



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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JULY/AUGUST 2014

**Steyr Rifle
Conversion**

CAV CORPS:
*PUSHING THE
BOUNDARIES*

**WORLD
WAR ONE**

Arty Corps:
*Limbers Keep
Rolling On*

**AVIATION
FIRE
FIGHTERS**

ISSN 0010-9460



2013 Awards: EMPA Best Article & Media Pioneer Awards (UK) Shortlist



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

THE Curragh RACECOURSE

The Curragh will give their race day on Sunday 20th July a strong military theme to promote the close association between the Defence Forces and the racecourse.

Defence Forces race day will feature seven races including the Defence Forces Trophy with the Chief of Staff making the presentation to the winning owner.

The Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle stated, "For generations the Curragh has been synonymous with both the military and equine communities. I am delighted that the Curragh Racecourse is celebrating this time honoured connection by hosting a race meeting in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONeT)."



A special admission price of €10pp is available for Defence Forces personnel, past & present.

Children under 16 have free admission and there will be a special 'Kids Fun Area' on the day. Entertainment will be provided on the night in Ceannt NCOs Mess, DFTC, Curragh Camp.

For tickets or enquiries contact Philip Coy at 087 3741421 or Paul Cooley at 086 1734695

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July-August 2014



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Now Enrolling
for September

Higher Education Programmes for Members of the Defence Forces and Other Public Servants



Part-Time Study at the IPA for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Qualifications

Members of the Irish Defence Forces have long come to the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) to take undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fields relevant to their professional formation and career ambitions. They have understood that obtaining a new qualification is always a smart move, one that pays many and varied dividends.

The Whitaker School of Government and Management at the IPA will offer almost 70 **part-time** undergraduate and postgraduate programmes this September. Programmes are accredited by UCD and sit between levels six and ten on the National Framework of Qualifications. Designed for students who must also attend to various professional and personal commitments, they can be taken from anywhere in the country and are delivered in student-friendly, flexible ways. Below are just some of the programmes now enrolling for September:

- Master of Arts: Public Management/Financial Management/Human Resource Management/Leadership and Strategy/Criminal Justice
- Master of Economic Science in Policy Analysis
- Postgraduate Certificate in Governance
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Public Management
- Professional Diploma in Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation
- Diploma in Law
- Diploma in HRM
- Diploma in Management
- Certificate in Public Management
- Certificate in Management Development
- Certificate/Diploma in Project Management
- Bachelor of Business Studies

Applications are now being accepted for these and other programmes.
Prospective students should contact the IPA as soon as possible.



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Front Cover

Aviation Fire Fighters pictured in Baldonnel. Photo by Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout: www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine

Well it's officially the summer here in the An Cosantóir office as we bring you a 44 page July and August double issue, we hope you enjoyed the issues from the first half of this year as much as we did putting them together. We have another shift in personnel as Sgt Karl Byrne moves to the editorial team and Cpl Kelly Gallagher takes over our subscriptions desk – good luck to them both. There will be a Cpl Admin vacancy coming up soon so keep an eye on Routine Orders!

This month's issue as always has your photos *On Parade* – I hope yours made it. *In Focus* has two small veteran's pieces; firstly in Portlaoise, *Minister Burton visits IUNVA Post 27*, and then we visit Limerick for the recently held International Veterans Day. Also in this section, Cpl Paul Millar visits the Irish Model Soldier Society, who held their Annual Show and Exhibition in Dublin. Our first main feature is by Capt Andrew Shinnick on the current process of *Upgrading the Steyr rifle*. Next Cpl Paul Millar visits the Cavalry Corps and sees how they are *Pushing the Boundaries* of their corps capabilities. *In Gaisce – Bronze Level Challenge*, Sgt Karl Byrne sees how 30 teenagers get put through their paces by 2 Arty Regt. That is followed by *IUNVA Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony*, which was held in their HQ behind Arbour Hill Church recently. Our *Def-Tec* double spread I had the pleasure to meet with the Aviation Fire-Fighters who were undergoing their 4-year revalidation training in Baldonnel. Our *Strategic Review* feature by Guy Warner is a story of Irish/British post-war co-operation in Operation 'Sandstone'. Our 3-page *In Reserve* feature by Wesley Bourke, *Keeping The Limbers Rolling Along* is about how the 2 Arty Regt have adapted to the 'single force concept' and with their new Air Defence Role. On page 26 we have a small piece on the *DF Small Arms Competition* held in Kilworth in May. In the first of our large history section this month, *Terry McLaughlin's Setting Fire to Europe* continues on the 100th anniversary of WWI, and Paul O'Brien follows this up with *A Call To Arms*, which looks at Ireland at the out break of WWI. Our final history piece is on *Charles Kearney*, a lesser-known tale of an Irishman who was in the Congo during the early 1960s. In *Sport*, we have the 2014 DF Relay Orienteering Championships and we hear how Sgt Ann Marie Larkin successfully completes the 29th Marathon Des Sables. Plus we have all our regular features – *Military Media Round-Up*, *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews and What I Do*.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

IN MEMORY

During a recent trip to South Lebanon to visit Defence Forces personnel serving with UNIFIL, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, laid a wreath at the Tibnin Monument to the 47 Irish Soldiers who died in Lebanon. Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan

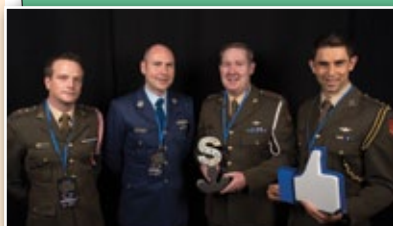
**LAST 5 INF BN RSM RETIRES**

On Friday 13th July, former members of 5 Inf Bn, along with members of the 7 Inf Bn and the CMU, SBH paraded in McKee Bks for the 'Stand Down Parade' in honour of Sgt Maj Gerry Hanly. Gerry was the last serving RSM of

5 Inf Bn prior to its amalgamation with the 2 Inf Bn and thus formed the 7 Inf Bn. Photo: Sgt John Mullally (retd)

**SOCIAL MEDIA AWARD WINNERS**

The Defence Forces won the award for 'Best Use of Social Media by a State Body' in the 2014 Social Media Awards. So a big thank you to our Defence Forces members and to our followers who contribute every day on social media. Pictured (L/R):



Capt Declan Barrett (Info Officer), Brendan O'Dowd (AC PIO),

Comdt Denis Hanly (Press Officer) and Donal Gallagher (Asst Press Officer).

DF FALLING PLATES WINNERS

The 2 Arty Regt Falling Plates Team are pictured outside their Regt HQ in Custume Bks Athlone, with the 2 Bde and All Army Trophies. Pictured are (L/R): Gnr Ian Magee, Cpl Oilly McNamee, Gnr Stephen Evens, Gnr Anto McArdle, RSM Noel O'Callaghan (Master Coach), Lt Col John McCrann (OC 2 Arty Regt), Gnr Michael Carson, Sgt Gerry Graham (Team Captain), Sgt Willy Bastic and Lt George Balfe. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan





◀ MEDICAL SERVICES CUP WINNERS

Pictured are the Custume Bks Team with the Medical Services Cup. They defeated 3 Inf Bn by 2.10 to 0.12 in the final. *Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



DEFENCE ATTACHÉ VISIT ▲

Pictured on the occasion of the Annual Defence Attaché visit held in Casement Aerodrome Baldonnell from 28th - 29th April 2014. *Photo: Capt Rose-Anna White, Defence Attaché Liaison Officer*



IRISH CONTINGENT MONUSCO ▲

The Irish Contingent MONUSCO are pictured meeting with UN Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson, in MONUSCO Force Headquarters, GOMA, DRC. *Photo: Comdt Conor O'Shea*

FLORA WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON ▶

Well done to all the Defence Forces women who successfully competed the Flora Women's Mini Marathon recently. Drawn primarily from the DFTC, Curragh Camp, the ladies toggled off and ran in a block formation. They all crossed the line together as a team, while raising vital funds for charity – big thank you to all their sponsors. *Photo: Capt Darina Brennan, MIF*



BEST STUDENT ▲

Pte Kevin Hurley was awarded the 'Best Student' on the recent Combat Engr Cse. Pictured (L/R): RSM T Lynam, Col J Burke (D Eng), Pte K Hurley and Lt Col D McEvoy (OC Engr Gp). *Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



UNDOF INTER-CONTINGENT SOCCER COMPETITION ▲

Pictured are the Men's Soccer Team 44 Inf Gp UNDOF who were the recent winner's of the Inter-Contingent Soccer Competition held in Camp Faouar on 22nd - 23rd May 2014. The team members; Front Row (L/R): Tpr Jason Walsh, Pte Aaron McDonald, Cpl Sean Fleming and Pte Alan Cusack. Back Row (L/R): BS Frank Prendergast (Manager), Cpl Sean O'Sullivan, Pte Corey O'Dwyer, Cpl Eddie Clifford and Cpl John Tannam. *Photo: Capt Ian Snee, 44 Inf Gp*





BLUE LIGHT BOAT RACE WINNERS ▲

The DF Rowing Assoc. were victorious in the Blue Light Boat Race by a 1/4 of a length over 1500m. The event took place in Whitegate, Cork on 9th June 2014 and was a challenge race which united all emergency services of the East Cork area. There were a total of eight crews participating including members of the Irish Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána and the Fire Service. The team was Lt Stephen Connolly (Air Corps), Lt Paul Giblin (1 Cn Cois), Lt Peter Williams (G7 1 Bde HQ) and Lt Fionn McCaffery (2 Cav Sqn). *Photo: Air Corps Press Office*



THOMAS KENT REMEMBERED ▲

Pictured are members drawn from 1 Bde who provided an honour guard to the Thomas Kent Branch ONE, Castlelyons Co. Cork recently. They held a memorial day for Thomas Kent who was executed by firing squad at 4am on 19th May 1916 with his body buried in the yard of Cork Prison. *Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS. (PRO SAC ONE)*



LÁ NA BHFIANN ▲

The Sgt Tommy Halligan Branch ONE, Tipperary Town, held their deceased members mass and 'Lá na bhFiann' (Warriors' Day) on 4th June 2014. Visiting branches came from: Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cobh, Cork City, Michéal Mac Fhiobhuí Ballincollig, Nenagh Lower Ormonde, Tipperary Town, and Waterford. *Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS. (PRO SAC ONE)*



ARMY RIFLE WINNERS 1960

Pictured are the 7 Inf Bn FCA All Army Winning Rifle Team of 1960. This is the only occasion on which the FCA were allowed to compete against the PDF and the FCA team won. Back row (L/R): Comdt Ned Curry, Tommy Gallagher, Barry Monaghan, Sean Halpin, Gerry Francis, Paddy Sherry, Dessie Francis, Jim Heron, Comdt McNamee (OC 7 Inf Bn FCA). Front row (L/R): Cpl Whelan and Lt Mick Wright. *Photo courtesy of Dessie O'Hara*



TIMMY HERATY MEMORIAL FINNER ▲

The Finner Sea Angling Club held their annual charity fundraiser on Thursday 22nd May 2014 at the Tullan Strand, Bundoran. Pictured is Terry O'Brien (L) presenting winner Noel (Scan) Hegarty (score 131) with his trophy, the runner up was Dominic McLaughlin (score 93). A €200 cheque was presented by Alan Heraty to Kevin Carmody of Ozanam House (Society of St. Vincent de Paul). The club would like to thank all their sponsors. *Photo: Cpl Ronan Matthews, 28 Inf Bn*



KEVIN BARRY BRANCH ONE ▲

On Easter Sunday the Kevin Barry Branch ONE held their Deceased Members Mass in St. Andrew's Church, Bagnelstown, Co Carlow. *Photo: Hugh Kelly, Br Sec*

WHEELUS USAF BASE 1961

Pictured from (L/R) are: Joe Carroll, Ned Clancy and Joe Callan, who all lived in married quarters in McKee Park, Dublin in 1961. This picture was taken en route to the Congo. A refuelling stop over was made at Wheelus USAF Base in Tripoli, Libya. *Photo courtesy of Danny Mulcahy*



Veterans Day

BY PAUL SHEEHAN, PATRICK SARSFIELD BRANCH ONE PHOTOS DECLAN FITZGERALD

On Sunday 25th May, Limerick hosted the first ever International Veterans Day Parade to be held in Ireland. There have been many congregations of veterans over the years but this was the first time that they have been given the honour to parade in full colour through the streets of Limerick. This extraordinary event was organised by The Patrick Sarsfield Branch of Oglaiha Naisiunta na hEireann – The Organisation of National Ex-servicemen & Women (ONE). Mr Gerry Enright, branch president described the day as “an honour for the city of Limerick and in this year as the city of culture it is our delight to have the first such prestigious international event being held here.”

Some of those who paraded were: ONE Branches from all over Ireland, The Naval Association, Irish United Nations Veterans Association, The French Foreign Legion Association of Ireland, The RAF Association of Ireland, The American Legion, The Royal British Legion, UNIFIL Sweden, UNIFIL Norway, 2 FARA Association, Keelagh (Irish Wolfhound), Polish Veterans Association, The Irish Legion and over 150 private individuals on behalf of deceased parents / grandparents along with the Band of 1 Bde. ■



MINISTER BURTON VISITS IUNVA POST 27

BY P. CANNING, SECRETARY POST 27

On 2nd April 2014, Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD visited the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA), Post 27 in Portlaoise. The minister was accompanied by Senator Loraine Higgins, Senator John Whelan and Councillor Lisa Delaney. The visitors were met by Branch Chairman, Fred O'Reilly, who made the introductions to the branch members. Senator Whelan's father was a member of Post 27 but has sadly passed away some years ago. The minister was also introduced to retired members of An Garda Síochána and Seirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann (the Irish Prison Service). The minister was introduced to branch member Archie Raeside who served in the Congo, who presented the minister with a copy of his book, 'The Congo – 1960, The First Irish United Nations Peacekeepers'. The minister then thanked all those present for their service to the nation. ■



IRISH MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY

REPORT BY CPL PAUL MILLAR

Military modelling is as relevant today as it was in the days of the Cold War. The massive number of variants of today's armoured and soft skinned fighting vehicles can only be distinguished by subtle differences. These minor changes can mean the difference between friend or foe, between waving and the call to, "get ready." Most of us have been introduced to military models through the Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) recognition course and it's application to the majority of DF weapons courses. For some this has progressed into a hobby and a passion.

One outlet for this hobby is the Irish Model Soldier Society (IMSS). Now in their 56th year and one of the longest running Scale Model Clubs in existence, they held their annual Scale Model Show and Exhibition in the Hilton Hotel, Charlemont Place, Dublin 2, on the weekend of 17th/18th May. The show had displays from Ireland's leading model makers as well as contributions from international award winners and stockists of model kits and hobby accessories from Ireland and abroad. The IMSS members and visiting contributors ranged from novice to International Award winning model makers representing the four corners of Ireland, the UK, Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.

