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COUNTER MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACK

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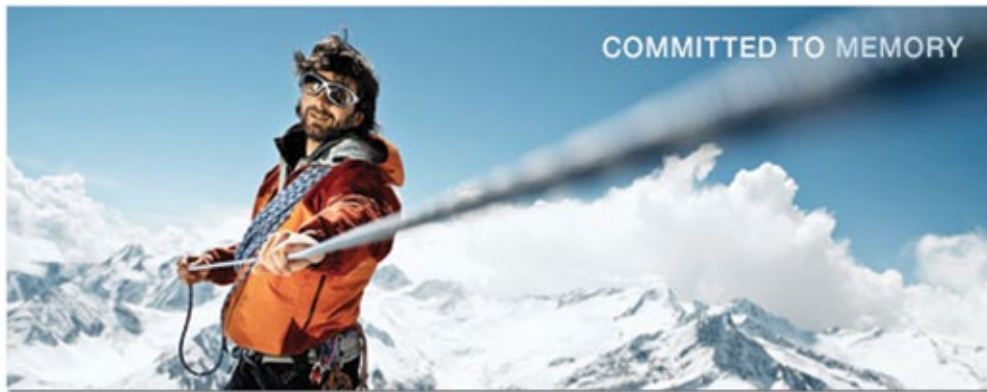
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Front Cover

A member of the Ordnance Corps during an EOD Exercise.
Photo: A/Sgt Colum Lawlor, 103 Sqn

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout:
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Hello and welcome to our December/January double issue, which marks the end of another volume in the 77-year history of *An Cosantóir*. Our main focus this month is on terrorism and takes a look at the education and training in that area that is being conducted by the Defence Forces and other key stakeholders. We also hope you enjoy our large pull-out 2018 wallplanner – designed by Sgt Karl Byrne.

This month *In Focus* looks at former DF member George Nagle who was killed in Vietnam while serving with the Australian Army in 1969. This is followed by a heartwarming story about a primary school in Rathcoole that launched a time capsule built by their Air Corps neighbours. *Veterans' News* looks at the 2nd Military Veterans Black Tie Gala Ball, held in aid of ONE.

Our front cover feature looks at the Ord Sch's third international course on *Counter-Marauding Terrorist Attack (C-MTA): Preparing the Incident Commanders*, which focuses on lessons learned from recent terror attacks. In *Medical Exercise 'Nightingale'*, we have a report on an inter-agency mass casualty training exercise conducted by the National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade, the Defence Forces, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána's ERU.

Next up, Cpl Rory Behan briefs us on his experiences on the British Army's gruelling *Platoon Sergeant Battle Course (PSBC)*, followed by Cpl Lee Coyle's report on his completion of the DF's

Specialist Instructor Course Grade 2.

Continuing with our main topic, *Frontline: Terror in Europe*, by Paul O'Brien looks at the unprecedented wave of terror attacks that have penetrated Europe's defences over the last 18-months.

For *In Reserve*, CQMS Michael Barrett RDF covers a 7 Inf Bn Live-firing tactical training (LFTT) shoot for its reservists. Next we visit Hobby Airsoft in Dublin to find out about this popular pastime and the equipment and accessories used.

A short feature on a talk titled *Michael Collins and Guerrilla Warfare 1918-22* that was given to the National Museum of Ireland by an acclaimed author and Vietnam veteran follows. Another short piece looks at the Defence Forces Review 2017 Conference held in UCC, which focused on *Terrorism and the Evolving Terrorist Threat*. The results of our 2017 *An Cosantóir* photographic competition are out, with many thanks to our sponsors Baker Photographic Ltd. In the first of two articles looking at Military Archives, we have the official launch of their *Oral History Project*, followed by the fifth release of material from the *Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Project*. Our history feature looks at the tactically important *Battle of Cambrai 1917*.

