

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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Dec 2012/Jan 2013



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CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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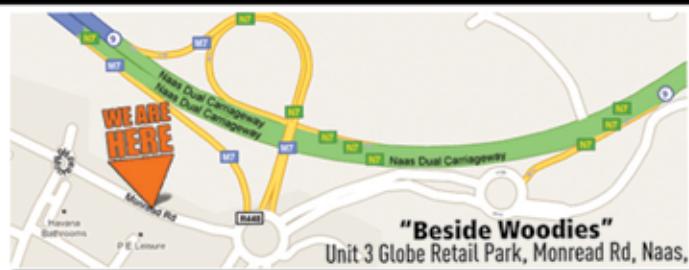
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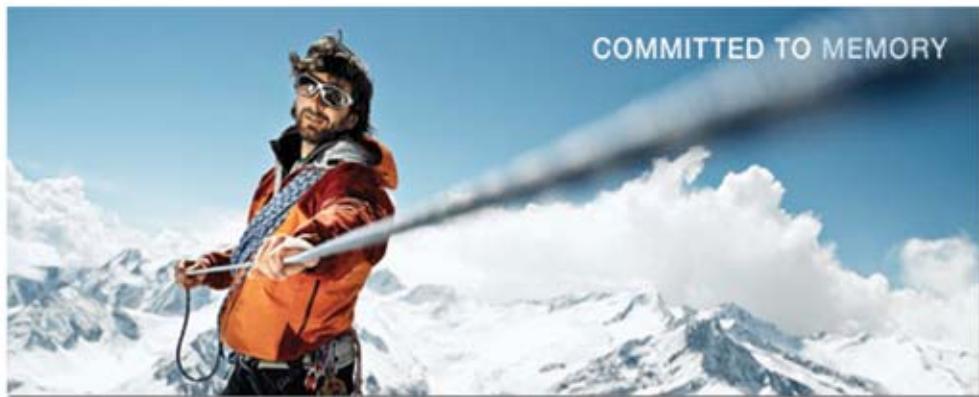
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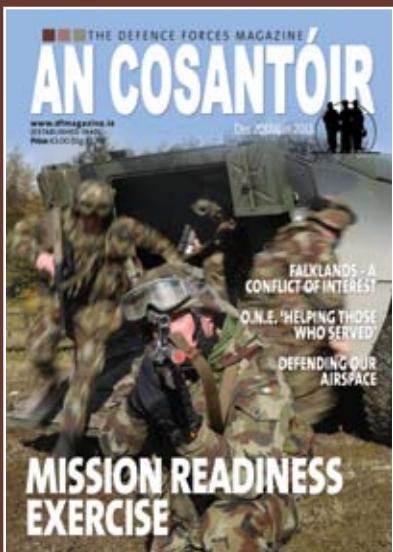
Best wishes to the Defence Forces

It's

your magazine

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*December / January 2012*

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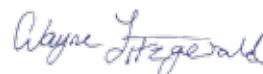
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**Front Cover:**  
107 Inf Bn during Mission Readiness  
Exercise. Photo By: Armn Neville Coughlan

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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to our December issue, where has the year gone? This month we have an extra 8 pages of full content for you to pass the festive season. This issue, your photos are *On Parade*. *In Focus* features the latest RDF commissioning parade and two successful money raising charity events. Our main article this month is a look at the PC-9M 'Defending Our Airspace', by Wesley Bourke. Our next feature is a look at the motorcycle a military warhorse by Cpl Noel Coss. Next Cpl Paul Millar reports on the great work O.N.E. does for retired soldiers. I bring you an update on the latest 107 IrishFinn Bn news. In *Strategic Review*, historian and author Paul O'Brien reminds us about the Falklands War. *In Reserve* features the latest 2 E Bde RDF recruits by CQMS Mike Barrett. We have extra article on Campa Gaeilge by Comdt Gerry Jordan. Our *History* pages (3) are all focused on the Connaught Rangers. In *Sport* we have an article on the Nijmegen International Marches by Capt Brendan McDonald. Also in *Sport* we have a report on the DF Sea Angling Competition 2012 by Sgt Declan O'Shea and Cpl Danny Quinn tells us how he got on at the World Float Fishing Championships in the Czech Republic. We also have our other regular features - *Tac Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.



**Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor**



**Photographers!**  
I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you to our photographer, Mr Jim O'Connor who completed nearly 9 months with us through the FAS Jobbridge program and to wish Armn Neville Coughlan 'all the best' on his Potential NCOs Course. Also to welcome in our new photographer Cpl Colum Lawlor (105 Sqn) to PR Section. Photo by: Cpl Colum Lawlor



Pictured at the recent RDF Commissioning are myself with 2/Lt Neil Richardson author of 'Dark Times, Decent Men: Stories of Irishmen in World War II'. Photo by: Armn Paddy Reilly (105 Sqn)



As a special gift for subscribers this festive season we would like to give you access to an electronic copy of our latest picture book "DF In Focus 2012", which will be available from the middle of December. Please keep an eye on your inbox for your login details, or email me at [magazine@military.ie](mailto:magazine@military.ie) for them.



**AN COSANTÓIR**

We wish all the members of the Defence Forces, their Family's a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

# ON PARADE



## WAR EXPERIENCES ▲

A presentation was made to the Defence Forces of a 'Book of War Experiences' of Major Thomas F O'Donnell who served with the Indian Medical Services in Malaya, Singapore and Keijo POW Camp, Korea from 1941 to 1945. Presented by his son Bryan O'Donnell to Col Caulfield CMC Military College. The book is available to all in the Defence Forces Library, Mil Col. Pictured (l/r): Col Caulfield (CMC), Brig Gen Mangan (Retd), Mr Bryan O'Donnell, Lt Col McCann (Retd), Comdt Ramsbottom (OIC Library) and Sgt McCormack (Librarian). Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)



## ONE GOLF CLASSIC

Pictured are members of the Patrick Sarsfield Br of ONE, branch winners of the ONE National Golf Classic 2012. (l/r): Eddie Kiely Snr. Capt of the Golf Team presents the cup to Paddy Hynes (Br Chairman) and Joe O'Mahony (Br President). Photo: Joe O'Mahony



## CONGO 1961 ▶

Pictured is Pat McNamara, in a fine pose while serving with the 33 Inf Bn in the Congo in 1960. Pat later went on to head the Limerick Civil Defence for 25yrs. Now retired, he is the Treasurer of IUNVA Post 6, Limerick. Photo: Pat McNamara



## INTERNATIONAL MP CHIEFS

Pictured at the NATO/PfP Military Police Chiefs Conference 2012 in Southwick Park, Portsmouth are Col Pat Herbert, Provost Marshal and Comdt Damien Coakley (Snr Staff Officer in the Office of the Provost Marshal). Southwick Park is the home to the Royal Military Police. The picture was taken in front of Southwick House, which is now the Officer's Mess and is the building where General Eisenhower planned Operation Overlord during WW2. Photo: Comdt Damien Coakley



## NEW GRADUATES FROM DIT ▲

Congratulations to members of the Air Corps who graduated from DIT (Dublin Institute of Technology). Main photo: Cpl Daniel Morrissey (4 Sp Wing), Mother, partner and colleague = Mechanical Engineering (level 7). Inset Left: Tony Strickland, mother and sister (family of the late Cpl Cid Strickland (R.I.P.) of 5 Sp Wing). Inset Right: Armn Christopher Dungan (4 Sp Wing) and his partner = Transport Engineering (level 8). Photo: Anthony O'Donoghue (Air Corps)

## SECTOR WEST, UNIFIL ▲

Pictured are Irish Staff Officers and NCOs from Task Force HQ Sector West with D COM Sector West Col Clancy and CDR Sector West Brig Gen Zauener prior to his departure from UNIFIL. Photo: Sgt Mark Coffey (UNIFIL)



## IN AID OF GOOD CAUSE ▲

Pictured (l/r) are: Brig Gen Gerard Aherne (GOC 4 W Bde) who presented a cheque for €40,000 to Ms Joan Freeman (CEO Pieta House) and Mr Tony Whyte (Chairman Roscommon Pieta House) with the proceeds of the recent 4 W Bde Gala Night which was held in The Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone in June. Photo: Sgt Anthony Feery (HQ 4 W BDE)

## SERVICE HONOURED ▶

BQMS Willy Reilly (4 Fd Arty Reg), was honoured with a presentation for 37 years of loyal and dedicated service both at home and overseas in the NCOs Mess Custume Bks, Athlone. Picture shows the Regt 2 I/C Comdt Neil Verling, BQMS Willy Reilly and RSM Noel O'Callaghan. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan (4 Fd Arty Reg)



## DUBLIN CITY MARATHON ▼

Reservists pictured at the Marathon are (l/r): Cpl Pat Murphy (33 Res Inf Bn), 2/Lt Fergal Fitzgerald (65 Res Inf Bn), 2/Lt Cormac Lally, (65 Res Inf Bn), Cpl Matthew Lloyd (2 RDF BTC), Cpl Anthony Cheung (62 Res Inf Bn) Photo: 2/Lt Fergal Fitzgerald



Pictured are (l): Cpl Karl Johnston (HQ 2 E Bde) and (r) Sgt Gary Condren (2 Inf Bn) who completed the marathon in helmet, battle vest and day sack w/35lbs, in 5:17hrs (Johnston) and 5:47 (Condren), who had great support from the crowd!

Members of Custume Bks who ran the marathon are, front row (l/r): Pte P Joyce, Pte G Whiterger, Cpl J Murray. Back Row (l/r): Sgt D Mc Monagle (Retd), Pte JP Malone, Cpl J Nugent and Cpl S Brennan (Retd) (who has ran 100 marathons). Photo: Sgt Martin Gilligan (HQ 4 W Bde)



## DF KAYAK LEVEL III COURSE ▲

Here is a photo of students and instructors from the DF Kayak Club's recent level III Course held in Wicklow. Photo: Ian Burke



## DF FALLING PLATES CHAMPIONS 2012 ▲

Pictured are members of the 12 Inf Bn who were the Defence Forces Falling Plates Champions 2012. Back row (l/r): BSM Hurley, Pte Nihill. Front row (l/r): Pte O'Callaghan, Pte Mc Sweeney, Pte Burke, Lt Col Mc Kenna, Lt Lynch and Sgt Tolton. Photo: Captain Ian O'Brien (12 Inf Bn)



Photo taken at the end of the marathon, (l) is Pte Pat O'Keeffe (1 LSB att. 12 Inf Bn) who was part of the 5hr pacing team for that day, completing his 31st marathon for this year and his 86th overall. (l/r): Pat O'Keeffe, Finn O'Mara, Joan Molloy and John Coleman. Photo: Pte Pat O'Keeffe

## NEW RDF JUNIOR LEADERS

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS ARMN PADDY REILLY (106 SQN)

**O**n Sunday, November 4th 2012, 18 members of the RDF received their commissions in the DFTC.

Minister of State at the Department of Defence, Paul Kehoe TD, accompanied by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann attended the commissioning ceremony. Minister Kehoe presented the commission scrolls on behalf of the president after the new officers took their oath of allegiance, in which they swore to be "faithful to Ireland and loyal to the Constitution".

The members of 20 Potential Officers Course were drawn from diverse backgrounds across the country and included two university students and 12 graduates (three with masters' degrees and a further three undertaking masters' degrees). Civilian occupations of the class included author, teacher, barrister, engineer, civil servant and jockey.

In his speech Minister Kehoe said: "The Reserve Defence Force plays a significant role in the Defence Forces. The work undertaken by the Reserve could not take place without the dedication and loyalty of the individual officers, NCOs, men and women of the Reserve Defence Force and I think it is important that I acknowledge that here today."

The course, comprising four female and fourteen male candidates, had completed a very demanding and challenging, two-years of basic officer training, which prepared them to take up appointments as junior leaders throughout the Army Reserve.

The commissioning ceremony concluded with the class performing a ceremonial sword-drill before finally getting to celebrate their achievement with their families. ■



# Torch of Hope

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**M**ost readers of An Cosantóir will have been touched by cancer either directly or indirectly. It is important for these people to know that ARC is there for them, providing care and advice that will complement and work in tandem with their medical treatment.

ARC Cancer Support Centre provides a drop-in service and professional support to all men and women affected by cancer and those who care for them. The services provided are holistic and complement primary medical treatment. All services are free of charge with each house catering for approximately 1,000 visitors a year.

One of the founding members of ARC in 1994, Comdt George Kerwin (retd), explained the importance of the complementary support people receive from ARC: "While surgery and treatment deal with the physical aspects of cancer there is also a huge psychological and emotional support necessary. ARC helps cancer patients and their families come to terms with a cancer diagnosis, and the stress and anxiety it brings, by providing professional support, counselling and complementary therapies in a warm and caring environment in the ARC houses."

This year ARC organised a 'Torch of Hope' relay, which took place on October 14th, to raise much needed funds and to raise awareness of the charity. The essence of the Torch of Hope relay is that it gives family, friends and Dublin communities an opportunity to support people who have fought cancer, and to commemorate lost loved ones.

