



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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## ONUC



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2016



# JADOTVILLE REMEMBERED

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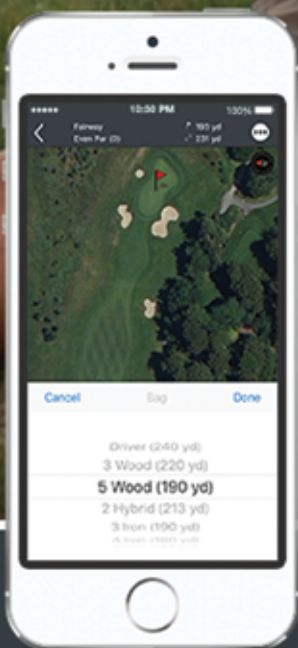


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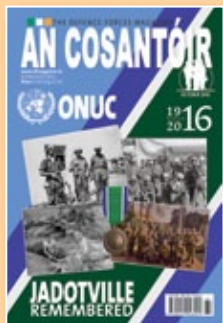
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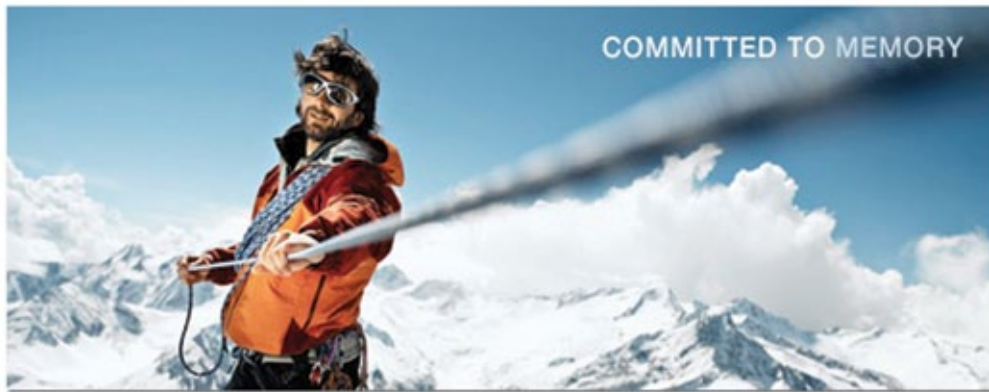


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## Front Cover

Design concept by Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald.

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine)

**H**ello and welcome to our October 2016 issue. We have kept the 40-page size going, which contains 20+ individual stories, so please let us know if you think the size fits.

Your *On Parade* photos get us started this month before our *In Focus* page looks at two military shows, *Salute, in Swords* and *Living History*, in the Phoenix Park. Then we have *Robert Fisk's visit to the UN School*. This is followed by two stories about honouring military veterans, one about the Irish UNIFIL Association visit to the Netherlands and the other about the 3rd Defence Forces Veterans Day. Moving on we have an account by former crew members of *LÉ Cliona* receiving scrolls of commendation in *LÉ Cliona Crew Honoured*. In *History Online*, Conor A Dullaghan PhD, briefs us on early Irish militaria collecting. This is followed by another history piece in which former DF serviceman Pat Fitzgerald writes about the newly unveiled *Callan War Memorial*, erected in honour of nearly 200 local people who served in World War I.

Senior pipe band instructor, Coy Sgt Kevin Duncan, DFSM, gives us a brief history of DF pipe bands in *Piping up!* Cpl Ian Keogh tells us, in *UNDOF Peacekeepers Display Their Skills*, about the Irish peacekeepers who took part in the UNDOF FC's Military Skills Competition in Camp Ziouani.

Our *Strategic Review* article, *Death in Paradise*, by Paul O'Brien, looks at terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, in November 2008. Coy Sgt David O'Connor updates us on how Irish medics got on in their fourth visit to *Exercise Arduous Serpent* – a British Army medical services tactical training exercise. Our *In Reserve* piece, *Reservists Dig Deep*, looks at members of 2 Reserve Platoon, 1 MIC, who recently completed their 3-star training. Our front cover feature, *Jadoville Remembered*, looks at the backstory of the Jadoville siege; a song on the same subject; and the recent issue of a unit scroll to 'A' Coy, 35 Inf Bn. Our first *history* feature looks at the bombing of Dublin's North Strand in May 1941, and this is followed by *The Curragh, Home of the Warrior*, by Lt Col Dan Harvey. Our extended *Sports* article looks at martial arts and features DF members who are international title holders in MMA, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and Kyushoshin ju jutsu. We also have our regular *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do*, features.

Check out our competitions and results on pages 35 and 36.

*Wayne Fitzgerald*

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

## Western Front Memorial



Pictured at the Somme Ceremony at Guillemont, France on 3rd September is Brig Gen Joseph Mulligan, GOC DFTC with other members of the Defence Forces at the granite cross memorial to the 16th Irish Division. Photo: Pte Aidan Gillespie, 28 Inf Bn



Brig Gen Joseph Mulligan lays a wreath at the 16th Irish Division memorial at Guillemont. Photo: Armn Michael Whelan, Air Corps Museum & Heritage Project





## FORENSIC COLLISION SURVEYING COURSE ▲

The Forensic Collision Surveying Course was conducted in the MP Sch, DFTC on 27/28 July 2016. This initial course sees the MP Corps equipped with six newly qualified surveyors for traffic collision and major incident scenes. Back Row: Cpls Aaron Phelan, David O'Leary, Stephen Hogan, Laura Buckley, Ian Farrell, Shane Farrell. Front Row: Mr Fran Mullally, Comdt Shane Courtney, Lt Col Bernard Markey, CS Pat Balfe, Mr Niall Hand. *Photo: Sgt Colin McNamara*



## 1 BDE SMALL ARMS COMPETITION ▲

Lt Col Mary Carroll OC 1 Cn Cois is pictured with members of the Bn who took part in the 1 Bde Small Arms Competition on 5th August 2016 in Kilworth Camp. The group is made up of the GPMG, falling plates, rifle and pistol teams. The Bn won the GPMG in both team and individual, falling plates and the novice rifle. They also took home the Combined Weapons Cup. *Photo: Cre Greene, 1 Cn Cois*



## LT MAURICE DEASE VC ▲

The memory of Lt Maurice Dease VC, Royal Fusiliers, and a native of Coole, Co Westmeath was honoured with the unveiling of the Victoria Cross Monument and Commemorative Paving Stone on 23rd August 2016. Lt Dease was posthumously awarded the very first Victoria Cross of WWI, having died at Nimy Bridge during the Battle of Mons on 23rd August 1914. The flag party were: Sgt John McDonnell, Lt Barry Piper, RSM Noel O'Callaghan and Sgt Ollie McNamee all 2 Bde Arty Regt, Athlone. *Photo: CQMS Ger O'Connor, RDF C Coy, 6 Inf Bn*

## LT COL SEAN HENNESSEY ▼

Pictured in Collins Bks Cork on 12th September for the 70th Anniversary of his commissioning is Lt Col Sean Hennessey Retd, 1 Mot Sqn (front row centre). Lt Col Hennessey who retired on 11th February 1983 is pictured along with EO 1 Bde, Col Brian Monaghan, and serving and retired members of the Cavalry Corps. *Photo: Cpl Christine O'Leary, HQ 1 Bde*



## CURRAGH FAMILIES HOSPITAL ►

On Saturday 27th August 2016, the unveiling of a monument of the Curragh Families Hospital took place. The Curragh Families Hospital and all who passed through its doors were remembered at the unveiling to commemorate the once famous landmark. Pictured are Dr Sean Dunne and Flt Sgt Matthew McNamara, CIS Sqn. *Photo: Martin Rowe*



## IUNVA POST 1, PRIDE OF PLACE AWARD ▲

The IUNVA gardens at Arbour House won the "Best New Entry" award in the Stoneybatter Pride of Place section of the 2016 Dublin City Council Neighbourhood Competition. For years, visitors to Arbour House have been impressed with and proud of the HQ's surroundings. The beautiful gardens are the hard work and dedication of the wonderful team of volunteers who lovingly maintain them. All in IUNVA are delighted to see their work recognised by DCC. Pictured are: Michael Stanford with the trophy, Peig Fletcher, Thomas Fletcher, Tara Scully, Doreen Brunkard and Sylvester Doyne. *Photo: George Kerwin, PRO IUNVA*





### INTEL IRELAND'S WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD ▲

On 14th September Sgwn Sarah Downey was presented with an award for her achievements on the Trainee Technician Course in conjunction with Carlow IT. This award was granted to excelling undergraduate students to increase awareness and encourage a new generation of high-achieving women to take up the challenge of a career in science and technology. The award is normally presented at graduation, however Sarah is deploying to UNDOF on 28th September. Pictured (L/R): DCOS Ops Maj Gen Kieran Brennan, Intel Ireland's Director of Public Affairs, Sarah Sexton, Sgwn Sarah Downey, COS Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM and Brian McQuaid former CIS officer now Head of Faculty of Engineering at IT Carlow. *Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan*



### SARAH LEIGH REMEMBERED ▲

On 12th September, members of the Military College, DFTC, Curragh Camp, remembered their friend and colleague Pte Sarah Leigh, who had passed away one year ago after a battle with cancer. Sarah's father, retired Sgt Mick Leigh planted a tree in her memory in the OTW grounds. Sarah's family and 2 children attended the ceremony, along with many of her friends and colleagues. *Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne, PR Branch*



### SPECIAL FORCES REMEMBERED

Pictured are US SF Green Berets' SGM (E-9) Solomon S. Workman (Retd) and SSG Tony O'Regan (a former member of the DF and ARW), who were honoured to lay a wreath to the memory of deceased members of the ARW. *Photo: Tony O'Regan*



### FAREWELL GNR TONY CRONIN ▲

Capt Emma Griffiths with staff from Collins Bks Gym presenting Gnr Tony Cronin with a thank you gift for his time and service at a recent coffee morning held in the Gym. Gnr Tony Cronin completed 31 year's service with most spent in 1 Bde Arty Regt and the last few years as a member of gym staff. *Photo: Sgt Daniel Sheehan, HQ 1 Bde*



### CARLINGFORD LOUGH REMEMBERED ▲

On Sunday 11th September 2016 the tragedy that happened in Carlingford Lough when the Connemara and the Retriever collided 100 years ago was remembered in Greenore with an ecumenical service and a parade. Members of 27 Inf Bn, Naval Service, Michael Mc Neela Branch ONE, Carlingford and Alnaveigh Pipe bands and also a delegation from Holyhead paraded. Wreaths were handed over to Captain Docherty from the LÉ Roisin to be placed in the lough. *Photo: Jim Mc Eneaney, Chairman Michael Mc Neela Br.*



### RDF RETIREMENT ▲

Pictured is Comdt Barry Molloy, OC E Coy, 6 Inf Bn presenting an award to Sgt William Connaughton 6 Inf Bn who retired recently with 44 years service from the RDF, having joined in 1971. *Photo: Cre John Greene, 1 Cn Cois*



# Military Shows

REPORTS & PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE

## SALUTE MILITARY SHOW, SWORDS

The 10th annual Salute military show took place the weekend of 27th to 28th of August, and was held in the National Show Centre Swords, Co Dublin. *An Cosantóir* was invited along to set up a stall and to view some of the highlights of the show.

The show features military vehicles, vintage, re-enactment and living history, and is organised by the Association of Irish Military Enthusiasts (AIME).

Some of the shows highlights were a WWII re-enactment, showing a military convoy that had been hit-up by Axis forces, with a patrol being sent out to find out what happened. They were then attacked while assessing the situation and a counter attack was carried out. There was also a very enjoyable attack dog display, showing different skills and tricks that police and military dogs would have to perform in everyday war-torn and policing environments. The attack dog display was ran by Alpha Dogs who specialise



in producing police and military working dogs. They have worked on such projects as *Reality Bites* on RTÉ.

The usual display of vehicles was on show, including some ACMAT VLRA trucks, M151 utility jeep and the Willys Jeep that was featured in April's magazine.

The Militaria and Collectors market had a good number of vendors, with dealers offering a wide range of Irish and World military artefacts.