Four pages of *Sport* feature the 40th anniversary of the Defence Forces Sea Angling Club and a look at sports recovery in *Eat Your Way to Success*. All this, plus our regular features: *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do*.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

International Police Association Pistol Club Annual Charity Shoot

In October, over 60 shooters travelled from far and near to the Harbour House Shooting Club Grounds in Nurney, Co Kildare, for the International Police Association Pistol Club's (IPAPC) annual charity shoot. IPAPC

would like to thank Harbour House and in particular, Tommy, Toby, Dee and all the staff, for the use of this fine facility. The club introduced their new sharpshooter's badge at this year's shoot, which was developed by their deceased colleague Sgt S Mc Colgan, 1 Cn Cois, at the shoot. IPAPC is donating its €650 proceeds to ONE. Photo: Jim Mc Eneaney, Michael Mc Neela Branch ONE





▲ PRESIDENT HIGGINS DOWN UNDER

President Michael D. Higgins meets Irish Veterans in Australia on his recent trip down under. The United Irish Ex-Services Association of Australia (UIESAA) attended a function for President Higgins in Sydney on the 19th October. *Photo: Ves Campion, UIESAA*



▲ BEAVERS VISIT 2 CAV SQN

Amikonkenda Beavers from the 9th Port of Dublin, Malahide visited the troops of the 2nd Cavalry Squadron in Cathal Brugha Bks in October 2017. *Photo: Sgt Glen Phelan, 2 Cav Sqn*



▲ THE ARTILLERY CLUB

The Artillery Club visited the Portuguese Combined Arms School in Mafra on 4th October. A report of their Foreign Field Trip to Lisbon is posted on their website: www.artilleryclub.ie. *Photo: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd), President Artillery Club*



▲ DF ADVENTURE TRAINING SEMINAR

The DF Confidence & Adventure Training (DFCAT) Seminar was hosted by Lt Col Mark Brownen, OC 3 Inf Bn and OIC DFCAT in Stephens Bks, Kilkenny on 17th and 18th October. DFCAT delivers kayaking, diving, parachuting, sailing, adventure racing and mountaineering courses to the DF. Presentations which focused on Leadership and Resilience through Adventure Training were given by Capt Sinead Hunt (South Georgia Crossing Expedition) and Gavan Hennigan (Transatlantic Solo Rower and Siberian Baikal Expedition). Sinead and Gavan are pictured with Lt Col Brownen and DFCAT members. *Photo: Sgt Martina Cronin, 3 Inf Bn*



▲ BQMS JIM DREELAN

BQMS Jim Dreelan, Ord Gp, DFTC receiving a presentation from Brig Gen Joseph Mulligan, GOC DFTC in Ceannt NCOs Mess, on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years service in the Defence Forces. *Photo: Sgt Mick Burke*



▲ BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA VISIT

As part of the Defence Forces outreach programme Prof John Coakley, MRIA Fellow, Geary Institute for Public Policy UCD visited Irish troops serving in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo with 25th Irish EUFOR Contingent. Prof Coakley pictured with Lt Col Cyril Whelan, Chief J2, EUFOR was briefed on the current political/security situation in BiH. *Photo: Lt Col Cyril Whelan*



▲ DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM SERE TRAINING

On Saturday 7th October as part of Wainfest 2017, Donegal County Museum was delighted to have Family Friendly Survival Skills Training Sessions with Coy Sgt O'Brien, a SERE Instructor from 28 Inf Bn. The 86 young and old participants came from all over Co Donegal and were guided through a variety of Survival Skills. They were delighted to learn some of the Defence Forces survival skills. *Photo: Caroline Carr, Donegal County Museum*



▲ 31ST AIR CORPS APPRENTICE CLASS 50 YEAR REUNION

The 31st Air Corps Apprentice Class held a reunion at Casement Aerodrome on the 22nd September 2017 to mark 50 years since they joined the Air Corps in 1967. The class originally had 49 members but ten have since passed away. Of the 39 surviving members 34 attended the reunion and after an hour reminiscing enjoyed a tour of the base and museum under the guidance of Cpl Michael Whelan. They ended the visit by laying a wreath at the ONE Memorial and remembering their deceased comrades. One member of the class, Cpl John Ring (RIP), was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for his role as part of a helicopter crew that carried out a very difficult rescue in the Wicklow Mountains in 1972. *Photos: Lt Col Richard Cummins Retd*