The community and fundraising team event saw teams of 10/15 people starting the relay at designated spots along Dublin Bay. During the event the torch was passed from one team to the next along the route. The final lap was dedicated to cancer survivors who carried the Torch of Hope to its final destination at the CHQ building in the IFSC.

The magnificent organising committee was headed by Sgt Martin Gillick of Personnel Support Services (PSS), DFHQ. ARC's director of fundraising, Mairéad Mangan, said: "Martin and George ran the event with military precision and a very successful and enjoyable day was had by all, with IUNVA also lending their support on the day and adding a bit of colour and excitement along the route." To date €55,000 has been raised through this event.

If you would like to contact ARC, you can call anytime and speak to a member of staff or trained volunteers at: ARC, Eccles St, Dublin 7 (01 8307333); ARC, 559 South Circular Road, Dublin 8 (01 7078880); or visit [www.arccancersupport.ie](http://www.arccancersupport.ie).

Members of IUNVA Post 1, pictured during the relay: (l/r) Séan Roddy, John Tuomey and John Brady



Sgt Martin Gillick (PSS, DFHQ) is pictured on the day with fellow survivor Jacqui Daniels



Comdt George Kerwin (retd) with Olympic silver medallist John Joe Nevin, who launched the relay by running the first leg from Howth.

## Miles for Smiles



Niamh's mother with overall winner Pte Gormley and Pte Mee (retd)

BY LT JOHN BYRNE (A COY, 27 INF BN)

**O**n October 10th 2012, 89 personnel took part in the Miles for Smiles challenge to raise money for Temple Street Hospital. The event, organised by Sgt Brendan Murray (PTI Sgt, Aiken Bks), saw competitors from 27 Inf Bn, 2 Cav Sqn, 2 LSB, EUBG, 2 Inf Bn, 5 Inf Bn, DFHQ, and McKee Bks Coy, walking or running 8km along the Táin Way. Miles for Smiles is a fundraising charity for Temple Street Hospital that was set up in memory of Niamh Ní Doibhílín, who sadly passed away in 2003 aged only fourteen-and-a-half after suffering with the rare condition neurofibromatosis (NF) since birth.

Before the start of the race competitors were offered the choice between running or walking the route, with the walkers heading off first. Competition between the runners was fierce with a brisk pace from the outset. First place went to Pte Gormley (2 LSB) with an impressive time of 30:01. For the ladies, first place went to Cpl Robinson (McKee Bks Coy) with a time of 52:15.

In total €930 was raised from the event, and Niamh's mother Mila was on hand to present the awards and to thank all the competitors for making a valuable contribution to this worthwhile charity. ■



Runners before the start

# WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



## MIDDLE EAST

The Head of Lebanese internal security, Brig Gen Wissam Hassam, was killed along with seven others in a bomb attack in Beirut. The Syrian regime was blamed. Ten more people died in sectarian clashes following the attack.

President Assad's government in Syria and most rebel groups agreed to a ceasefire during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-adha. The ceasefire did not hold. The UN held talks between Russia and China as fighting continued around Damascus and in the north.

Syrian opposition factions met in Qatar in order to create a broad united front that would supersede the Syrian National Council. Frances president Holland announced that his country would recognise the new Syrian National Coalition.

Amid clashes between anti-government demonstrators and police in Bahrain, authorities banned any further protests. Two foreign workers were killed and a third injured in a series of bomb attacks.



The head of the military wing of Hamas, Ahmed Jabar, was killed by an Israeli air strike on Gaza. The Israeli security service, Shin Bet, said it had carried out the attack claiming he was responsible for all terrorist attacks launched from Gaza over the past decade. Several Israeli's were killed in revenge rocket attacks. Tensions mounted and armed forces were mobilised on both sides to the point of all out war. The international community called for calm.

## EUROPE

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) criticised elections held in Ukraine as an, "abuse of power and the excessive role of money." The president, Viktor Yanukovych, claimed victory and shrugged off any criticism.

Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, sacked his defence minister, Anatoly Serdyukov, after he got caught up in a corruption scandal.



NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen says they are considering 'without delay', Turkey's request to deploy Patriot anti-missile systems to protect its border with the unrestorn Syria.

## THE AMERICAS

Cuba's former president Fidel Castro published an article and photographs of himself in a state newspaper after it was rumoured he was near death.

Scores of people were killed in Haiti and the US as Hurricane Sandy tore a devastating path of destruction. The eastern coastline of the US took the full hit of the storm. In New York millions were left without power, the underground was closed and the New York marathon cancelled.

Barack Obama was re-elected as President of the United States, beating Mitt Romney by 50%-48%.

Seven US Navy SEALs were disciplined for revealing classified information for a video game. All seven of them worked for two days as paid consultants for a recently released video game "Medal of Honor: Warfighter". One of the SEAL's was a member of the team that killed Osama Bin Laden.

## AFRICA

Libyan government forces took control of most of Bani Walid. The town was one of the last vestiges loyal to former Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi.



The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Simone Gbagbo, the wife of Ivory Coast's ex-President Laurent Gbagbo. She is wanted for alleged crimes against humanity committed in the wake of disputed presidential elections in 2010.

An air raid on an arms factory in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, was blamed on Israel. Israel's government made no comment. It is known that Israel blames Sudan for allowing arms to pass through on route to Gaza.

The new government in Somalia elected a female foreign minister. Three days later a bomb, suspected to have been planted by the Islamist Shabab militia, blew up outside parliament killing one person.

The Economic Union of West African States decision to send troops into Mali against Islamist extremist was endorsed by the African Union.

In north western Kenya, Turkana tribesmen killed 42 policemen in an ambush. This follows a dispute over hundreds of stolen cattle from the neighbouring Samburu tribe.

## ASIA

Human rights groups reported that four more Tibetans killed themselves by setting themselves on fire, three of which were teenage Buddhist monks, protesting against Chinese policies. Over 60 people have died this way in the last year.

Authorities in Myanmar imposed a night time curfew in parts of western Rakhine after violence flared again between Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakine Buddhists. 120 people are believed missing after a boat carrying many Rohingya Muslims fleeing the unrest capsized in the Bay of Bengal.

In China Xi Jinping took over from Hu Jintao, as secretary general of the Communist Party of China.



The UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, said that an internal report on the organisations failure to protect civilians during the Sri Lankan civil war will have profound implications for its future operations.

# DEFENDING our Airsphere

BY WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMIN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

The primary function of the Defence Forces is the defence of our land, sea, and airspace. Last year's visits of Queen Elizabeth II and President Barrack Obama highlighted the role of the Air Corps in providing the capability and assets to defend and secure our airspace. At the nucleus of the Air Corps' role in carrying out its responsibilities in this area is the Flight Training School (FTS) whose pilots fly the Pilatus PC-9M aircraft.

The PC-9M is a fast, modern, basic-to-advanced turboprop fixed-wing trainer. It is fitted with a 'heads-up' display (HUD) and, when not in the training role, can be armed with .5" heavy machine-guns and folding-fin aerial rockets (FFARs). Since its entry into service with the Air Corps in 2005 the PC-9M has been used to train all Air Corps cadets to the level required for the presentation of military pilot's wings. Aside from basic-to-advanced cadet flying training, FTS carries out instructor training on the aircraft for instructors from the FTS and other flying units of the Air Corps.

In recent years the Air Corps has focused on developing the operational roles of the PC-9M such as the provision of close air support (CAS) and the defensive counter-air (DCA) role. "The PC-9M

as an armed airborne platform, working in conjunction with ground air defence units such as the Air Defence Regiment, can be used against other airborne assets," explained Chief Flight Instructor Capt David O'Riordan. "When a foreign dignitary visits, such as Queen Elizabeth in 2011, the air defence commander will draw up a security cordon around the dignitary, whether they are stationary or on the move. The inner cordon uses ground assets, such as the RBS 70, while the PC-9Ms provide an outer exclusion zone. The role of the PC-9M crews in such cases is to provide an air power platform for use as directed by the air defence commander, should the need arise."

Last year during the queen's visit the pilots and technicians of the FTS main-

tained continuous combat air patrolling during daylight hours to enforce the exclusion zone around the queen and her delegation as she stayed in Farmleigh House. As the delegation moved from location to location across the country, the ground and airborne defence cordon followed in order to maintain the exclusion zone.

In general, the PC-9Ms maintained combat air patrol (CAP) positions approximately ten nautical miles away, except when the delegation was moving by air, at which time the PC-9Ms maintained racetrack CAPs within close visual range of the queen's helicopter. These rolling CAPs were used to enforce what is known as 'purple airspace' - airspace restricted only for use by the delegation.





To maintain a serviceable fleet of aircraft for the duration of the visit the FTS technical staff worked tirelessly to not only service, but to arm and disarm the aircraft on a near continuous basis. To their credit, this resulted in a 100% dispatch rate for the entire visit, ensuring a continuous patrolling presence.

For CAS and DCA patrolling the PC-9M is armed with .5" heavy machine-guns, and pilots are trained to respond to a wide range of complex scenarios. Everything that happens in the air is controlled from the ground, which means that FTS pilots do not act without the authority of the air defence commander, who maintains a position near the radar-guided intercept controllers (RGIC) that the air traffic controllers in Baldonnel are specifically trained for.

"If an aircraft is located in the vicinity we will get a call to tell us an aircraft is approaching the EZ either on a 'high aspect' or a 'low aspect,'" said Capt O'Riordan, "High aspect means that the target aircraft is looking likely to enter the EZ, while a low aspect means that, given its current trajectory, it will not pose any threat to the EZ."

"If it is high aspect and the RGIC controller deems an intercept is likely or necessary, our first task is to intercept the aircraft and identify it. As the PC-9M is not radar equipped, we must work out mathematically what the best intercept vector will be. Once a successful interception has been completed, we pass the relevant information to the RGIC who in turn passes it onto the air defence commander. The ADC will then make the next decision in conjunction with higher authorities as to what subsequent actions the aircrew will take. On 99% of occasions the likelihood is that the aircraft that has been intercepted

does not want to be there in the first place. They may be on the wrong communications frequency or simply in the wrong place at the wrong time."

During the queen's visit the flight path of a helicopter travelling from Northern Ireland to the K-Club in Kildare would have taken it very close to the queen's flight path as she was arriving into Baldonnel. A PC-9M on a CAP patrol to the north of Dublin Airport was ordered to carry out an interception. Once communication with the helicopter had been re-established with ATC, it was escorted away from the EZ.

"On intercepting an aircraft you relay all information," Capt O'Riordan said, "aircraft type, registration, passengers, if any, and the condition of crew or their actions. They may give you a signal indicating they are fine but their radio equipment is not working or they may be simply alerted to the fact that they have inadvertently strayed into prohibited airspace."

The PC-9M pilots will either be given the order to escort or shepherd the aircraft out of the EZ. "To escort means to fly behind the intercepted aircraft and verify that they leave the EZ," Capt O'Riordan explained, "whereas to 'shepherd' an aircraft means you physically have to ensure that the aircraft leaves the EZ. In that case the PC-9M pilot will manoeuvre his aircraft to come up alongside the intercepted aircraft which ensures he can be seen by the crew. The pilot then rocks his aircraft's wings, which is the recognised international signal to let them know that they need to follow - of course, if communications have



been established by means of radio, this would be used instead. The aircraft is then obliged, under law, to follow the military aircraft."

The military pilot's last resort is the use of force, although this is a scenario that thankfully has not arisen to date in Ireland but is nevertheless an eventuality that has to be prepared for. All of the pilots in the unit have been trained in the use of the PC-9M's weapons by carrying out live-firing of all the aircraft's weapons systems in the air-to-ground role. They have also been trained in the theory of air-to-air firing, fighter manoeuvre procedures and the air interception techniques described above. This training ensures that if the ADC on the ground decides lethal force is required it would progress much the same way COD 6 does. "It's a matter of escalation as required," said Capt O'Riordan. "For example, you start off by warning the other aircraft by radio that warning shots are about to be used. If this was an insufficient deterrent this would be followed by warning shots. This would be followed by firing aimed shots wide of the target before finally firing aimed shots designed to disable the aircraft if it still refused to co-operate."

In order to ensure secure authorisation before firing, pilots will ask for an authorisation code from the ADC. This is to verify the controller on the ground has not been compromised and the firing command is real.

To be able to conduct CAS and DCA patrolling an FTS pilot must complete an air interception course, a basic fighter manoeuvres (BFM) course, and a weapons course involving the HMGs and the FFARs.

With Ireland taking over the EU presidency in 2013, FTS carried out a series of courses this year in order to achieve full operational status for all ground and airborne crews.

Lt Odhran Murphy, who joined the FTS in 2010 as an instructor, has just completed all three courses. After qualifying as a flight instructor on the PC-9M he moved on to his combat aviation training. "This type of training is very different from flying the Cessnas and Learjet that I was flying before I joined FTS," said Lt Murphy. "The courses were excellent and give you an opportunity to practice flying that you would not normally get. It was a big change from pulling 1.2G on a Learjet to pulling 4.5G on the PC-9M with weapons fitted."

The air interception phase deals with events beyond visual range. The PC-9M does not have onboard radar so if it is 20km away from a target the pilot has to manoeuvre in order to get a visual with the aircraft. As part of this training the FTS pilots use the various other aircraft in the Air Corps fleet to practise interceptions on. Whatever about finding a Casa cruising along at high altitude with its large cross-sectional profile, a Cessna 172 at low altitude is not that easy to spot.

