bn, Cathal Brugha Bks.



During his career in the DF, John has completed seven overseas trips to Lebanon and one to Kosovo.

He describes it as like having two jobs, dealing daily with both. *"The skills learned from each crossed over to the other and have helped me immensely,"* John says.

Some years ago the Greystones and Wicklow Coast Guard units were amalgamated. As the new unit's area of responsibility encompassed a large number of cliffs, a cliff team was established in 1994. They also got a D class inshore rescue boat in 1998. These improvements came with a higher level of training. On average 75 training sessions are now conducted a year covering a wide range of skills, from search and rescue, to cliff and boat training, and all assessments are conducted to the highest standards by outside agencies.

John says that one of their important tasks is visiting schools, shopping centres, public events and organisations such as the cub scouts and girl guides to give lectures on water and cliff safety, and to display the equipment they use.

John is very proud to have had the privilege of marching the representatives of the Coast Guard down O'Connell Street on the 1916 commemoration parade this year.

He is delighted to have served with the Coast Guard, a top class service that provides a valuable service to the community. They have carried out 531 call-outs since records began in 1992, for various reasons such as broken down vessels, searches and recoveries, and even animal rescues.

The Ferns family's unbroken 60 years of service with the Greystones Coast Guard unit came to end with John's retirement, as although his brother Niall is still serving full time with the service he is stationed at Coast Guard HQ.

Cpl Ferns stepped down as OiC of the Greystones unit on 9th September. In attendance at his stand-down ceremony were representatives from most of the Coast Guard's East Coast units, An Garda Síochána, Wicklow Fire Service, and Wicklow Civil Defence. ■





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