There was a great turnout of visitors with a footfall of almost 3,000. The show was very well organised and is a must for all military enthusiasts or anyone who has an interest or would like to know more about military life. Over the past 9 years the proceeds of the show are donated to a charity, with a total of €70,000 being donated to some very worthwhile charitable causes. This

year the nominated charity is St Francis Hospice in Raheny, Dublin. Keep up the good work Salute. ■



## LIVING HISTORY – MILITARY LIFE SHOW, PHOENIX PARK

A Living History Weekend showing aspects of military life was held in the Phoenix Park on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th of September. Admission was free and was a great way to spend the day with family and friends.

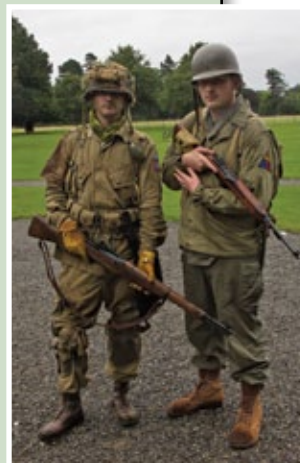
The Phoenix Park is the perfect place to hold such an event with its rich history and has always been associated with the military. The fourth Earl of Chesterfield who was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland took up residency in the Park; this is reflected in the extensive use of lodges and buildings used by the military and government officers during this period. These included the Vice Regal Lodge for the Lord Lieutenant (now Áras an Uachtaráin) and the Chief Secretary's Residence (now the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Ireland).

The Park was frequently used for military manoeuvres and practices, and a number of military institutions were established, which included the Royal Hibernian Military School (1766) for children who were orphaned or whose father was on active military service abroad. The Magazine Fort itself, constructed in 1736 was a major military instillation from which firearms, munitions and gunpowder were distributed to other military barracks.

The Salute Battery (who provided cannon fire on Royal and other special occasions) was even situated in the environs of the park. Mountjoy Cavalry Barracks and the Royal Military Infirmary were two further military buildings constructed in the park.

This was their second event of this kind and was held in the Visitors Centre of the Phoenix Park. On display were the periods of military life from the Viking Era, Age

of Chivalry, Napoleonic War, American Civil War, World War I, World War II and Vietnam. The period clothes of the time and displays of the day to day life was really interesting to see, with a great Viking re-enactment sword fight, plus a story teller, telling tails of dragons and spells, which all Game of Thrones fans would enjoy. ■





# JOURNALIST ADDRESSES UNTSI STUDENTS

REPORTS & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**O**n 16th August acclaimed author and war correspondent Robert Fisk addressed students on the 11th International Human Rights – ‘Train the Trainer’ course in the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI).

Outgoing UNTSI School Comdt, Col Adrian ÓMurchú, introduced the highly respected reporter to an eager audience of international military students and members of the academic community.

Mr Fisk gave an in-depth view of the current situation in the Syrian civil war, with detailed maps and slides of a recent visit to Palmyra, where the Russian troops are based.

Speaking about post-conflict problems in the Middle East, Robert said there was plenty of military planning for war but little or no planning for other contingencies. *“In 1941,”* he told his audience, *“Churchill, who I’m not a fan of, planned how to run Germany after the war, using their utility companies and municipalities, et cetera. They also planned for what they would do if the Germans landed on the beaches of Kent. They planned!”*

In contrast, he says, there seems to have been no planning done for the aftermath of either the Iraq or Afghan wars.

Speaking about human rights and the refugee crisis, he said: *“This was nothing new. In 1919, after the Great War, there was an influx of over a million refugees into Europe and we managed... why couldn’t we do something like this now? And there were no computers in 1919.”*

Before finishing up with a Q&A session Robert warned his audience about the dangers of accepting too much at face value regarding the Syrian conflict. *“What you see on the TV is not the real picture,”* the seasoned war correspondent cautioned. ■



Pictured outside UNTSI (l-r): Lt Col Robert Corbett, Maj Gen Kieran Brennan (DCOS Ops), Robert Fisk, and Col Adrian Ó Murchú.



Robert Fisk discussing the Syrian crisis.

## Wingsuit Flying - SGMN DES REARDON

REPORT BY COMDT RORY ESLER, CHAIRMAN PCM

**W**ingsuit flying is a discipline that evolved from skydiving, which involves wearing a specially designed suit that allows the jumper to glide across the sky as opposed to falling straight down. This significantly increases the horizontal distance travelled and time spent aloft during free fall.

Signalman Desmond Reardon of 2 Bde CIS Coy recently competed in Germany as part of the Irish Wingsuit Team, coming second in the

intermediate wingsuit category. Des now lies in first place in the 2016 Performance Flying World Series in this class. This wasn’t his first outing – in 2015 Des was part of the Irish delegation at the First FAI World Cup Wingsuit event, hosted by the British Army Parachute Association at Netheravon airbase in England. This event was the first ever to be recognised by the FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale), the international governing body for all aeronautical sports. Des is now preparing to represent Ireland in November 2016 at the 1st ever World Championships of Wingsuit Performance Flying in Zephyrhills, Florida.

When he’s not wingsuit flying or working in his day job in Cathal Brugha Barracks, Des is a senior member of the ‘Black Knights’, the Defence Forces Parachute Display



Team (An Para-Chumann Míleata or PCM). Apart from carrying out display jumps as part of the DF’s public relations efforts, Des is also a committee member, with responsibility for equipment. In that regard Des hopes to complete a basic rigger’s course in the near future, this will qualify him to carry out first line inspections and minor maintenance on the DF’s stock of high performance parachutes.

All of Des’s friends in PCM and Cathal Brugha Bks wish him the very best of luck at the World Championships! ■





# Veterans Day

## in Den Haag, Netherlands

BY CON LEIGH, IRISH UNIFIL ASSOCIATION

**O**n the last Saturday of June each year Dutch military veteran organisations organise a Veterans Day event in the Malieveld in The Hague (Den Haag). The Irish UNIFIL Association, which is twinned with the Dutch UNIFIL Association due to us being close neighbours in Lebanon for so long, have been guests at the event since 2005. We have also attended the Freedom Celebrations, which fall on 4-5 May each year, celebrating the end of Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

This year six members of the Association and three spouses/partners travelled to the Veterans Day event from Dublin, Cork and Edinburgh. At Schiphol Airport we were issued with return rail tickets to The Hague, courtesy of the Dutch UNIFIL Association.

The weekend got off to a good start with a meet-and-greet session at the Piper in Den Haag on the Friday, where we had catch-up and introduction evening with our Dutch friends.

On Saturday 25th, at around 1100hrs, we met up with our Dutch brothers and sisters, introduced to some new and old friends, and given complimentary food and drink vouchers to sustain us through the day's event.

Our first call was to the UNIFIL shop, where one could purchase an array of UNIFIL/UN items of clothing, 'mingies', etc. The Malieveld, which is a huge open area close to the Central Station, was decked out with a multitude of stalls representing all elements of the Dutch armed forces and veterans associations.

There were displays of weapons and equipment, climbing walls for kids, and even a full orchestra and stage where various performers entertained the estimated 80,000 crowd in attendance that day.

After informal introductions to members of various veterans associations, the main RV point for UNIFILers was at the check-point position set up in the centre of the Malieveld.

At 1200hrs the various veterans groups, comprising almost 5,000 personnel, were fell-in on the roadside facing into the city. There were men and women representing campaign organisations stretching from the old Dutch East Indies to Afghanistan.

Another body on parade was comprised of serving members of the

Dutch army, navy and air force, kitted out with full pack and weapons.

The various groups were led off by bands, many of them pipe bands as these are very popular at military events in Holland. As each group set off marching, it was great to see all the other groups give them a rousing clap and a cheer as a sign of respect for their service.

Indeed, one of the most outstanding memories one brings away from this event is the respect and esteem that Dutch civilians have for their veterans, young and old.

The parade generally takes about an hour-and-a-half to circle the city and the salute is taken by King Willem-Alexander who later visits the Malieveld

where he greets as many veterans group as he can. (In 2010 some of our group got to speak with the then Prince Willem.)

After the UNIFIL group (this year numbering 115) returned to the Malieveld we took the traditional group photo and then the chat and few sociable drinks began as we met guys from the early days in Lebanon and swapped Irish an Dutch 'mingies'.

As usual the day finished up at the Pancake House, just at the entrance to the Malieveld, where one can sample a wide variety of Dutch pancakes, and of course some more beers. The sing-song and the banter went on until around 2100hrs and then it was on to some Irish pub in the city for a few sundowners.

We had a great trip and we certainly look forward to next year's Veteranendag in Den Haag in 2017.



Irish UNIFIL Association members who travelled to The Hague (L/R): Larry Dorgan (Cork), Austin Gavin (Athlone), Martin Byrne (Glenrothes, Scotland), PJ Walsh (Waterford), Jodie Power (Waterford) and Con Leigh (Clare).



**The Irish UNIFIL Association is open to anyone with UNIFIL service. Family members can also apply for associate group membership. Details can be found on our Facebook page, or email us at [iua46leb@gmail.com](mailto:iua46leb@gmail.com) ■**





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**Eddie Wyer - An Appreciation**

The staff of *An Cosantóir & JM Publishing & Media* would like to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Eddie Wyer, who sadly passed away last month. Eddie was a founding member of the International Militaria Collectors Club (IMCC), whom we have a long and established relationship with over the last 20+ years, and his friendship and knowledge will be deeply missed.

*"An dheis Dé go raibh a anam" -  
"May his soul be on God's right side"*

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# Veterans Day Commemoration

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**O**n Saturday 10th September at McKee Bks, Dublin, as part of Defence Forces Veterans Day, the Minister of State with responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD, along with the Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, commemorated and honoured the service of former servicemen and women and their families.

All those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving at home or overseas were commemorated with a wreath laying ceremony led by Minister Kehoe and representatives of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO), the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA), and the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE).

This was the third Veterans Day, with the main commemorations taking place previously in the DFTC (2014) and Collins Bks, Cork (2015).

One of those present at the ceremony was Tony Grant from IUNVA Post 24, whose father, Coy Sgt Felix Grant, was the first member of the Defence Forces to die on overseas service when he passed away after an operation in the Congo, while serving with 33 Inf Bn ONUC. ■



Minister Kehoe and veteran association representatives laid a wreath.



Minister Kehoe inspecting and greeting members of IUNVA.



L/R: Patrick Flavin, St Conleth's Branch (Newbridge) ONE; Tony Grant, Post 24 (Clonmel) IUNVA; and Col George Kerton (ret'd) ARCO.



ONE members marching on parade.



IUNVA members marching on parade.



ARCO members marching on parade.



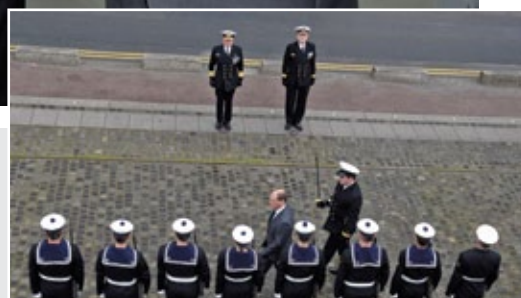
# LÉ Cliona Crew Honoured



Those honoured on the day were: Lt Pat O'Mahoney (Cdr retd), A/Stoker Bill Mynes, CPO/ERA Morris Egan and, posthumously, CPO/Stoker Gerard O'Callaghan (RIP).



03 LÉ Cliona.



BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS BY A/SEA DAVID JONES

**O**n 1st September 2016 four crew members who served on *LÉ Cliona* over 54 years ago received scrolls of commendation from Minister of State Paul Keogh TD at an event hosted onboard *LÉ Niamh* at Sir John Rodger's Quay, Dublin.

On May 29th 1962, at the height of the Cold War, the Naval Service vessel was engaged in an annual exercise when a depth charge from the port rail prematurely detonated, lifting the stern of the ship out of the water and causing a series of ruptures to oil lines in a boiler room, which immediately burst into flames. A/Stoker Bill Mynes was in the boiler room when the explosion occurred and heard a loud crack and felt the ship lifting up. As flames and black smoke erupted, he quickly sent his ordinary seamen to safety and then ran to the valves to cut off the oil going to the engines.

It was then his turn to get out of there. As he scrambled up a ladder to the top of the boiler rooms, which were now filled with smoke and flames, Bill knew he had precious little time as there was a valve on the deck that could fill the boiler room with steam if it detected the fire in the boiler rooms.