"On the interception you are beyond visual range," Lt Murphy continued, "so you can't actually see the target aircraft. It's about getting yourself into the situation where you can see it. You rely heavily on information from the RGIC, who gives you altitude, location, speed, and track. You effectively use that information to draw a vector diagram and work out what speed and altitude you need to intercept the target aircraft."

The air interceptor course culminates in a day-long exercise based on a scenario involving a foreign dignitary's visit.

The BFM course teaches a pilot how to get into the target aircraft's manoeuvre cone by using different aspects of the PC-9M's capabilities, such as speed and manoeuvrability. The weapons course teaches the pilots how to use the weapons systems onboard. Weapons are fired in a controlled environment at ground targets to ensure currency and familiarity.

"For the likes of CAPs we only use the .5" HMGs," said Lt Murphy. "Firing at ground targets gives you some appreciation of how effective the weapons systems are. But on the BFM course you realise just how close you will actually have to get to put a target in your 'heads-up' display. Thankfully, we have never been presented with such a scenario."

CAS and DCA patrolling have brought another dimension to the Air Corps' capabilities. Having the ability to defend our own airspace is an essential part of our sovereignty. In addition, for the duration of the EU presidency next year there will be many foreign leaders visiting our shores and protecting them on land and in the air must be guaranteed. The Air Corps will have an important role to play in accomplishing this task.

# A MODERN WAR HORSE



BY CPL NOEL COSS WITH CAPT MICHAEL MURPHY (CAV SCH)  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CPL NOEL COSS

Conventional and special forces units around the globe have been utilising the motorcycle for decades, including the Irish Defence Forces, where they have been in use since the 1940s and are employed today by the Cavalry Corps, the Military Police and the Army Ranger Wing.

At the Cavalry Corps' annual dispatch rider (DR) concentration in the DFTC, I talked to Capt Mick Murphy from the Cav School about the relevance of motorcycles in today's military.

"Combat and operational experience gained in conflicts around the globe has shown the importance of mobility," he told me. "High mobility is vital for any military force be it during conventional war-fighting, or peace-support operations, and one of the means to enhance mobility is a reliable cross-country motorcycle. During World War II motorcycles were in service with all the fighting armies, and in today's recent conflicts the motorcycle has been very effective in increasing

the fighting efficiency of military units, particularly in Iraq and the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, where the manoeuvrability of two-wheeled transport has proved invaluable."

So the big question for the Defence Forces is how we could benefit tactically from the use of motorcycles. Are they practical? Can they provide commanders with an effective asset? How can they best be utilised and would they be cost effective?

Capt Murphy agreed that everything the Defence Forces purchases can only be justified if it has a strong utility value in all types of operations, particularly in the current economic climate. However from his personal experience Capt Murphy believes that there is a significant requirement to have a motorcycle capability, particularly overseas, and because of the relatively low cost versus the capability offered by motorcycles it is easily justifiable.



"When I was serving in Liberia," Capt Murphy explained, "I noticed that patrolling during the wet season was particularly difficult for the Mowags and combat service support. There were often times when villages couldn't be reached, which meant that our patrols were not visible throughout our whole AO and our intelligence gathering capacity was also reduced. The dry season also presented its own problems at times with the Mowags and soft-skinned vehicles finding it difficult to traverse the full road networks. Motorcycles offer the capability to fill these gaps."

"In the area of scouting/reconnaissance, motorcycles are excellent for scouting forward along a road or track at speed, while checking the condition of the route and assessing its capacity to take the weights and widths of service vehicles such as Mowags or to find out if bridges are intact and capable of taking heavy vehicles. Alternatively they can increase navigation efficiency by scouting ahead of convoys in order to pick the best routes and prevent scenarios where vehicles would go down a road or track that would prove to be non-navigable and where it might be difficult to turn around."

"They can also provide increased force visibility. In areas where AFVs and APCs are unable to gain access due to the terrain or weather conditions, motorcycles and

quad-bikes can ensure that a force maintains a visible and deterrent presence.

"The excellent mobility offered by motorcycles ensure that the gathering of PIRs would be possible from even the remotest, hard-to-access areas, while also providing an excellent means of communication if technical comms break down or if sensitive info/intel needs to be delivered from mouth to ear."

"In addition, because of their light weight and manoeuvrability in all terrains motorcycles are the ideal vehicle to avoid injury by mines and IEDs. Firstly, it is easier for motorcycles to stay off the most commonly travelled roads, which reduces the likelihood of encountering mines and IEDs. Secondly, their light weight means they are far less likely to activate pressure-activated anti-tank mines."

"Modern military motorcycles can carry out all these tasks across all terrains over long distances and in all types of weather."

"Recent years have seen the utilisation of quad-bikes in theatres of conflict, particularly the ongoing war in Afghanistan where quads have been used for numerous tasks, including casevac, and patrolling in areas with a high risk from mines and IEDs."

"From a military perspective, motorcycles can provide commanders with a tool that allows them gain access into areas that before may have only been accessible on foot and that allows recce and information gathering troops to conduct a wide range of operations in a more expedient and efficient manner."

Capt Murphy's overall view on motorcycles in today's military is that they can prove indispensable in both conventional and peacekeeping operations, particularly where there is no clear-cut line dividing opposing forces.

"When the road ends, the motorcycle will keep going," Capt Murphy says as we finish our interview. "Accessibility and versatility have been the key words associated with the role of military motorcycles since their integration into the world military organisations." ■





# Helping those Who Served



BY CPL PAUL MILLAR  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOMHNALL MAC CÁRTHAIGH (PRO, SAC ONE) & ONE

**Ó**glaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONE) is a support organisation for ex-service personnel of the Defence Forces. It has been recognised by the Minister of Defence as the official representative of ex-members, as well as receiving charity status from the Revenue Commissioners, which it uses to great effect in supporting our former colleagues.

**ONE CAN TRACE** its lineage back to the massive demobilisation that followed the Emergency, when thousands of ex-servicemen formed various associations to maintain the camaraderie and support they experienced while in service. In 1950 these groups came together to form the Irish ex-Servicemen's Organisation. It adapted a badge that had the crest of the Defence Forces around a centre piece of black and tan (to honour those who fought against that force in 1919-'21) with the number '1' superimposed to signify unity.

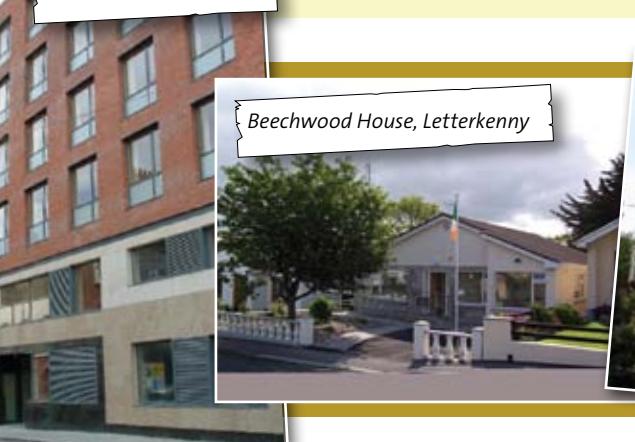
Shortly afterwards the name was also changed to Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann, or the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and these initials, ONE, were also incorporated into their cap badge, where they still remain.

Today, ONE has expanded to over 50 branches, with two of these in England. What has remained the same, however, is the spirit in which it was founded. Membership is open to all people from all our defence services: the PDF, the RDF, the Irish Red Cross and Civil Defence, provided the person

was honourably discharged with a minimum of one year's satisfactory service.

Serving members are probably most aware of ONE through their annual Fuchsia appeal, one of many campaigns ONE uses to fund its main objective: assisting the welfare of ex-servicemen and women through the provision of accommodation or other assistance that may be required. The importance of providing accommodation came painfully to light during the winter of 1988 when a number of homeless ex-soldiers died on the streets of Dublin from hypothermia. In response to this tragedy ONE embarked on five years of planning, organising and fundraising that resulted in the establishment of the 20-room soldiers' home Brú na bhFiann (Home of the Brave).

Today ONE homes, located in Dublin, Letterkenny and Athlone, can cater for 44 veterans. With a turnover of around 100 veterans per year (most of these going on to be housed by local authorities), ONE is making a real difference to the



lives and futures of our former comrades.

But this support does not come cheap, requiring around €600,000 per year to run these services. Hard work is needed to sustain the many fundraising initiatives ONE plans and runs each year. The most public of these is the Fuchsia Appeal, which has been run since 2007. So wherever you see ONE members selling the fuchsia emblem please be generous as you will be helping our own. A number of branches also run a lotto, which has proven to be successful in raising the much needed funds.

*The Ballincollig branch held its 'Lá na bhFiann' on Sunday 22nd July 2012.*



*ONE marching in Thurles, in this year's 'Remembrance Parade' organised by the Thurles Memorial Committee and The Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation.*



*The Nenagh Lower Ormonde Branch of ONE held its 'Lá na bhFiann' on Sunday 7th. October 2012.*



Brú na bhFiann also has four double and six single guest rooms providing bed and breakfast in the centre of Dublin at a discounted rate to subscribed members of the Defence Forces. It's another inventive way to raise money.

There is also ONE's annual golf classic and AGM raffle, which also serve as a means for members from around the country to catch up.

This brings us to an aspect of ONE that can't be measured in numbers; the spirit of comradeship. This is fostered by social events and outings, organised at either national level or by the individual branches. There have been trips to Poland and Lebanon, as well as escapes to more local parts in Ireland. All these activities give a real sense of belonging through meeting and socialising with others who have served, something that a lot of veterans find lacking when they retire from the Defence Forces.

President Michael D Higgins is ONE's patron and the organisation is structured with a board of directors at the top that co-ordinates four councils, located in the four provinces. Each council has a number of local branches located throughout its area.

To compliment the ongoing great work, a strategic plan that spans 2011-15 is now in place. Part of this plan is a new website, [www.oneconnect.ie](http://www.oneconnect.ie), that is being worked on at the moment. A quick glance at this site shows the value ONE place on informing its members, with a wealth of information on entitlements and support that ex-soldiers or their families may be entitled to, branch details, as well as upcoming dates and functions. If you have any questions about ONE you will likely find the answer there.

The future of ONE can not only be seen in its strategic plan, but also in its links with

other veteran associations. Strong relationships have been forged with IUNVA and ARCO and as a result it is planned to establish a Veterans Affairs Committee, comprising members of the three organisations. This has the potential to reshape the landscape for all our veterans in terms of organisation, support and representation.

The Fuchsia badge is stamped with the word 'Cuimhnímis' ('Let Us Remember'). This concept is central to the three national commemorations that ONE either run or attend each year. ONE members are invited to the government's National Day of Commemoration, which takes place in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on the nearest Sunday to 11th July (the date in 1921 of the signing of the truce in the War of Independence). The Niemba Ambush Remembrance in Cathal Brugha Bks, organised by ONE members, is held on the nearest Saturday to the actual date of that ambush (8 November 1960). The 2012 commemoration took place on Saturday November 10th. The third event, Lá na bhFiann, is ONE's national day of commemoration, which begins with a parade to Arbour Hill church, followed by a reading of the Proclamation and a wreath-laying ceremony. The latest ONE News is the opening of a new drop-in centre in Limerick, which is a credit to members of The Patrick Sarsfield Branch and all in ONE, because it will be used as a template as they hope to open more drop-in centres around the country. ■

*To contact ONE call 01-4850600, email [info@oneconnect.ie](mailto:info@oneconnect.ie), or visit [www.oneconnect.ie](http://www.oneconnect.ie).*



# 107 INF BN NEWS

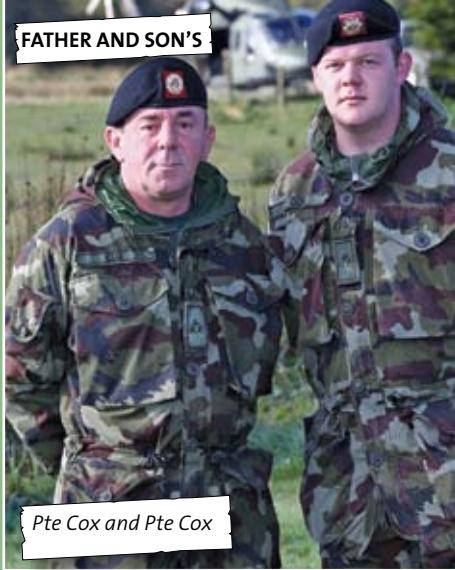
BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & CPL COLUM LAWLOR

MAIN IMAGE BY 107 INF BN



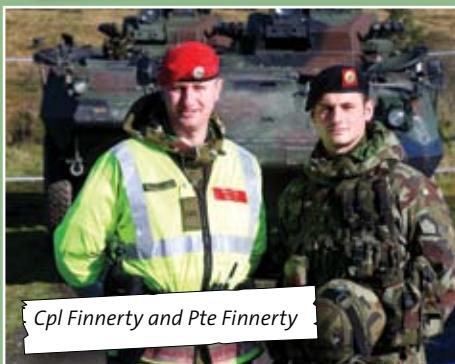
**O**n October 12th, the 332 Irish troops of 107 IrishFinn Battalion, drawn mainly from 4 W Bde, underwent the final phases of an intensive training period in preparation for their six-month deployment to Lebanon with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In Lebanon the Irish troops will be joined by 177 Finnish soldiers deploying as an integral part of the battalion. In addition to UNIFIL, Irish and Finish troops have previously served together in combined units in Kosovo and Chad, and share a common, solid reputation in peacekeeping worldwide, as well as a reputation as impartial and highly trained professionals.