Displays in the show were also entered into a competition that had numerous categories, with one of them being the An Co-santóir Award for Best Entry featuring the Irish Soldier in National Service from 1922. The award this year was won by Alan Hughes for his very original portrayal of an old Irish Air Corps Vampire Jet in 1/72 scale, now in a field in Casement Aerodrome, used as a fire crew training aid. Second place went to Philip Donnelly for his General Michael Collins 75mm figure and third place went to Paul Wisely for his Irish Air Corps EC 135. Another award is the Celtic Cup for the Irish Soldier in Foreign Service, this year being won by Karl Hoy for his WWI Iniskillings Private.

Other entries covered all scales and all eras, ranging from Ancient Greece and Rome, through Napoleonic times to the current conflict in Syria. The level of detail and painstaking research that went into the models was evident to all the spectators. Some went beyond simple depictions of vehicles and people, venturing into representations of some defining moments of military history. One that really caught the attention of all visitors was the very original 1/35 scale depiction of a destroyed Syrian MBT, being passed out by other AFVs on a desert road. Not only were the paint and weathering effects eye catching on the knocked out tank, it had actual smoke effects coming from the turret with the flick of a switch. ■

To find out more contact Sgt Glen Phelan at 6383 or Pte Shane Curran at 2659. The club meet on the first Thursday of every month in the NCO's Mess in Cathal Brugha Bks, and you can find them on facebook and at: www.irishmodelsoldier.com.

Capt Brendan O'Dowd (AC PIO) and winner Alan Hughes.



MILITARY MEDIA Round Up

MILITARY MEDIA Round Up

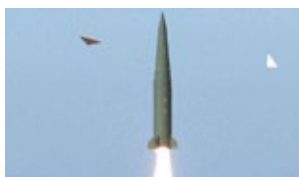
MILITARY MEDIA Round Up



"China is attempting to bolster its presence in the South China Sea by creating an artificial island on a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands... Johnson South Reef was at the centre of a 1998 confrontation between China and Vietnam that left more than 70 Vietnamese personnel dead. After taking control of the reef China built a concrete platform and installed radio and communications equipment." IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, Vol 51, Issue 21. Photo: www.manilatimes.net

"Developed by Flyer Defense in cooperation with GD Ordnance and Tactical Systems, the 7,500lb (3,402kg) Flyer Advanced Light Strike Vehicle (ALSV) is designed to operate in severe, rugged and restrictive terrains while providing off-road, cross country mobility in all weathers... With a payload of up to 3,500lbs (1,588kg), the Flyer is an essentially open-topped vehicle with an extensive tubular cage structure that provides roll-over protection for the crew and mounting points... A top speed of 85mph (137kph) and an unrefuelled range of 450mils (724km) are claimed."

Military Technology, Vol 38, Issue 5.
Photo: www.gd-ots.com



"South Korea has reported test-firing a ballistic missile capable of carrying a one-tonne payload over a range of up to 500km. This level of performance would allow attacks to be mounted against targets across most of North Korea."

IHS Jane's International Defence Review, Vol 47, May 2014

"Sometimes, in the most extreme of terrain, vehicles just will not do and Special Forces return to much older means of moving soldiers and supplies around. The USMC, for example, has begun to teach a new advanced horsemanship course to special operators, training them to ride horses, load pack animals and care for them in remote and dangerous environments including mountain warfare... Run by the Mountain Warfare Training Center... the course is intended to help special operations units operating with indigenous forces who ride horses and use various species of pack animals."

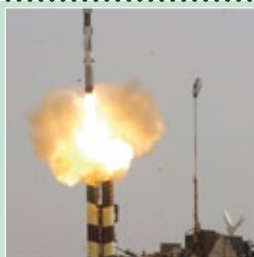
Military Technology, Vol 38, Issue 5. Photo: www.marsoc.marines.mil



"The last troops to deploy on Operation Herrick have arrived in Afghanistan, bringing the UK another step closer to the end of its 13-year campaign in the country. Members of the 20th Armoured Brigade have assumed control of the mission after taking over from 7th Armoured Brigade on June 1st." Soldier, June 2014 Photo: www.telegraph.co.uk

"On 7 April 2014, the Indian Army successfully test fired an advanced version of 290km range supersonic cruise missile Brahmos as part of a user trial at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. Both the Indian Army and Navy have already inducted the missile, developed by India in partnership with Russia."

Military Technology, Vol 38, Issue 5.
Photo: www.weapons.technology.com



"The Japan Self-Defense Forces on 10 May began an 18-day joint landing drill on an uninhabited island in the southwest Nansei chain – the latest in a series of exercises intended to demonstrate Japanese resolve in the East China Sea." IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, Vol 51, Issue 21.

"The UN is looking for contractors that are interested in operating an unmanned aerial system (UAS) on behalf of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali. Posted on the UN Procurement Division's website on 28 April, the request for expression of interest said the UAS would have multiple unmanned aerial vehicles and would operate out of Timbuktu and Gao."

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, Vol 51, Issue 21.

"The Spanish MoD has awarded Indra a contract to provide seven new VICTRIX shooting simulators that will be installed at various army barracks and bases. The systems, which will be delivered throughout 2014, will be combined with actual training to help improve soldier preparedness."

Military Technology, Vol 38, Issue 5.

"Denmark has destroyed its stockpiles of cluster munitions about four years ahead of its treaty deadline of 2018, according to a late March statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

IHS Jane's International Defence Review, Vol 47, May 2014

"On 23 April... two unidentified aircraft were spotted on air-defence radar approaching the NATO Air Policing Area north of Scotland, unannounced. Two Royal Air Force Typhoon fighters were launched from RAF Leuchars, north of Edinburgh, to intercept the formation and determine the identity of the aircraft, which were not responding to either civil or military air-traffic controllers... and flew within visual range of the aircraft and identified them as Russian Tu-95 'Bear H' strategic bombers."

www.militarycontact.com



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Upgrading the Steyr

On May 14th 2014, I took part in one of three conversion courses on the newly upgraded Steyr 5.56mm rifle that took place in Custume Bks and Carnagh rifle range. The Defence Forces has introduced an upgrade package that will see all Steyr rifles within the Defence Forces being replaced and upgraded over a phased basis and which will be fully completed by the end of 2015.

BY CAPT ANDREW SHINNICK, INSTRUCTOR 2 BTC (DUBLIN)

There are three modifications taking place: the A1 housing group is being upgraded to the new A3 housing/receiver group; the Swarovski 1.5x optical sight is being replaced by a Trijicon ACOG (advanced combat optical gunsight), which interfaces with the new housing group; and the old sling is being replaced by a Tactical VTAC 2-point sling.

The course, which comprised a mixture of both lectures and practical lessons, also saw us conduct zeroing and range practices overseen by the Directorate of Training (J7), Ordnance Corps personnel, and Trijicon representatives/instructors from both the US and UK.

The aim of the course was to provide instructors with both the technical knowledge and practical skills to ensure that trained soldiers equipped with the newly upgraded weapon system understand and can employ the full potential of the upgraded weapon system.

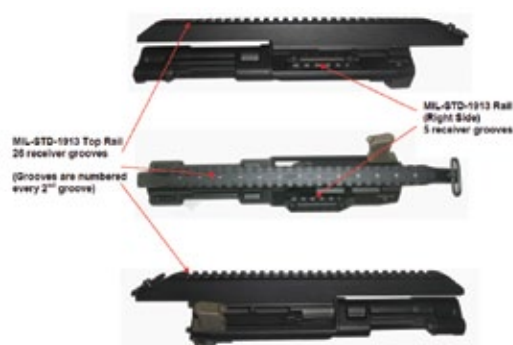
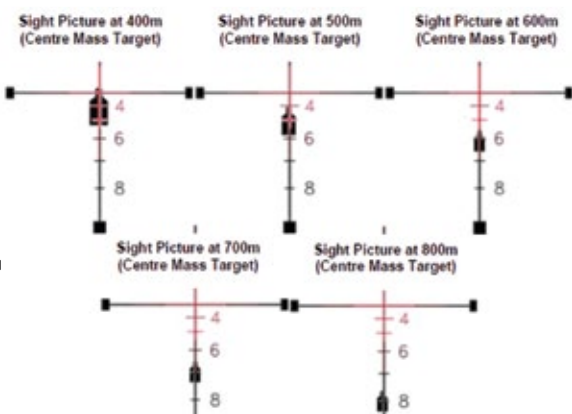
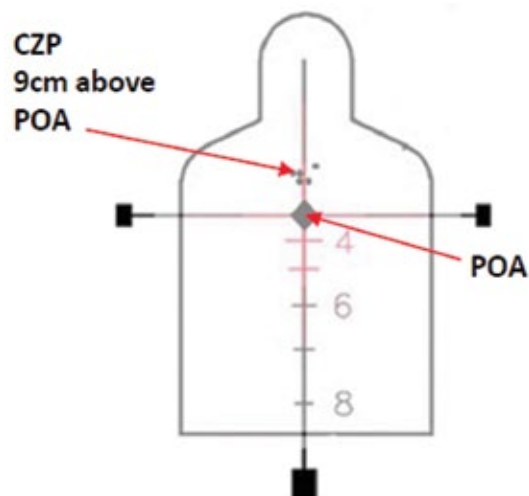
The morning began in Custume Bks with an introduction to the A3 housing group. The first major change to note from the A1 housing group is the absence of the integrated carrying handle and its telescope tube sighting system. This has now been replaced with a long Picatinny rail (MIL-STD-1913) on which the new Trijicon ACOG sits. This rail allows the ACOG to be moved more easily

forward and backwards to adjust for individual eye relief and for a correct sight picture when wearing the likes of body armour and combat chest rig.

Additionally, the new housing group has a small rail on the right hand side of the weapon that could allow for a flashlight or a laser designator/illuminator down the line should the Defence Forces decide to purchase them. Another change is the position of the front sling swivel, which is now more forward on the front end of the housing group, and the addition of the 2-point sling.

While the A3 housing group is a bit heavier than the previous one, I felt that tended to counteract any jump in the weapon when firing.

We then moved on to the ACOG with the Trijicon instructors taking us through various lectures on the sight, its characteristics, its illuminated reticule and integrated bullet drop compensator (BDC). The 4x32 sight (four times magnification and 32mm objective lens) contains a crosshair reticule which glows red, allowing for easy identification and target placement. It also provides a dawn/dusk shooting capability whereby you can identify your crosshairs on a target quickly in varying light conditions. The welcome addition of a crosshair should make most soldiers happier as it allows



for a definitive point of aim, which many felt was lacking on the old sight.

The integrated ranging reticule (once correctly zeroed at 100m) also allows the individual soldier to use the BDC to both range and engage targets out to 800m. The ACOG uses an internal phosphor illumination provided by the radioactive decay of tritium (the same material that is found in an everyday analogue watch) which has a usable life of 10-15 years. The ACOG also receives daytime reticule

illumination via a passive external fibre-optic light pipe that sits on top of the sight. This tube gathers light to illuminate the reticule in normal daylight conditions while in low light or darkness the tritium takes over.

One thing to note here is that when operating in extreme brightness the amount of light from the fibre-optic tube can cause the internal crosshairs to glow brighter than the target, however one can quickly adapt to this slight quirk.

Having completed our lectures and training indoors, we moved to the Carnagh rifle range just outside Athlone where we zeroed the sights ourselves and found them extremely user friendly. Under the expert guidance of CQMS Robbie Walsh and the Trijicon instructors all personnel were on the target and zeroed correctly in a very short time.

The ACOG is zeroed at 100m, allowing for the trajectory of the rounds to hit a point of impact (POI) 9cm above the point of aim (POA). At 200m the rounds will land 13cm above the POA and at 300m the POA/POI is exactly the same. Range stadia lines underneath the main crosshair are used to engage targets out to 800m. Ranges are marked 0-300m, 400m, 600m and 800m. The 500m and 700m ranges are marked with stadia lines but are not numbered. The stadia lines can be also be used to range a target as they represent 48cm across (the average width of a man) at the various distances. This allows the soldier to quickly judge distance, engage and neutralise the target.

We also went through the new Steyr range table and what was clearly evident from using the new ACOG was the number of firers that were hitting almost every target that was put up in front of them.

The final practices of the day were some close-quarter battle (CQB) drills where the US instructors from Trijicon taught us how to fire the weapon at short ranges.

The new Picatinny rail will continue to allow for the placement of the Kite night-sight and the numbers on the rail allow for the ACOG to go back on without any loss of accuracy. All-in-all the new weapon sight is extremely user friendly, highly accurate and should make for greater and improved accuracy and better marksmanship within the Defence Forces. ■



PUSHING *the Boundaries*

REPORT BY CPL PAUL MILLAR



Who better to test the limits of the Mowag and its crew than the corps that's responsible for pushing up to 80kms forward of friendly forces? With their old vanguard of AML 90s and 20s consigned to history, Cavalry Corps personnel have been getting to grips with the more modern Mowag medium-reconnaissance vehicle (MRV) and close-reconnaissance vehicle (CRV) as well as the light tactical armoured vehicle (LTAV). As much time has been spent designing new practices and procedures to accompany these vehicles into the 21st Century as has been spent driving them. *An Cosantóir* was invited to see how they were putting it all together.

Operating to within 500m of the enemy with the CRV and with the MRV providing overwatch and support to within 3kms of the enemy, the survivability of these cars is as much dependent on the skill of the crew and good tactical planning as it is on the vehicles' armoured hull. Staff at the Cav School, DFTC, have been proactive in improving the drills of the crews and squadrons in a way that can be applied to any user of armour in the DF: from troops dismounting a Piranha, to the specialised



use of the Scorpion armoured recce squadrons, what they are doing here will ensure greater interoperability between corps in a way never seen before.

One of the many steps involved is the standardisation of hand-signals; a simple but crucial step that demonstrates the level of detail being addressed. Signals currently vary from corps to corps and brigade to brigade, so the staff are using this as a starting point to prepare the DF for exercises and overseas missions that will call for an all-arms approach. Expect to see a corresponding training circular and instruction applicable to all armour to be issued this year.

Another challenge they are looking at is posed by CBRN, often seen as a standalone discipline and not as a role of recce. However, operating in a contaminated environment is an integral part of the cavalry recce role. There is no doubt that it is a testing situation to work in; dress-cat 4R (the full multi-layered suit, respirator and helmet) in an armoured vehicle with all hatches closed can quickly degrade the crew. To counter this threat and to improve the overall capabilities of their essential crews, the Cav School has been looking at introducing a night-time CBRN cross-country driving assessment for drivers.

To get an idea of the difficulty posed by operational night driving, take a look at the pictures reproduced here showing the view through the driver's night-sight, their only window on the world when driving with the hatches down. Factor in also that working in a CBRN environment the driver's view will be further hampered by a respirator. In addition, the restricted breathing through a respirator and the bulkiness of cat 4 clothing in the confines of the driver's station can present real difficulties when trying to navigate around



forest tracks and country lanes.