Lt Pat O'Mahoney (who retired as Commander) who was stationed on the bridge, and knew the dangers of a fire onboard, especially with a ship fully loaded with ammunition, was sent down to coordinate the fire fighting effort. However, by the time he arrived the flames and smoke were so intense that the damage control fire-fighters could not get near the boiler rooms. He noticed a space between the flames and the walkway and not wanting to ask anyone to risk going in he

went in himself. He crawled in with the hose and sprayed what he could make out as the source of the fire through the smoke and flames. He also sprayed the fuel tanks to prevent them from exploding.

The fire was eventually brought under control with the aid of the entire crew, but if not for the brave actions of the first responders this would not have been possible.

*LÉ Cliona* was towed back to base and the injured crew members, including Lt O'Mahoney and A/Stoker Mynes, were taken to Cork City Hospital where they were treated for burns.

On September 30th 2016 a plaque was unveiled in Haulbowline to honour and remember the crew of *LÉ Cliona*.

(*LÉ Cliona* was a Flower-class corvette built as HMS Bellwort by George Brown & Co, Greenock, for the Royal Navy. She was commissioned into the Irish Naval Service on February 3rd 1947, serving until November 4th 1970.) ■



# History Online

BY CONOR A DULLAGHAN, PHD

**H**aving started to collect Irish military and emergency service history a number of years ago, I needed a way to be able to share it with others. Although born in County Louth, living now in south-eastern Ohio meant visitor traffic was going to be very limited. I looked at existing online collections but instead of building a website I considered Facebook as a way to bring my collection to life, making it social.

Nowadays, it's an organic reference/online archive for all things from medals to badges, tunics to great-coats, flashes to association pins. Membership is truly global - from New Zealand to California. Many of the more than 10,000 members are serving with, or veterans of, the Irish Defence Forces.

I will highlight a few pieces from my own personal collection and finish with a story. The first item is the highly recognisable Irish cap badge. The only difference with this example is the wording 'Drong Áia Cliaí' (translated as 'Dublin Brigade') as opposed to 'Óglaigh na h-Éireann'. This design is widely attributed to Prof Eoin MacNeill and was adopted by the Irish Volunteers in 1914. (The history and the significance of all aspects of its composition are well documented on [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie).) The white metal example illustrated here is believed to be an officer's badge. Other ranks wore bronze badges. Images of other variations are viewable on the Facebook group page. Early examples dating from 1916-1923, enamelled versions, and Vickers helmet badges are some of the most collectible pieces.

In this photo, we have a group of early Volunteer badges. Many of these types were made by Quinn & Co in Belfast. In many instances following the Redmond-led split in the Volunteers, the newly formed Irish National Volunteers had their own

variations. In the picture of the National Volunteers badge, the inscription reads 'Ireland Needs Valour' - a direct attack on those who chose to remain in Ireland.

Late last year I received an inquiry as to my level of interest in an "old tunic". To my amazement the seller sent me pictures of what appears to be a 1916-1922 era tunic. A lovely bit of history coming out of West Cork. Some of the leather buttons are missing, which I hope to replace at some point.

Following a tip I got regarding old uniforms, I bagged it and placed it in the freezer for a number of days to kill off anything that may have been residing within the fibres and prevent further damage.

Following a large auction of 1916 medals and collectibles in New York in January of this year, I was contacted by a man from Dublin saying that he had missed out bidding on his wife's grandfather's 1916/War of Independence medals, which hadn't been sold. I explained that, normally, contacting the auction house and offering the reserve price should be able to secure them. When this failed, I set about researching the identity of the anonymous seller of the collection. After a number of weeks, contact was made and the circumstances explained. The seller agreed to meet the family and sell the medals to them.

At a family dinner, arranged by the man from Dublin and his wife, they and her father spent some time bemoaning the missed opportunity to get his father's medals back into the family possession before they sprung their surprise by presenting him with the medals he thought were gone forever. Tears everywhere, including Ohio!

**The group page is accessible at:**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyIrishMilitaria](https://www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyIrishMilitaria).





# Callan War Memorial

BY PAT FITZGERALD PHOTOS AS CREDITED



*The Callan WW1 Memorial Committee with Cathaoirleach Kilkenny, Cllr Matt Doran (l-r): Pat Fitzgerald (Sec), Ivy Corcoran (Treas), Pte Michael 'Smokey' McLoughlin (advisory member) and Séan Butler (Chair). Photo by Frank Kelly*



*The Callan WW1 memorial. Photo by Des Pearson*

Pat Murphy, of P Molloy & Sons, local stonemasons and undertakers, committed to the project and in 2014 the Callan WW1 Memorial Committee was formed to establish the list of names for the memorial. The committee decided to include the names of those who survived the war as well as those who perished, and also to offset the costs through donations and fundraising events.

Over the next two years Michael McLoughlin and I gathered 192 names for the memorial, including three women who served as nurses. A Facebook page, <http://bit.ly/CallanMemorial>, which was set up to gather information about the soldiers, is now an archive in its own right, with photographs and documents of those Callan natives who fought in the Great War.

Pat Murphy and his son-in-law, Tommy Dermody, designed and manufactured the memorial plaque with the aid of architect Michael Malone, and Fr W Dalton PP kindly granted permission to erect the plaque on the exterior wall of the church, from whose gates many had marched out to parade through the town on 4th August 1914.

Others on the plaque include Sgt John Maher (Leinster Regiment), who was awarded the DCM/bar, and the Cross of the Order of St George (4th class) for gallantry; five Bergin brothers; and five Durney brothers.

Our research suggests that over 250 people from the Callan area had seen service during the Great War but unfortunately we were only able to find supporting evidence from service documents, publications like Kilkenny Families in the Great War, or from living relatives, for 192 of these.

Some of the people on the memorial only came to Callan after the war, when 23 houses were built in Skeagh and two in Minauns for returning soldiers. Having many families with military pensions being paid without fail every month greatly helped local businesses and the town of Callan to prosper. These houses are still occupied today and many relatives of the soldiers who settled in Skeagh, such as Pte 'Smokey' McLoughlin, still reside in Callan.

The World War One Memorial Committee would like to acknowledge with gratitude the magnificent support this project received from the community in Callan, which was demonstrated in how easily we achieved our fundraising target of €5,000. ■

On 28th August Maj Gen Kieran Brennan (DCOS Ops) and Capt Paddy Pratt (British Army) laid wreaths at the unveiling of a World War One memorial in Callan, Co Kilkenny. Flags were held on either side of the monument by Terry Rogers (Royal British Legion, Waterford Branch), and Jim O'Keefe (Royal Irish Regiment Association). Also in attendance were A/Sea Lee Delaney, a native of Callan; IUNVA members from Post 1 (Dublin) and Post 8 (Kilkenny); ONE members from James Stephens Branch (Kilkenny); and the Irish Military Vehicles Group (IMVG). Music was performed by the St Patrick's Brass and Reed Band from Kilkenny.

Over 40 regular soldiers, reservists and volunteers from Callan met their deaths (in France, Flanders, Gallipoli, Palestine, and at sea) during the Great War. One of these was Pte William McLoughlin (RIR), the father of Pte Michael 'Smokey' McLoughlin (3 Inf Bn).

In 2013 Michael began to make plans to have his father and his comrades from Callan honoured during the centenary years of the war.



*The Callan WW1 Memorial. Photo by Joan Kenny-Roche*



*Maj Gen Kieran Brennan (DCOS Ops) and Capt Paddy Pratt (British Army) laying wreaths. Photo by Cpl Lee Coyle*







BY COY SGT KEVIN DUNCAN, SENIOR PIPE BAND INSTRUCTOR, DF SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**In this busy 1916 centenary year, Defence Forces pipe bands have played an integral part in our ceremonial commitments, providing traditional Irish music, colour, pomp and swagger to our parades and remembrance ceremonies. This has fostered an increased interest in our pipe bands.**

The Easter Sunday parade was without doubt an outstanding display of our troops and equipment, and the public turned out in there tens of thousands on a magnificent sunny day in Dublin.

A composite Defence Forces pipe band was tasked with leading troops from Dublin Castle to the GPO, branching off onto the central median of O'Connell Street to perform in front of the President,

An Taoiseach, and the Chief of Staff, as the parade passed by the reviewing stands. The parade concluded with the pipe band joining the massed bands of the Defence Forces School of Music for a final march past the review stand.

It was a very proud moment for members of the pipe band, who displayed exceptional musicianship and drill on an historic and memorable day. Since Easter Sunday, our pipers and drummers have been performing all around the country at wreath-laying and commemoration ceremonies.

In 1926 a school of piping was set up in the Curragh, and by 1929 five pipe bands were established in 7 Inf Bn, Portobello Bks (now Cathal Brugha Bks), Dublin; 5 Inf Bn, Collins Bks, Dublin; the Curragh Training Camp; 12 Inf Bn, Sarsfield Bks, Limerick; and 2 Inf Bn, Custume Bks, Athlone.

At that time, pipe band personnel performed their musical role in addition to their routine military duties. They took part in barrack parades and civilian engagements, but it wasn't until 1945, when the pipes and drums featured in a military tattoo at the RDS, that the pipe band was established within Irish military music.







Pipers and drummers also served overseas as part of our UN missions in Congo, Sinai, Cyprus and Lebanon. In very difficult moments they kept up the morale of the troops, playing haunting Irish tunes in places such as Elizabethville, Larnaca and Tibnin.

Today, each infantry battalion has an establishment for a pipe band consisting of 11 personnel. There is also an establishment for a pipe band of 18 personnel within the Air Corps. However, in recent years the number of pipe band personnel has declined rapidly due to many retirements of senior members, and this has been a huge blow as much experience and knowledge has been lost. On a positive note, we have many young, enthusiastic pipers and drummers coming through, who completed their beginner courses in February 2015 and I must say that I am delighted with their progress thus far. Well done for their professionalism and dedication during the Easter celebrations. Keep up the good work!

Every year our pipers and drummers are involved in various engagements at home and abroad, such as: Army Benevolent Fund gala concerts in NCH Dublin and City Hall Cork; the Royal Dublin Society Horse Show; the National Day of Commemoration; Somme commemorations, Islandbridge; visits of dignitaries; Merrion Square ceremonial drill.

Pipers and drummers are also required at many overseas engagements, playing at medal parades and St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Recent years have seen Defence Forces pipers and drummers perform in many parts of the USA, Toronto, London, Shanghai, Paris, Brussels and Vienna. In 2014 our pipers and drummers performed at the Royal Albert Hall in a concert celebrating Irish music, titled *Céiliúradh*, sharing the stage with musicians such as Elvis Costello, Imelda May, Glen Hansard, and many more stars of Irish music: a memorable experience for our pipers and drummers.

Each year a pipe band travels to Lourdes as part of the International Military Pilgrimage (IMP), leading the Irish contingent to various Masses and ceremonies. The band also performs a concert for patients at the local hospital and also at the primary school, bringing fun and cheer to very appreciative audiences.

Military bands from all over the world attend the IMP, coming from Germany, Croatia, Italy, Spain and the Ivory Coast, to name a few. But without a

doubt, our pipe band attracts the biggest crowd!

An annual joint recital at the IMP with a military band from the United Kingdom is also a major highlight for spectators. This year we performed with the Band of the Queen's Division in front of a packed crowd.

On behalf of the members of the pipe band, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to HCF Fr Séamus Madigan and his staff at the Chaplaincy Service, who work tirelessly to ensure the pilgrimage runs smoothly and is enjoyable for all.

Beginner piping and drumming courses are of 26 weeks in duration and are normally conducted annually from September to March at HQ DFSM, Cathal Brugha Barracks.

Twelve places are allocated to piping and twelve to drumming. The courses are open to line infantry privates and members of the Air Corps. Step-by-step teaching is given and no prior musical experience is required. Music theory is covered at elementary level. Pipe band drill, instrument maintenance and tuning are also covered.

Students are taught a number of basic technical exercises and rudiments in accordance with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band syllabus. Once good technique is established, simple tunes are introduced and the progression is then made from practice chanter and drum pads to Highland pipes and snare drums.

Throughout the course there is continual assessment, with revision tests, written and practical, to ensure progress is being made. Students may be returned to their respective units if it is clear they are not showing an aptitude for music or failing to assimilate lessons.