Pte Cox and Pte Cox



Sgt Jinx and Pte Jinx



Cpl Finnerty and Pte Finnerty



Capt Keane interviews Comdt O'Riordan

The unit's mission readiness exercise (MRE) put commanders and soldiers through a demanding series of scenarios based on the current situation in Lebanon and potential threats that may be encountered in the mission area. Scenarios involving simulated explosive strikes, air mobile helicopter drills, and anti-ambush tactics using a variety of advanced weapons systems, detailed planning and traditional peacekeeping methods.

D COS (Ops) Maj Gen Ralph James visited the exercise and said, "I have been very impressed by the standard of training, professionalism and leadership that I have witnessed in today's robust and realistic exercise. I know that this unit will continue the long and proud tradition of Irish soldiers putting themselves in harms way for peace and security overseas."

The battalion, commanded by Lt Col Dave Dignam, a native of Dublin currently based in Donegal, will occupy a new post situated south of the village of At Tiri. The post will be renamed Camp Shamrock and is approximately 7km from the Blue Line that defines the boundary between Lebanon and Israel.

Pte Martin Ward is a member of the 107 IrishFinn Bn. Pte Ward's father, Cpl Peter Ward, was killed serving with UNIFIL in 1992 when his checkpoint came under fire from Hezbollah gunmen. Martin was only six at the time. Martin's uncle, Pte William O'Brien, had also lost his life while serving with UNIFIL in 1986. Also serving with the Bn is Pte Owen McLoughlin (28 Inf Bn). Pte McLoughlin's father, Cpl Dermot McLoughlin, was killed by Israeli tank fire in Lebanon while serving with UNIFIL in 1987.

Prior to their departure the battalion was reviewed by the Minister of State for Defence, Paul Kehoe TD, in Custume Bks, Athlone. The Minister said he was, "again reminded of the great pride we can take in all that the Defence Forces have done, and continue to do, as peacekeepers throughout the world." He told the troops that in continuing the work undertaken by 106 Inf Bn, serving as part of a combined Irish/Finnish battalion, "they will be making a valuable contribution to the peace and security in the region."

The 107 IrishFinn Bn deployed to Lebanon in mid-November, taking over duties from 106 IrishFinn Bn, who had been serving with UNIFIL since May. ■



Three friends: Pte Keady, Cpl Tobin and Pte Brady

# A Conflict of Interest

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA



As Ireland gears itself up for a decade of centenary events, across the water in Britain this year they have been remembering the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War, or as it is known to others, Guerra de las Malvinas. While many of us may remember this war taking place, few may remember what actually caused it or how Britain managed to regain control of a group of islands thousands of miles away in the South Atlantic.

At 0430hrs on April 2nd 1982, 150 men of the Buzo Tactico – Argentine special forces – landed by helicopter at Mullet Creek, a small inlet some three miles to the south-west of the Falklands' capital, Port Stanley. This landing was part of an Argentine invasion of the Falklands and coincided with an earlier covert operation by Argentine special forces that had secured South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

After a brief fire-fight, the island's garrison of British Royal Marines surrendered and were taken prisoner along with 1,800 inhabitants. With the islands secured, a large Argentine amphibious landing followed comprising two brigades under Brig Gen Mario Menendez. The Falklands War had commenced.

Located in the South Atlantic, the Falkland Islands lie approximately 500 miles (805km) east of southern Argentina. Port Stanley, the islands' capital, is the most southerly capital in the world. The area consists of two main islands and two hundred small islets. While the two main towns are Port Stanley and Goose Green, the population of the Falklands is scattered throughout the many sheep stations dotted throughout the islands.

First sighted in the 16th century, the islands were subse-

quently colonized by Britain, France and Spain, with Britain retaining ownership since 1833. The question of British sovereignty has long been disputed by Argentina, who laid claim to the islands on the basis of previous Spanish occupation.

In 1982, after almost 150 years of British occupation, the ruling Argentine junta wanted to force Britain into conceding sovereignty over the islands. The Junta hoped to force the issue at sovereignty negotiations in New York, asserting that the Falkland Islands were Argentine territory since the 19th century and therefore should be returned. The occupation of the islands by Argentine forces was seen by many as a legitimate claim to their lands but the British government saw it as an invasion of a British dependent territory.

Britain was initially taken by surprise by the Argentine attack, despite a warning from Royal Navy commanders that a reduction in the presence of its forces in the South Atlantic would encourage an attack. The British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, quickly decided to send a task force to the south Atlantic to retake the islands. As the British defence budget had been slashed and the British ministry of defence had no contingency plan for an invasion of the islands, this task force was rapidly assembled from whatever vessels were available.

The British military strategy devised was one born of necessity. Major General Jeremy Moore, who was appointed commander of operations, realised at an early stage that the retaking of the islands was going to be extremely difficult. The main constraint was the disparity in deployable air cover: while the British forces had the use of an aircraft carrier, HMS Hermes, the Argentines had the advantage of land-based airfields to launch attacks.

The first important military consideration was the isolation of the islands from the Argentine mainland by land and air. Using the Ascension Islands as a forward operating base, the British sent a lone Vulcan bomber to bomb the runway at Port Stanley. While the damage was minimal it demonstrated that the Royal Air Force could reach Argentine positions that were considered safe. While Argentine planes could launch from airfields on the mainland, they would only have enough fuel for a few minutes of attack time before they had to return to base to refuel.

Continuing their tactic of isolation, on April 12th Britain announced a maritime exclusion zone around the Falklands. Two British nuclear submarines were deployed to the area and on May 2nd the Argentine battleship, General Belgrano, was sunk with the loss of 360 lives. This action was a huge setback for the Argentine navy whose ships returned to port and did not participate in any further engagements. This action allowed the British task force to enter the South Atlantic unhindered and prepare for an assault on the islands.

After a combined force of British special forces and Royal Marines attacked and secured South Georgia,

Brigadier General Moore now planned an assault on the east island, identifying a landing area at Port San Carlos Water off the Falklands Sound. This area was chosen because it offered the best protection for the landing against any potential submarine threat and the surrounding hills made it difficult for strafing runs by Argentine aircraft. Though the British did not have air superiority they decided to go ahead with the plan.

On May 21st an amphibious landing took place and a beachhead established at San Carlos Bay, giving the British a foothold on the islands. Even though the approach was difficult, Argentine aircraft mounted repeated attacks on warships in the Falklands Sound, sinking HMS Ardent and HMS Antelope and damaging a number of other vessels. On May 25th HMS Coventry was also sunk. While the Argentine air force concentrated on the warships, they failed to stop the landing craft.

San Carlos Bay, located 50 miles from Port Stanley, was undefended as the Argentine command believed that any attack would take place closer to the capital. This indirect approach by the British reduced their potential for losses and enabled them to gain a firm foothold on the islands.

General Moore now turned his attention to attacking Argentine positions on the islands. He knew they would be well dug-in and his men would have to fight their way across the island to the towns of Goose Green and Port Stanley.

2 Para was detailed to take Goose Green and on May 28th-29th launched their assault against the town. This vicious battle left many dead on both sides but the paras managed to secure their objective.

Moore then ordered 45 Commando and 3 Para to take up positions near Port Stanley. With many of their helicopters destroyed when the Atlantic Conveyor was sunk, the soldiers had to trek across East Falkland in sub-zero temperatures.

As elements of 5th Brigade were landing at Bluff Cove to support the attack on Stanley, they were attacked by Argentine aircraft and suffered severe casualties. However, even with this setback the bulk of British Forces were now in position near Stanley. However, Argentine forces had dug-in along a number of mountains surrounding the town and these would have to be removed before Moore's forces could assault the capital.

On the night of June 11th-12th, 3 Para launched an attack and took Mount Longdon, 45 Commando took Two Sisters, and 42 Commando occupied Mount Harriet. On June 13th-14th the Scots Guards managed to take Tumbledown Mountain after a vicious battle, while 2 Para stormed Wireless Ridge. Much of the fighting was at close-quarters and casualties on both sides were high.

As the British pushed forward, supported by Harrier aircraft, the Argentine defence began to collapse. Argentine forces fell back into Port Stanley where Brig Gen Menendez surrendered his forces. The battle for the Falklands had come to an end.

The war cost the lives of 255 British servicemen and islanders and over 700 Argentineans. The Junta fell soon afterwards and the ensuing general election in Argentina was the country's first free election in ten years.

In seven weeks a British task force of 28,000 men and over 100 ships had been assembled and sailed 8,000 miles. It fought off combat aircraft that outnumbered its own by six to one. It put 10,000 men ashore on a hostile coast and fought several pitched battles against Argentine forces and had brought them to surrender within three-and-a-half weeks.

While the causes of the conflict and its outcome still remain controversial today, soldiers from both sides will this year be remembering not the battles that were won or lost but their fallen comrades.



# NEW BLOOD

## 62 Res Inf Bn Recruit Camp 2012

REPORT & PHOTOS BY CQMS MIKE BARRETT (D COY, 62 RES INF BN)

**A** recruit training camp was conducted by 62 Res Inf Bn between June 23rd and July 5th, with recruits from several units in the Dublin area, including 2 AD Regt, 62 Tpt Coy, 62 Fd Arty Regt, 62 Cav Sqn, 62 Fd Eng Coy, 62 CIS Coy and the companies of the 62 Inf Bn itself.

The training was based on the approved RDF Recruit Training Syllabus, with NCOs from participating units and 62 Res Inf Bn appointed as instructors.

The first day of the course saw over 50 recruits turn up at Cathal Brugha Bks, where all personnel would be living in on week-one of the course. After the usual admin, training started in earnest with rifle marksmanship and various lectures on military and DF topics, the aim of which was to bring everybody up to the same standard. Courses with personnel from different units will always have different levels of competence, and this must be addressed in the early stages. Classroom lessons included the assembling of PLCE, fire orders, organisation and equipment of an infantry section and platoon.

A new feature of the training in barracks was the introduction of the new Steyr arms drill. An instructor from 2 Inf Bn conducted a short training course for five RDF NCOs, who in turn instructed the recruits, and in no time the sight of RDF soldiers carrying out the new drill on the square drew many a glance from the PDF personnel in Cathal Brugha Bks. Long hours spent on the Steyr concluded with TOETs, in preparation for the recruits first time firing a weapon, in the second week.

The second week began with the course moving to the Glen of Imaal, with fieldcraft and basic tactical training becoming the main focus of attention. A day trip to Kilbride range saw all recruits firing the Steyr Table 21, before the main tactical exercise of the week, Exercise 'Holdfast', a test of section- and platoon -level drills and base-camp routine.

The recruits then moved to Leitrim Forest, where lessons in camouflage, concealment, observation, and base-camp routine were put to the test.

Towards the end of the week Brig Gen Finn, GOC 2 E Bde, paid a visit to the training camp, and watched the recruits carrying out their field craft. On his arrival to Coolmoney Brig Gen Finn was met by an honour guard of senior privates, who presented arms using the new drill.

The recruit camp concluded on Friday July 6th, and the course returned to Cathal Brugha Bks, from where the students returned to their units, taking their newly learnt skills with them. ■



# EW BLOG



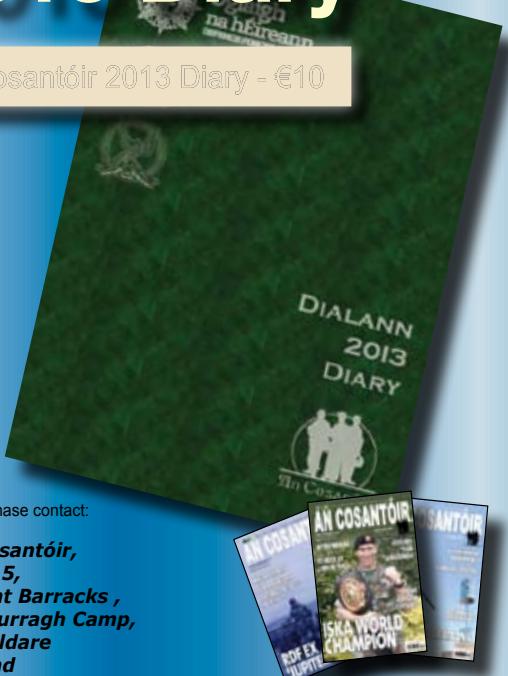
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# SALUTING

While the origin of the hand salute is uncertain, many historians believe it began in late Roman times when assassinations were common. A citizen who wanted to see a public official had to approach with his right hand raised to show that he did not hold a weapon. Knights in armour raised visors with the right hand when meeting a comrade. This practice gradually became a way of showing respect and in the early 1820s, the motion was modified to touching the hat and since then it has become the hand salute. In the Defence Forces only officers are saluted, and the salute is to the commission they carry.