▲ RDF SERE TRAINING

RDF personnel from 12 Inf Bn underwent a week-long SERE course in Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee recently. PDF SERE Instructors, Cpl O'Donnell and Cpl Warren delivered a very interesting and hands-on course culminating in a 24-hour training ground exercise, where all the skills learned were fully practised. *Photo shows Instructors and Students on completion of the course. Photo: Comdt T. Martin (AR), OC F Coy, 12 Inf Bn*

IRISH MASTERS JUDO OPEN 2017

Pictured is Sgmn Martin Leonard, DFHQ CIS McKee Bks, who won a silver medal (100kgs) at the 2017 Irish Masters Judo Open recently. He is pictured right along with retired Sgt Paul McConville, 27 Inf Bn won a gold medal (90kg). Martin thanked his CO, Coy Sgt and members of his unit for the continued support and encouragement, which has allowed him to continue competing at the highest level. *Photo: Sgmn Martin Leonard*



▲ 57TH ANNUAL NIEMBA CEREMONY

The Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) held their 57th Annual Niemba Wreath Laying Ceremony in Cathal Brugha Barracks on the 8th November. Pictured is Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran ACOS laying a wreath with ONE National President Tom James. *Photo: Michael McDonnell, ONE*

George Nagle (1946-1969) Irish & Australian Soldier

BY MICHAEL LYONS, NEWTOWN RSL SUB-BRANCH

George Nagle was born in Clonmel, Co Tipperary, the home of Kickham Barracks where George enlisted in 1963 at the age of 17, joining D Company, 12 Inf Bn.

Following the initiative and courage displayed during the Congo UN mission, Irish troops were recognised as very capable peacekeepers, and in 1964 when conflict erupted between Greek and Turkish Cypriots the Irish government was asked to contribute to a UN peacekeeping force for Cyprus, UNFICYP. George volunteered for the first unit, 40 Inf Bn, and later completed a second tour with 42 Inf Bn in 1965.

Following his two successful deployments to Cyprus George set his sights on emigrating, and in 1966 he left the Defence Forces and headed for Australia.

Australia was very much caught up in the unpopular Vietnam War at this time. Since 1962 it had been involved mainly in an advisory capacity, but, due to the escalating conflict and a request from the United States, Australia increased its commitment, and in 1964 Prime Minister Menzies' government introduced compulsory national service for 20-year-old males.

Shortly after his arrival in Australia in 1967, George volunteered for the

Australian Army and following initial training was sent to Woodside Army Camp in Adelaide, Southern Australia where he served as a member of 5 Platoon, B Company, 9 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

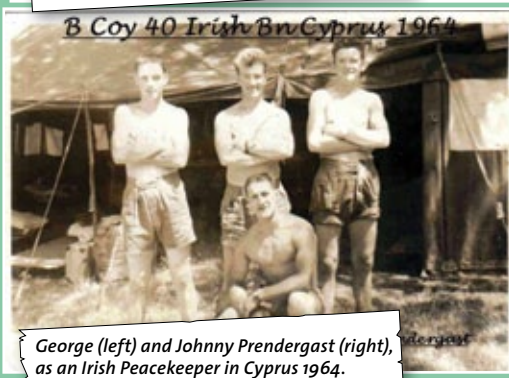
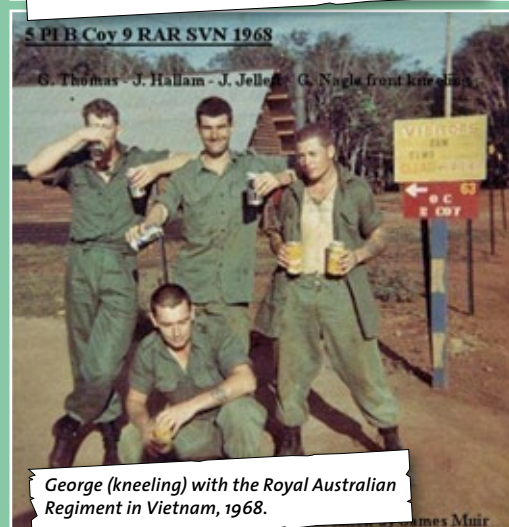
In November 1968 his unit was ordered to duty with 1 ATF, based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. While on patrol on January 6th 1969 his platoon was suddenly hit by Claymores and small arms fire. Tragically 23-year-old Pte George Nagle was killed instantly by a command-detonated Claymore explosion. Six of his comrades were wounded, with one dying the next day from his wounds.