The courses are extremely enjoyable and many students progress quickly and go on to become very accomplished pipers and drummers.

At the end of the course, students are required to perform one pipe tune or drum setting of their choice - a great chance to impress and get the feel of performing to an audience.

I would advise potential students, first and foremost, that they must have a very keen interest and commitment to learning the instrument. Once on the course, students must work hard during lessons in order to leave the classroom with a firm grasp of what they need to practice for the next day, as homework is required on the course.

I recommend at least fifteen minutes of homework in the evening. This gives the students an opportunity to perfect any exercise or tune in their own time away from classroom pressures.

**For more insight to the course, potential candidates should talk to pipers and drummers from their own units for advice or contact me directly at HQ DFSM on Ext 6422 or [kevin.duncan@defenceforces.ie](mailto:kevin.duncan@defenceforces.ie) ■**



# UNDOF PEACEKEEPERS DISPLAY THEIR SKILLS

BY CPL IAN KEOGH  
PHOTOS CAPT TIM  
CUNNINGHAM (BOTH  
HQ 52 INF GP, UNDOF)

**I**n August UNDOF peacekeepers took part in the Force Commander's Military Skills Competition in Camp Ziouani. The Irish team, from 52 Inf Gp, consisted of Lt Hugh Forde (manager), Cpl Ian Keogh (captain), Cpl Paul Hanna, Cpl Mark O'Donnell, Pte Ryan Kay, Pte David Loughnane, Pte Bernard Briody (sub), Pte John O'Hara (sub) and Pte Phillip Kennedy (sub).

My first challenge as team captain was selecting a team with the skillsets required for the seven stands the team would face over two days, namely: general knowledge of UNDOF and the mission; AFV recognition; combat life saver; tyre changing; minefield extraction; run and shoot; and obstacle course.

Due mainly to operational commitments, preparation was not as smooth as hoped for. However, the team worked hard, studying, practicing and training for the competition as best they could, while receiving assistance from other members of 52 Inf Gp whose expertise in the different disciplines helped improve their knowledge base. An extra obstacle was encountered when Pte Kennedy received an injury and had to be replaced at the last minute by Pte O'Hara.

Four teams, representing NepCon, IndiCon, FijiBatt, and Force Reserve Company (Ireland) gathered in Khetarpal Hall on the first morning for the opening address from Chief of Staff UNDOF, who wished all competitors good luck. Then the competition began.

Our first stand was the combat life saver, where the scenario involved responding to multiple casualties due to a mortar strike. The team had to triage the casualties; treat them; present a 9-Liner report; and evacuate the casualties. The team performed excellently, remaining cool and calm, treating the patients, working as a team and working through the evolving scenario that contained a few twists and turns designed to increase the pressure. Their 95% mark at the end showed







just how well the team had performed.

Our second challenge was the tyre change stand, which involved having to change a tyre on a light armoured vehicle (LAV) while behind enemy lines. In training the team had been able to complete the task in 3mins 30secs. However, on the stand there was a tactical element that drew two of the team away, leaving just three to work on the LAV. However, the guys pushed themselves hard and the stand was completed in 5mins 40sec.

With a break for lunch after the tyre stand, there was time for a quick look over the notes before heading to the general knowledge stand, which comprised a written test covering the history of UNDOF, the terms of the peace agreement between Syria and Israel, rules of engagement, and general knowledge of the contingents. Out of a possible 165 points the team scored 147, the highest of all the contingents.

AFV recognition came next, which was one of the harder stands, comprising a slideshow of 30 vehicles, ranging through main battle tanks (MBTs), fighter aircraft, artillery, engineering and many other vehicle types that may be spotted in the mission area. The main information pack provided to the teams to learn off had contained 156 vehicles, which gives some idea of the degree of difficulty the teams faced. Each team member was tested individually, with the scores combined to give the

overall mark. We scored 117 points out of a possible 150 and finished second behind FijiBatt.

At the end of the first day, the FRC team was in overall first place with FijiBatt and IndiCon providing tough competition. With the second day being more physical and tactical, the trophy was still up for grabs.

The second day began with the minefield scenario, which involved extracting an injured local civilian from a minefield. IndiCon were the first team up, scoring an impressive 45 out of 50 points. FijiBatt went next, also scoring 45 points. On the FRC's turn, the drills learned during our pre-deployment training paid dividends, with the team scoring 47 out of 50, keeping us in the lead.

After a quick rest and intake of water, the teams moved onto the run and shoot. With temperatures rising, and the competition also heating up, this was a crucial event. The route was

from the main square for 1.5km around the perimeter fence of the camp, collecting ammunition along the way, and ending with firing at targets from 100m. The scoring system for this stand (quickest time plus accuracy) required a balanced approach. A steady pace on the run allowed for steadier shooting on the range. Five rounds were collected at each ammo collection point, so the need to load ammunition on the move and also ensuring each team member had four rounds by the time they reached the firing point, took planning and co-ordination and was handled well by the team. Although IndiCon scored the fastest time, the FRC scored highest on the range, giving the teams' joint first place.

The final test was the dreaded obstacle course, consisting of a 300m run while carrying four full water containers weighing 20kg each. The course included tyre steps, over/under obstacles, tyre jump, a contaminated area, balance beam, container climb, rope-bridge, and a sprint to the end. With tired bodies and minds, this was possibly the hardest of all the stands. All teams displayed the most important aspect of any obstacle course, team work, as they all helped each other over obstacles and pushed and pulled each other along. The spectators were also excellent, cheering on all teams, regardless of nationality. The FijiBatt team could definitely give demonstrations on the best way to tackle an obstacle course and the training they had put in was clearly evident as they finished in an incredible four minutes flat. IndiCon finished second on 5mins 9secs, followed by the Irish team on seven minutes.

With all the stands completed and the scores added up, the Irish team came out as victors, lifting the UNDOF Force Commander's trophy for 2016, with FijiBatt a close second, IndiCon third and NepCon fourth.

This excellent achievement, considering the obstacles faced during our short preparation phase, was only possible due to the teamwork, commitment, and hard work of the team, and the support received from our colleagues in 52 Inf Gp. A very enjoyable experience overall. ■





# DEATH

## in Paradise

### Mumbai

BY PAUL O'BRIEN

**O**n 26th November 2008, a ten-man team attacked a number of targets in Mumbai, India. The death and destruction that followed during three days of bombings and shootings shocked the world. Also shocking was that certain 'agencies' within India's neighbour, Pakistan, were accused of assisting the group responsible for the attacks, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba; an accusation denied by Pakistan. The fallout from these attacks was to have world-wide repercussions.

The ten gunmen left Karachi, Pakistan, by boat on November 23rd. They hijacked another ship en route, killing its crew, and continued their journey to Mumbai, where they moored the ship off the coast. They transferred their equipment into inflatable boats and covertly docked in an area of fishing shanties. Breaking into smaller groups, they made their way to their targets.

The attackers had planned their operation months in advance, studying detailed plans of their targets and undergoing commando-style explosives and weapons training. They knew the areas well, enabling them to attack, vanish and reappear at the next target while evading the security forces.

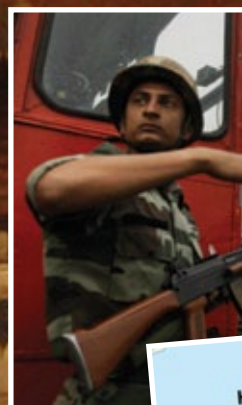
A two-man team, comprising Mohammed Ajmal Kasab and Ismail Khan, made their way to the Chhatrapati Shivaji railway

station, arriving at 21.21 hours on November 26th, where they opened fire indiscriminately into the crowd. The attack lasted 90 minutes as they walked through the station killing men, women and children. Both men then made their way to the Cama and Alibless Hospital. However, staff in the hospital managed to secure the building, denying them entry. The two then encountered a group of police officers, killing six of them. After hijacking a vehicle, Khan and Kasab headed for their next target, the Metro cinema. Encountering a police roadblock on the way, they opened fire from their vehicle, killing 10 people. They were pursued by police who intercepted them near Chowpatty Beach, where Khan and one of the police officers were killed in the ensuing gun battle. Kasab was captured after being wounded.

Three-and-a-half hours had passed since the beginning of the attacks.

A second team two-man team attacked the Leopold Café, a popular tourist restaurant and bar in South Mumbai, opened fire into the crowded building, killing 10 people and injuring many more.

The next target was Nariman House, a community centre run by the Jewish Chabad Lubavitch movement. A number of explo-



Hôtel O  
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sions were set off by the attackers to distract the authorities and to bring the public out onto the streets. At 21.30 hours, the two attackers took several people hostage within the building.

Police who confronted the attackers were outgunned and some withdrew back to their station. However, many others risked their lives in order to safeguard the public and apprehend the gunmen.

Police Commissioner Hasan Gafoor ordered his men not to take on the gunmen, telling them to await the arrival of the National Security Guard (NSG), the elite anti-terrorist unit, from their base in Delhi, a three-hour flight away. Political and bureaucratic problems caused a 12-hour delay before this force arrived on the scene and began to take action.

At 23.00 hours on 27th November NSG commandos launched an assault on Nariman House and rescued eight hostages. In the early hours of the following morning they manage to secure more

the shooting dead of the last insurgents.

Twelve coordinated gun and bomb attacks had resulted in approximately 166 people (including nine attackers) being killed and more than 600 injured in the three-day killing spree.

Intelligence services had failed to detect that such an attack was being planned. These surprise attacks are posing more and more problems for government forces as their surveillance operatives are failing to identify such operations and stop them before they begin.

Indian security forces and government officials came under severe criticism for the way they reacted to the attacks. The police, taken by surprise, were ill trained and under equipped to deal with such a situation, and their chief, Hasan Gafoor, was slow to call out the NSG, who managed to take control of the situation and rescue many of the hostages.



hostages. At 07.00 hours they landed on the roof of the building via helicopter and stormed the building in force. Several people were killed, including the two attackers, in the ensuing fire-fight that ended the three-day siege.

Between 09.35hrs and 09.48hrs, insurgents attacked the Taj Mahal palace, the Tower Hotel and the Oberoi Trident Hotel. Entering the buildings, the men moved slowly and systematically, firing into the crowded bars and restaurants.

Grenade explosions and automatic fire echoed through the hotels as the attackers fired indiscriminately, walking through corridors, kicking open doors and firing into the rooms, executing guests, and lighting fires.

Large fires broke in the hotels, trapping guests on the upper floors. Fire-fighters arrived and began rescuing those inside, using scaling ladders to reach the upper storeys.

The NSG arrived at the scene and took control. As powerful explosions rocked the buildings, the commandos assaulted the hotels, securing the lobbies and immediately starting to clear the hotels, room by room; although inaccurate reports stating that all the attackers had been killed enabled the attackers to continue to evade the authorities.

There were great acts of heroism and self sacrifice during the attacks, particularly by hotel staff who risked their lives to rescue guests from the burning building.

At 1440hrs on November 28th, following further gun battles between the insurgents and special forces, the siege ended with

The attacks drew widespread global condemnation and raised questions over Pakistan's use of proxy terrorist groups to further its foreign policy in relation to jurisdiction over Kashmir. The one attacker that was captured later confessed that the attacks were conducted with the support of individuals within Pakistan. He was later executed for his part in the attacks.

On 1st December, the Indian Foreign Ministry made a formal complaint to the Pakistani Ambassador that the attacks were carried out by Pakistani citizens. Though initially this was denied, Pakistani authorities later arrested a number of suspects. Investigations revealed that the attackers were in constant communication with 'handlers' who were directing them to the targets and advising them who to kill. Terrorist cells were traced to America and Canada with two suspects being arrested in Chicago, Illinois.

On 7th January 2009, Pakistan's information minister, Sherry Rehman, officially accepted that the captured gunman, Ajmal Kasab, was Pakistani, and also accepted that parts of the operation had been planned in Pakistan.

In the aftermath of the attacks, the Indian government purchased a number of patrol boats to police its shorelines. Police weapons were also to be upgraded and all personnel better trained to deal with such attacks. A new federal, anti-terrorist agency was to be established to co-ordinate action against terrorism and the Indian government requested better co-operation between world intelligence agencies, where information could be exchanged and analysed in order to prevent future attacks that may occur throughout the world.