*Taken from the Manual of Foot Drill Part 1, Section 5  
Saluting - Preliminary Instructions*



**72.** Every soldier owes respect to his superiors of whatever rank. He owes this respect on and off duty and he owes it to superiors in units other than his own. The salute is the definite and particular expression of this respect. In order to instil this respect for the superior, the recruit must be thoroughly drilled in saluting from the earliest moment of his instruction. He must be taught to regard the salute as an act indicating recognition of the bond between him and the superior, a declaration that he is at the orders of his superior in case of need. The salute has nothing servile in its character, but is, on the contrary, a symbol of manly co-operation in a common service.

**73.** As a smart salute is the indication of the subordinate's confidence in his superior, so that superior must show that he is conscious of that confidence by the manner in which he acknowledges the salute. Officers must be careful to display no slackness in this respect, even when wearing civilian clothes. The salute is a professional bond between soldiers and therefore should exhibit a soldierly character on both sides. A military subordinate must address his superior with respect and politeness but without nervousness or servility. A military superior must address his subordinate firmly but without pompousness or stiffness. Any familiarity of address is undesirable.

## 74. GENERAL NOTES ON SALUTING

- (a)** The President, the Taoiseach and other Members of the Government will be saluted by all ranks.
- (b)** Officers or soldiers meeting troops with uncased Standard or Colours will halt and salute the Standard or Colours.
- (c)** An officer or NCO in charge of a party on the move will, in

paying compliments, order his party to march to attention and will give the command 'Dearcaig fó dheis/chlé!' ('Eyes right/left!'), he himself saluting at the same time.

**(d)** Officers and other ranks in civilian clothes will render and acknowledge salutes by raising the head-dress.

**(e)** When addressing the Sergeant-Major or Company Sergeant on parade, a soldier will halt smartly in front of him at the 'Slope', or 'Order', if armed, or if unarmed in the position of attention.

**(f)** If a number of men are walking together and not under the command of an officer or NCO all will salute, the time being taken from the man nearest to the officer.

## 75. SALUTING WITHOUT ARMS

Saluting – 'CÚIRTÉIS – AON' (SALUTE - ONE)

**(a)** Bring the right hand smartly with a circular motion to the head, palm turned downwards, fingers extended and close together, point of the forefinger touching the peak of the cap (or lower edge of forage cap or Glengarry) over the right eye, thumb close to the forefinger, elbow in line and square with the shoulder.

"DO" (TWO) Cut away the arm straight down to the side.

**(b)** "JUDGING THE TIME - SALUTE"

As before. After a pause equal to two paces in quick time, cut away the arm to the side.

## NOTE:

- (i)** When saluting to the right (left) the head will be turned smartly to the right (left) and turned smartly to the front as the arm is cut away to the side.
- (ii)** When saluting on the move, the left arm will be as in the position of attention.

# Ag Foghlaim na Gaeilge Arís

BY COMDT GERRY JORDAN (58 RES INF BN)

PHOTOS BY FR ROBERT MCCABE CF

**A**lthough it was something that had been on my mind for a number of years it was only after talking to a friend, Capt Gerard McPartlan, about attempting to revive our interest in the Irish language, that we both decided to apply for the Campa Gaeilge in April 2010. There was an additional attraction for me with the course being in Galway as I worked at the reception desk in USAC as a corporal back in the mid-'70s.

It was quite another matter, however, getting back to speaking and learning Irish again after so long. Since doing honours Irish in the Leaving Certificate in 1974 I hadn't spoken any Irish or shown much interest in the language since then. However, the more I reflected on it the more I became aware of the grá that I once had for it.

The details of the course informed us that "The emphasis of the camp will be towards the spoken language, which is directed towards all ability groups, from beginner to fluent speaker; persons attending, however, will need some basic understanding of the language (early secondary school level will suffice)." The course was to consist of formal classes, conducted daily in Carraroe, Connemara.

When asked which ability level class we wished to attend my two RDF colleagues on the course, Comdt Michael Flannery (HQ RDF) and Capt McPartlan (58 Inf Bn), and I opted, wisely in hindsight, for the middle level, the other two levels being for beginners and fluent speakers.

The camp was to be based primarily around structured classes, under the auspices of NUIG, and conducted in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, An Cheathrú Rúa, Connemara. In the joining instruction it was mentioned that dress was to be neat civilian only: this would be my first time in 37 years going on camp bringing only civilian attire.

The course was being organised, as in previous years, under the proficient and enthusiastic direction of Col JJ O'Reilly and CQMS Peadar Ó Flatharta. We had an excellent lecturer and we were soon doing a myriad of translation-type exercises. Indeed, we were all, I think, more than pleasantly surprised at how quickly the Irish came back to us.

The 60 or so personnel that made up the three classes ranged in ages from 20 to late 50s and included many ranks from within the PDF, the Naval Service, the Air Corps and the RDF. As all were in civilian attire, there was no obvious rank structure which made for a much more relaxed atmosphere. Also, as with many adult education classes there was plenty of fun and banter, which helped to 'break the ice'.

The daily schedule consisted of intensive morning tutorials with attention directed towards spoken contemporary Irish, aiming at correct pronunciation, proper idiom and development of vocabulary. The main aim of these was to foster conversational ability and fluency.

The afternoons consisted





of various cultural activities outside of the college. One of the most enjoyable and memorable of these was a demonstration and explanation of sean-nós dancing, a casual form of Irish step dancing. (Sean-nós means 'old style', and refers to various activities, which also includes sean-nós singing.) As well as being very interesting it was at times hilarious. Having the class in a circle attempting the steps was a sight to behold, and was thankfully not recorded.

Other afternoon activities included local history trips in the company of the renowned archaeologist Michael Gibbons as well as a visit to Radio na Gaeltachta.

At night in Galway, on our own time, there were trips to various hostellries to listen to Irish music and explore the culture further. One was expected to participate fully in these events, no matter how onerous!

My personal objective in doing the course was to gain a renewed interest in the language and to gain the encouragement to actively speak it again. This has been achieved and I now watch TG4 and listen to Radio na Gaeltachta at every opportunity. I never thought that I would be trying to convince my teenage daughter, Aoife, to watch yet another soap on TV but now I am, but at least it's Ros na Rún. I am now much more aware and appreciate the marvellous facilities that TG4 and Radio na Gaeltachta provide. Also I find the weekly Irish column in the Irish Times and the Wednesday supplement with the Irish Independent, Foinse, to be very worthwhile and great learning aids.

In New York this year to march in my third St Patrick's Day parade I again met and had some very interesting chats with serving US soldier Sergeant Séamus 'na Gaeilge' Ó Fiaghhsusa, who learned Irish from the internet and who was the subject of the first ever war zone documentary to be produced as Gaeilge. The documentary was made by TG4 in 2010 as Séamus, who was born to an Irish father and Korean mother and raised in Brooklyn, began a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

There are strong Irish ties with the 69th Regiment of New York, the unit to which Sgt Ó Fiaghhsusa belongs, not only because many Irishmen fought in its ranks but also because one of its most famous generals was Michael Corcoran, a

native of Ballymote, Co

Sligo. The Mayor of New York City,

Michael Bloomberg, unveiled a monument to Michael Corcoran (1827–1863) of 'the Fighting 69th' in Ballymote on August 22nd, 2006, at which the guard of honour was provided by 58 Res Inf Bn, who's area of operations covers the counties of Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim.

As a reciprocal gesture the mayor later invited 58 Res Inf Bn to take part in New York's 2010 St Patrick's Day parade and we have taken part in both the 2011 and 2012 parades since.

The documentary, Dúshlán ('Challenge'), follows Séamus from New York to Belfast and Donegal, then onwards to the extremes of the Afghan conflict.

To quote Séamus from the documentary: "Irish has an international relevance. Our language is vibrant and capable of change in modern circumstances, as well as having its traditional associations."

The achievement of Sgt Fennessy of the 69th Regiment, as a born New Yorker who transformed his interest in the language to his current level of competence, is an example to us all. I look forward to meeting him at the HQ of the 69th Regiment in Lexington Avenue in New York next year.

I intend at every opportunity to increase my proficiency in the Irish language. This desire has been kindled exclusively by my attendance on the Irish language courses in Galway. The 20th Campa Gaeilge took place this year and the course organisers again deserve the highest praise for their professionalism and enthusiasm. I hope that many future participants avail of their dedication and experience. I also hope over the coming years that we maintain the friendships that we made during the courses.

Perhaps there is scope in the future, for those of us close to retiring and those who have retired, for setting up a Cúirde Campa Gaeilge and spending a few days in Connemara each year as a way of keeping in contact and brushing up on the language.

*Is gaeilgeoir mé anois (nil mé ró líofa, b'fhéidir, ach is gaeilgeoir mé ar aon nós) agus tá mo shaol níos saibhre dá bharr. Is cinnte go mbeidh mé ag foghlaim agus ag úsáid na teanga go deo.*

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# FAMOUS IRISH REGIMENTS:

## *The Connaught Rangers*

BY J P POWELL FRGS



**T**he Connaught Rangers were formed as the 88th Regiment of the British Army in 1793. The necessity of building up enough forces to confront Revolutionary France overcame previous prejudice against raising Catholic regiments, and recruits for the new regiment were mostly Irish Catholics. General de Burgh, later the Earl of Clanrickard, who raised the regiment was its first colonel....

The Peninsula War (1808-1814) against Napoleon raised the profile of the regiment, and while serving with the Duke of Wellington's army the regiment became known as 'The Devil's Own'. One of their many noteworthy actions was the storming of Ciudad Rodriguez in January 1812. This was followed by the equally hard fought but successful seizure of Badajoz in March.

The Rangers also participated in a series of other major victories at Busaco (September 1810), Vittorio (June 1813), and Talavera (July 1813).

During the Battle of Salamanca (July 1812) the Connaught Rangers captured a French standard crowned with an eagle

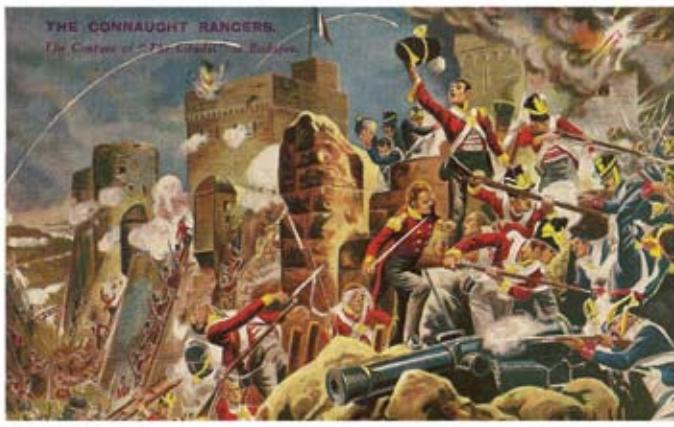
and adorned with bells and half moons. Nicknamed 'Jingling Johnny' it was subsequently carried by the tallest man in the regiment on special occasions.

The Crimean War (1854-1856) saw the Rangers fighting in the battles of the Alma and Inkerman and taking part in the final assault on the Russian fortress of Sevastopol.

In the Kaffir War (1877-1878) in the Transkei area of South Africa, the Connaught Rangers were sent from their base in Athlone to suppress a rebellion led by Kreli, the chief of the Galeka tribe. They later served in the Zulu War of 1879, but without seeing any major fighting.

The Boer War (1899-1902) resulted in several early defeats for the British Army. As part of General Hart's 5th Irish Brigade the Connaught Rangers formed part of the force defeated by the Boers at the battles of Colenso (November 1899) and Spion Kop (December 1899). The regiment did, however, participate in the successful relief of Ladysmith in February 1900. By early 1901 the Rangers were able to form five mounted units for action

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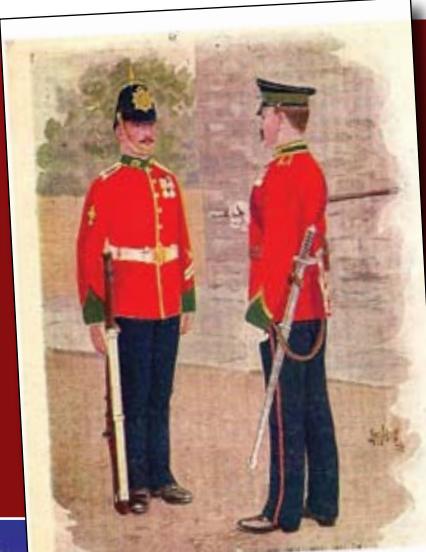


## THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS.

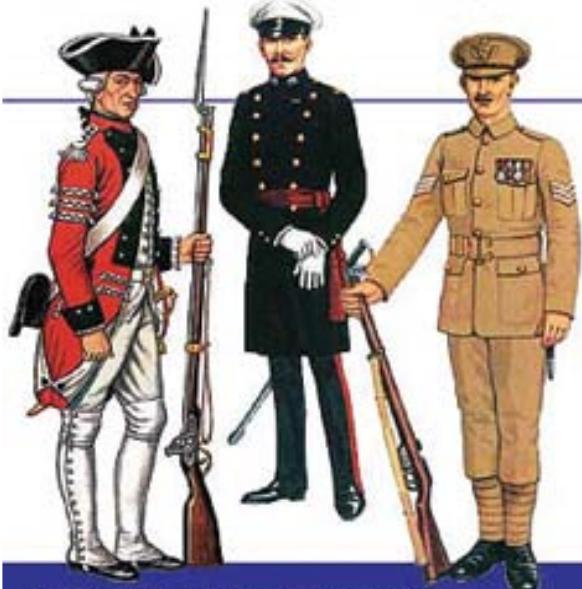
(88th Foot and 94th Foot.)