George's body was repatriated to Ireland where he was laid to rest in St Patrick's Cemetery, Clonmel.

Johnny Prendergast, a former member of the Defence Forces from Co Waterford, now living in Australia, knew George well and served with him in Cyprus. "He was full of life and had an appetite for adventure and travel," Johnny says.

George certainly lived his dream, travelling from the green fields of Ireland to the sunburnt hills of Cyprus, and from Australia's outback to the jungles of South Vietnam, while serving his native Ireland and his adopted country with courage and pride before making the ultimate sacrifice. Rest in peace mate! 'Lest We Forget'.

Note: There are memorials to George Nagle in Australia at the Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne, and the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. ■



TIME CAPSULE LAUNCHED IN RATHCOOLE

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS SGT MICK BURKE

Nearly a year ago Ms Sarah Cronin, a teacher in Holy Family NS, Rathcoole, contacted the Air Corps to see if they could help to set up a time capsule in the school for the next 50 years. On foot of a positive response the project was undertaken by Sgt Ciaran 'Zulu' Byrne and his team of Sgt Paul Norton, Armn Ruari Gaynor, Armn Gary Griffin and Noel Lennon in No 4 Sp Wing.

As the time capsule was to be on display Zulu wanted something that would look plausible to the children, so he asked them to draw their ideas of how it should look. Among the drawings they received there were 15 drawings that looked like the spaceship from a Wallace and Gromit movie, so Zulu chose the spaceship as inspiration for the time capsule.

With the help of Gabriel Harding, who provided stainless steel at cost, and C&C Laser Services, who cut all the shapes, and with a soup ladle from Baldonnell's cook-house for a nose cone and 2017 spot-welds to mark the year, the spaceship time capsule took shape. The engraved plate that sealed the selected items into the capsule was secured with four bolts engraved 'N', 'S', 'E' and 'W'. The Air Corps also put a TDR transponder into the capsule so it can always be located for the next 50 years.

On November 15th the time capsule was unveiled at the school by Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Frances Fitzgerald, and GOC Air Corps Brig Gen Seán Clancy.

Teacher Noel Gavin was the MC for the unveiling and guided the 704 children into

position in the assembly hall with military discipline and precision to await the VIPs.

Principal Colm Byrne thanked the Air Corps and also Ms Cronin for all the work she had done on the project. *"Thank you on behalf of the school... to have this for 50 years has caused great excitement for both the adults and the children, it's also a great link to have with the Air Corps."*

In turn, Ms Cronin said it was a *"massive day"* and that a lot of people had said 'yes', from her fellow teachers to the suppliers and the Air Corps.

Brig Gen Clancy told the children: *"We were absolutely delighted to build the time capsule. When you look up in the sky and see the Air Corps remember we are looking down on you too... We are part of your community; we have been here for nearly 100 years. I hope you will all come back here in 50 years to open the capsule."*

Sgt Byrne then spoke, saying, *"This started a year ago and this time capsule is down to you. From all your drawings, including the one with the dog shooting lasers from his eyes, and all the Minecraft pictures, we had loads to choose from!"*

The Tánaiste thanked all the children and teachers for her invitation, as she had never seen a school do something like this. She said it was a great idea, which will generate lots of stories, with children here and from all over the world.

To great applause, Gen Clancy and student president Ellen assisted the Tánaiste in unveiling the time capsule. Four students, selected to highlight the diversity in the school, then tightened the bolts on the portal: 'N' by Seán from Sweden, 'S' by Conor from Australia, 'E' by Howen from China, and 'W' by Seán from Peru.

The event finished with a lovely rendi-



Unveiling the time capsule. Brig Gen Clancy, Student President Ellen, Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald, Fr John Gilligan PP and Sgt Zulu Byrne.