Taking all this into account, the CBRN cross-country night-driving course can be seen as the pinnacle of achievement for any Mowag driver.

In addition to the issues addressed in this article, the Cav School will also be making some changes to the live-fire procedure. These amendments will place further demands on all personnel involved; driver, gunner and commander. These changes will be featured in a future issue of the magazine.

With some of the biggest changes in a generation taking place, the Cavalry Corps are redefining their role in the DF and taking the lead in integrating their skills with other corps. Watch this space! ■

GAISCE

BRONZE LEVEL CHALLENGE

BY SGT KARL BYRNE
PHOTOS SGT KARL BYRNE &
CPL NEVILLE COUGHLIN

On the 3rd June 2014 the Defence Forces put thirty young people through their paces who were competing for the bronze level Gaisce award (the President's Award). The selected Gaisce participants were chosen from hundreds of hopefuls nationwide. They came from counties: Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Offaly and Sligo. The challenges the young adults faced were aerial runways, river crossings, obstacle courses and marathon hikes, all of which were set up and arranged by members of 2 Bde. The 2 Arty Regt provided the majority of troops to oversee the objectives set down to test and challenge the Gaisce participants.



Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Charlie Flanagan TD gave the opening address in Custume Bks, Athlone, before they set off to experience navigation training and test their indoor climbing skills. Later there was an introduction to SERE training (Survive, Escape, Reaction to interrogation, Extraction) and a Base Camp tutorial all on the first day. Day two was spent doing the obstacle course in the DFTC, Curragh Camp, followed by a 10km hike across the Curragh Plains and then water confidence training in the swimming pool. After dinner they departed for the Slieve Bloom Mountains where they set up their base camp and prepped for the next day's challenges. Day three involved team skills, a 15km hike, rock climbing and then they had to move their base camp to Carnagh training area. The fourth and final day brought them to Lough Ree to participate in kayaking.

After a hard, challenging and enjoyable four days the thirty Gaisce young adults finished the experience back in the NCOs mess in Custume Bks and were treated to a BBQ. We have no doubt they enjoyed the experience and maybe some day they might return for the full military experience. ■

Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD



On May 25th 2014, the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) held their 16th annual wreath-laying ceremony in remembrance of all Defence Forces personnel, members of An Garda Síochána and civilian personnel who died on UN peacekeeping missions throughout the world. The ceremony was held at the memorial garden in IUNVA's HQ on Mount Temple Road, behind Arbour Hill Church and Cemetery, where a memorial stone is inscribed with the names of those who sacrificed everything in the cause of world peace. The garden was opened by President Mary McAleese on November 8th 1998.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of IUNVA. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of UNICYP in April 1964, when 606 members of 40 Inf Bn arrived in Cyprus, and the 50th anniversary of the ending of Irish involvement in the Congo when 2 Inf Gp left ONUC in June of the same year.

The ceremony started at midday with the parade commander, Sgt Major John Egan (ret'd), marching the UN veterans into position. Then the MC, Comdt George Kerwin (ret'd), introduced the IUNVA chairman, Michael Butler, to address all those present.

DCOS Sp, Rear-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, addressed the parade, thanking IUNVA for making sure the memories and names of all those that made the ultimate sacrifice for world peace are remembered. Fr Pat Mernagh CF and the Very Rev John Marsden, Dean of Kildare, led those present in prayers and then Airman Michael Whelan read out his poem 'Fallen Friends'. The roll of honour was then read out by members of IUNVA posts from around the country.

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Defence Forces by Airman Michael Whelan (Air Corps), Pte Tadgh Luby (7 Inf Bn) and A/Sea Michelle Thompson (Dublin Unit, NSR). A wreath was also laid by representatives of other armed forces.

After representatives and families laid their own wreaths a minute's silence was observed by all before a piper's lament was played followed by Last Post. The National Flag was then raised and the bagpipers were joined by two members of the Army Band in playing the national anthem.

The day went very well and although it was such a solemn occasion it was very uplifting with everyone enjoying the parade and the opportunity to remember lost loved ones in good company. ■



AVIATION Fire Fighter Revalidation Course

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

On May 21st 2014, *An Cosantóir* visited the Air Corps Fire Training Facility in Baldonnel to observe the Aviation Fire-Fighter Revalidation Course, which was taking place from May 19th to 23rd. Four students were undergoing this rigorous training programme in order to be recertified as aviation fire-fighters for a further four years.

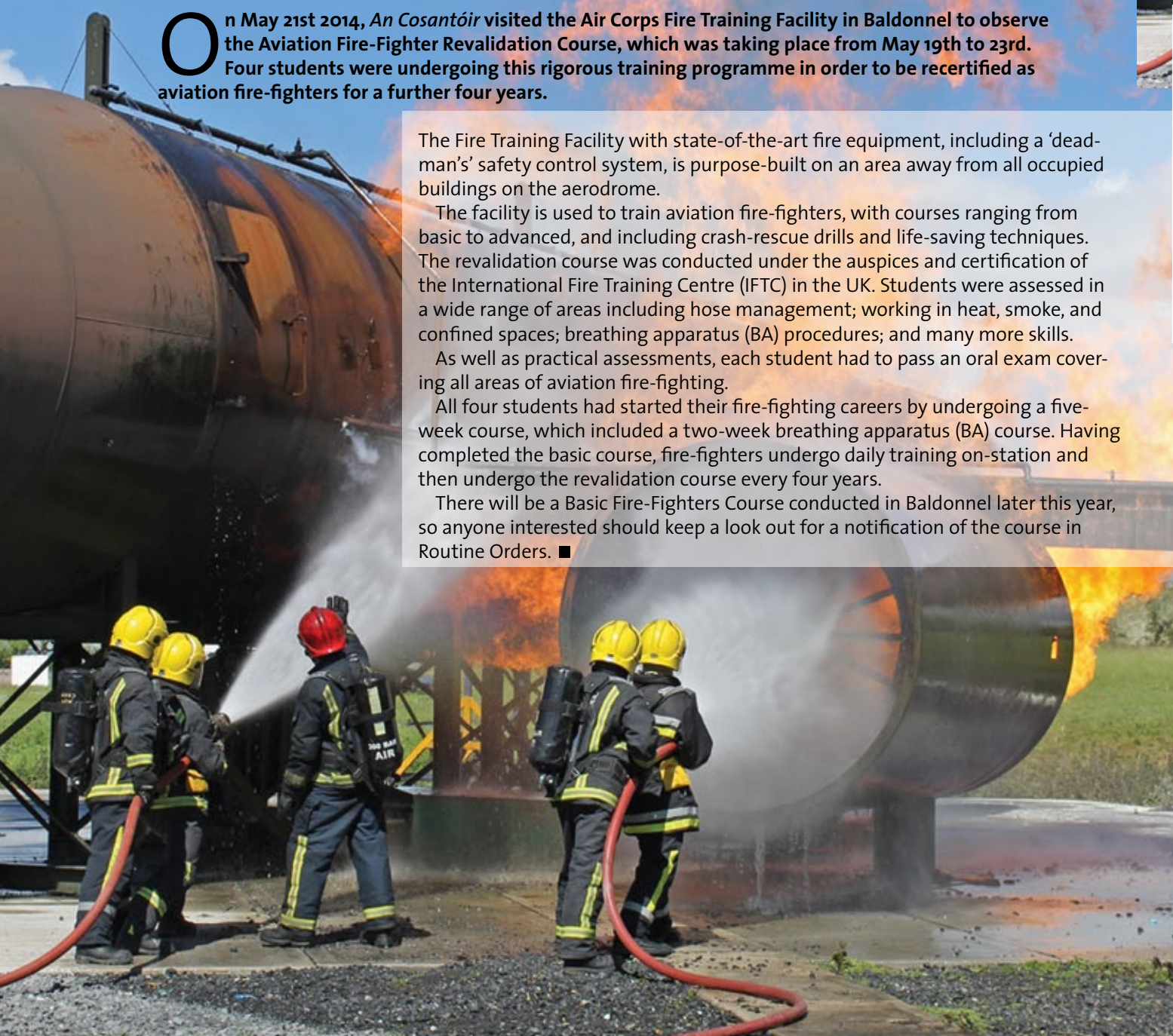
The Fire Training Facility with state-of-the-art fire equipment, including a 'dead-man's' safety control system, is purpose-built on an area away from all occupied buildings on the aerodrome.

The facility is used to train aviation fire-fighters, with courses ranging from basic to advanced, and including crash-rescue drills and life-saving techniques. The revalidation course was conducted under the auspices and certification of the International Fire Training Centre (IFTC) in the UK. Students were assessed in a wide range of areas including hose management; working in heat, smoke, and confined spaces; breathing apparatus (BA) procedures; and many more skills.

As well as practical assessments, each student had to pass an oral exam covering all areas of aviation fire-fighting.

All four students had started their fire-fighting careers by undergoing a five-week course, which included a two-week breathing apparatus (BA) course. Having completed the basic course, fire-fighters undergo daily training on-station and then undergo the revalidation course every four years.

There will be a Basic Fire-Fighters Course conducted in Baldonnel later this year, so anyone interested should keep a look out for a notification of the course in Routine Orders. ■





ARMN STEPHEN KANE
18-years service, with 8-years as a fire fighter. Three trips overseas two to Lebanon and one to Liberia.
"It is tough and enjoyable training, there is always something new to learn."



ARMN JOE FRENCH
10-years service, with 4-years as a fire fighter. One overseas trip to Chad.
"It was tough, but I enjoyed every bit of it."



ARMN NIAL KENNEDY
6-years service with 3-years as a fire fighter.
"I found the training to be hard. But, it was very enjoyable and rewarding to get through it."



ARMN DIARMUID MCKINSTRY
15-years service with 3 ½ years as a fire fighter. Five trips overseas, Lebanon, Eritrea, Liberia, Kosovo and Chad.
"This training is essential, but it was fun, informative and very rewarding."



Back (l-r): Neil Crosby (Fire Training Tutor, IFTC), Armn Niall Kennedy, Armn Stephen Kane and Sgt John Domican (Watch Supervisor, Air Corps Fire Service). Front (l-r): Armn Joe French and Armn Diarmuid McKinstry.



OPERATION SANDSTONE

A STORY OF BRITISH AND IRISH POST-WAR CO-OPERATION

BY GUY WARNER

In August 1946 the UK's Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) received a request from the US Navy's Chief of Operations, for a topographical survey of the beaches of the UK and Ireland. The reason given for Operation 'Sandstone' was that it was 'essential to know from the point of view of the enemy which are the most suitable beaches for carrying out full-scale landings' and that it would also 'facilitate attacks on the occupying forces and the subsequent re-invasion'.

As a result, in 1948 the British Naval Attaché in Dublin requested permission for a survey to be carried out, mapping and photographing the entire coastline and also to sound the waters of the bays, harbours, tributaries and off-shore waters. Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Dan McKenna, recommended that the request should be granted despite the sensitivity of having British military personnel operating in Ireland because of the benefits that would accrue from having such information to hand. As the Director of Plans and Operations at Army HQ, Col Denis Lawlor, later commented: "We had no officers with experience of this work, we had no training or detailed knowledge of the tech-

diagrams and maps was carried out by the Ordnance Survey in the Phoenix Park.

The first stage involved a vertical photo reconnaissance of the entire coastline (c. 4,000 miles) by the Air Corps using Ansons and Seafires flying from Baldonnel and Shannon in December 1948.

A Royal Navy Sikorsky 'Hoverfly 1', the first helicopter to operate in Ireland, was shipped to Larne in December 1948, before flying to Belfast, from where it was transported by road to Baldonnel. The Hoverfly would prove invaluable as a time saver and as a platform to take otherwise unobtainable photographs of rugged and inaccessible places along the coast in a fraction of the time than would have been possible otherwise. It could also land observers onto areas difficult to access and its manoeuvrability enabled photographs to be taken from any angle, altitude or distance. Photos taken from sea level often failed to provide the angle or detail required when covering things like road junctions and exits from beaches, whereas oblique photos from a helicopter showed these up much more clearly.

After spending around three months operating out of Baldonnel



nique of landing operations, we had no knowledge of the information that was necessary before undertaking such operations, nor had we the necessary technical equipment or personnel trained in its use."

This approach allowed the government, when asked in the Dáil about the operation, to answer that at their request "a small party arrived recently to give technical assistance with general and photographic surveys and to train Defence Forces officers in modern methods". The operation was expected to last for three years.

The British party of about a dozen personnel wore plain clothes and had the use of a helicopter, two jeeps, and a DUKW amphibious vehicle "to test the bearability of beaches". The DUKW and the jeeps were sprayed in Irish Army vehicle colours and given local number plates. The DUKW was also equipped with an echo sounder and could work to the five-fathom line.

Two Irish officers were attached to the British party, which in the initial stages was accommodated at Baldonnel. Co-operation between the British and Irish was described as very good. The UK military provided specialist personnel, aircraft, vehicles, cameras, drier, film and chemicals, while the Irish Department of Defence undertook all the photographic reproduction and covered all the working expenses including petrol, oil, food and lodging, and reproduction of

and Gormanston, the Hoverfly was moved by low loader to Ballymullen Barracks in Tralee.

In March 1949 Major Peter Burrell RE wrote to OC Air Corps, Col Quinn, from Ballymullen, saying: "I would like to thank you, your officers and all ranks of the Air Corps for your great kindness and hospitality to myself and all members of the British Survey Party, while we were at Baldonnel. We were all very sorry to leave and have many happy memories of our first close contacts with the Irish Forces. We never met such enthusiastic and whole-hearted co-operation in England and I don't suppose we ever shall."

On June 17th the helicopter was brought to Cork where a replacement Hoverfly was awaiting collection, having been shipped from England. This machine travelled to Tralee and worked there until August, when it flew to Ballincollig. In September the rest of the survey party departed Tralee after 191 days at Ballymullen and reunited with the helicopter at the Military Barracks, Youghal. A field had been rented nearby and a shed of suitable size had been erected by the Eastern Command, at a cost of £160, to accommodate the diminutive aircraft. When flying was in progress arrangements were made to divert the local cows into a lower field.

During the summer of 1949 Air Corps Ansons and Seafires carried

out another extensive series of photographic flights. The Ansons undertook vertical photography 5,000ft, while the Seafires provided low-level, oblique coverage from 800ft. Refuelling was once more provided in Northern Ireland, at the Royal Naval Air Station, Eglinton, where, to save time, Wrens brought sandwiches to the crews in their aircraft. A letter from the Naval Survey Section in London complemented the Air Corps on its photography, saying it was "twice as good as anything I have ever seen from the RAF".

Back in Youghal, the helicopter came to grief on February 21st 1950 when it crashed in the churchyard of St Mary's Collegiate following tail rotor failure. The helicopter was seen by eye-witnesses to be spinning around in the air as it came down from a height of about 200 feet. *The Youghal Tribune* described the helicopter as, "now almost an institution in the town" and added, "the pilot to avoid loss of life to civilians and damage to property, decided to land in the churchyard and with admirable calmness and skilful navigation succeeded in getting the machine over the required spot." Repairs to the graveyard were carried out by No 3 Maintenance Company of the Corps of Engineers, with no charge being made to the British taxpayer.