While such preventative measures are welcomed, it will take many years to repair India's fragile, and often volatile, relationship with Pakistan. ■



# Exercise Arduous Serpent 2016

BY COY SGT DAVID O'CONNOR, CMU 2 BDE

**T**his year's British Army medical services tactical training exercise, 'Arduous Serpent', took place in Queen Elizabeth Bks, Yorkshire. For the fourth year in succession a team from the Defence Forces took part in the competition, which is designed to test leadership, command and control, military, and medical skills. This year they faced stiff competition from 17 teams from regular and reserve medical units.

I was appointed manager of the DF team, which comprised Comdt Michael Campbell (CMU HQ), Sgt Philip Green (CMU 2 Bde), Sgt Sue Brennan (CMU 2 Bde), Cpl Ryan Halpin (CMU 2 Bde), Cpl James Condron (CMU 2 Bde), Cpl Orla Keily (CMU 2 Bde), Cpl Paul Burke (CMU HQ), Pte Eric Redmond (CMU 2 Bde), and support staff Pte Dathan Brennan (CMU 2 Bde) and Sgt Aidan Doyle (CMU 2 Bde).

Our objectives were clear; represent the DF in the best possible manner, be competitive, and gain experience and knowledge from observing the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) used by other nations.

The team prepared intensively for the competition with invaluable assistance from Med Sch, ARW, MP Sch, Engr Sch, CMU 2 Bde and 2 Bde Ord Det.

The exercise was broken into three phases, commencing on arrival with kit checks and familiarisation training on the SA 80.

Phase two saw the competition begin in earnest, with teams navigating tactically to various stands to be tested. These stands included: C-IED; care under fire; CBRN; timed tactical advance to battle; command tasks; dismounted close-combat trainer; assault course; Role 1 medical treatment facility; triage; deployed healthcare; and pre-hospital emergency care. Each stand required a unique skillset and provided true tests of tactical, medical and leadership know-how.

At the end of the second day the Defence Forces stood in a very respectable third place, with just 16 points separating first and third. The team's performance had demonstrated their

high levels of motivation and high standard of training; reflected in their score of 904 points out of a possible 1,300.

The final day of the exercise began with a timed battle run, followed by a testing circuit of the assault course carrying full kit and equipment. Also

included in the day's tests was a timed, blindfolded assembly of the SA 80. Despite much trepidation about this, given the limited training received on the weapon, the nominated members of the team put on a remarkable display under pressure and scored the highest out of all 18 teams!

A huge effort from the DF team moved them into second place and giving them a great chance of bettering last year's second place finish heading into the final event; a straight run-off between the top three teams.

Despite their best efforts, the DF team slipped back, finishing third overall. Notwithstanding their disappointment, the team displayed great resolve and determination throughout and represented the values of the DF at all times. The team proudly accepted the third place perpetual trophy, while Comdt Campbell received the Best Officer award.

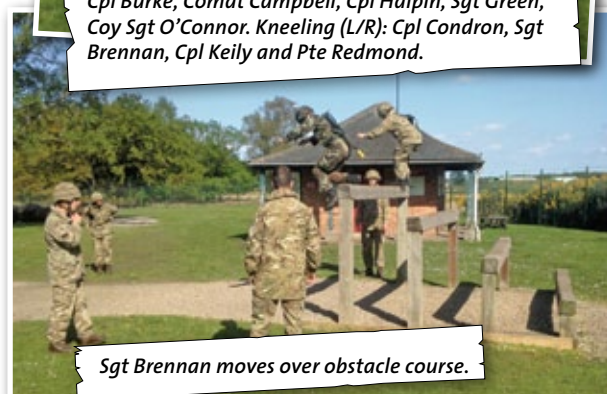
Arduous Serpent is a superbly organised, well-run exercise that is mentally and physical challenging, and affords the Defence Forces the opportunity to demonstrate our high standards of training and professionalism on an international stage.

Participation in this exercise would not have been possible without much behind-the-scenes support and we thank all who supported this endeavour. Also a special thanks to Col Moore, 2 Med Bde, British Army, who represented the military medical teams from Ireland, north and south.

CMU will continue to participate in Arduous Serpent, and I have no doubt will one day realise its ambition to win the competition. ■



*Team: Standing (L/R): Col Moore (British Army), Cpl Burke, Comdt Campbell, Cpl Halpin, Sgt Green, Coy Sgt O'Connor. Kneeling (L/R): Cpl Condron, Sgt Brennan, Cpl Keily and Pte Redmond.*



*Sgt Brennan moves over obstacle course.*



*Sgt Brennan, Cpl Condron and Comdt Campbell are briefed on C-IED stand.*



# RESERVISTS DIG DEEP

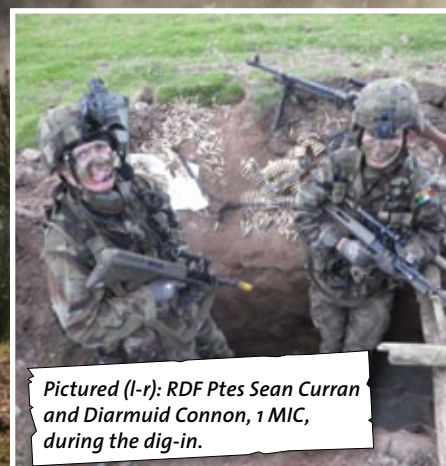
BY 2/LT (RDF) NEIL  
RICHARDSON, PL  
CMDR, 1 MIC

“ Each student was supplied with a healthy amount of pyrotechnics, and sufficient NVE and comms equipment so that every individual was fully equipped to meet the various encounters with enemy forces throughout each day and night ”

**O**n Friday 22nd July, the reservist students of 2 Platoon, 1 Mech Inf Coy (MIC), completed their three-star training in the DFTC, qualifying as three-star privates in the Reserve Defence Force (RDF). The majority of the students on the course had undergone their RDF recruit training in 2015.

As evidence that the RDF is attracting high calibre recruits, many of whom are intent on a full-time military career, 35% of their colleagues from the 2015 recruit class had successfully joined the PDF, either through general enlistment or cadetships.

The newly qualified three-star RDF privates come from a wide variety of civilian backgrounds. To mention a few: Pte Diarmuid Connon (Best Soldier) is an astrophysics student at Maynooth University; Pte Barry Walsh is an automotive technology graduate and product executive with Volvo Cars; and Pte Gerard Murphy (Best Shot, GPMG) are former members of the PDF.



*Pictured (l-r): RDF Ptes Sean Curran and Diarmuid Connon, 1 MIC, during the dig-in.*



*Lt Col (RDF) Gerry Maguire visits the reservists during their final defensive exercise. Pictured (l-r): RDF Ptes Barry Walsh and Karl Rooney.*

For the final element of their three-star course, the students underwent a 72-hour dig-in on a defensive warfare exercise in the DFTC, on which they received an excellent and rewarding insight into defending entrenched positions.

Each student was supplied with a healthy amount of pyrotechnics, and sufficient NVE and comms equipment so that every individual was fully equipped to meet the various encounters with enemy forces throughout each day and night.

During the dig-in the students were visited by Comdt Tom Fox, OC 1 MIC, and Lt Col (RDF) Gerry Maguire, DFTC HQ, both of whom complimented the students on their commitment to the Reserve Defence Forces.

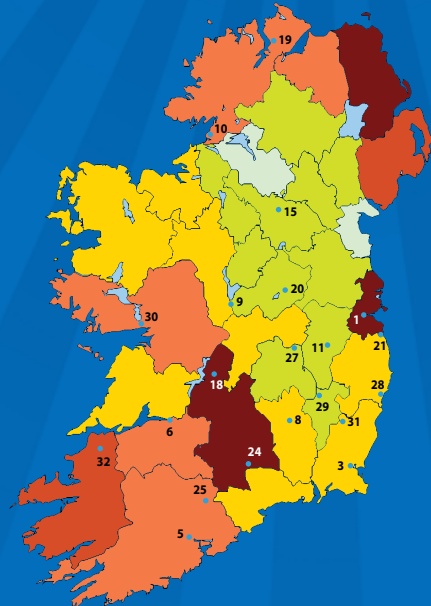
It is understood that the RDF three-star course syllabus is currently under review to bring it into line with its PDF equivalent as part of the single-force concept. For the students of 2 Reserve Pl, 1 MIC, it was a challenging experience that has prepared them for future development and advancement as soldiers with the RDF. ■



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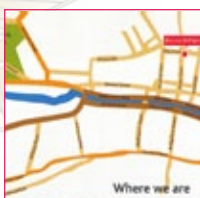
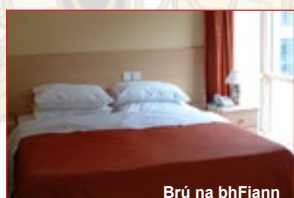
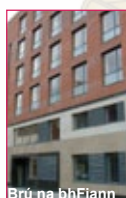
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# JADOTVILLE 1961

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

world's copper, cobalt and uranium mines.

On 11th July 1960, Moïse Tshombe declared Katanga's secession from the Congo and employed an international mercenary force to lead his army in its battle for independence. He expected little opposition, but Katanga province was the golden calf of the country and the Congo could not afford for it to secede. In September 1960 the UN commenced Operation Morthor, a smash-and-grab mission to capture Tshombe and his ministers, disarm his mercenaries and take back control of Katanga. However, Tshombe managed to evade capture and his army fought back against the UN force. It was the midst of this chaotic situation that a company of Irish troops would find themselves outnumbered and outgunned, and fighting for their lives.

On arrival at their base in Jadotville, Comdt Quinlan ordered his men to dig in, a tactic that has served military commanders for centuries. His company of 158 soldiers set to work, digging slit trenches and establishing weapons pits for their water-cooled, Vickers machine-guns and mortars. On their arrival they found the population of the area openly hostile to the presence of UN peacekeepers, a situation Quinlan reported via radio to his superiors. However, he was ordered to continue with his mission, which was to provide protection to the white population in the area, who were under threat of attack.

At 07.00hrs on Wednesday 13th September, while many Irish soldiers in the camp were attending mass, 30 gendarmes and rebel soldiers attempted to rush the Irish forward position on foot and in jeeps. On being fired on, the Irish piquet returned fire, alerting the rest of the camp that an attack on the camp was under way. After a brief fire-fight the attackers withdrew.

Comdt Quinlan later stated: *"I am convinced that the gendarmerie received a telephone signal from the garage depot that we were assembled for Mass and they hoped to get us off guard. All our men who were attending Mass carried loaded weapons and were in action almost immediately."*

For five days the Irish peacekeepers came under sustained attack from an estimated force of between 2,000 and 3,000 enemy troops as well as being subject to attacks by fighter planes. Attempts to relieve the beleaguered Irish garrison failed and, running low on food, water and ammunition, and with five men seriously wounded, Comdt Quinlan was forced to surrender on 17th September 1960. 'A' Coy would remain in captivity until their release was brokered on 25th October 1960.

The battle and its subsequent outcome has been mired in controversy for decades but a number of books written on the subject, a song, and now a major television film have all ensured that the men of 'A' Coy will be rightly remembered and honoured for their bravery on the field of battle. ■

Pte Matt Quinlan (L) and Sgt Walter Hegarty (R) prepare a defensive trench in Jadotville, September 1961. Photo: Courtesy of John Gorman

Comdt Pat Quinlan (far left) poses with soldiers of 'A' Coy, 35 Inf Bn, in Elisabethville, prior to their deployment to Jadotville. Photo: Courtesy of Leo Quinlan

**T**he Battle of Jadotville, which commenced on 13th September 1961, is a great example of military leadership and also shows the traditional grit and determination of Irish soldiers, still evident today in the Defence Forces.

'A' Company, 35 Inf Bn, ONUC, under the command of Comdt Pat Quinlan, had been tasked with manning

the UN post in the Congolese mining town, Jadotville.

The Congo, the third largest country in Africa, had been a colony of Belgium until July 1960, when it became an independent republic under the rule of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. As unrest spread throughout the country, Lumumba appealed to the United Nations for assistance and the Security Council directed Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld to form a military force to restore law and order in the Congo. Ireland was requested to assist in the peacekeeping mission and in July 1960 a newly-formed unit of volunteers, 35 Inf Bn, was sent to the country.