Students tighten the bolts.

tion of *Amhrán na bhFiann*, sung while facing the national flag, before Mr Byrne told all the children he had been instructed by the Tánaiste to excuse them all from homework that evening – to which there was tremendous applause and cheers. ■



Teacher with student Ryan and Sgt Zulu Byrne

VETERAN'S NEWS VETERAN'S NEWS VETERAN'S NEWS

Military Veterans Black Tie Gala Ball

BY BERNARD HILL, ORGANISING COMMITTEE PHOTOS PAT LONG PHOTOGRAPHY



Thomas and Martina Metcalfe, George and Marge Wynne, Ray and Phil Byas, Paul and Karen Darcy, and Gerard and Sharon Flynn.



Dave and Annette Richards, Margaret and Patsy Dineen, Bobby and Marion Redmond, Dot and Stephen White and Bea and Derek Judge.

The second Military Veterans' Black Tie Gala Ball, which took place on the 19th of August 2017, was another very successful event in aid of our Defence Forces veterans through ONE.

Because of the success of the 2016 ball and the extra interest this year, we booked Moran's Hotel at the Red Cow for 2017. This was fortunate, as the numbers increased to the maximum capacity of 356.

Our MC for the evening was Vinny Kearns, who opened proceedings by welcoming everyone, introduced our speakers and special guests,

and spent the night reminding us of our chosen charity: Brú na bhFiann, ONE's homeless initiative in Dublin.

Assistant Chief of Staff, Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran made our keynote address, and our guest speaker was Sinéad Black, Assistant Manager at Brú na bhFiann.

This year's colour party comprised Thomas Metcalfe MMG with the tricolour, Matt Doyle with the UN flag, and Paul Cooley carrying the ONE pennant.

Veteran Paul

Clarke was awarded the honour of accepting the colours in recognition of his contribution to veterans' affairs.

ONE was represented by members of ONE HQ and Erskine Childers Branch (Dublin), who took three tables, and Roger Casement Branch (Baldonnell), who took a table. IUNVA was represented by Post 1 (Dublin) and Post 9 (Athlone).

Many other veteran's groups were also represented, such as the associations of 2 Infantry Battalion, 5 Infantry Battalion, Garrison

Transport, BWS Transport, 2 Motor Squadron, the Military Police, 2 Field Artillery Regiment, Military Engineers, and much more. We also had support from the Army Transport Club, and the Brigade Transport Reserve, formerly 11 Field Supply & Transport.

I would like to stress that you don't have to have served in the Defence Forces to buy a ticket, everyone is welcome. We had many guests who had no connection except the desire

to support a good cause and to have a great evening.

The occasion would not feel like a military event without the help of the pipers of IUNVA Post 1 and former 5 Inf Bn Pipe Band members Stefan O'Reilly, Anthony Byrne and Joe Burke.

We would like to thank all of the units and associations who supplied pennants and flags and Mattie Doyle for his carpentry work in manufacturing the flag stands.

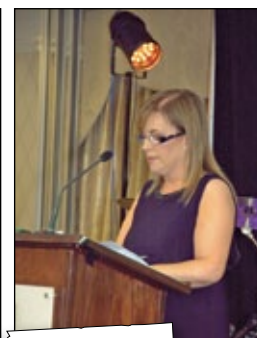
We especially wish to thank our sponsors Jean Maher, Vinny Kearns, Darren Kelly, Vinny Devoy, Jimmy Behan, Karina King Cooke, Mattie Doyle and Paddy Morey,

The 2018 Gala Ball is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th August 2018, in Moran's Hotel at the Red Cow. ■