Progress was somewhat hampered by the crash as no immediate replacement was available. After 181 days at Youghal, the team moved to Fort Duncannon, near Waterford on March 7, 1950, where it would remain until September. A suitable shed had been erected but sadly there was no helicopter to put in it. Survey work continued nevertheless and was completed after 171 days on September 1.

1950 and was flown to Finner on the eighth of the month. There had been some difficulty in sourcing a suitable machine as the R-4 was at the end of its service life. A R-6 Hoverfly II was used as a stopgap until the more modern S-51 Dragonfly was available. The hangar at Finner consisted of a billet raised on brick pillars with three concrete strips inside, with the rotor blades being folded back into support brackets.

The promised Dragonfly eventually arrived at Finner and carried out further aerial surveys between April and October 17, 1951. Local interest in the strange goings on and traffic jams formed on the main road outside the camp as onlookers gathered to watch the helicopter taking off and landing. The presence of the DUKW on the beach was also something of a tourist attraction.

The area covered included Ballina and Sligo to the west, Killybegs, Letterkenny and Malin Head to the north. On board there was normally a photographer and an Irish Army officer. Very often the flight would be out to sea for a few miles, then hovering while a 180 degree panorama of the coast would be taken. The helicopter had finished its work by the end of 1951.

The field work for the main areas was completed by December 1952 when the survey party was disbanded and the remaining British personnel returned to England. Field work on minor areas continued for another three years and finished about the middle of 1955. In conclusion it was stated that the Coast Survey Report was a very valuable document to the General Staff and obviated the necessity of having to do such work during a time of emergency or war.



Preparatory work had been ongoing at the next base, Finner Camp. *The Donegal Democrat* stated in August 1950 that it "will continue to resist any association whatever with Britain's armed forces." In the same piece the paper enquired why the huts at Finner were being painted red. Was this to make them more visible from the air? The explanation given was that the Irish Army's Corps of Engineers believed that red oxide paint was best for the prevention of rust and corrosion on a collection of buildings adjacent to the sea. The facilities at Finner Camp had been considerably upgraded and a concrete helipad had been constructed.

One of the ground party at Finner recalled, "We would drive a stake into the centre of the beach, attach the wire from a wire recorder and drive the DUKW out into the bay for about a mile, also taking measurements from the primitive looking but effective echo sounder fixed in the bow of the DUKW. Then we would set up on the beach a calibrated staff from which our sapper would take measurements with his surveying instrument. Having taken a reading, one of the jeeps would pick up the staff and leapfrog the sapper by about 100 yards to take the next reading. This process would be repeated until we reached a point on the existing old map that tallied."

The new helicopter had arrived at Aldergrove early in September

Sandstone was brought to a conclusion in the UK as a whole in 1965 and at that time it was stated, "It was established in 1947 to survey the coastline of the UK to facilitate the re-occupation by the USA and Canada in the event of the UK being over-run by a hostile power." It was noted that the concept had not been valid since 1954, the development of the hydrogen bomb having made full-scale war with Russia unlikely in the opinion of the Western powers.

Certainly in Ireland it was a considerable effort which required a remarkable degree of co-operation and discretion from the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic. As a footnote to this it may be noted that this was not without some expense to Colonel Lawlor. On October 30, 1951 he wrote to the Chief of Staff, "It will be appreciated that the cost of moderate entertainment in Dublin is expensive at present. It is customary to invite foreign visiting officers to have a drink in the mess. In fact, if I did not do so, they would think it peculiar and relations would hardly be friendly. I would estimate that I have been considerably out of pocket, upwards of £100 a year since the survey started and that I consequently apply for an entertainment allowance." Sadly the Chief of Staff's response has not been preserved on the files. ■



FIRST-AID KIT

The intention of this Tac-Aide is to give you an understanding of what to pack in a basic personal first-aid kit. As first-aid kits can come in lots of shapes and sizes and can be bought commercially pre-packed or you can make up your own. Be sure to keep first-aid supplies out of the reach of children, as many first-aid supplies are dangerous. The most important first step in first-aid is to do no further harm.



THE RIGHT CONTAINER/BAG

Use a container with a strong handle and one that can be closed securely, and clearly mark it 'First-Aid Kit'. Commercial kits can be purchased from many sources, but any large, well-built plastic box/toolbox works great, and is usually much cheaper.

Or a purposely built bag that has lots of compartments, ideally you want your kit to be light enough to carry, but large enough to hold all necessary items in an organised and easily accessible format. It should be dust proof, waterproof and sturdy.

THE RIGHT LOCATION

Store your kit safely in a cool, dry location. Avoid storing it in a garage or laundry room because of the potential harm to its contents from moisture and temperature extremes. Pick a location in your home/office that is central and accessible to everyone who will be using the kit.

THE RIGHT CONTENTS

The ideal kit will prepare you for some of the most common injuries.

Your kit should include these basic supplies:

- Adhesive plasters
- Sterile cotton balls
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Sterile gauze (pads and rolls)
- Elastic bandage rolls
- Extra bandage clips
- Butterfly bandages
- Sterile eye patches
- Individually Wrapped Sterile Wound Dressings
- Regular adhesive bandages (multiple sizes)
- Adhesive tape (waterproof and stretchable)
- Triangular bandages
- Large foil-lined bandage

- Sterile disposable gloves
- Antibiotic cream
- Sterile eye-wash solution
- Clean cloth or tissues
- Digital thermometer
- Disposable CPR face mask
- Safety pins
- Tweezers
- Space blanket
- Scissors (the sharp, angular style with rounded end)
- Disposable self-activating cold and hot packs



ADDITIONALLY YOU COULD INCLUDE TOOLS AND OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS:

- Small pad of paper and pencil
- Penlight
- Hand sanitizer
- Magnifying glass
- Whistle

Every day when you take care of a worrisome symptom, tend to a small wound, or administer emergency care, you are practicing first-aid. But this tac-aide only contains simple instructions; in cases requiring life-saving health-care techniques please get professional medical advice.

KEEPING THE LIMBERS

Rolling Along

| 23

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN AND A/B DAVEY JONES

In an age when technology changes at a phenomenal rate, keeping up with the requirements of a dynamic defence and security sector is a challenge. Whether operating in conflict areas or on peacekeeping operations, the military needs to take a holistic approach. A soldier in today's Defence Forces must train for the harshest combat conditions but at the same time be able to sling his rifle and offer a hand of friendship.

Most modern conflicts are asymmetric, where conventional organisation and sophisticated equipment can sometimes prove ineffective against insurgents employing unconventional tactics and using cheap, homemade IEDs (improvised explosive devices). Deployability, flexibility and versatility are, therefore, key fundamentals in the organisation and equipping of modern military units.

Recent Defence Forces re-organisations have brought dramatic changes, with some units disbanded and others created. Personnel, permanent and reserve, have found themselves having to start a completely new cycle of training. None has experienced more change than the Artillery Corps, where the traditional concept of separate air defence (AD) and field artillery regiments has been replaced with a multi-role regimental structure that comprises field, AD, and surveillance and target acquisition (STA) sub-units.

Late last year An Cosantóir travelled to Custume Bks, Athlone, to find out how the newly-formed 2 Arty Regiment operates then under the command of Lt Col Ray Yorke.

Under the recent re-organisations 1 ADR; 1, 2 & 4 Fd Arty Regts; and 31, 54 & 62 Res Fd Arty Regts were amalgamated to form 1 Arty Regt, in Collins Bks, Cork, and 2 Arty Regt, in Custume Bks, Athlone. As well as incorporating field artillery, air defence and STA, these units are also fully integrating their reserve personnel in line with the 'Single-Force' concept.

The two new units are identical, comprising Regt HQ; HQ Bty; 1 Bty (field gun and mortar); 2 Bty (AD and mortar); 3 Bty (STA); 4 Bty (Reserve field gun and mortar) and 5 Bty (Reserve field gun and mortar).

The vast majority of the PDF personnel in 2 Arty Regt came from 4 Fd Arty Regt, including Lt Col Ray Yorke and RSM Noel O'Callaghan, who are the new unit's commander and sergeant major respectively. Under their direction 2 Arty Regt has undertaken a massive up-skilling, re-training and integration programme, in order to deliver the capability requirements of the new organisation.

Lt Col Yorke explained how the new structures have provided a challenge for his personnel: "The STA bat-





tery is a totally new concept, in which surveillance and target acquisition assets are gathered into a sub-unit that can be deployed in its primary artillery role or as a standalone unit feeding into the ISTAR matrix.

"Also, only five gunners and one NCO transferred from 1 ADR, which effectively meant we had to train and up-skill personnel into this role from scratch. It is a credit to 2 Bty that they stood

up their air defence capability within six months."

Rapidly deployable, versatile, multi-functional equipment such as 105mm field guns, 120mm heavy mortars, the RBS70, and their associated STA assets are valuable force multipliers for any commander, as no matter where in the world or whatever mission is being undertaken ISTAR is a proven key enabler. All corps feed into, and are fed information by, the multi-dimensional ISTAR matrix. The artillery STA capability is the central pillar of this vital combat support function. Lt Col Yorke told us: "The gunners of today are value-added, multi-role soldiers, with multi-functional equipment, that are deployable across the full spectrum of operations, from crisis management, to aid to the civil power, to peacekeeping".

HQ Bty takes care of administration, transport, CIS, logistics and regimental survey, which involves producing highly accurate ground surveys for the co-ordination and integration of the regiment's batteries when deployed. It is also responsible for setting up a meteorological station, to help the detachments achieve greater accuracy by compensating for the prevailing atmospheric conditions.

The three field batteries each deploy L118 105mm light

guns and 120mm heavy mortars. Light, versatile and easily transportable, both weapons have very effective rates of fire and ranges that provide commanders with an all-weather, 24-hour fire support capability. The L118 can fire six to eight rounds a minute with a range of up to 20km, while the 120mm mortar also has the same rate of fire up to a range of >9,000m.

The AD Battery deploys the RBS70 air defence system and the .5" HMG. The RBS70 fires a Bolde missile at speeds of Mach 2, with a range of 8km and a 5km ceiling. The missile detachments are guided onto their target by air surveillance teams operating the Giraffe air defence command and control radar. The Giraffe, which can track targets from up to 50km away, is mounted on the versatile Bandvagn 206 tracked, articulated, all-terrain vehicle. A major air defence equipment upgrade is currently underway that will see a longer range for the Bolde missile and a night-vision capability for the RBS70.

Without guns, the STA Battery doesn't exactly look like your traditional artillery unit. Instead, its fire support teams (FSTs) deploy surveillance and target acquisition equipment to keep eyes on target. The lightweight Orbiter mini-aerial system (MAS), which can fly for 15km and remain airborne for four hours, provides over-the-hill recce, while the FSTs provide eyes on target from sub-surface OPs and the Outrider light tactical armoured vehicle (LTAV).

The gunners with the STA Battery operate a full surveillance package, including laser range-finders, ground radar, night-vision, thermal imaging, and optics packages to keep eyes on target and transmit vital ISTAR information back to regimental and brigade HQs.

"The STA Bty is not just a regimental asset," Lt Col Yorke said, "but, in line with our multi-functional philosophy, can deploy independently as a brigade asset. They are the only people who can deliver a 24/7, all-weather observation capability that can provide real-time information and footage directly to the brigade HQ: a massive asset."

As well as having to form new batteries with new capabilities the unit had to retrain personnel who transferred from other corps. "This was a huge challenge for us," RSM O'Callaghan said, "as they came from all back-

grounds; drivers, medics, and weapons instructors, for example. However, 2 Arty Regt is now reaping the benefit of the skills they have brought with them."

Throughout 2013 the unit ran conversion gunners courses for PDF and reserve NCOs and privates. "It's not easy being a private in the artillery," laughed the RSM, "but they've all worked very hard to qualify and we're



a unit of gunners now.”

The ‘Single Force’ concept has seen reservists forming two field gun batteries and elements of HQ Bty. “When I look out on the square I’m not interested in the colour of your beret,” says Lt Col Yorke. “I just want to see competent gunners: this is integration with a capital ‘I’, and we are probably the most integrated corps in the Defence Forces. Thanks to the work of the Arty School the professional gunnery standards of the artillery reservists are very high, and for us their integration into the regiment is a win-win all round.”

Many reservists are gunners from former artillery units but others, like their PDF counterparts, have transferred in from the CIS, Infantry, MP, and Transport Corps. Reservists Comdt Gerry Lyons and RSM Eugene Slattery have been in uniform since the ‘70s and have seen many changes. “The ‘Single-Force’ concept is great,” Comdt Lyons told us, “and won’t be a problem for the Artillery Corps as it has always worked extremely close with the reserves. No matter what Artillery School course or Corps concentration, I guarantee you reservists were in there making up the gun crews.”

The two reserve field batteries mirror their PDF counterparts exactly. Their gunners and officers are trained the same way and the same standard is expected of them.

“It was slow at the start as we had to get to know new faces, deal with administration and start building up an entire new team,” Comdt Lyons told us, “but one of the positives is that we now have medical-, CIS-, transport-, MP- and infantry-trained personnel whose skills the unit can put to excellent use.”

On the same topic, RSM Slattery told us: “I remember back in the ‘70s we were called in to man Columb Bks to allow the PDF guys to deploy to the border, so for me reservists have always played an important role and the ‘Single-Force’ concept is a very positive step.”

As Lt Col Yorke and RSM O’Callaghan presented the newly qualified NCOs and former privates, signalmen and troopers with the iconic white artillery lanyard, the new gunners’ pride was evident. There were smiles all round as they sang the artillery song, The Limbers Keep Rolling Along.

In just one year 2 Arty Regt has been transformed from an organisational concept into a cohesive, effective unit. “We have come a huge distance,” said a proud Lt Col Yorke. “We established a brand new unit with new capabilities and new roles to master. We are soldiers by trade but gunners by profession and in this regiment it’s not enough to be good at your job, it’s not even enough to be very good; in this regiment you are expected to master your role and ensure that we live up to the 2 Arty Regt motto, Few Equal and None Superior.” ■



CPL GARRY EGAN

I transferred from 4 Cav Sqn. I felt coming from the Cavalry Corps that I would fit in with the artillery. In the Cav we do gunners courses and carry out ISTAR roles, digging OP’s and keeping eyes on target. I’m coming across being qualified on all the armour in the cavalry. So a lot of the concepts are the same. I’m actually in the air defence battery now. The change is very interesting and I’m really enjoying.