Having only been given five months to prepare for the handover of power from the Belgian authorities, Lumumba and his government were unprepared for the backlash that spread through the country. Belgian nationals were attacked, prompting the Belgian government to send troops to their former colony to protect them. These troops were also tasked with protecting Belgian business interest in the region, in particular the mineral-rich regions of Katanga and Kasai where the Anglo-Belgian Union Minière company operated many of the



# JADOTVILLE

## 'No White Feathers' - The Jadotville Song

Members of 3 Platoon beside a UN helicopter in Jadotville, September 1961.

*No White Feather - a soldier's review of military life in the Irish Army & U.N. Service in Belgian Congo, including the Battle of Jadotville 1961, by Seán Ó Foghlú (John Foley) and published by Book Republic in 2011, ISBN: 978-1907221064.*

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

A small group of veterans collaborated on a song to honour the members of 'A' Coy, 35th Inf Bn, ONUC, who fought at the Siege of Jadotville, Congo in 1961. Their song *No White Feathers* now has over 5,000 YouTube hits in six months! <https://youtu.be/aTFcJ53bkQ4>

Joey Bracken (former 5 Inf Bn) was playing in a bar in the Canaries one night and as there were some DF veterans in the audience he sang a song he had written about the 'Justice for Smallhorne and Barrett' campaign. After the gig an Englishman approached Joey and told him that his uncle, John Foley, had fought at the Siege of Jadotville. A very interesting conversation followed and the man said he would send Joey a copy of his uncle's book, *No White Feathers*, about his experiences at Jadotville.

As promised, a signed copy of the book arrived a few weeks later. Joey says: "I couldn't put it down. It was a fantastic story of resilience and modest bravery and it got me thinking about what these men had to endure and not to receive any credit for what they did, and then the indignity they had to put up with as a consequence."

Joey started writing a song about the event. However, he wasn't happy with how it was progressing so he brought a couple of former comrades on board: "a great poet", 'Elvis' McDonagh, and "a tremendous musician and songwriter", Joe Gibson O'Hanlon (both 5 Inf Bn).

Joey says: "I knew exactly what I wanted for the song but felt I was going about it the wrong way. I kinda half expected Joe would take over! And after much deliberation and direction, we came up with the song *No White Feathers*."

Joey went over to Joe O'Hanlon in Spain and spent a couple of weeks recording various songs together including *No White Feathers*. "We were hoping that the song would coincide with the film about Jadotville and put the men's endeavours firmly into a positive spotlight," Joey told us. "I've since spoken to John Foley and he sincerely loved it, as did the other Congo veterans who heard it. I hope it bounces off the film and that the lads get the recognition they deserve. If that happens, we will be more than happy."

The lads hope that veterans associations, like ONE or IUNVA, could do something with the song and use it in fundraising. John Foley has agreed to write the sleeve notes for the CD and fully endorse the song if needed.

The two guys finished by saying: "This was a labour of love and was done to raise awareness of Jadotville and for no other reason." ■

### NO WHITE FEATHERS

The year was nineteen-sixty-one when Ireland sent away her sons,  
To stop the genocide being done with bow and arrow spear and gun.  
Quinlan led his soldiers in and he vowed to bring them home again.  
So the countdown had begun for battle beneath the Congo sun.

With massive odds to overcome, the siege of Jadotville had begun.  
The Irish soldiers dug in well. They sent a jet to give them hell.  
Make your rounds count, every one; use your bayonets  
when you're done.  
Round for round, shell for shell, three thousand men they did repel.

So raise your glasses, everyone; tell the story to your sons.  
Tell them of the history made.  
There was no white feathers on parade.

Six days after it had begun, with water, food and bullets done,  
The order came: "Lower your guns, lads, be proud of  
what you've done."  
But when to Ireland they returned, doors were closed and backs  
were turned.  
It's taken fifty years to tell of the bravery at Jadotville.

So raise your glasses, everyone, and you can tell the story to your son.  
Tell them of the history made. There was no white  
feathers on parade.



Musicians and song writers Joe O'Hanlon and Joey Bracken, former members of 5 Inf Bn.



# JADOTVILLE

## Unit Citation

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**O**n 17th September 2016, Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Paul Kehoe, TD accompanied by the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM marked the collective actions of the men of 'A' Coy, 35 Inf Bn and its attachments at the 55th anniversary of the Siege of Jadotville, in Custume Bks, Athlone. Minister Kehoe presented a Unit Citation which was the first of its kind to 'A' Coy, 35 Inf Bn, in recognition of the bravery and heroism of those who served in the Company.

*"This Citation recognises the leadership, courage, bravery and professional performance of A Company 35th Infantry Battalion and its attachments who, under challenging circumstances at Jadotville, while besieged by overwhelming numbers of Katanganese Gendarmerie and cut-off from support and reinforcements, did valiantly defend their position from the 13th September 1961 to 17th September 1961."*

At the ceremony a copy of the Unit Citation was presented to each member or their next-of-kin and a memorial service with wreaths laid in their memory.

Minister Kehoe spoke to those present: *"I am very pleased to present this Unit Citation which recognises the bravery and courage of 'A' Coy during the Siege of Jadotville whilst cut-off from support and reinforcements."*

Minister Kehoe concluded, *"Ireland can be justifiably proud of all our brave men and women who have contributed to the cause of peace and security. Our continued participation in United Nations missions illustrates the very positive and practical difference that small countries, like Ireland, can make in the world's trouble spots."*

This long overdue recognition to the soldiers of 'A' Coy, 35 Inf Bn who fought at the Siege of Jadotville in 1961 signifies their professional bravery and personal sacrifice and makes them stand out as the pathfinders to the legacy of Irish peacekeeping. ■



## RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING/VIEWING



**The Battle of Jadotville: Irish Soldiers in Combat in the Congo, 1961** by [Airman] Michael Whelan was published by South Dublin Libraries in 2006, ISBN: 0954766067



**Heroes of Jadotville: The Soldiers' Story** by Rose Doyle with Leo Quinlan published 2006 by New Island and republished in 2016, ISBN: 978-1905494885



**Siege at Jadotville** by Declan Power and published by Maverick House in 2005, and republished in 2016 ISBN: 978-0954870713

**The Siege of Jadotville**, is the new Netflix original film, directed by Richie Smyth, written by Kevin Brodbin, and produced by Alan Moloney is a gripping, true story of incredible bravery against impossible odds. The film is based on Declan Power's novel *The Siege at Jadotville: The Irish Army's Forgotten Battle*.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/rHNTzyXvyLc>



Cpl John Gormon with Sgt Harry Dixon (wheelchair) a surviving member of the Siege of Jadotville



Minister Kehoe lays a wreath along with retired 'A' Coy Capt Liam Donnelly (wheelchair).



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# Was the North Strand Bombing a Mistake?



BY AP TONY KEARNS

**T**here has been much discussion, sometimes hotly debated, of the reasons behind the bombing of Dublin's North Strand on the night of 30/31 May 1941. A number of historians and commentators have expressed the opinion that it was a deliberate act intended as a warning to the Irish government not to get involved in the war on the Allied side. Other suggestions were that Amiens Street Station, a conduit to Belfast, and/or Dublin Fire Brigade, who provided assistance during the bombing of Belfast, were deliberately selected as targets. One commentator even claimed to have interviewed a former German Luftwaffe pilot, then living in Canada, who had been involved in the bombing of Dublin.

However, many believe the night sortie of 30/31 May was a routine Luftwaffe mission against British targets that went wrong.

The planners of the Luftwaffe's nightly bombing raids being carried out on British cities at that time depended on weather reports from its meteorological service and each day the Luftwaffe flew weather reconnaissance missions from France to the south-west coast of Ireland and further into the Atlantic, taking

readings and transmitting the information to their base.

Known as 'cloud dancers', two units operated from Brest, namely Wetterkundungstaffel 2 (Weather Reconnaissance Squadron 2), or Wekusta 2 for short, and Wekusta 51. A single aircraft undertook what was often described as 'a long and lonely flight' over an empty ocean, while the onboard meteorologist, often referred to as 'the frog', took his pressure readings and passed them to the radio operator for transmission to base.

A typical sortie would involve an early morning take-off, with the aircraft reaching the area off the south-west coast of Ireland at around 0830hrs. Volunteers manning the look-out posts around Ireland's south coast were very familiar with these aircraft and so regular were their timings that the coastwatchers often jokingly mentioned if 'Gunther' was either early or late.

Reaching the Bull Rock, an acknowledged navigation point, indicated a change to a northerly heading and the German aircraft passing the Bull usually rocked its wings in response to a wave from the lighthouse keeper. The flight would proceed north then



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turn west and then south, taking readings at various heights for transmission to their base, before taking an easterly heading back to Brest.

The Luftwaffe's meteorologists based their weather forecasts on the information amassed by these flights.

On the night of 30/31 May 97 German aircraft set off from bases in Northern France to carry out attacks on Liverpool, Belfast and the Bristol Channel area.

These bombers would normally take a course off the south west coast of England and into the Irish Sea. However, strong easterly winds, not previously indicated, drifted the bombers off course to varying degrees. Some aircraft were reported by the authorities as crossing the coast at Waterford and flying north as far as Mullingar before realising they were way off course. Dublin experienced many aircraft overhead and offshore heading north. The army operated its

question, known as X Gerat and Y Gerat, operated on a VHF signal of limited range, meaning that targets such as Liverpool, Manchester, Belfast and Glasgow were beyond the range of this system.

Some years ago Gay Byrne had a guest on his radio show who claimed to have met a German pilot who had taken part in the bombing of Dublin. The German claimed that he was a pathfinder (the Luftwaffe used the term 'firelighter') flying a Junkers Ju88 bomber. He was reported as having apologised for the unfortunate bombing and the loss of life. However, this claim doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

There were three designated firelighter units in the Luftwaffe at that time, whose mission was to fly ahead of the main bombing group and mark the target, usually with incendiary type bombs. One was Kampfgruppe 100 (Bomber Wing 100), or Kgr100, who used the X Gerat system. Another was 3 Group of Kampfgeschwader 26 (Bomber Group 26), or III./KG2, who used the Y Gerat. The third unit was 2 Group of Kampfgeschwader 55, or II./KG55, composed of highly trained, specialist navigators that didn't use either system. The important point is that all three units operated the Heinkel 111 aircraft and not the Junkers 88 as



searchlights and opened fire on the raiders but claimed no hits. It was two separate aircraft that were responsible for the destruction in Dublin that night.

The first incident occurred when an aircraft circled the area of Swords and Collinstown Aerodrome (Dublin Airport) before turning south-east and dropping two bombs on North Richmond Street and one on the Phoenix Park before flying towards Stepaside and then heading back to base.

A second aircraft was tracked flying over north Dublin, Collinstown Aerodrome, and then over Kilcock before returning towards Dublin and releasing a parachute land mine over the North Strand that caused death and destruction on a scale not seen previously in neutral Ireland, leaving 28 dead and scores injured.

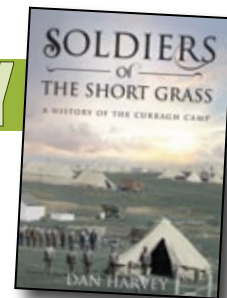
For many years after the war it was claimed that Britain had interfered with German radio navigating signals by 'bending the beams', but this is not a sustainable argument, despite Churchill making reference to it in his memoirs, as the navigating beams in

claimed by the anonymous German mentioned on the Gay Byrne show. Additionally, Kgr100 could not have been involved in operations that night as it had been heavily committed to the Atlantic to provide assistance to the battleship Bismarck as it attempted to evade the Royal Navy vessels pursuing it.

Reports from coastwatchers during the night told of German aircraft jettisoning their bomb loads in the Irish Sea to facilitate their ability to return to their bases in France as the strong winds made attempts to reach their intended targets impossible and their options for returning were fast diminishing. Many German aircraft were also monitored by the British Y Service requesting fixes from their bases in order to set a course back to base.

I suggest that we forget about the claims of the 'former German pilot', bending beams, or retaliation for providing assistance during the Belfast bombing, and look instead at the planning, evaluating and weather briefing of the aircraft involved in this unfortunate incident. ■





## THE CURRAGH, HOME OF THE WARRIOR

BY LT COL DAN HARVEY

**T**he Curragh impacts on you: its out-of-the-ordinary openness confronts you: a strong sensation of space suddenly strikes you. The visitor arriving onto the Curragh is exposed to a boundless, semi-natural grassland of well-grazed, flat and undulating terrain. The abundant acreage is interspersed with copious furze bushes and framed to the north by mature trees, behind which resides a complex building centred on seven red-bricked barracks.