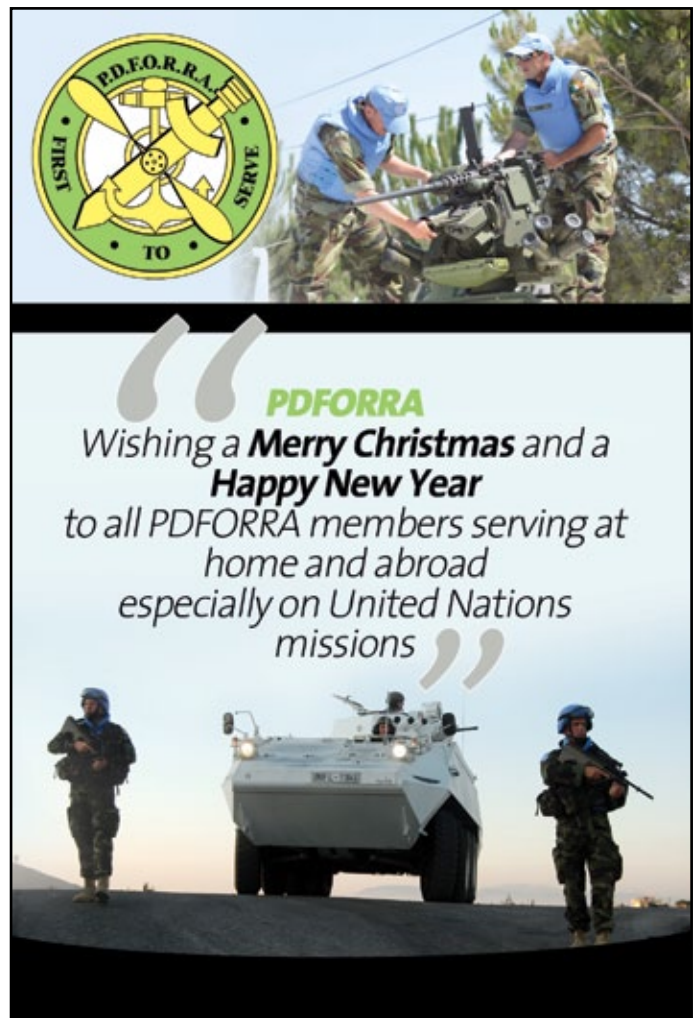
What a brilliant turnout for the Military Ball this year.



ACOS Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran pictured with Jadotville Veterans (L) John Gorman and (R) James Myler.



Sinéad Black, Brú na bhFiann



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COUNTER-MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACK (C-MTA): PREPARING THE INCIDENT COMMANDERS

BY CAPT ALAN KEARNEY, ORDNANCE CORPS – PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE AND CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

In November 2015, the Ordnance School, Defence Forces Ireland, conducted the first Commanders' C-MTA course. NATO ESCD recognised the importance of this domain from its inception and provided course funding. The timing was rather prescient given the terrorist attacks in Paris that preceded the course. The Ordnance School has extensive experience in the international C-IED effort, working closely with both the EDA and NATO (the latter through the PfP programme of practical bilateral cooperation). For the Ordnance School, the preparation for this course began with the delivery of three prototype C-IED/IEDD courses delivered once yearly in 2010-13 under the auspices of NATO and funded through the VNCF. As a natural progression of these efforts, in October 2014 the school began developing the C-MTA course concept. This was a result of the analysis and examination - including tactical workshops and observation of exercises - of both the United Kingdom's Marauding Terrorist Firearms attack (MTFA) programme and 'Active Shooter' programme employed in the United States. The outline focused on three central dynamics:

Adopting the C-IED construct as the ideal vehicle from which to adapt, replicate and develop strategic direction, operational tools and tactical method.

Leveraging the C-IED network, developed over many years, to provide the ideal range of security forces, government agencies, emergency services, academics and other expertise required to realise this initiative.

Setting a baseline threat analysis and subsequent risk assessment to underpin the course construct based on complex attacks that have occurred in operational environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan using multiple actors, military hardware and IEDs.

Lastly, the aim of the course from the outset was not to offer a

singular system but to provide international students with an a la carte menu of options. The school recognises that the culture of any organisation is as important, if not more so than any system that can possibly be offered. It is up to each organisation to decide if the knowledge imparted is suitable for employment in their respective countries.