SGT NOEL FALLON

I came from 4 Fld CIS Coy. I served for 18 years in the CIS Corps so this is a big change. When the re-org came if I wished to stay within the CIS Corps I could only transfer to the DFTC or Dublin, I preferred to stay in Athlone. I’m really enjoying the change. It’s been like going back to recruit training for me. I’ve had to learn the 105mm, the 120mm, the RBS70 and the Giraffe. The Giraffe was a great course. Very good people to be working with.



BQMS TOMAS DUNNE

I transferred in from the 54 Res Fld Arty Reg in Tuam and am now in No.4 Bty. I’ve been in the Artillery Corps for 32 year I started off with the 5 Fld Arty Reg FCÁ so when the re-org came about I was determined to stay within the corps. I think the Single Force Concept is a very positive move. You can already see we’ve had to up our standard in training. The fact that we are gunners already there is that bit more expected of us.



CQMS PAT ‘JUNIOR’ O’CALLAGHAN

I was formally part of the No 3 Bty 31 Res Fld Arty Reg based in Nenagh. After 42 years in the Artillery Corps I wasn’t leaving it and I live in Birr so Athlone is not far. For me being part of the Defence Forces is a passion. It is in the blood true and true. The Single Force Concept is something that should have happened years ago. It’s a great concept but it will need everyone to pull together and make it work. For a young reservist joining up now there are great prospects ahead.



CQMS MARK IVORY

I am the only person to transfer from the Dublin based 62 Res Fld Arty Reg. Like the lads I wanted to stay in artillery. We can see from the Gunners Courses and the Corps Concentration that the Single Force Concept is working. We are all training together, working together and moving forward together. It couldn’t be better.



SGT FIONA HOLAHAN

I transferred from the 54 Res Fld Mil Pol Coy. As you can imagine this is all new to me. I am now part of the reserve section in HQ Bty. At the moment our section has spent most of 2013 going through the administration from the re-org, dealing with transfers and helping the reserve batteries get established. If I wanted to stay in the Military Police Corps I would have had to transfer to either Galway or Cork and that wasn’t practical, but I’m really enjoying moving to the artillery. Next up will be the Gunners Course.



GNR DEAN O’FARRELL

I transferred from the 1 ADR to Athlone. Primarily I wanted to stay within the corps. I’m enjoying being part of the 2 Arty Regt and working within the Air Defence Bty. It’s interesting to see guys coming from Field Artillery, infantry and cavalry units now all training to be air defence qualified. The cross training opportunities are great.



GNR DAVID LONG

I only joined the Defence Forces in September 2012. After finishing recruit training in Gormstown I transferred to the 2 Arty Reg. I’ve just completed my Gunners Course where I qualified on the 105mm, 120mm and the 25pdr ceremonial gun. I’ll be now moving into the STA Bty and I’m looking forward to getting trained up in that field. It’s been great being part of the Regiment.

DF Small Arms Competition

The smell of success

BY CPL PAUL MILLAR
PHOTOS BY A/B DAVY JONES



Kilworth was the location for the Defence Forces Annual Small Arms (SA) Competition which ran from 24th to 27th May. The event was split into two distinct halves for both RDF and PDF participants, with the RDF firing on the weekend and the PDF competing on the Monday and Tuesday. Units fired on competition tables for the pistol, Steyr, GPMG as well as the spectator friendly falling plates.

The 12 Inf Bn RDF rifle team stormed away from their competitors with a total of 869, a score that beat the third placed PDF team this year. The star of that team was Pte Garvey, with 171, again a respectable score that was near the joint top PDF scores of 174 from Sgt Pilkington and Pte McLoughlin, also of the 12 Inf Bn. Second in both the pistol and GPMG, the 12 Inf Bn were the most consistent of all RDF units.

The Falling Plates Competition was full of drama again with a number of re-runs that built up the tension for those that had to sprint forward. The 2 Arty Regt took the trophy home for that one, displaying as RSM Noel O'Callaghan later said, "all the leadership, resilience, teamwork and professionalism of Gnr Magee of Ballinamuck in 1798."



27 Inf Bn Winners

The big story of the SA Competition this year was the performance of the 27 Inf Bn. They cleared up on the team trophies with highly consistent team scores throughout the competition and did not just rely on a few talented shooters to carry the teams. Carrying on from their success with the An Cosantóir 10km Block win in 2012, the 2013 Recce Concentration win and subsequent great placing at the International Cambrian Patrol, they turned their gaze to this year's SA Competition.

They set out at the beginning of the year with the clear objective of being competitive in every competition and BSM Joe Murray was a constant presence at the range. Speaking to members of the 27 Inf Bn, they praised the commitment of the BSM who was the driving force behind all the teams. Cpl Patrick Sheehy who won the individual GPMG competition as well as taking gold with the team said, "He was over the moon," at receiving the coveted All-Army Marksman Badge with an individual score of 206 due in no small way to the expert coaching from Sgt Joe Mooney who also coached the rifle team to success. The pistol team members who were mere novices at this level were similarly delighted at having beaten the ARW to the post with a great performance from Cpl McGeough, Cpl Woods, Pte Fitzpatrick and Pte McQuaid, with an outstanding score of 319 expertly coached by Sgt Adam Gallagher.

For the 27 Inf Bn, the smell of cordite was the smell of success.

Reflecting afterwards BSM Joe Murray said, "*this was not just about the competitors who had the privilege and honour of representing the 27 Inf Bn but was a unit effort and is a true reflection of the leadership, pride and professionalism of the men and women of the 27 Inf Bn.*"

For a complete list of scores and rankings from this year's DF Small Arms Competition visit the DJ7 webpage on the intranet. ■

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BY TERRY MCLAUGHLIN

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand on June 28th was seen by hawks within Austria-Hungary as presenting the ideal opportunity to put an end to the problems presented by Serbia for once and for all. The difficulty faced by the Hapsburg Empire, however, lay in the likelihood that Russia would not stand by in the event of the outbreak of hostilities between Austria and its Balkan neighbour. Consequently, Vienna sought assurances from its ally, Germany, that it would provide assistance in the event of Russia moving against them.

The Austrians found willing ears in the German government and military, many of whom were anxious for a general war to establish Germany's emerging position as the major continental European power. There was a commonly held view in the upper echelons of the German Army that such a war was required before Russia

was able to complete its Great Military Programme in 1917, which would make future conflict with Russia much less favourable.

On July 5th Vienna received a 'blank cheque' guarantee from Berlin for any action against Serbia. It was also made clear that any backtracking by Austria-Hungary would threaten the Triple Alliance and that Vienna would have to face the repercussions of being seen to be weak by its enemies.

In order that Austria-Hungary was not seen to attack its smaller neighbour without pretext, a plan was developed to use the assassination of the Archduke to make a series of demands on the Serb government, and to make those demands so onerous that the Serbs could not comply.

The result of this was a document, later known as

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the July Ultimatum, which demanded, among other things, the removal of named persons from their positions in the Serb government and military, the suppression of anti-Austrian groups and propaganda, and the participation of Austrian police in investigations in Serbia.

The ultimatum was delivered on July 23rd with Serbia given until July 25th to comply. Despite the harshness of the demands, Serbia announced that they would accede to all except allowing Austrian police to operate on Serbian territory, which they felt represented an unacceptable affront to their national sovereignty.

Throughout the July Crisis opinion differed on what was at stake. The Austrians believed the conflict could be confined to a local war, although István Tisza, the Prime Minister of the Hungarian element of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, advocated strongly for a peaceful settlement as he feared, rightly, that it would lead to a general European war.

The Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Sazanov, accused Vienna of making demands it knew could not be accepted in order to force a war, warning the Austrian ambassador: "You are setting fire to Europe."

In Berlin, while it was believed the war might remain localised, many saw it as the best opportunity for Germany to fight the inevitable general war they thought was coming, since both its major opponents, France and Russia, were relatively weak militarily at the time, and Berlin also believed Britain could be kept out of the conflict.

Austria-Hungary rejected Serbia's compromise offer and declared war on July 28th. This action caused a domino effect, with Russia immediately beginning mobilisation, followed by German declarations of war against Russia (August 1st) and France (August 3rd), and Britain's declaration of war against Germany (September 4th) as a result of the latter's invasion of neutral Belgium.

As Europe stumbled towards war the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, watching lamplighters at work in London, declared presciently: "The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our time."



Alfred von Schlieffen

German plans for a general European war were based on those developed by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Alfred Count von Schlieffen in the early 1900s. The Schlieffen Plan envisaged a war against both Russia and France and was intended to avoid fighting on two fronts by destroying the French army with massive, overwhelming force before turning its attention to the Russians in the East.

In simple terms the plan could be viewed as a hammer, with the lighter handle defending Germany's border with France, while the heavy head, comprising the bulk of the German armies, would swing down through Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg to encircle Paris and the French army. The plan's architect stressed the need to keep as far to the west as possible, exemplified by his instruction: "When you march into France, let the last man on the right brush the Channel with his sleeve."

For the plan to work the head of the hammer had to swing with unstoppable force in order to achieve victory in France within weeks, so that surplus forces could be quickly

transported to the east, using Germany's highly efficient railways, in time to face the Russians. The importance of this element of the plan was stressed by von Schlieffen, whose last words in 1913 are reputed to have been: "Remember, keep the right wing very strong."

However, in 1906 von Schlieffen's successor, von Moltke, had modified the plan, leaving out the invasion of Holland and weakening the head of the hammer in order to strengthen the handle. As it turned out anyway, the strength of the German army never reached the levels laid down for the successful implementation of the original plan.

The Schlieffen Plan was based on a number of assumptions: that Russia would take at least six weeks to mobilise, during which time France would



The Schlieffen Plan 1914

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be easily defeated; the French would concentrate their efforts in Alsace Lorraine; Belgium would not resist a German invasion; and Britain would remain neutral.

While the assumption that France would concentrate its efforts on invading Alsace Lorraine proved correct, the other assumptions were wrong. Belgium put up a spirited defence of its territory, quickly aided by the British Expeditionary Force, which arrived in France within days of hostilities breaking out. More importantly, Russian mobilisation, far from taking six weeks, saw Russian armies invading East Prussia within the first week of the war.

With things going slower than expected in the west and the Russians advancing in the east the German timetable was in serious trouble. The threat of losing East Prussia and even the Prussian capital Königsberg caused von Moltke to transfer several divisions from the advancing German armies in the west. As it transpired, by the time the German reinforcements got to the Eastern Front the German 8th Army had won decisive victories over the Russians at the battles of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes. It is a moot point that if the reinforcements had not been sent from the Western Front the Schlieffen Plan may have been successful.

Meanwhile, on August 23rd Field Marshal French's British Expeditionary Force (BEF) had its first experience of combat at the Battle of Mons. Heavily out-gunned and outnumbered, the BEF, which although small comprised only professional soldiers, put up a staunch resistance. Such was the rate of fire from the BEF's riflemen that the German commander, General von Kluck, erroneously believed they were equipped with machine guns.

When the sudden retreat of the French 5th Army exposed the BEF's flank, Field Marshal French ordered the BEF's withdrawal. What became known as the Great Retreat took place over the next two weeks as the BEF fell back about 250 miles while fighting a number of fierce rearguard actions at places like Le Cateau and Etreaux, where three companies of the 2nd Battalion of the Munster Fusiliers held off an entire German army for over a day, allowing the remainder of the BEF to continue their retreat.

Following the retreating Allies, German forces got to within 30 miles of Paris, which was evacuated as fears grew that the French capital would fall. At that point, General Joffre, the overall commander of the Allied armies decided on a last-ditch offensive to try to take the initiative away from the advancing Germans. The French 6th Army attacked the right flank of the German 1st Army along the river Marne. As von Kluck wheeled his army to face the threat to his right flank a gap opened up between the 1st Army and von Bulow's 2nd Army, which was spotted by Allied reconnaissance aircraft. Joffre immediately ordered the French 5th Army and the BEF to exploit the 45km gap and the Allied forces began to advance.

Poor communications between the German armies meant that von Kluck was unaware of the situation that was developing and continued to concentrate on his battle with the French 6th Army, which was on the edge of defeat before the arrival of about 6,000 reservists who were brought to the Front by Paris taxis.

General von Bulow, who was in overall command of the two German armies, became extremely concerned by the possibility of his forces being divided and enveloped and consequently ordered a German retreat as far as the Aisne where they constructed defensive positions. This action signalled the end of the Schlieffen Plan and, unknown to the participants, would usher in the era of trench warfare and four years of stalemate in which millions would die in futile offensives and counter-offensives.

The Battle of the Marne had been a bloody affair, with approximately 500,000 dead or wounded; a casualty toll that was an ominous precursor of the carnage to come.

Although it was still only 1914 some of the top German commanders knew that the war was already effectively lost as Germany would now face a long, drawn-out war on two fronts, the very thing the Schlieffen Plan had intended to avoid.

General Sir John French



British assault on German position at Mons 1914

It would appear that the emergence of the trench warfare that came to dominate the Western Front developed more by accident than design. The Schlieffen Plan was one of rapid movement with no contingency for what to do if it stalled. When this indeed happened it seems the German commanders decided to just dig in and wait for the Allies to make the next move.

Even at that point both sides still tried to gain the advantage by manoeuvre. Attempts by both to outflank their opponents led to the Race to the Sea, which saw the Front extend westwards until it reached the English Channel.

By contrast, trench warfare never played much of a part on the Eastern Front, mainly due to its vastness, stretching from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south. The dispersion of manpower along such a massive front meant that the troop concentrations required for effective trench warfare were rarely sufficient.

In the next issue we will look at life in the trenches and the effects of industrialisation on the conduct of war. ■

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A CALL TO ARMS

BY PAUL O'BRIEN

The laws restricting Catholics from enlisting in the British army were relaxed in the 1700s, thus encouraging thousands of Irishmen to join regiments stationed in Ireland. From 1700 to the end of World War One, it is estimated that two million Irishmen died fighting 'for King and country'. Men enlisted for different reasons, adventure, the chance to travel, the opportunity for advancement and promotion, or to escape economic hardship; reasons that for those involved often outweighed the dangers of being killed in battle or taken by disease in places far from Ireland.

At the battle of Waterloo in 1815 it is estimated that half of those fighting for the British army were Irish born, recruited locally through the many barracks in the country into regiments whose identity and traditions mainly originated in England, Scotland or Wales. While some regiments, such as the 88th Regiment of Foot (Connaught Rangers) had a history of Irish recruits, it was only after a series of military reforms in 1881 that a number of local Irish regiments were formed. These included the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Munster Fusiliers, and the Connaught Rangers (formed from the amalgamation of the 88th and 94th Regiments of Foot). Later units included the Irish Guards (1900), and the North Irish Horse (1901).

Irish soldiers served in garrisons in Canada, India, South Africa

and various other outposts of the British Empire as increasing numbers of troops were required to maintain Britain's distant colonies. When Queen Victoria visited Ireland in 1900, 40% of the British army consisted of Irish recruits.

However, towards the end of the 19th century the proportion of Irishmen enlisting slowly dropped. Emigration to America had increased and growing nationalism, epitomised by the founding of the GAA (1884) and the Gaelic League (1893), made service in the British army less attractive.