### BATTLE HONOURS.

The Harp and Crown, with the motto "Quis Separabit."  
 The Elephant. The Sphinx, superscribed "Egypt."  
 "Seringapatam," "Nivelle."  
 "Talavera," "Orthes."  
 "Busaco," "Toulouse."  
 "Fuentes" "Peninsula."  
 "d'Onor," "Alma."  
 "Ciudad" "Inkerman."  
 "Rodrigo," "Sebastopol."  
 "Badajoz," "Central India."  
 "Salamanas," "South Africa,"  
 "Vittoria," 1877-8-9."  
 "South Africa, 1899-1902," "Relief of Ladysmith."



## The Connaught Rangers



# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

against Boer commandos who were conducting a guerrilla war following the defeat of the main Boer armies.

Heavy losses were incurred during the regiment's last campaigns, which took place during the First World War. At Loos in 1915 they suffered severely at the hands of a well placed German machine-gun team.

During the disastrous Dardanelles campaign of 1915-1916 the regiment took part in the operations in the Suvla Bay area of the Gallipoli peninsula with the 10th Irish Division, where they were praised by the Australians for an heroic charge at Kabak Kuyal near a position known as Hill 60.

Following the evacuation of Gallipoli the regiment was shipped to Macedonia to fight the Bulgarians. They also served in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), then part of the Turkish Empire, as well as in the Palestine campaign under General Allenby.

Back on the Western Front the Rangers saw action during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and during the final offensive which ended in the defeat of Germany in November 1918.

In 1920 the regiment mutinied for the only time in their history while stationed in Jullander in India. Reacting to news of Black-and-Tan atrocities in Ireland, several soldiers refused to obey orders and hoisted the Irish tricolour. In all 69 men took part in the mutiny, of whom 14 were subsequently sentenced to death, although only one, Private James Daly, was executed. There was much controversy back in Britain and Ireland over the harshness meted out to the men, many of whom had served with distinction in the First World War.

In 1922 'The Devil's Own' was one of several Irish regiments disbanded. As the newly formed Irish Free State army did not adopt the practice of naming their units after provinces or cities, the Connaught regiment disappeared from the Irish military scene.

King House, in Boyle, County Roscommon, (one of the few military museums in Ireland open to the public) has a section dealing with 'The Fighting Men of Connaught', with exhibits from the Roscommon Militia alongside a large number of exhibits relating to the Connaught Rangers.

*Recommended reading:* The Connaught Rangers (Men-at-Arms) by Alan Shepperd and illustrated by Michael Youens. Publisher: Osprey Publishing (June 15, 1972) Paperback ISBN: 978-0850450835. ■

# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

## Remembering the Connaught Rangers

# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

BY TPR WILLIAM BEIRNE (4 CAV SQN), TREASURER CRA

PHOTOS BY TPR WILLIAM BEIRNE (4 CAV SQN) & SGT DERMOT KELLY RETD (4 CAV SQN)

**A**fter a meeting in 2002 in King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, the Connaught Rangers Association (CRA) was established to commemorate the deeds and sacrifices of the men who served in this famous Irish regiment of the British army, and to remember the families who lost loved ones during the Great War and who were left to grieve in silence due to the political and social upheaval in Ireland at the time.

To commemorate the military tradition, service and sacrifice of these soldiers and their families' steps were taken to set up a museum in King House.

The Old Comrades Association of the Connaught Rangers last sat in the late 1960s but with their passing, first-hand accounts of their deeds died with them. However, their stories, passed down to relatives and historians, have kept their memory alive, and have helped immensely to formulate a database of information now held by the CRA.

During its first ten years the CRA has held an annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony in the grounds of King House, and numbers attending have grown year on year. The Association also undertook the recording of all the regiment's war diaries from the Great War, which was a mammoth task, especially for our archivist Oliver Fallon. All this information had to be sourced through the UK's National Archives in Kew and then copied from entries that were often made with pencil while in the trenches.

The Association has also organised many trips to France, Flanders, and Gallipoli.

Our museum was opened in 2005 by Brig Gen Martin (retd). This was a very memorable day with a large crowd in attendance from all over Ireland and the UK. Attendees included members of the Disbanded Irish Regiments Association and a number of Irish military associations.

Since its formation the CRA has been aided greatly by the inclusion of retired and serving military personnel in its ranks and on the committee. When trying to explain the traditions of military service to 'civvies', it has always been a great benefit to be able to fall back on our members' own experiences.

There has always been a very strong involvement of 4 Cav Sqn personnel on our committee, past and present (our current chairman is Cpl Gary Egan from 4 Cav Sqn), and it is ironic that this proud unit is, just like the Connaught Rangers, to be no more, due to the reorganisation of the Defence Forces. At this stage I would like, on behalf of the CRA committee, to thank all the military personnel, past and present, who through their membership monies, military experiences and mess humour have helped to make our Association what it is.

Looking to the future, the Association has planned two trips to coincide with the centenary of the Great War. The first will be a 48-strong trip to Belgium in 2014, followed by a 25-strong trip to Gallipoli in 2015.

Through events like this and ongoing one-day events in King House we feel we are doing our bit to remember this long ignored Irish military generation.

King House has great facilities for lectures, seminars or displays and we would encourage groups and individuals to visit our museum and enjoy the greater King House experience as well. To find out more about King House contact the manager, Tommy Egan on 071-9663242.

The Connaught Rangers Association can be contacted through our secretary, c/o King House, Boyle Co. Roscommon. You can also visit our website at [www.connaughtrangersassoc.com](http://www.connaughtrangersassoc.com). ■



# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

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Happy New Year to all the  
members of Óglaigh na  
hÉireann and their families.*

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**Óglaigh  
na hÉireann**  
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

The Gathering Ireland 2013 is a year-long celebration with a central aim of encouraging Irish people and people of Irish descent to come together and celebrate here in Ireland.

A Gathering can be as simple as two friends, one of them from overseas, reuniting in Ireland next year. Or it can be as big as 8,000 visitors coming to Ireland to participate in the St Patrick's Day parades around the country.

It is planned that the Gathering will be a people's project centred in the community; it will include clubs, societies, families, schools and colleges. As key leaders in the community, individual members of the Defence Forces have a great deal to contribute to the Gathering in terms of initiative, organisation and participation.

Around the country, communities are putting in place plans for Gatherings: events, festivals and "get-togethers" which capitalise on local charms and which will entice overseas contacts to visit throughout 2013.

Members of the Defence Forces are encouraged to get involved in their local community in whatever way they can, to inspire and participate in Gatherings and in so doing showcase the very best of what Ireland has to offer to the wider Irish community visiting in 2013.

To find out what else is planned for 2013 and for inspiration on creating a gathering of your own, log on to [www.thegatheringireland.com](http://www.thegatheringireland.com) and be part of it.



# The Nijmegen International Marches

BY CAPT BRENDAN MCDONALD (54 RES CAV SQN)

The Nijmegen International Four Day Marches (Vierdaagse) is the largest marching event in the world. It is organised every year in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, in mid-July, as a means of promoting sport and exercise. Participants walk 30km, 40km or 50km daily, and on completion receive a royally approved medal, the Queen Wilhelmina Four Days Cross (Vierdaagsekruis). Registration closes at 46,000 entrants.

While originally a military event, civilians have been participating in increasingly large numbers, with over 40,000 taking part last year. Military teams follow a slightly different route to civilians, starting not in Nijmegen city centre but in the Heumensoord military camp, a temporary camp built every year just south of Nijmegen to house all military personnel.

Military participants have a choice of either walking 50km a day or 40km carrying a pack of at least 10kg of dead weight, in addition to the large amounts of water required to keep hydrated in the heat.

The importance attributed by the Dutch government to the event was reflected in the establishment of the Queen Wilhelmina Four Day Cross medal in October 1909. Each year between 6,000 and 10,000 military from all parts of the world participate. This year there were military representatives from Austria, Australia, Canada,

Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the UK, and the USA to name just some of the participants. It was also the first time the Irish Defence Forces had been represented in almost 20 years.

In Ireland the International Walking Festival has been held in Castlebar, County Mayo, for over 50 years and this festival has had a close link with Nijmegen since its inception. Every year military personnel from various armed forces participate in uniform in the Castlebar festival. In 2011 military personnel from Australia, Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, and Sweden took part along with members of 54 Res Cav Sqn representing the Irish Defence Forces, as they have done since 2009.

It was following on from this event in Castlebar in 2011 that the idea of participating in Nijmegen came about. Help was at hand with advice from the Castlebar Walking Festival commit-

tee. Permission was sought to wear our uniforms as uniforms are worn by all military participants in Nijmegen. A seven-man team comprising five members of 54 Res Cav Sqn and two members of 1 Cn Cois (Capt McDonald, Sgt Hamrock, Sgt Gillespie, Cpl Flanagan, Cpl Grier, Pte Cox and Pte Doolin) was selected.

The Irish team members participated at their own cost, taking time off work to take part in the Dutch event and training began in earnest in January of this year. The walks demanded determination, strong will and a decent fitness level. The current boot issue to the Defence Forces really proved to be more than capable but even with that the course was so tough that very few of the team avoided serious blisters, as did few others of the 6,000 military participants.

The event, while demanding, was a brilliant experience for those who attended. The first day the route covered



47km, followed on the second day by a 35km hike, then a 40km, while the last day finished with 45km. All routes were very challenging.

The warmth and welcome from the people in Nijmegen has to be seen to be believed. Despite starting each morning at 0330hrs the roads were still lined with well-wishers offering sweets, fruit and liquid refreshments. Each day we were met with brass bands at every village and well-wishers at literally every crossroads. The welcome back to the finish each day in Nijmegen was outstanding and the crowds for the last 5km on the final day were three or four deep, all roaring encouragement. It felt very special for all involved and was a satisfactory conclusion after all the pain endured while marching long distances carrying packs from January onwards.

Having successfully completed the course all seven members of the Defence Forces team proudly received their Vierdaagsekruis.

**For those who would like to participate in the future a reasonable level of fitness is required. Our training commenced in January with 14-16km walks building up to 40km by May. Participation in the Castlebar Walking Festival was a good indicator of the challenge ahead and greatly assisted us in Nijmegen.**

*More information can be obtained on the Nijmegen and Castlebar websites at [www.4daagse.nl/en/](http://www.4daagse.nl/en/) and [www.castlebar4dayswalks.com/](http://www.castlebar4dayswalks.com/)*



Blisters day 4



Medals presented

# DEFENCE FORCES SEA ANGLING COMPETITION 2012

BY SGT DECLAN O'SHEA (DIRECTORATE, RESERVE DEFENCE FORCES)

The DF Sea Angling (boat) competition held in Cork over July 15th, 16th and 17th saw 32 competitors from the three brigades and the DFTC participating in the annual competition, which is open to both serving and retired members of the PDF. The competition provides a wonderful opportunity for renewal of old friendships and the obligatory 'fishy' tale or two!

As well as recreational anglers the competitors also included personnel that have fished internationally and at master angler standard. The competition is conducted on a percentage rule, which means that the angler who earns the most points per day on his, or her boat, is awarded 100%, with all other anglers' scores on that boat being marked as a percentage of this. This system allows competitors on a boat which has an 'off' day to remain in the competition. Each brigade team consists of four anglers with the best three scores counting each day.

Fishing, which was from 1030hrs to 'lines up' at 1600hrs daily, was conducted from four chartered boats, all with knowledgeable local skippers. Each morning anglers reported to their boats at 0900hrs under the watchful eye of the day's nominated boat steward, who was responsible for safety and ensuring that all competitors obeyed the rules and only eligible fish were recorded on score cards.

From 0930hrs to approximately 1020hrs each day competitors were allowed to fish for fresh bait, which thankfully was in good supply. Fresh mackerel and some sand eels were a welcome addition to each angler's bait box for the day ahead. Of course the wily old fishermen among the competitors had not left this to chance, with many having stocked up some days before with other baits such as ragworm, lugworm, squid, razor fish and crab. To each his own!

Fishing conditions were far from ideal throughout, with 35kph winds, heavy seas and slow rollers. This, however, did not dampen the competitors' enthusiasm, with the customary slaggering being heard each morning in Crosshaven as competitors boarded their boats.

Because of the weather boats were sometimes unable to reach their preferred fishing hotspots and were confined to 'marks' within the more protected greater harbour area, two to three miles out. In spite of this fishing was good with twenty different species being landed over the three days.