The Curragh is a landscape dominated by space; stark, vast and vacant. It tricks you into thinking there is nothing there, when nothing could be further from the truth. The Curragh's overt emptiness belies its abundant covert content. Hidden among its humps and hollows are ancient sites, silent ageless sentinels.

On the Curragh space and time are bound together, delivering an archaeological, ecological, geographical, historical and mythical uniqueness. Of significant cultural importance, the Curragh has a strong story to tell. Its extensive, distinctive, spectacular, 5,000-acre expanse (4,870 to be exact) is steeped in strong historical overtones, with horses, sheep and soldiers as its traditional occupants. The Curragh also contains a millennia of myths and memories; legends, fables and folklore; unique flora and fauna; and archaeology.

Long before its present, permanent military presence, it had witnessed armies mustering and manoeuvring, camping and training. It was the site of battles, massacres, defeats and victories. Mythological stories predating recorded history tell of military encounters on the Curragh. For millennia its expanses have made it an attractive place for warfare. Whether as an assembly area or an arena for aggressive encounters this extraordinary space has been exploited by countless warriors throughout its history.

Regular use of the Curragh as a military base became the norm during the 17th and 18th centuries, with the Wars of the Confederation during the 1640s witnessing armies camping on the Curragh.

Nearly 50 years later, in 1689, nine Jacobean regiments, with 4,500 men, gathered on the Curragh. A year later, en route to their ill-fated involvement in the historic defeat at the Battle of the Boyne, the Jacobean regiments were joined on the Curragh by a force of 7,000 French troops. This strong and specific association, with its deep mythological footprint, saw the Curragh slowly become moulded to the military.

It was little surprise then, when, in the mid-19th Century, its sweeping, unhindered vastness, its inexhaustible supply of water, and its central location, near the capital but also facilitating the easy movement of troops to different points throughout the country, made it ideally suited for the building of a permanent military camp. The specific occasion that saw it come into being was the British response to the Crimean War in 1855. Since then

its continual consolidation has seen troops travel from the Curragh to the many 'little wars' of Empire, to the Boer War, to the Great War, and to Dublin in 1916 in response to the Easter Rising.

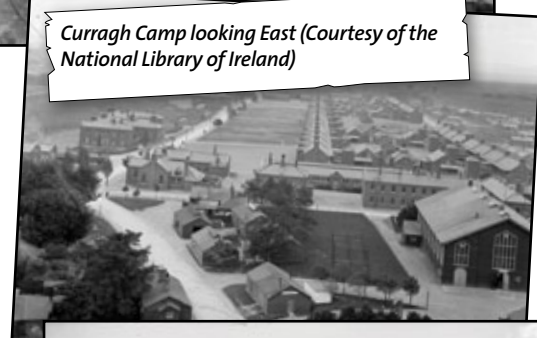
The raising of the Irish tricolour for the first time at the camp, on 16 May 1922, signalled no change to its level of military service as the Curragh's forces were quickly embroiled in the Civil War, followed by the Emergency, and later the Troubles, while also forging a hard-earned, much-envied reputation as international peacekeepers.

The next time you look across the Curragh plain, close your eyes; it shouldn't be hard to take that leap in imagination required to see images of ancient armies, bands of warriors, French expeditionary forces, Jacobean regiments, great British garrisons, soldiers of the newly-formed Irish state, and blue-helmeted peacekeepers forming up to travel overseas, looming in front of you.

*Curragh Camp looking West (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)*



*Curragh Camp looking East (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)*



*View of the Water Tower from McDermott Square (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)*



### About the author:

Lt Col Harvey is the author of *Soldiers of the Short Grass - a History of the Curragh Camp*, a book that spans 150 years of Curragh history, from the establishment of a permanent camp in 1855 until the present. He is also joint-author, together with CQMS Gerry White, of *The Barracks - a history of Victoria/Collins Barracks, Cork*. ■





# HITTING THE HEIGHTS

## in Martial Arts

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE & CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**A**ndy Ryan joined the Defence Forces in 1994 and served with 2 Cav Sqn until 2002. A practitioner of judo since the age of six, Andy was an integral member of the DF Judo team and competed in the discipline at the CISM World Military Games in Croatia in 1999, as well as being long-serving member of the 2 Bde Pentathlon team. Andy won ten Irish judo championships, three European judo championships, and a world championship bronze medal in Brazilian jiu-jitsu a martial art and combat sport that fuses judo and traditional Japanese jujutsu and focuses mainly on grappling and ground fighting techniques. Its founders modified judo and traditional Japanese jujutsu to create the art.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) was only starting in 1998 when Andy became interested in it while coaching in clubs in Killester and Portmarnock. "I was always into martial arts: judo, boxing, wrestling," Andy says, "and I've been involved in coaching at different levels over the years."

In 2000 Andy broke an ankle while training for the Olympics and subsequently retired from judo to focus on coaching, going on to complete coaching courses in judo, boxing and wrestling with Sport Ireland (Irish Sports Council).

In 2005 he founded his own club, Ryano, the name of which incorporates Andy's surname, Ryan, and rhino, as most clubs use an animal in their title/logo. The main sports conducted in the Team Ryano Gym are MMA and Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

"We have a lot of military guys coming in to train," he says, "as

well as other frontline service personnel such as gardai, firemen and prison officers. We also have underage European and World amateur champions, right up to two professional UFC fighters, training in Team Ryano."

Team Ryano now has affiliated gyms under its banner in Belfast, Lurgan, Derry, Colrairie, Finglas, Donaghmede, Kilkenny, Waterford, Portlaoise, Limerick and Galway.

**Contact Details:** Team Ryano, Unit 5, Finglas Business Centre, Jamestown Road, Finglas, Dublin 11. Ph: 0851464737 – email: info@teamryano.com www.teamryano.com





**Steven Carr** joined the Defence Forces in January 1990 with 26 Rec Pl, 2 Fd Arty Regt. After two years he transferred to 2 Grn S&T, and became a driver of everything from troops and logistics to VIPs. He served overseas as a peacekeeper in Lebanon with 76 and 83 Inf Bns and in Kosovo with 1 Tpt Coy, KFOR. After stints with 2 LSB and 7 Inf Bn he transferred to McKee Bks Coy, where he has been stationed ever since.

Steven took up Brazilian jiu-jitsu at the ripe old age of 44. *"There is no age limit for this type of fighting sport,"* he told us. *"I was late to the sport, taking it up for physical fitness training."* When Steven joined Andy's Team Ryano Gym a few years ago he weighed 109kg; he now fights at 76kg!

The belt system in Brazilian jiu-jitsu is different to other martial art sports and it takes, on average, 10 years to reach a black belt in the sport.

Steven says: *"After three months I cut my teeth at white belt and went the distance on a 5-minute fight, which I lost, but it made me more determined."*

He went on to fight in the Irish Open where he took bronze. Steven told us: *"As a coach, Andy pushes me hard and I take every fight seriously. Most of my opponents have 10 years on me, but when I go into a competitive fight I've prepared well."*

In 2013 Steven spent 12 weeks training hard for his first European Championship, which took place in Lisbon in January 2014. *"You have to sacrifice a lot, especially over Christmas, to stay in shape and maximise your weight,"* Steven says.

However, Steven was beaten in his first fight by a submission arm bar. *"I was disappointed,"* he admits, *"but I was beaten by a better fighter on the day."*

Steven spent the rest of 2014 competing in Team Ryano competitions and with other local clubs, before he was invited to take part in the Celtic Cup, an Irish competition, where he took the bronze medal.

In January 2015 he headed back to Portugal for his second European Championship, this time winning a silver medal after fights against three Spanish fighters.

Although happy with his silver medal, Steven said *"I knew in my heart that I could take the gold at the European Championships,"* and he set about

training much harder in 2015 with the next Euros as his main goal.

Back in Lisbon in January 2016, Steven defeated an Italian and two Spaniards before beating a Swedish opponent in the final to be crowned European Light-Weight Champion 2016, in the 76kg blue belt category.

He is now a purple belt and is training for his aim of trying for gold again at the 2017 Euros.

Steven wants to thank his CO, Comdt Andrew Shinnick, and the senior NCOs in his unit for their continued support and for facilitating his training schedule. *"I would also like to thank my club mates in Team Ryano and my military colleagues who helped me by pushing me to get to this level in such a short time."*

**Matthew Sheehan** joined the Defence Forces in 2012, completing his recruit training with 27 Inf Bn in Gormanston Camp, after having previously served for three years with 65 Inf Bn RDF. He was posted to 1 Cn Cois, Galway, where he carried out general duties and completed a number of courses including recce and basic rock climbing. In 2015 on completion of his NCOs course he was promoted to corporal after he transferred to the DFTC, Curragh.

In his youth Matthew drifted in and out of many sports like GAA and American football. In 2011 he took up mixed martial arts, with his only experience of contact sports being a white-collar boxing event for charity.

His first fight was a middleweight (84kg) bout with three three-minute rounds. *"I had trained for six months for the fight,"* he told us, *"and I broke my opponent's nose, but he got the decision!"*

Before Matthew's next scheduled fight was to take place he was called up for recruit training and he focussed on his military training for the next number of years. After transferring to the Curragh he was back living in Dublin. On the lookout for an elite gym, what he heard about Andy's Team Ryano fit the bill perfectly and Matthew found himself back in the sport after a three-year absence.

In August 2015 he started sparring with club mates and says, *"I had a lot to catch up on to get back to a competitive level."* There had also been a lot of rule changes at both amateur and professional levels since he last fought. Elbows or knees to the head were no longer allowed and fighters had to wear shin pads.

*"Another big difference was same-day weigh-in,"* he says. *"There weren't many fights to be got and I had to go up a class, to light-heavyweight (93kg)."*

Team Ryano had six places for the IMAF World Amateur Championships in Las Vegas in July 2016, and six more fighters from two other elite gyms







made up Team Ireland. To Matthew's surprise, Andy approached him to fill one of the places and in April he started training for the event, firstly by checking out videos of the previous year's finals.

*"At first I was intimidated by the quality of the fighters," Matthew says, "but when I looked around at the quality of the team I was with, the best in Ireland with many Irish/UK titles, I started using their quality to train myself to their level. Team Ryano has a lot of European fighters who do a lot of groundwork as that's part of their schooling, so sparring sessions with them was a help. It was hard but I hoped the results could be great for club and country."*

In Las Vegas there were 32 competitors in Matthew's weight class, which meant a lot of matches over the next six days to get to the finals. He also had to weigh in every morning and pass a preflight medical.

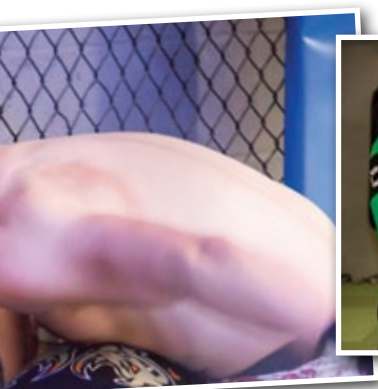
In his first fight he beat his French opponent by rear naked choke before getting a unanimous decision over a Polish fighter in his second fight. Next up was a New Zealander, who he beat to reach a semi-final against another Polish fighter.

*"This was going to be my most difficult fight so far as he knew a lot about me from his fellow countryman that I had previously fought," Matthew said. "I had also picked up a shoulder injury that prevented me from throwing left punches."*

Despite this, Matthew emerged victorious and earned his place in the final where he was considered the underdog, coming up against a highly experienced Bulgarian fighter with World silver and European gold medals, and with 20+ fights under his belt, a lot of them at World level.

The final, fought over three three-minute rounds, saw the Bulgarian looking to pin Matthew to the canvas and go for the submission. However, Matthew used his jiu-jitsu to get out of the hold and sweep his opponent, taking the back position and winning by technical knock-out in the third round. Matthew is now the World Amateur Light Heavyweight Champion at 93kgs.