Except for the occasional outburst of violence, Ireland had enjoyed a period of relative political tranquillity in the first few decades after the Famine. The rise in Irish nationalism and the quest for Home Rule became the main political aim for many. Irish nationalists fell into two general categories, constitutional nationalists, who advocated achieving Home Rule through peaceful means, and revolutionary nationalists, who supported groups such as the Fenian Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB).

After a failed rising in 1867 and an unsuccessful bombing campaign in England, Fenianism gained popular support for a short period. However, public opinion gradually drifted away and turned to constitutional nationalism, which was beginning to gain momentum through the Irish Parliamentary Party, led by Charles Stewart Parnell. Dedicated to achieving Home

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Rule by peaceful means, the party succeeded in placing Irish issues before the British parliament. However, the movement was weakened by the split between Parnellites and anti-Parnellites in the 1890s and by the defeat of Home Rule bills in 1886 and 1893.

In common with most of European society, Ireland witnessed a sharp rise in nationalistic fervour around the turn of the century. Nationalism permeated politics, sport, literature, language and education, as the desire grew to get out from under the dominant influence of England and to develop an 'Irish' Ireland.

After the death of Parnell, John Redmond took over the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary Party, which continued to lobby successive governments for Home Rule, but to no avail. It was not until the general election of 1910 that

Redmond was able to capitalise on Prime Minister Asquith's political difficulties to extract a promise of another Home Rule bill in return for Irish Parliamentary Party support in the election. Asquith had no choice but to agree to a new bill.

The bill passed and this time the House of Lords no longer had the absolute power to veto the bill. Due to reforms of the upper house they could only delay a bill for up to two years after which it could be brought back to the House of Commons for a third reading. Having passed its third reading it could become law with or without the consent of the upper house.

Ulster Unionists were outraged at the possibility of Home Rule for Ireland and immediately took action by forming a provisional government and raising the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force to defend their link with Britain.

Gaelic Leaguer, Eoin MacNeill wrote that if a volunteer force was allowed to exist in Ulster, there should be no reason why one should not be established in the south. The Irish Volunteers were accordingly formed on November 25th 1913.

Concerned at the escalating situation in Ireland, Asquith tried to appease both factions but failed. Believing that arms depots in Ulster were in danger of being raided by the UVF, the government issued orders to send troops to secure the installations in the north of the country. In response, 58 army officers at the Curragh camp in Kildare who were sympathetic to the Ulster Unionists threatened to resign rather than take up arms against the Unionists. This incident, which became known as the Curragh Mutiny, forced the cabinet to back down and the scheme was dropped.

The outbreak of war in Europe in August 1914 changed the situation in Ireland. John Redmond, believing that Home Rule would be granted after the war, encouraged his followers to join the British army and "fight for the rights of small nations". In a speech at Woodenbridge, County Wicklow, on 20th September 1914, Redmond stated:

"The war is undertaken in defence of the highest principles of religion and morality and right and it would be a disgrace forever to our country, a reproach to her manhood and a denial of the lessons of her history, if young Ireland confined their efforts to remaining at home... or should shrink from the duty of proving on the field of battle that gallantry and courage which have distinguished their race all through history..."

The speech caused a split among the Volunteers, about 90% of whom sided with Redmond, changing their name to the National Volunteers. It was from the remaining approximately 10,000 Irish Volunteers that the Easter Rising would get its support.

While thousands of young Irishmen would die on the battlefields of France and Flanders in the hope of gaining Home Rule for Ireland, many of those who remained at home regarded revolution as the only solution to Ireland's political problems, a revolution which was moving inexorably closer. ■

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A WAR ON TWO FRONTS

BY PAUL O'BRIEN

At 5.05hrs on the morning of the 11th November, the armistice between the Allies and Germany was signed. At 06.50 hours a message was relayed from Field Marshal Haig's Headquarters that read:

'Hostilities will cease at 11.00hrs today, November 11th. Troops will stand fast on the line reached at that time which will be reported to Corps Headquarters. Strictest precautions will be maintained. There will be no intercourse with the enemy.'

At 11.00hrs on the 11th November 1918, the guns finally fell silent on

the Western Front and the war to end all wars finally came to an end. Each power that had fought now began demobilizing its forces. Millions of young men would have to be reintegrated back into society and into the workplace, a task easier said than done. One of the popular slogans of the time was 'A Home fit for heroes' but many on arriving back home found a very different scenario. Almost every industry had been geared to meet the requirements of the war and not only would many factories have to convert to peace-time manufacturing, but large numbers of compa-

nies would no longer have any business at all. Thousands of returning soldiers would face unemployment and hardship as they sought to reintegrate back into society. An estimated 49,000 Irishmen lost their lives during the war and the thousands that survived returned to a very different country. The re-emergence of Irish Nationalism in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising, industrial strife and recession caused hardship throughout the population.

Under the Irish Land Act 1919, The Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust began a project to house many ex-soldiers and their families. Between 1918 and 1922, some 247 houses were built in Killester, Dublin, for ex-servicemen and their families on what was called the garden suburb model with each house incorporating a large back garden to help families be self-sufficient. A Legion Hall was constructed as a community facil-



ties would no longer have any business at all. Thousands of returning soldiers would face unemployment and hardship as they sought to reintegrate back into society. An estimated 49,000 Irishmen lost their lives during the war and the thousands that survived returned to a very different country. The re-emergence of Irish Nationalism in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising, industrial strife and recession caused hardship throughout the population.



The A.R.P. Corp. Killester circa. 1939-1945

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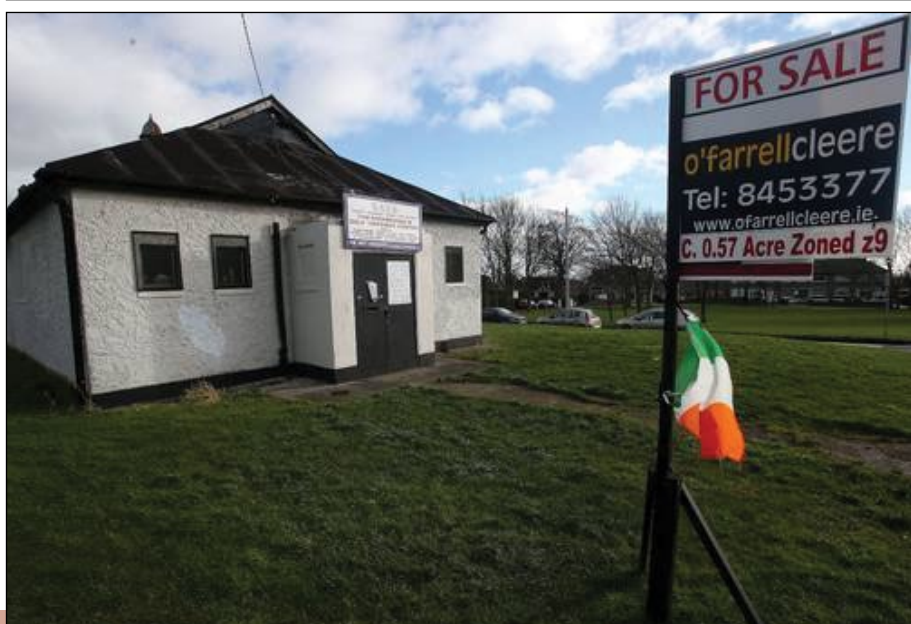
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ity for those residing in the houses, bringing young and old together. In the years that followed, this garden suburb model thrived and a community was created that still continues today. The idea originated when Ebenezer Howard's book 'Garden Cities of Tomorrow' was published in 1902 which described a utopian city in which people lived harmoniously together with nature. Howard aimed to reduce the alienation of humans and society from nature, and hence advocated garden cities.

While the Legion Hall has fallen into disrepair, there is currently a project to purchase the Hall, re-develop the building in a way that pays a meaningful tribute both to its original purpose and to its central role in today's community. In the last two decades there has been a considerable amount of redevelopment in Dublin city, enough for a lifetime. However, a campaign is currently in full swing to save this building from destruction.

The Killester War Memorial Campaign has been inaugurated in order to appeal for support to preserve and protect the former Killester Royal British Legion Hall from being demolished and the land being developed. With the decade of centenaries in full swing, it is hoped by many that this unique historical Hall will be protected as a permanent symbol of commemoration and reconciliation in honour of the many Irishmen who lost their lives during World War One. ■

To discover more about this campaign log on to www.warmemorialproject.com or checkout their facebook page www.facebook.com/KillesterWarMemorialCampaign.

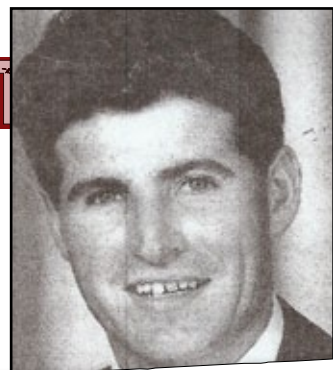


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CHARLES KEARNEY

a Forgotten Irish Hero

BY CAPT NOEL CAREY (RETD)



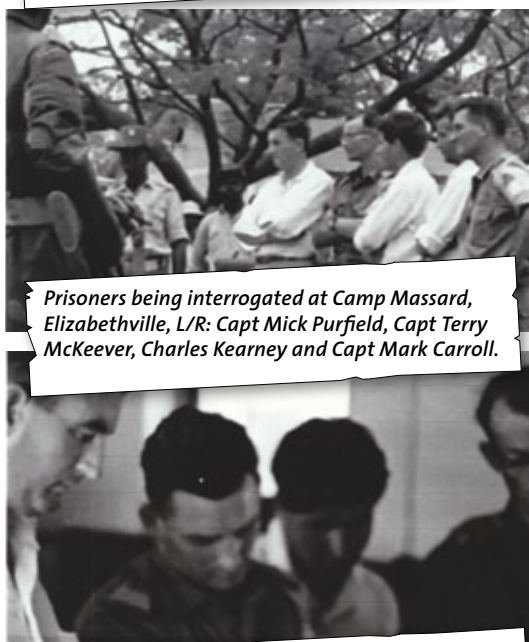
Charles Kearney of Camolin, Co Wexford.

Recently a friend and former colleague, Lt Col Ray Roche, contacted me in relation to an article in his home newspaper, the Wexford People, about Charles Kearney from Camolin, Co Wexford, who came to the aid of Irish UN soldiers fighting for their lives at Jadotville during the conflict in the Congo in the 1960s.

He was captured and faced execution but survived and offered his services to the UN forces and remained in Katanga



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



Prisoners being interrogated at Camp Massard, Elizabethville, L/R: Capt Mick Purfield, Capt Terry McKeever, Charles Kearney and Capt Mark Carroll.

*Prisoners at Camp Massard with Katangan guards,
L/R: Capt Mick Purfield, Capt Terry McKeever, Charles
Kearney and extreme right Capt Mark Carroll,
September 1961.*

for four more years, clearing roads and reconstructing bridges to Jadotville and Kolwezi that had been demolished by Katangan and mercenary forces.

A photograph of myself and members of my platoon beside a UN helicopter at Jadotville was published in the article. I wrote to the editor stating that it was members of my platoon who were in the photograph, that I met Charles Kearney in Jadotville, and that the members of A Coy, 35 Inf

Brn, regarded him as a hero who deserved recognition for his unselfish actions, giving us invaluable intelligence, while losing his job and almost his life as a consequence.

I was a young lieutenant with A Coy (PI Comd, 3 Platoon) on September 2nd 1961, when our CO, Comdt Pat Quinlan, ordered the company to move immediately from the airport at Elizabethville to Jadotville, some 60 miles away, on orders from the battalion commander.

Our mission was to protect the inhabitants in the event of possible rioting breaking out.

We were no sooner established in the town than we were surrounded by hundreds of Katangan troops led by mercenary soldiers recruited by President Tshombe and his government. We were cut off from supplies and reinforcements as the Katangans held the bridge over the Lufira River some 50 miles from our base in Elizabethville and we were also denied entrance into Jadotville itself by a strong force of heavily armed troops. We were unaware that the hundreds of mercenaries we had removed from Katanga during Operation 'Rum Punch' some weeks previously had returned to Katanga through Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and were now pouring into Jadotville.

Tension was heightened as the Katangans drove their fully armed troops through our area hourly, trying to provoke us into action. Comdt Quinlan requested instructions from Battalion HQ and was told not to worry and stay put. Tension increased dramatically as our supply truck was stopped at the Lufira Bridge, leaving us without supplies.

That night we received a message from inside Jadotville from Charles Kearney from Wexford, a civilian working in the mines at Union Minière, that we were in grave danger and that mercenaries were stirring up trouble in the native villages urging an attack on UN forces.

Over the following days he gave Comdt Quinlan valuable intelligence as to when an attack might occur and the location



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



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and strength of Katangan forces in Jadotville. As a result Comdt Quinlan ordered all his troops to dig trenches and camouflage them as quickly as possible.

Consequently, when the attack came on September 13th we were well pre-

pared. If we hadn't been dug-in the heavy machine-gun fire, mortars and bombing by the Katangan's Fouga jet would have caused many fatalities: luckily we had only six soldiers wounded. The members of A Coy were subsequently taken prisoner.

Having been dismissed from his job Kearney made his way to the Irish battalion HQ in Elizabethville where he offered his services, which were readily accepted. He led a party of three officers, Captains Mark Carroll, Terry McNulty and Mick Purfield, into the city to recce the area around the Katangan HQ at Camp Massard, where A Coy were being held.

Unfortunately they were captured and interrogated, locked in a cell and sentenced to be shot. However, they were eventually incarcerated with A Coy and held as hostages for four weeks in Kolwezi, until all were freed.

Charles continued to work for the UN and was involved in restoring the road to Jadotville when Indian and Irish UN forces finally ended Katangan secession in 1964. A highly complimentary letter from U Thant, Sec Gen of the UN, praised him for his devotion to the cause of the UN over and above the normal call of duty, saying that this had earned Charles Kearney the highest esteem of his colleagues and the gratitude of the United Nations.

Speaking of how Charles had worked in the emergency operation to restore bridges on the Jadotville road, regardless of the risk to himself, U Thant said: "It should be of considerable gratification to know that your ready response to a critical situation helped greatly in restoring communications and so enabled ONUC troops to pursue their objectives with minimum delay."

After his time in the Congo Charles moved to Zambia where he met and married the love of his life, Judy, who was a nurse at Kitwe General Hospital. They set up business in Lion Kop and ran a successful safari lodge near Victoria Falls that was visited by the president of Zambia Kenneth Kaunda.

Charles died and was buried in Zambia last year. At his funeral a UN flag and beret donated by McKee Bks were placed on his coffin and the Irish flag was flown. He is survived by his wife Judy, who now lives in Wexford, and daughter Roslyn Mary and son Charles James who run the family business.