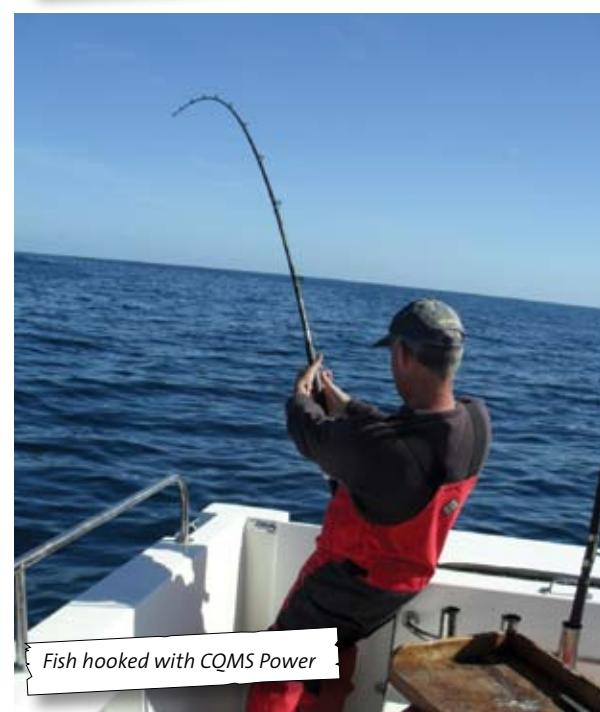
Points are awarded for each species and for each fish. A maximum of ten fish of any species are allowed on any given day. Once a competitor catches ten fish of one species he must target a different variety. Anyone catching seven or eight species on a day's fishing could be considered to be having a good day, with one particular angler managing 12 different species on day two (no names to protect his modesty!).

Individual and team scores were calculated each evening and posted for all to see. This meant that everyone knew who to watch for on each boat for the following day's fishing.

After day one the Southern Brigade team had a slender lead, but one which they managed to hold on to until the end of the competition. ■



CQMS Jeremy Power with Pollack



Fish hooked with CQMS Power



Cod by Sgt D O'Shea

| 1st (Team)  |                          |                |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1 S Bde (Score: 796.23%)</b>   |                          |                |
| CQMS P Barry (Ord Sec, 1 LSB), Sgt D O'Shea (D Res), Cpl T O'Regan (Ord Sec, 1 LSB), CQMS J Power (D Res).        |                          |                |
| 2nd (Team)  |                          |                |
| <b>2 E Bde (Score: 737.36%)</b>   |                          |                |
| Sgt T O'Neill (5 Inf Bn), Sgt G Condran (2 Inf Bn), Sgt M Martin (Ord Sec, 2 LSB), Pte D Clancy (Ord Sec, 2 LSB). |                          |                |
| Individual  |                          |                |
| 1st   | Sgt G McCabe (28 Inf Bn) | Score: 287.76% |
| 2nd   | Sgt G Condran (2 Inf Bn) | Score: 287.71% |
| 3rd   | Sgt D O'Shea (D Res)     | Score: 281.69% |

# World Float Fishing Championships

BY CPL DANNY QUINN (IWW, MIL COL)

In September I was with the Irish team that travelled to the Czech Republic to compete in the 59th World Float Fishing Championships.

There were 38 teams in this year's competition on the Morava River. The first week was practice week and was designed so that by the end of the week each team would have fished in all of the areas to be used in the competition. There were two four-hour practice sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and single four-hour sessions on Thursday and Friday. However, with a storm hitting the venue on Wednesday night, only four teams - Ireland, England, Scotland and the Channel Islands - braved the high winds and heavy rains to practice on Thursday.

For the first day of the competition we decided to use 11m and 13m lines on the pole for big fish and to go for small fish at a depth of between 4m and 7m. As this was the same plan most teams were going with a lot depended on the luck of the team captain in getting the best area from the draw bag.

I was drawn on an out-and-out pole section with deep water on the inside. With a Portuguese angler on my left and a South African on my right, my main goal

in a high-profile match like this was to first beat the anglers on either side.

I finished the first day in 13th place in the section with 96 fish, comprising 1.85kg, which turned out to be the best Irish result on the day. I received 13 points and managed to beat the South African but the Portuguese angler had beaten me by 20 grams.

The next day I was sandwiched between Didier Delannoy (France) and Steve Gardiner (England), two well known international anglers. The French angler won the section, but I managed to beat Steve and this gave me another 13th position; the second best Irish result of the day as Bob Hulme had won his section.

While the team had a poor result overall it was still an excellent experience, especially for me as I was the best placed Irish angler and this in my first year competing at world level. I am also delighted to have been asked to represent Ireland again next year.

The Irish squad consisted of Mark Theedom (team manager), Jack Tisdall (asst manager), and anglers Tommy Dowd (Cavan), David Burleigh (Erne Anglers), Dave Herron (Erne Anglers), Vincent Walsh (Erne Anglers), Danny Quinn (Daingen CAC), and Bob Hulme (Erne Anglers). ■





RDFRA wishes all its members and their families a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Thank you for serving as a member of the Reserve Defence Forces.*



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Police and Rescue Personnel throughout the world depend on Solingen produced OES products and services. Features of Eickhorn-Solingen Ltd. Pocket Rescue Tools (PRT) with Tanto blade are: Overall length: 20.6cm, Blade length: 8.4cm, Blade thickness: 2.5mm, Weight: 130g, Steel: Böhler N695. Laser cut ice hardened corrosion free steel blade in black or steel finish. Other speciations are: military specification - 40°C + 80°C operating temperatures, laser cut serrated cutting edge, window puncher/glass breaker, half serrated cutting edge, maintenance free ergonomically designed all weather handle grip with aluminium finish, oversized thumb stud, internal blade release mechanism, pocket clip and each blade individually serial numbered for 100% traceability

**Our tester, BQMS Chris Ward (2 E Bde HQ/Army Diving Gp) says...**  
I own a number of pocket rescue type knives, i.e. victorinox, leatherman, etc. The knife has a great feel to it, but is ergonomically designed for a right handed person. The blade is very impressive, sharp, well designed and not too long. The serrated portion is ideal for cutting small items, i.e. ropes, etc. An ideal tool to have in the car for emergencies. The blade lock/release button is easy to use with a little practice, even with gloves. The thumb stud on the blade is difficult to use especially when wearing gloves (again designed for a right handed person).

From a soldiering point of view the Pocket Rescue Tool is limited, i.e. a soldier doesn't require a window breaker or seat belt ripper. Each soldier carries a bayonet when on the ground, so the blade on the PRT will only be used for cutting ropes, opening boxes, ration packs, etc. It is difficult to use the PRT with one hand. My recommendation: Remove window breaker and seat belt ripper, make the tool/knife a little smaller in length. This should reduce the price of the tool dramatically, making it more affordable.

*Ease of Operation 7 - Durability 9 - Value for money 6*



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## OTIS 5.56MM BUTT STOCK CLEANING SYSTEM

**RETAIL PRICE €59.75**



This weapons maintenance system provides you the necessary tools to completely break down and clean some of the most critical parts of your firearm. The Memory-Flex® cleaning rods, solid brass slotted tips, 100% cotton cleaning patches, bore brushes, and an all-in-one cleaner, lubricant, and preservative allow you to quickly clean the receiver, chamber, neck and bore. Also with these components, you can easily strip the copper, carbon and other residue from in the barrel.

The Otis 5.56mm Cleaning System: Dimensions: 4" x 4" x 2 1/2", 12" & 30" Memory-Flex® Cables for effective and correct Breech-to-Muzzle® cleaning, 5.56MM brass and 40MM nylon brushes, 100% cotton patches and CLP remove copper, heavy carbon build-up and fouling, patented 40MM rubberized patch saver® for complete 360° cleaning of barrel, precision scraper, pick and end brush for fine cleaning of the receiver, trigger group and bolt and a lightweight soft pack with MOLLE belt attachment for convenient carrying.

*Our tester, Cpl Darren Murphy (5 Inf Bn) says...*

I used the cleaning kit on the Standard NCO Course and found it ideal for our rifles. It had a number of different attachments that could be used for various weapons systems, if you owned your own rifle for example. After heavy firing, the cleaning tools included had my rifle spotless alot faster than those who used the issue kit. The pouch can also be attached to your Assault vest if need be for quick access. It was highly sought after on the course, so I had to keep a close eye on it! I would highly recommend this kit.



*Ease of Operation 9 - Durability 8 - Value for money 7*

## COMPETITION

**This month Team-Alpha is offering a €120 Voucher to use on their website. For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: What price is the Black 5.11 RUSH12 Backpack on [www.team-alpha.ie](http://www.team-alpha.ie)?**



Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) by the 21st Jan 2013. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

*Last month's winner of a pair of 5.11 Coyote Trainers (value €119.99) was Jimmy Losty, Naval Base.*

# PDFORRA Conference

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN



**O**n October 3rd, PDFORRA delegates met in the Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny, for the association's annual delegate conference. On the minds of many was the ongoing re-organisation of the Defence Forces and what the future holds. Particularly prominent in the debates was the issue of changes in the area of promotions. The change from promotion-to-appointment to promotion-to-the-rank represents a cultural shift for members of the Defence Forces and it is clear that there is a great deal of misgiving over the issue.

A wide range of motions were considered and voted on, including a successful motion from the National Executive calling for the reiteration of the association's support for the Croke Park Agreement and for resistance to attacks on its provisions.

In his speech, outgoing president,

Willie Webb, said that "spending on the Defence Forces has been cut by 22%... personnel levels have fallen from 10,500 to just over 8,500... (and that) these are troubling and traumatic times for (PDFORRA's) members."

In his address to delegates PDFORRA General Secretary Gerry Rooney spoke at length on the issue of allowances, saying that for enlisted personnel many of these allowances "are part of an historic system introduced in the 1970s to deny them the chance to earn overtime payments." He went on to add that "this minimised the cost to the state at times when irregular and long hours were the norm for members of the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps."

Consequently, General Secretary Rooney insisted that allowances paid to members of the Defence Forces "are properly part of core pay and should continue to be paid on this basis and, in PDFORRA's view, they are protected by the guarantees under the Croke Park Agreement."

Addressing the conference Minister of State at the Department of Defence, Paul Kehoe TD, said that "recent investment and recruitment was a major boost for the Forces and morale is high."

He noted President Webb's call to reconsider the ongoing re-organisation but added: "Let nobody here today be under any misapprehension; there can be no turning back." He said the government understood that the current reorganisation represents "a major change in the structure of the Defence Forces and will impact on the lives and future careers of serving and future members."

The minister expressed the government's appreciation of the work done by the Defence Forces both at home and overseas and finished by stressing "the government's commitment to the security of the state and the ability of a vibrant and modern Defence Forces to be able to meet its commitments in terms of investment in equipment and the ongoing recruitment of 600 enlisted personnel."

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann spoke to the delegates about the challenges facing the Defence Forces. He told them that "the single biggest strategic risk facing Ireland today is economic and not military. The current economic climate and the necessary cuts to public expenditure present all of us with enormous challenges as to how best to position the organisation in order to serve the government, Ireland and its people."

He also thanked the personnel of the Defence Forces, including the members of PDFORRA, "for seamlessly continuing to deliver the full range of tasks at home and overseas throughout this difficult period."

With long-serving president Willie Webb about to metaphorically hang-up his chain of office there were three nominees for the position, Michael McKenzie (NEC District), Mark Scally (Athlone District), and Thomas Whiteley (TISC District). The result was the election of Mark Scally to the position of president of PDFORRA. ■



# NOTICEBOARD

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

## CONGO 1961 - Documentary on TG4

The story of Comdt Pat Quinlan and the men of A Coy, 35th Irish Battalion serving with the United Nation contingent in the Congo in 1961, who became involved in war with mercenary-led Katangese separatists funded by a Belgo/UK owned mining company in Jadotville.

*"We didn't come here to kill Africans, we came to protect them"* - Comdt Pat Quinlan, 35th Battalion

This in-depth, two part documentary of the 35th Bn, will be aired on TG4, on the Wed 5th (21:30hrs) & Wed 12th (21:30hrs) of December 2012 (repeated on Sat 8th (19:45Hrs) & Sat 15th (19:45Hrs). Directed by Irina Maldea and Brendan Culleton of Akajava films and made with the support of the Irish Film Board and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Congo-1961/125286240960213](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Congo-1961/125286240960213)

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**Lanyards made to order:** Competitive prices, contact Brian on 087 2971982

**Sam Browne Belts:** Custom made to measure by Declan Clancy on 045 432606 or visit [www.declanclancysaddlery.ie](http://www.declanclancysaddlery.ie)

**R. Johnston Master Tailors:** Phone: 01 8204378 / 086 3531664 or visit [www.rjohnstonmastertailors.com](http://www.rjohnstonmastertailors.com)

## Curragh Military Museum

**Opening Times:** Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 2.30 to 5.30pm; Closed Friday, Saturday and Bank Holidays. For all queries, contact: 045-445342 or email: [curragh.militarmuseum@defenceforces.ie](mailto:curragh.militarmuseum@defenceforces.ie).