A key component of the course has been a comprehensive lessons learned process. November 2017 saw the third iteration of the course and it has changed substantially from its first outing. This process has led to many changes including the use of selected expertise as opposed to singular entity contracting. In 2016, the Ordnance School employed a private sector security company for the second course to manage the course funds with instructors sourced from a wider range of providers and individuals. This is a paradigm shift in many ways, as normally the single contractor route is almost universally accepted as the manner in which to provide courses. This shift was a direct result of the lessons learned process where diversity was recognised as the central driver for disruptive solutions. The course focus too was increased to 'advanced' level allowing for an immersive approach to operational command and less emphasis on tactical engagement.

Another example of the lessons learned process was engagement with private sector entities. This was achieved on some level on the first course but increased thereafter. The private sector has a huge interest in this area given their exposure, with some major commercial interests being quite concerned about what options they have in the first critical minutes of an attack. The course now enjoys comprehensive engagement with major corporate interests as part of the training experience.

The course architecture relies on three fundamentals in training methodology: theoretical, practical and academic. Firstly, stu-



Officer students on a current YO's EOD course in the Ord Sch.



International students on the recent C-MTA course in the Ord Sch.



Advanced Commander's Counter Marauding Terrorist Attack Course 2017. Photo: Ord Sch

dents are exposed to the course concept followed by an introduction to a generic command framework for marauding terrorist attacks. An operational framework is the key to success in an event where the number of casualties is the principal determinant of success or otherwise. The students benefit from experiential learning developed from the successes, and failures, of personnel who have been involved in Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) events. This learning is critical and was the cornerstone of the C-IED effort i.e. making sense of the loss of so many lives where others may learn and survive. The loss of lives demands that every effort is made to learn from it. Tactical medicine and its importance are also covered at an appropriate level on the course.

The students engaged practically with private sector entities and are put through syndicate exercises directly with concerned parties. A lack of engagement from the security services is a common complaint across many countries and exposure in this area on the course has yielded many positive outcomes.

The course was paired with Airbox Systems (MOSAIC) and Klas Telecom to provide for an introduction to operational tools

that are essential for success in the complex attack scenarios envisaged. This pairing has allowed the school to challenge the students in table-top exercises in 'low-tech' (maps and boards) and 'high-tech' (Common Operational Picture & Tactical Edge Communications).

Lastly, the students were exposed to academic learning in both analyses of recent events and the mental conditioning required for the information blizzard that they will face under complex MTA conditions. The course design addresses what happens when the shooting starts and essentially 'all bets are off'. There is a multitude of efforts designed to address the intelligence picture, community engagement, radicalisation etc. The course is solely directed towards effective command of the myriad of actors required to end the event with minimal casualties.

Introduced into November's offering was a Command Level Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) module designed

to enhance responder survivability. ASAT in this instance adapts the successful USMC Combat Hunter program to an MTA environment. Boeing Defence provided situational awareness analysis focused in the 'right of bang'

Key lessons learned/identified:

- Empower downwards and manage upwards
- Dynamic command and control need to be institutionalised
- Understanding each agencies culture to benefit outcomes
- Advanced situational training for all including First responders/Public
- Requirement to develop tactical medical/fire/IEDD response
- Importance of Psychology in MTA incidents

environment familiar to proponents of C-IED. Boeing has essentially added a scientific component to experiential learning.

Overall, the course built on the success of the first two iterations. The Ordnance School provided input in C-IED/IEDD at command level, managed, and directed the course. Diversity in both instructors and students provided for a challenging and dynamic output.

The inclusion of the military in every effort to develop a sound C-MTA response plan is a key enabler for success in this endeavour. Many military theatres of operation have proved to be enormously challenging resulting in expertise that does not exist in any other state agency. No single state entity has the ability, skills or resources to resolve these attacks. The practitioners that have undertaken these attacks thus far have had minimal, if any, military training and have been lightly armed or utilised available resources such as vehicles and knives. Experience in other theatres, and an understanding of experienced military operators points towards more complex attacks further down the road. The military has the experience and knowledge required to prepare and work with all actors to meet this developing threat. It is important that efforts like this course, that includes students from emergency services, the private sector and other state agencies is replicated at a national level. In short, we must all work together. ■

MEDICAL EXERCISE 'Nightingale'

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS ARMN ADAM MURPHY



During World War One British doctors used over 108 million bandages and over seven thousand tons of cotton wool, these figures truly show the need for a highly trained Medical Corps that is able to adapt and overcome the challenges of the battlefield to render aid to those who need it.