Comdt Liam Donnelly (ret'd), who also served as a platoon commander with A Coy, and I arranged to meet Judy Kearney in Dublin recently and it was a memorable occasion as we shared stories of our time in Katanga and I presented Judy with a DVD film by Movietone News of Charles as a prisoner at Camp Massard and on his release from Kolwezi after being held by the Katangans.

While Charles never received any official recognition at home for his heroic and patriotic actions (actions that cost him his job, and very nearly his life, as he risked all to protect his fellow Irishmen in a far off country), his family can rest assured that the veterans of A Company will always remember the outstanding bravery of Charles Kearney.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. ■

United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC)

(July 1960 – June 1964)

ONUC was established by Security Council resolution 143 (1960) on 14th July 1960 to ensure the withdrawal of Belgian forces, to assist the Government in maintaining law and order and to provide technical assistance.

The function of ONUC was subsequently modified to include maintaining the territorial integrity and political independence of the Congo, preventing the occurrence of civil war and securing the removal of all foreign military, paramilitary and advisory personnel not under the United Nations Command, and all mercenaries.

In February 1963, after Katanga had been reintegrated into the national territory of the Congo, a phasing out of the Force was begun, aimed at its termination by the end of that year. At the request of the Congolese Government, however, the General Assembly authorized the stay of a reduced number of troops for a further six months. The Force was completely withdrawn by 30 June 1964.

Strength: Maximum (July 1961) 19,828 all ranks, supported by international civilian and locally recruited staff. At withdrawal (30 December 1963) 5,871 all ranks, supported by international civilian and locally recruited staff.

Military Contributors: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Malaya, Federation of Mali, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. [From February 1963 to the end of the operation, a battalion of the Congolese National Army was incorporated in ONUC]. Fatalities: 245 military personnel and 5 international civilian staff = Total 250

www.un.org/Depts/DPKO/Missions/onuc.htm

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

This article was previously published in the Wexford People and the New Ross Standard, in July 2013.

2014 DF Relay Orienteering Championships

BY COMDT DÓNAL BURKE, OIC INF WPNS WG, MIL COL
PHOTOS BY CPL PAUL MILLAR



Emo Court, Co Laois, was the venue for the 2014 Defence Forces Relay Orienteering Championships, on April 10th. The estate house, built in 1790 for the Earl of Portarlington, proved to be a great backdrop for the event and the grounds, a mixture of well-maintained gardens and mature forestry, provided enjoyable and scenic terrain to compete over. The many civilian visitors to the OPW-run estate witnessed over 20 teams from across the Defence Forces participating on the day. There was a mixture of experienced and not-so-experienced orienteers tackling the challenges of the various courses.

An orienteering relay event consists of a three-person team, with each member of the team running a different course. This event had short (2.8km), medium (3.4km) and long (6.6km) courses. The event began with a mass start, with each competitor only knowing which course he was running. Some people got caught up in the excitement on the day and followed the wrong person or punched the wrong control site, but this is all part of the sport,

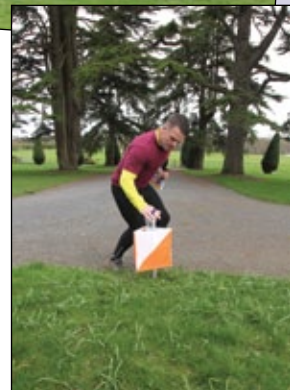
and here lies the secret to an orienteering relay event; focus on your own map and don't be distracted by those around you!

The event was well received, with the vast majority of participants really enjoying the experience. The GOC DFTC, Brig Gen Ó'Giollaín presented the prizes to the winning team from the Air Corps: Lt Holohan, Cpl Smyth and Capt O'Grady.

The orienteering season is now over for the summer and will kick-off again this autumn with brigade-level events. Please contact your brigade orienteering representative if you are interested in taking up this most military of sports, which helps to develop fitness, navigation, decision-making and situational awareness. It is an ideal sport for anyone preparing for recce, sniper, SOF Q, or career courses.

1 Bde	Capt Danielle Buckley	danielle.buckley@defenceforces.ie
2 Bde	Capt Daniel Morrogh	daniel.morrogh@defenceforces.ie
DFTC	Comdt Donal Burke	donal.burke@defenceforces.ie
DFHQ	Comdt Oliver Clear	oliver.clear@defenceforces.ie
AC	Capt Maeve O'Grady	maeve.ogrady@defenceforces.ie
DF Rep	Comdt Niall Verling	niall.verling@defenceforces.ie

For those who would like to try this sport outside the Defence Forces, a list of nationwide events is available on www.orienteering.ie. ■



COMPLETING THE TOUGHEST RACE ON EARTH

BY SGT RENA KENNEDY, DF PRESS OFFICE



them for seven days and the only item provided to runners is a daily ration of fresh water. Sgt Ann Marie Larkin (DFHQ) took part in the 29th Marathon des Sables in April.

Ann Marie, who is from Rahan, Co Offaly, and who joined the Defence Forces in 1996, started her adventure on April 2nd, flying to Gatwick airport for an onward flight to Errachidia in Morocco. Her first two nights at the race bivouac were primarily focused on admin, with mandatory kit inspections and checking of medical certificates. She also got to know the people she was sharing the bivouac with, two other Irish competitors and a couple from Canada. In the tradition of this event Ann Marie and her 'bivvy buddies' would become each other's family, supporters, nurse and friends.

The route and format change each year, with race director, Patrick Bauer, and his team meticulously planning routes that are held secret until the day before the event starts. There is only one day's rest in the marathon and the longest stage in this year's event was 81.5km.

Its difficulty has made the race legendary, with Discovery Channel branding it "The toughest race on Earth".

Here is how Ann Marie got on:

Day 1:	34km – 6hrs 52mins
Day 2:	41km – 7hrs 08mins
Day 3:	37.5km – 7hrs 9mins
Day 4:	81.5km – 19hrs 40mins
Day 5:	Rest
Day 6:	42.2km – 6hrs 49mins
Day 7:	7.7km Charity run

Temperatures during the day averaged 47°C throughout the week and of the 1,038 competitors who started, 917 finished. The race lost 29 participants on day one, the highest number to fail to finish the first stage in the history of the race. At the end of the marathon Ann Marie finished in 505th place overall with a total running time of just over 47 hours.

Asked for some of the highlights of her experience Ann Marie recalled being given a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday' at the start of Stage 4 and again at the 50km checkpoint, and receiving a cold can of Coke at the end of the same stage; receiving her medal from race organiser Patrick Bauer; and reading the messages of support that she received daily from her family and friends at home via the race support staff.

Would she do it again? Yes, but she says there are a few more things she wants to try before a repeat performance. Ann Marie is no stranger to challenges, choosing one annually to focus on. To date she has achieved the following milestones: completed a 50-mile race in 11hrs 14 mins (2010); completed five marathons in five days (2011); finished a 100-mile run in 22hrs 43mins (2012); ran 10 marathons in 10 days (2013). Her targets this year were to do the Marathon des Sables and complete her 70th marathon, while she is targeting reaching her 100th marathon in 2015. ■





THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE/7

AN COSANTOIR 10K RACE

Pheonix Park
08 October

The An Cosantóir 10KM is the Defence Forces largest athletics event. The event is open to all members of the Defence Forces and invited guests. It is the only block run in Ireland, but the largest participation comes from individual runners.

Below is a sample program for those wishing to participate, but consult your GP before starting it.

WEEK	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL DAYS
1	2 X 2 KM E/R 2 MIN RT BETWEEN REPS	REST	MIXED CIRCUIT	REST	30 MIN E/R	REST	REST	3
2	3 X 1.5 KM 2 MIN R/T E/R	REST	MIXED CIRCUIT	REST	40 MIN E/R	REST	REST	3
3	4 X 1 KM T/R 3 MIN R	MIXED CIRCUIT	30-40 MIN R/J	5.5 KM S/SR	REST	REST	REST	4
4	3 X 2 KM T/R 3 MIN R/T EACH KM	MIXED CIRCUIT	30 MIN R/J	3 X 1.5 KM C/I 3 MIN R/T	40 MIN R/J	REST	REST	5
5	4 X 2 KM T/R 3 MIN R/T	30 MIN R/J	MIXED CIRCUIT	5 X 2 KM C/I 2 MIN 30 SEC R/T	30 MIN R/J	REST	REST	5
6	3 X 2 KM T/R 5 MIN R/T	30 MIN R/J	30 MIN S/SR	45 MIN R/J	3 X 2.5 KM S/P 2 MIN R/T	REST	REST	5
7	3 X 3 KM @ TARGET PACE 3 MIN R/T	30 MIN R/J	40 MIN R/J	6 KM T/R	50 MIN R/J	REST	REST	5
8	8 KM E/R	40 MIN R/J	20 MIN T/R	REST	10 KM RUN	REST	REST	3 + 10KM

WARM UP PRIOR TO ALL SESSIONS, COOL DOWN AT END OF ALL SESSIONS (LIGHT JOG FOLLOWED BY STRETCHING)

*E/R = EASY RUN; RELAXED RUN.

*S/SR = STEADY STATE RUN; STEADY PACE THROUGHOUT.

*C/I = CRUISE INTERVAL; SHORTER BUT SLIGHTLY MORE INTENSE TEMPO INTERVAL, A SMOOTH FAST RHYTHM RUN.

*T/R = TEMPO RUN; EFFORT YOU CAN HOLD FOR 20-30 MINS - COMFORTABLY HARD.

*S/P = SPEED PACE; AT YOUR MAXIMUM AEROBIC CAPACITY, JOG ABOUT HALF THE DISTANCE FOR RECOVERY EG: 8000M FAST 400M RECOVERY.

*R/J = RECOVERY JOG; LONG, SLOW RUN.

*RT = REST TIME; BRINGS HEART RATE DOWN.

Program from Defence Forces School of Physical Education.

How to enter:

Download the entry form from military.ie or dfmagazine.ie

Fee is €10 per person.

Post it to the address on the form.

Deadline is 01 October for entries.

Location is McKee Barracks.

Race numbers and goody bags collection from 1100.

Blocks start at 1200.

Main race starts at 1330.

Additional information available on the entry form or email:

info@military.ie, or phone 045 44 5306



dfmagazine.ie

GEAR REVIEW



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

BENCHMADE SAFETY CUTTER RESCUE TOOL (9-HOOK)

PRICE: €21.00

The manufacturer says...

This new safety cutter has the ability to cut up to 1/2" diameter of rope and features a retractable safety blade cover. A carabiner clip and bottle opener completes the package.

Grivory® handle material - Premium stainless steel blade - Carabiner clip and bottle opener.

Specifications: Blade Length: 0.00", Blade Thickness: 0.055", Handle Thickness: 0.522", Blade Material: Premium Stainless Steel, Weight: 0.800z, Pocket Clip: Carabiner, Lock Mechanism: Retractable Blade Cover, Overall Length: 5.19" and Closed Length: 0.00"

Our reviewer Cpl John Foley (DFTC Fire Station) says...

As a member of the Fire Service, I was given this cutter to evaluate. I used it on one exercise and passed it around the crews for their expert opinions too. As regards sharpness it's well up there with the best. It works well at its specific task but there is only so many belts to be cut in any one day, so we set about finding other functions while avoiding metal. It copes well with materials such as clothing, light tie down straps, canvas covers and heavy cardboard.

Its size and shape makes it easy to hold and take out of your pocket while wearing heavy gloves. Fire uniforms have loops stitched to the inside of the pockets and the cutter can be attached via a lanyard and carabineer clip which is a useful idea to prevent loss at a busy rescue scene. Another feature of the cutter was a bottle opener incorporated in the handle. I would consider the knife disposable as no spare blades supplied and it is required to be returned to the manufacturer for sharpening.

Blade Sharpness 9 – Durability 5 – Safety 9 – Ease of use 8 – Value 8 – Molle attachment 8 – Grip 8 – Bottle Opener 6

BENCHMADE SAFETY CUTTER EOD ATTACHMENT (RESCUE TOOL)

PRICE: €17.00

The manufacturer says...

BenchMade Rescue Tool with seatbelt cutter and extended length for better reach and leverage, Cut quickly and reliably in an emergency situation. This model features an Explosive Ordinance Disposal attachment. Hook & No Sheath/ Designed to attach to robot arms for Explosive Ordinance Disposal professionals.

Specifications: Blade Length: 0.50", Blade Thickness: 0.115", Handle Thickness: 0.114", Blade Material: 440C Stainless Steel, Blade Hardness: 58-60HRC, Blade Style: Hook and Weight: 1.500z.

Our reviewer Lt Cmdr Tony O'Regan (Naval Diving Section) says...

I used this knife while on Diving Exercises. Although the knife is not specifically designed in a diving capacity, it does have its positives, for instance the seat belt cutter aspect of the knife would be extremely handy when diving to perform rescues or recoveries from a car. What let it down for me was its grip, which didn't suit a user that has to wear gloves. I can see how useful the knife would be on dry land as its blade is particularly strong and seems very durable. I would recommend this knife, but be sure as to its purpose before purchasing.

Blade Sharpness 8 – Durability 8 – Safety 5 – Ease of use 5 – Value 5



COMPETITION



This month Team-Alpha is offering a Princeton Tec "Charge MPLS" Light (worth €89.75) www.team-alpha.ie

For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: What colour LED does the Princeton Tec Charge MPLS 'Black' model have?

Answer along with your name & address to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 20th August 2014. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Michael Bookle, DFVBW, Curragh Camp

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

10K 2014

ARE YOU READY?



Phoenix Park
08 October 11:00
€10 entry
Forms on Intranet
Deadline 01 October
Ph: 53 12 for more info



RESERVE FORCES - CIVIL DEFENCE - FIRE SERVICES - RESCUE

ARMY - NAVAL SERVICE

AIR CORPS - GARDIA

IRISHMILITARYTSHIRTS.COM



Readers Competition Result

1st Prize
 UZI Tactical Watch & Pen Set

2nd Prize
 Wrist Wraparound Tactical Aid

3rd Prize
 2x Miniature Rank Markings

Winners are as follows:
 1st Tony Cronin, Cork - 2nd Colin Delany, Dublin 6
 3rd Colm O'Donnell, Longford

Readers Competition result from Merrion Press



Winners of **5** free copies of Mark McLoughlin's 'Kildare Barracks: From the Royal Field Artillery to the Irish Artillery Corps', are:

1. Donal Roche, Co Cork
2. John B Good, Dublin 16
3. Joe Ryan, Co Tipperary
4. Roger McGrath, Dublin 4
5. Gerard Little, Co Dublin



An Cosantóir readers save **25% off** paperback ~~€21.95~~ €16.46 and **50% off** hardback ~~€70.00~~ €35.00

Please contact Merrion Press for further details.
 Ph: 045 895562 | info@iap.ie | www.iap.ie

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

Photographic Competition



The Competition is open to all readers of the An Cosantóir, both civilian and military.
 Terms and Conditions apply
 Competition will run from:

February to October (incl).
 Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Overall
 Entry Form and T&C available on www.dfmagazine.ie

Competition Sponsors

Barker
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Unit 18, South Link Park, Frankfield, Co. Cork
 Tel: +353 (0)21 4319766

First Prize - GoPro Camera
 Second Prize - €50 Voucher
 Third Prize - €50 Voucher



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FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
 Mark 0861602228 Eddie 0863410159
<http://www.internationalmilitariacollectorsclub.com>



NOTICEBOARD

MAYO PEACE PARK

The Mayo Peace Park committee and Mayo County Council have agreed to host a special 'Mayo Commemoration Day' at the Mayo Peace Park on Sunday the 3rd August 2014. The event will start at 2.30pm. This will mark the 100th anniversary of world war one in county Mayo. It will be an all embracing ceremony, however the main focus will be on the 100th anniversary of world war one and on those from Ireland and from Co.