Like Steven Carr, Matthew also expressed his gratitude to his colleagues and superiors for facilitating his training regime. ■



L/R: Matthew Sheenan, Andy Ryan and Steven Carr

## WOMAA 2016 WORLD GAMES

BY SGT SEAN HACKETT, 27 INF BN

**O**n 30th July 2016, two Kyushoshin ju jutsu teams from Romania and Ireland came together to compete in the WOMAA 2016 World Games in Essanbach, Germany. As a senior instructor in the art and the administrator for Kyushoshin Renmei International, I attended the games as an invited official along with Joe and Martin Carslake, the two founder members of the system.

I am a Yondan (4th dan) black belt in Kyushoshin ju jutsu and I travel regularly to Sweden, Romania, Great Britain and Sicily to teach at international seminars. As well as officiating and refereeing at the WOMAA games, I also entered the Masters katana (sword) kata event in the Classical Traditional section, which is very different to the super-fast weapons spinning and screaming that many people are familiar with, in that it deals with real situations that occurred on the battlefield when these weapons were foremost.

The katana kata that I entered was one I designed myself, and it won me a gold medal. A fellow team mate took the silver medal, and in total Team Kyushoshin took a total medal count of 128, with 78 golds.

**About the author:** Sgt Hackett has nearly 27 years' service. He was with 29 Inf Bn until it was disestablished in 1998 and has since served with 27 Inf Bn. Sgt Hackett has a broad range of military qualifications and expertise, including the Javelin, LFTT and recce. He is currently PI Sgt in the Anti-Armour Platoon, Sp Coy. He has served overseas on several trips to Lebanon, Bosnia, Kosovo, Liberia and Chad. ■



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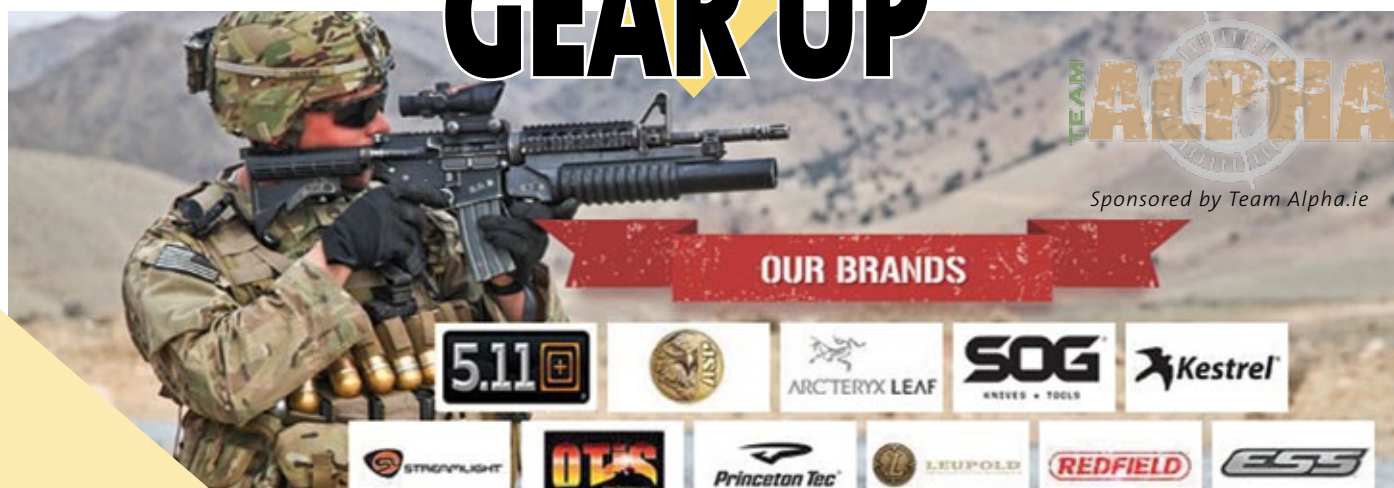
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**COMPETITION**



# NOTICEBOARD

## CAN YOU HELP?

**Guy Warner is a regular contributor to An Cosantóir:** "I read with great interest the article on The Helga and The Aud in the most recent issue of An Cosantóir. I am working on a history of the war at sea around the coast of Ireland 1914-18 and I would much appreciate copies of the photos that accompanied the article. If any similarly minded historians would like to get in touch with me or if any reader has material about events at Queenstown (Cobh), Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), Larne, Londonderry, Buncrana, Killybegs or Berehaven involving the RN, RNAS, USN or USN Air Service, I would be delighted to hear from them. Best wishes, Guy Warner". **If you can help please contact him by email: gwarnero6@aol.com**

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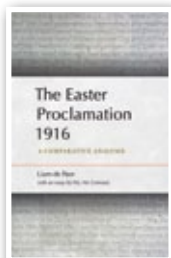


## THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

### A Comparative Analysis

**Author:** Liam de Paor  
**Publisher:** Four Courts Press (September 2016)  
[www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2016/easter-proclamation-1916/](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2016/easter-proclamation-1916/)  
**ISBN:** 978-1846826191  
**Price:** €14.95  
**Pages:** 128

On Easter Monday, 24th April 1916, Patrick Pearse declared an Irish Republic from the steps of the General Post Office on Sackville St. in Dublin, by reading aloud a document known as the Proclamation.



This manuscript, containing 486 words, excluding the signatures, written by Pearse, revised by James Connolly and Thomas McDonagh is as controversial today as it was 100 years ago.

Though short and exhortatory it reveals the mindset and aims of those who orchestrated one of the greatest acts of insurrection in Irish history.

*The Easter Proclamation 1916; A Comparative Analysis* has been described as an apologia of the uprising, yet even today, this reissue is an essential critical analysis that will enable the reader to delve further into the document and the minds of those that created it.

**About the author:** Liam de Paor (1926–98) was an archaeologist, historian and political thinker; he initially trained as an architect at University College Dublin, but later abandoned architecture for archaeology, and became a professor at UCD. His books include *Ireland and early Europe: essays and occasional writings on art and culture* and *Saint Patrick's world: the Christian culture of Ireland's apostolic age* (1993; repr. 2014). **PC**

## GUILTY BUT INSANE

### J.C. BOWEN-COLTHURST:

### Villain or Victim?

**Author:** James W. Taylor  
**Publisher:** Mercier Press Ltd (June 2016) [www.mercierpress.ie](http://www.mercierpress.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1781174210  
**Price:** €19.99  
**Pages:** 288

The name Captain J.C. Bowen-Colthurst is inextricably linked with the Easter Rising of 1916, in particular the deaths of six unarmed civilians. One of those, Francis Sheehy Skeffington, a known pacifist who was trying to bring an end to the chaos that had descended on the city, was executed by firing squad on the orders of Captain Colthurst.



Taylor has used previously unseen military documents and family papers to weave together the story of Colthurst's life and the events leading up to his actions during the Rising. Unknown to many is that Colthurst had been invalided home from the Front suffering from what we know today as PTSD.

Can his actions in Dublin be contributed to his deteriorating mental state? This work argues the fact that the officer was not of sound mind when he took to the streets of the city to restore order.

Tried for his actions, Captain Colthurst was found guilty but insane, serving just eighteen months in Broadmoor Criminal Asylum. Released, he moved abroad and lived until 1965.

The author's correspondence with family members gives the reader an insight into the officer's life in latter years and what he thought of his actions back when Ireland was in turmoil. This book will undoubtedly shed new light on these tragic events.

James W. Taylor is an excellent Historian and Author and this latest work is a testament to that. **P. O'B**

## 'PADDY' FINUCANE AND THE LEGEND OF THE KENLEY WING

**Author:** Anthony Cooper  
**Publisher:** Fonthill Media (August 2016)  
[www.fonthillmedia.com](http://www.fonthillmedia.com)  
**ISBN:** 978-1-78155-512-5  
**Price:** €30 H/B  
**Pages:** 272



RAF Fighter Command in 1941 appeared to be repeating the successes it had achieved against the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain. This, however, was far from the truth as Anthony Cooper describes in this new book. The RAF was in fact losing five aircraft for every enemy aircraft destroyed.

The Spitfire equipped Kenley Wing of three squadrons was one of many fighting over northern France in the summer and autumn of 1941. Its pilots came from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada, and of course Great Britain.

Victories that would shore up morale were in short supply and the pilots of the RAF appeared to offer the solution. The propaganda value of British, Australian, and New Zealand pilots achieving successes over Europe was immeasurable. Bader, Deere, Finucane became household names in a very short period. Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 left meagre fighter resources to defend western Europe. However these were well equipped and trained units. Huge advances in radar technology and the fact that they were fighting on their terms gave them a massive advantage. They fought the masses rank of Spitfires when the odds were in their favour and only then.

The tactics employed by the RAF were also questionable: tight formation flying was useless in these situations. The Luftwaffe had perfected their attack drills over a long period of time and novice Allied pilots did not last long; the short range of the Spitfire was also a huge handicap.

Anthony Cooper describes brilliantly the mayhem of high-speed aerial combat: two or three seconds firing, dodging, weaving, avoiding collisions. It was no wonder that over claiming was rife across all the squadrons. Using Luftwaffe combat losses the author examines with scepticism 452 Squadron's claims of enemy aircraft destroyed. Finucane and the Australian pilots claims in his opinion do not equate. I'm convinced that they believed their claims were genuine and one also must be sceptical about Luftwaffe records. Nearly 75 years after these events I feel that it was not as 'black and white' as it seems but the readers can make up their own minds. Cooper does not for a moment denigrate the airmen's bravery, heroism, and tenacity in combat. Many of these young men would make the ultimate sacrifice including Finucane, Truscott, and Thorold-Smith of 452 Squadron. I found it a fascinating and worthy read. **MB**



## NAME

PAT MITCHELL

## RANK

CIVILIAN WELDER

## UNIT

UNIT: BOARD OF WORKS (BFW)

BY CPL LEE COYLE

**I grew up in Ballyfermot, Dublin, during the 1950s with my eight brothers and seven sisters; a large family even back then. In 1963, when I was 10, my father encouraged me to take up boxing with one of my elder brothers; taking us to the CIE Boxing Club in Inchicore. (The club is still going today and has trained boxers such as Jim Rock and Bernard Dunne.)**

I really enjoyed boxing. I was a natural;

and good, winning my first national and all-Ireland championship in 1966, and making it five in a row between 1966 and 1970.

I got a job as a general operative with the Defence Forces through my father, who worked in the BFW in Collins Bks back in the early 1960s. I started work in the welding and fitting shop in February 1972. There were ten fitters/welders and three helpers, or general operatives, employed in the shop not long after starting I was told I should become a welder and I was sent to FÁS to do a welding course over the years 1973 to 1974.

As a welder I got to travel all over the country as we were responsible for all welding jobs in barracks and posts located in the Eastern Command (now 2 Bde) and any other areas that might need us.

One of our important tasks was the upkeep of the ranges, mainly the target frames, and I've worked on ranges in Duncannon Fort, Cootehill, Castleblayney, Ticknock, Kilbride and Kilpedder – some of which are gone now.

Through the years I have produced a wide variety of things for the DF, everything from small hinges, the top of a large flag pole, security cages for keys, and fitness equipment for barracks gyms, a lot of which are still in use today. I'm currently working on a new boxing bag bracket for one of the gyms.

Fitness is an important part of life in the Defence Forces life and I'm proud to have produced a range of gym equipment, like dipping stations, free weights, barbells and dumbbells.

Due to my boxing background, I was also asked to help out with training boxers. I was happy to help out and trained some 5 Inf Bn boxing teams while stationed in Collins Bks for a few years.

The BFW was also asked around the same time if we would like to submit a team to play in the annual Peter Burke 5-a-side football tournament, which we did, winning it on one occasion. Being invited to take part

in this great event, really made us feel like part of the military family.

I also took up running along with one of the fitters during my first few years with the BFW, which is hardly surprising when you see so many soldiers running every day. I really enjoy it and I've taken part in more than ten Cosantóir 10Ks and hope to run in this year's one on October 12th.

I was sad to see the closing of Collins Bks in 1997 as it had become a second home to me after being there for nearly 30 years. The BFW staff has been reduced over the years and the move from Collins Bks to Cathal Brugha Bks left me as the last welder.

I have now served almost 45 years as a welder with the BFW and I am probably the longest serving civilian in the Defence Forces. I have enjoyed my time working with the Defence Forces and hope to serve for a few more years. ■







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