# SUDOKU

SUDOKU NO. 014 (MEDIUM)

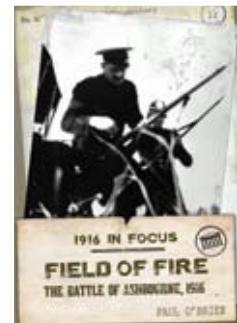
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## DECEMBER Q&A COMPETITION

**1. What county is the town of Ashbourne in?**

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win a signed copy of Paul O'Brien's latest book 'Field of Fire, 1916 & the Battle for Ashbourne' reviewed in this issue.



Last month's winner of the free 1 year's subscription to our online magazine and a small goody bag was Don Lavery.

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| 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |

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

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

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

## BOOK

# FIELD OF FIRE: THE BATTLE OF ASHBOURNE 1916

**Author:** Paul O'Brien

**Publisher:** New Island (2012, [www.newisland.ie](http://www.newisland.ie))

**Pages:** 108pp (paperback)

**ISBN:** 978-1848401563

**Price:** €12.99

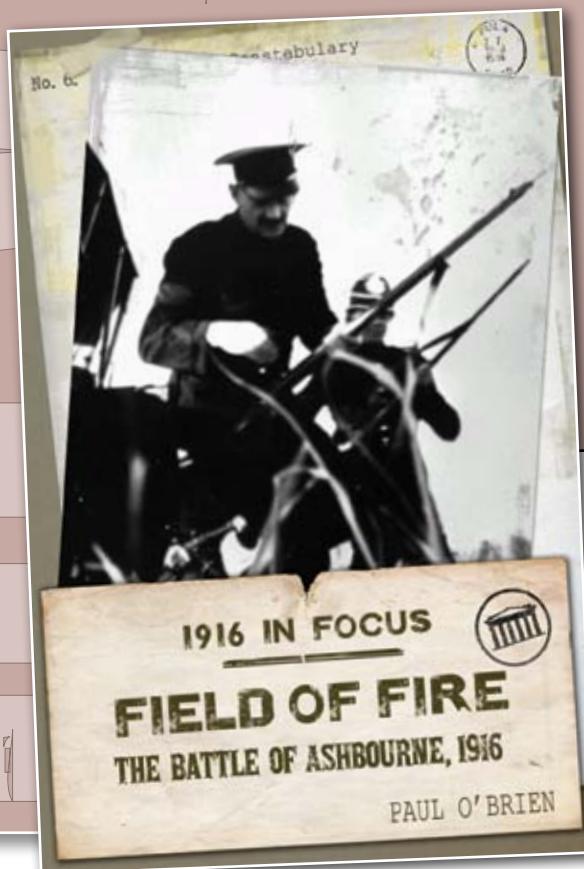
**'Field of Fire: The Battle of Ashbourne 1916', the second book in the '1916 In Focus' series by Paul O'Brien, is a blow-by-blow account of the less well-known battle of the 1916 Rising that happened in Ashbourne, Co Meath. This battle took place between the 5th (Fingal) Battalion of the Irish Volunteers, under the command of Comdt Thomas Ashe and his 2i/c Lt Richard Mulcahy, and a superior force from the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC). It took place while attention was mainly focused on events in Dublin.**

Paul's descriptions of the tactics used by the republicans during this battle are highly detailed: describing how the section commanders brought their men into battle, using flanking movements to overwhelm the RIC. Paul's definition of guerrilla warfare tactics (page 86) is one of the best you will read.

Most readers of this book will be amazed that all those involved in the Battle of Ashbourne were Irish except for one, RIC Inspector Harry Smyth, and, more importantly, would have known each other well as they all lived and worked in the Ashbourne and Meath area.

This book gives a brief account of Thomas Ashe's later punishment and the tragic ending of his hunger strike, which brought the republican cause back to the forefront of Irish politics and public sympathy.

Ashe's funeral in Dublin was the most prominent since Parnell's, with republicans brazenly carrying arms in defiance of the large British Army presence in the city. Members of Ashe's battalion rendered full military honours to their old commander with a volley of shots over his grave, while General Michael Collins famously paid tribute to this fallen son of Ireland, saying: "Nothing additional remains to be said. That volley which we have just heard is the only speech which is proper to make above the grave of a dead Fenian."

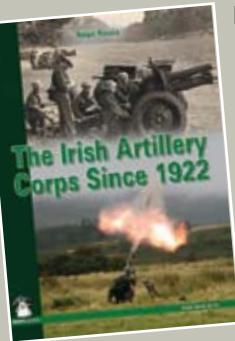


**The author:** Paul O'Brien MA is an Irish historian and author. He has published three other books on 1916 - 'Blood on the Streets: 1916 and the Battle for Mount Street Bridge', 'Uncommon Valour: 1916 and the Battle for the South Dublin Union', and 'Crossfire: The Battle of the Four Courts 1916'. His next book 'Shootout: The Battle for St Stephen's Green 1916', is due out early next year. [www.paulobrienauthor.ie](http://www.paulobrienauthor.ie)

## BOOK

## THE IRISH ARTILLERY CORPS SINCE 1922

**Author:** Ralph A Riccio  
**Publisher:** MMP Books (2012, [www.mmpbooks.biz](http://www.mmpbooks.biz))  
**Pages:** 216pp (paperback)  
**ISBN:** 9788361421528  
**Price:** €35.75 (easons.ie)



**FOLLOWING ON FROM** the author's highly praised book 'AFVs in Irish Service Since 1922', this is the first comprehensive history of the Artillery Corps since its foundation in 1922. It covers the period from the early days of independence and civil war, through modern-day peacekeeping, to the present day. It covers the guns, equipment, and gun towers of the PDF, FCA and RDF. Many one-off topics such as the Raikes Range, the Orbiter UAV, and various personalities and barracks, both current and closed, are included, which make this book a great read.

The coastal artillery is covered in detail, which is good to see as this arm of the Corps has been largely forgotten. Access to long-closed forts around the country was obtained by one of the contributors and the pictures are of a high quality. Air defence is also covered, with many pictures seeing the light of day for the first time. Many new pictures of Free State 18-pdrs in action in Dublin were sourced from the Kilmainham Jail archive.

Although the book has only been published, it will hopefully be updated to include the new reorganisation of the Defence Forces and the new unit flashes. While the new LTAV FOO was not included, the new Scania 6x6 is, although it is not an organic artillery asset.

Overall, this book is a concise history of the Artillery Corps and its units. It is well worth the cost and will be a valuable reference source for many years to come.

## DVD

SPECIAL FORCES  
AKA - Forces Spéciales (original French title)

**Directed by:** Stéphane Rybojad  
**Written by:** Stéphane Rybojad and adapted for screen by Stéphane Rybojad, Michael Cooper and Emmanuelle Collomp  
**Starring:** Diane Kruger, Djimon Hounsou, Benoît Magimel, Denis Ménochet, Raphaël Personnaz, Alain Figlarz, Alain Alivon, Mehdi Nebbou, Raz Degan and Tchéky Karyo  
**Genre:** Action/Thriller  
**Language:** French/English  
**Release Date:** Nov 2011 France, UK Blu-ray and DVD Mar 2012  
**Runtime:** 1hr 49min **Cert:** 15

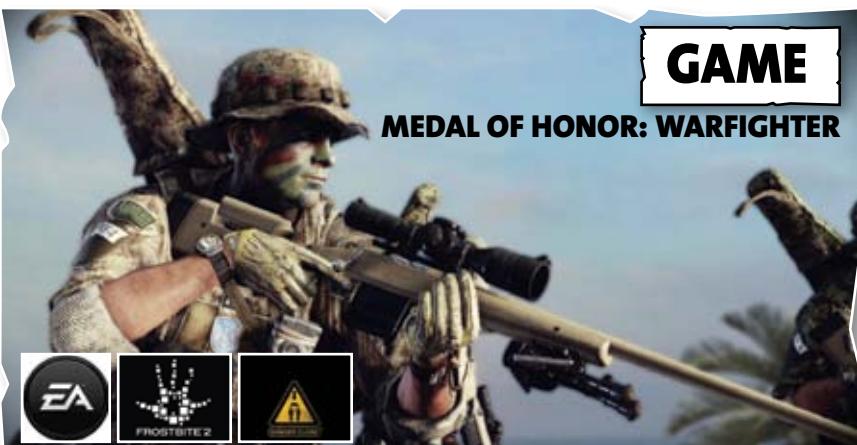


**FILMED WITH THE** incredible reality of professional soldiers in war and in the same vein as 'Tears of the Sun' (2003) and more recently 'Act of Valor' (2012). This was made possible because of the assistance provided by the French armed forces with equipment and expertise. French journalist Elsa (Kruger) and her local colleague Amen (Nebbou) are following a story in Afghanistan when they are abducted by Taliban leader Ahmed Za (Degan) and taken to his hidden fortress in Pakistan. Faced with Elsa's imminent execution, a French special forces unit is dispatched to free her.

Commander Kovax (Hounsou) and his team of SF soldiers are completing the final part of their mission when they react against the cruelty of the Taliban against local villagers who had aided the French soldiers. The team then miss their RV and play a cat-and-mouse game with their pursuers through a harsh mountainous region to complete their mission and avoid death at the hands of either man or the elements. [www.studiocanal.fr/tous-nos-films/films-action/cid19152/forces-speciales.html](http://www.studiocanal.fr/tous-nos-films/films-action/cid19152/forces-speciales.html)

## GAME

## MEDAL OF HONOR: WARFIGHTER



**IT DOESN'T GET** any more authentic than 'Medal of Honor: Warfighter'. Nearly 13 years ago, the 'Medal of Honor' brand was born with authenticity and respect for the soldier at its core - and that commitment remains to this day.

The new MOH Warfighter game is inspired by, and developed with, Tier 1 Operators from an elite international community. The story was written by actual US Tier 1 Operators while deployed overseas. In it, players step into the boots of these warfighters and apply unique skills-sets to track down a global threat, in real locations.

MOH Warfighter is developed on the revolutionary Frostbite 2 game engine, delivering the best-in-class experience with gorgeous visual quality, deep environmental sound design, devastating AI and detailed micro destruction. Frostbite 2 makes weapons fire in close-quarters combat more intense than ever: doors shatter from explosions, walls splinter from bullets and concrete fractures into flying debris. [www.medalofhonor.com](http://www.medalofhonor.com)

**Genre:** FPS - **Platform:** Xbox 360, PS3 & PC - **PEGI:** 16+ - **Price:** €49.97 (PC €39.97) ([gamestop.ie](http://gamestop.ie)). **Released:** 26 Oct 2012. © 2012 Electronic Arts. All Rights Reserved.

**NAME** SARAH DOWNEY  
**RANK** SIGNALWOMAN  
**UNIT** 2 FD CIS COY



I joined the Defence Forces last year after I finished third-level, where I achieved an honours degree in physiology and applied Information Technology (IT). With my educational background it isn't surprising that I opted to join the CIS Corps after recruit training.

Since then I have completed the communications operative (Co-mOps) course, which is a six-month course that is compulsory for anyone joining the CIS Corps. The course trains personnel on all the Corps' radio equipment including the VHF SINCGARS and HF Harris radios and the NorSat satellite communications equipment. Students are also trained to work on a line crew where, among other things, they learn how to set up a building for telephone and IT. I have also just completed the detachment commanders course.

The Corps provides many different services both in barracks and on the ground. In barracks CIS personnel rotate between line crew (maintaining telephone lines and the computer network), ComCen, and the CIS stores, covering the entire brigade. The Corps is also responsible for the intranet, the PMS, the Helpdesk, and the SDS post.

On the ground the CIS detachment provide communications for battalion-, brigade-level and above. Detachments can either set up a static OP or operate from a fitted-for-radio (FFR) Nissan, CIS Mowag, or the CIS LTAV. At brigade-level and above we can utilise the C2 container. Our ground equipment includes the Toughbook Tactical Battlefield Management System. This provides file transfer, command messaging, and GPS positioning, giving eyes on other vehicles in your patrol or other detachments.

I have recently been accepted onto the CIS technician scheme, which is a three-year bachelor of engineering degree in electronic engineering (military communications systems) in Carlow IT. Personnel on the scheme are attached to the CIS School so that when not in college students attend the School for practical, hands-on training.

As can be seen, even from this short article on my experiences over the last year, the CIS Corps is very diverse, forward-looking and interesting place to work.





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Where we are

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This 5 day program starts on **1st April and runs until 5th April 2013**. It is recognised by the International Tactical EMS association and certified by Emergency Services Training Institute Ireland (ESTI) and Medic Up USA

Day 1 is classroom lectures and practice, offering the student advanced skills training and new equipment exposure. Days 2 to 4 are scenario and skills based training which put the students under intense pressure using sensory deprivation and overload techniques. Day 5 is designed to certify the skills learned in a circuit type assessment which tracks their progress and identifies any issues or difficulties they may have, enhancing their learning experience.

Our course is delivered by Advanced Paramedic tutors, US SWAT team leaders and Military trainers. We use the most up to date equipment, manuals and facilities for training.

Emergency Services Training Institute provides all equipment for classroom training, training manual, course badge, t-shirt and medical pouch to keep. Accommodation and meals are provided as part of the course fee, joining instructions outlining kit requirements are sent two weeks before start date.

**"Make a real difference, become a Tactical Medic"**



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