Mayo who served & died in it. It will be a major ecumenical event, with a significant clerical involvement. We will have music & song for a joyful ceremony. The invited guest speaker is journalist and columnist Mr. Kevin Myers. **August Weekend:** World war exhibition of memorabilia on in the County Library all week.

For more information contact: Michael Feeney MBE, Secretary Mayo Peace Park.
info@mayopeacepark.ie - www.mayopeacepark.ie

REUNION:

20 YEAR REUNION FOR
40TH & 41ST RECRUIT
PLATOON CTD (E) JULY
1994. Location: NCOs
Mess, Cathal Brugha
Bks, 02 Aug 7.30pm.
Contact:
rena.kennedy@
defenceforces.ie/2504
for details.

WORD SEARCH

**CROSS OFF THE
WORDS IN THE LIST
AS YOU FIND THEM.**

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

World War One Commanders

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

BEATTY
FALKENHAYN
FISHER
FOCH
HAIG
HINDENBURG
JELICOE
JOFFRE
LUDERNDORFF
PETAIN
RAWLINSON

Q&A JUL/AUG

1. WHAT DATE IS THE AN COSANTÓIR 10K ON THIS YEAR (THIS ISSUE)?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email:
subs@military.ie for a chance to win a Defence Forces 'Goody Bag'

Last month's winner of the 'Goody Bag' was Liam Mangan, Mullingar, Co Westmeath. Closing date is 20th August 2014.



Dates for your diary:

13 July 2014 - National Day of Commemoration - Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin

19 July to 23 August 2014 - Ceremonial Guard - Merrion Square Memorial, Dublin

20 July 2014 - Defence Forces Race Day @ The Curragh Racecourse, Kildare

20 July 2014 - Bray Air Show, Co Wicklow

2 September 2014 - Defence Forces Veterans' Day, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare

8 October 2014 - An Cosantóir 10K Road Race, Phoenix Park, Dublin

BOOKS

KILDARE BARRACKS:

FROM THE ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY
TO THE IRISH ARTILLERY CORPS

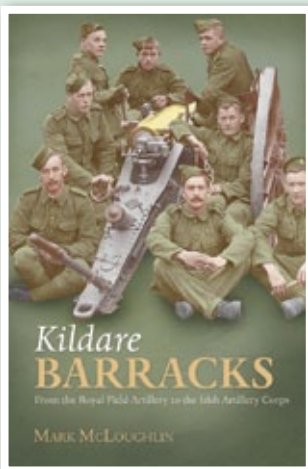
Author: Mark McLoughlin

Publisher: Irish Academic Press
(Merrion), March 2014 (www.iap.ie)

ISBN: 978-1908928467

Price: €19.75 PB / €45.00 HB

Pages: 288



I SERVED
IN the
Artillery
Corps
for over
24-years,
12 of
which I
spent very
happily in
Magee Bks
Kildare.
So I was
naturally
curious
about

Mark McLaughlin's book, after all, what could be so special about "the barracks" that could fill a book? I couldn't have been more mistaken. This excellent book gives the reader a full and in depth history of Kildare Bks. From initial occupation by the British Army in 1901, through the War of Independence, the transfer of authority to Free State Forces, then the Irish Civil War. It continues on to the development of the barracks, the Artillery Corps, the Defence Forces, and Kildare town itself, right up to the closure of the barracks in 1998. I found the chapters covering the War of Independence, the Civic Guards Mutiny, and the establishment and development of our own Artillery Corps riveting. I had no idea of just how much an effect the military presence shaped the development of the town of Kildare and its environs. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who served in the barracks, or who lives in the area of Kildare Town, or who has an interest in local or military history. **GS**

DOROTHY STOPFORD PRICE:

REBEL DOCTOR

Author: Anne Mac Lellan

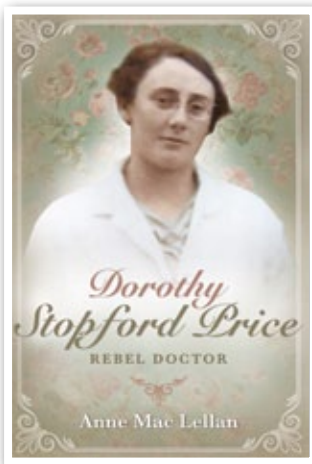
Publisher: Irish Academic Press, April
2014 (www.iap.ie)

ISBN: 978-0716532378 / **ASIN:**

BooJKN594K

Price: €9.99 ebook / €22.45 PB /
€45.00 HB

Pages: 268



THIS IS THE captivating and compelling biography of the life of Dorothy Stopford Price. Claimed as possibly the most significant figure in Ireland's fight against Tuberculosis (TB). She has been unfairly forgotten over the last few decades as being responsible for the introduction of the BCG vaccine to Ireland. Born of Anglo Irish decent with a privilege education and later her profession as a doctor. Her startling involvement in the struggle for Irish independence especially during the Easter Rising as she witnessed the history of an early Ireland through the struggle of war. She was a committed nationalist, a member of Cumann na mBan and a doctor to the West Cork IRA Brigade during the War of Independence. This book offers a fascinating insight as Dorothy dedicated her life to improving the health of Irish People. **KG**

ESCAPE FROM HONG KONG:

ADMIRAL CHAN CHAK'S
CHRISTMAS DAY DASH, 1941

Author: Tim Luard

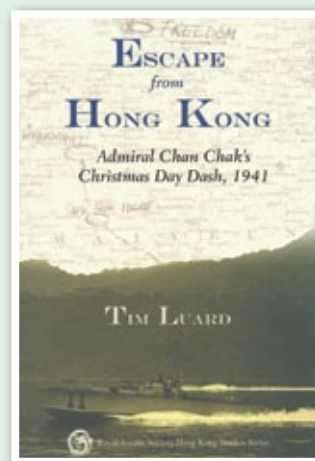
Publisher: Hong Kong University
Press, January 2012
(www.hkupress.org)

ISBN: 978-9888083770

Price: €12.50 PB / €28.00 HB

Pages: 324 and 66 illustrations &
photographs

TIM LUARD'S BOOK brings this little known story of a Chinese-led British escape from the occupying Japanese forces engulfing Hong Kong during the largest war in our history – World War II.



Christmas Day 1941, Hong Kong's Admiral Chan Chak, the Chinese government's chief agent in Hong Kong surrendered to the invading Japanese army. He then led more than 60 Chinese, British and Danish intelligence, naval and marine personnel made a dramatic escape under fire as the Japanese Army engulfed Hong Kong. This story has been told in parts through individual diaries, letters and memoirs, but now Tim has massed them into a well balanced and entrilling adventure story – that will interest military historians of all wars. **WF**

SEAL TEAM SIX – BOOK 5**Author:** Chuck Dixon**Publisher:** Dynamite Entertainment; 5th edition (August 8, 2013)**Sold by:** Amazon Digital Services, Inc.**ISBN:** 978-1606904589 **ASIN:** B00EFAT5O8**Price:** €7.30 P/B / €2.40 eBook**Pages:** 191

THE TEAM KNOWN only as SEAL Team 6 are back in Chuck Dixon's

ongoing action series.

Book five sees the team back in Afghanistan – and back to basics fighting the war on terror. Manny, Heath, Chilli, Pig, Priest and new guy Woody are partnered up with Bear their CIA handler. After Heath gets the all clear

from the Medical Examiner to return to active duty he follows the team to Fire Base Iron Man, Herat Province, Afghanistan. The team's mission is to seek out and destroy Charborz Ilas Muhammed, a professional Chechen soldier/terrorist with platoon strength militia who is attacking US Forces with ferocity. Using state of the art drones, satellite imagery and night vision equipment they locate the enemy in a cave system within the mountains. The team go in, battered, busied and dazed while fighting up front and personal in the cave that's now collapsed; finally they try retreat with their Chechen prisoner. **WF**

New SEAL Team Six MEGA Edition (eBooks 1-5, €7.70): www.amazon.com/dp/B00EJS2DgK/

About the author: New York Times Best-Selling Author Chuck Dixon is considered one of the most prolific writers in the history of the comics medium, and is perhaps best known for his decade-long run on multiple Batman titles. His latest books Bad Times Book One: Cannibal Gold and Book Two: Blood Red Tide are available now on Kindle!

DVD**JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT****Director:** Kenneth Branagh**Writers:** Adam Cozad and David Koepp (original characters created by Tom Clancy)**Featuring:** Chris Pine, Kevin Costner, Kenneth Branagh, Karen David, Colm Feore, Keira Knightley and Gemma Chan**Runtime:** 1hr 45mins**Released:** 30 May 2014**DVD Price:** €16.99

JACK RYAN A CIA analyst who becomes a field agent by chance is the American equivalent to the British James Bond character. US award winning author Tom Clancy's character gets a new lease of life and is brought into the modern age, the film starts off with the 9/11 terrorist attack, and Jack enlists to serve his country. Lt Jack Ryan (Pine) is wounded in battle that results in him being treated in Veterans hospital; he is eventually recruited from there by William Harper (Costner) as an analyst for the CIA's Financial Intelligence Unit. Jack stumbles upon a plot by Russian billionaire Viktor Cherevin (Branagh) to crash the US economy, and unintentionally goes undercover to infiltrate Viktor's network to get to the bottom of these financial irregularities. Jack's suspicious fiancé Cathy (Knightley) travels to Russia to surprise her beau and ends up becoming a willing accomplice and is caught up in a cat and mouse battle that spreads across the Russian city. Can Ryan save the day and live up to the Tom Clancy original? www.shadowrecruitmovie.com

GAME**WATCH DOGS**

ASSASSIN'S CREED MEETS Grand Theft Auto in explosive fashion. Set in Chicago, where a network of computers known as the Central Operating System (ctOS), connects everyone and everything. Watch_Dogs explores the impact of technology within our society. You play as Aiden Pearce, a brilliant hacker and former thug, whose criminal past led to a violent family tragedy. While seeking justice for those events, you'll monitor and hack those around you by manipulating the ctOS from the palm of your hand. Using the city as your weapon, you will embark on a personal mission to inflict your own brand of justice. Trap your enemy in a 30-car pileup by manipulating the traffic lights - or take on your foes with more than 30 traditional weapons. Ubisoft Montreal partnered with Ubisoft Reflections, the team behind the award-winning Driver series, provide a suite of vehicles bursting with horsepower - you'll get behind the wheel of more than 65 cars with state-of-the-art physics and handling.

<http://watchdogs.ubi.com/>

Genre: Action - Platform: xBox 360, xBox One, PS3, PS4, Wii U & PC DVD - PEGI: 18+ - Release Date: 27 May 2014 - Price: €54.99-€74.99. © Copyright Ubisoft Entertainment. All Rights Reserved.

NAME

CIARÁN CURRAN

RANK

SERGEANT

UNIT

2 CAV SQN RDF



I joined the RDF in 1993, with the 2 Air Defence Battery in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin. At that time I was employed as a store-man in Intel. During my time in 2 AD Bty I was trained on the Bofors L60 anti-aircraft gun, .5in browning machinegun in the anti-aircraft role as well section weapons, Bren gun, FN and the GPMG. I completed my artillery gunnery course and went on my Potential NCOs course in 1995. Where I placed 1st out of twenty-five students. This was a solid two-week programme with Mol and tactics being taught among the subjects.

In 1996 I applied for the PDF hoping to go to 1 Air Defence Regiment, Curragh Camp but after my successful application and recruit training I was assigned to B Coy, 5 Inf Bn, McKee Bks, I was then posted to Spt Coy 5 Inf Bn because of my .5in machinegun experience. After many months of infantry life, I applied for the ARW selection course, after a hard 10 days I

“At this stage of my career I had served in the Arty, Inf and Cav Corps”

returned like so many unsuccessful candidates – but happy with gaining so much experience.

In February 1999 I formed up with Wpns Pl, A Coy, 85 Inf Bn for overseas training for our six-month mission to South Lebanon with UNIFIL. I started my tour on UN post 6-40 Al-yatun, where A Coy had their HQ. I then rotated around the various OP posts throughout the tour. Overseas service as a peace-keeper was another great experience in military service.

In 2000 I underwent the MT drivers course on the new Mercedes Troop Carrying Vehicle (TCV). Later that year I successfully applied for the Dublin Airport Police and Fire Service, which turned out to be their last external recruitment campaign. After leaving the PDF, I spent the next two-years doing Airport Police duties, where I found my military training helped with team-work, Comms training as well as my MT drivers course. The MT qualification helped me progress quicker into the Airports Fire Service than my other classmates as this was a requirement to work in the fire station.

Within a month of leaving the PDF, I had missed the camaraderie and experiences of military life I reenlisted in the RDF. I went back to my old unit 2 AD Bty, and within a short space of time I was promoted back to Cpl – because I had completed my RDF P/NCOs course and on my previous PDF service. Within a few years I was promoted to Sgt and in the 2005 FCA re-org to the RDF, I moved to the 2 E Bde Training Centre (BTC). Here I was a training NCO on RDF Potential and Standard NCO courses, as well as year 1 of the Potential Officers course. During this period I went on the PTL block of a PDF P NCOs course with another RDF colleague – a first at that time.

In the years 2005-2012 I remained instructing in the BTC. In my civilian life at the Airport Police and Fire Service, I am now a fully qualified aviation fire-fighter and a paramedic. In 2006 whilst I was still in the Airport Police and Fire Service, I decided to use my medical and military training expertise to set up a medical training company - so along with another RDF colleague we created The Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI). With ESTI we started off by teaching first-aid and CPR courses, now to date we are the largest providers of EMT training in the country. Over the years we have had many PDF/ RDF members from different corps complete our medical training or up skilling courses.

In the recent RDF re-org the BTC was downsized, I would have liked to transfer back to 2 AD Bty but it was incorporated into the Arty Regts so I opted for the 2 Cav Sqn. This year I represented the 2 Cav Sqn on the rifle and falling plates team in the 2 Bde shooting competition. Looking forward I am planning to do Recce Training on the unit annual fulltime training and I would like to undergo some LTAV courses when they become available too. ■



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