The Defence Forces Medical Corps is an essential part of every duty and exercise that is conducted through the Defence Forces, this means being effective for Aid To Civil Power (ATCP) and Aid To Civil Authority (ATCA) operations at home and also on overseas missions.

These highly trained medical personnel conduct courses and training from various agencies around the country. Currently running in University College Dublin (UCD) is an Advanced Paramedic (AP) course and a Combat Medical Technician (CMT) course, which is currently undertaking their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) phase of the course.

UCD is under contract by the DF to conduct three CMT courses, with the first course starting in 2016. The current 2017 CMT class has 25 military students and are joined by members of An Garda Síochána's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and Civil Defence on the course. The AP course has members from the National Ambulance Service and Dublin Fire Brigade joining them.

UCD training staff contacted the CMU about setting up a mass casualty and triage exercise incident that would exercise the AP and CMT students in the management of a major incident. Coy Sgt Dave O'Connor and Sgt Joanne Doyle of the CMU were tasked with coming up with a vigorous exercise that would put the students of both courses through their paces.

We spoke with Coy Sgt O'Connor about the exercise; he told us, *"This is the third exercise of this kind I have organised, with the last two only involving the advanced paramedic, so I was happy to include the Combat Medical Technicians in this one."* He added, *"With the number of personnel increased, I was able to expand on the exercise and I also chose to bring it more up to date with what has happened around the world"*

The training objectives of this exercise were to test command and control of students in command appointments, to expose students to multiple casualties and manage them as per protocols, allow students to work in a multi-agency medical environment and to allow civilian students to work in a care under fire scenario.

The setting for the exercise was the Military Training Facility (MTF) DFTC and the scenario was based on multiple lone wolf attacks hitting urban areas across Ireland, which allowed the CMU to create an idea that when the students were launched to the scene of the attack that no other help would be arriving. The attack scenario that the students would be dealing with involved a vehicle that drove at speed through an urban area hitting pedestrians



and causing multiple casualties. The attacker then fled the scene on foot and later returned with a firearm and opened fire on civilians, which escalated the attack to an active shooter incident. With multiple attacks countrywide, hospital emergency departments were closed with the influx of casualties, students would have to hold onto casualties longer than anticipated, which manipulated the scenario so that students could be evaluated on their ability to manage patients over a prolonged period.

The scenario gave the student a number of different forms of casualties from road traffic accident (RTA) to gunshot wounds, another twist to the casualties was that some victims of the RTA had been waiting outside a doctor's surgery when they were hit; adding illnesses encountered every day in a hospital.

The students were tested over three phases of the exercise, the first being the initial response of medical teams and their triage and treatment of casualties. The second phase was the setup of a casualty clearing station in order to prioritise the casualties and move them to this station, with continuous assessment of casualties. The third and final phase was the transport of casualties to a Role 1 facility by ambulance.

AP instructors/evaluators from various agencies acted as evaluators who gave students constant feedback throughout the exercise. They also changed the condition of the casualties if medical treatment was lacking in any way to keep the students on their toes and to test them to the limits of what could be expected of them.

Coy Sgt O'Connor gave us his views on how the students performed on the exercise, *"The students from each course adapted very well, especially working with paramedics in an*

advanced paramedic role." He added, *"For the military students this would have been the first time they that they were called on to act as a medical technician in a team of clinically senior staff and they performed very well."*

He also informed us that there was a great mixture of experience on the exercise, from APs with over six years' experience, who were placed into key appointments. These helped students increase their learning curve by giving guidance where needed. It also increased interagency cooperation and showcased the different skills set of CMTs.

There was very positive feedback from UCD staff and students, who said that the planning and preparation of the exercise were excellent.

There is a lot of work that goes into organising an exercise such as this, with lots of help from around the DF especially from the 1 ACS, DFTC Fire Station and DFTC MP Group. Coy Sgt O'Connor would like to extend his gratitude to all those who helped, which was very much appreciated and in part to the success of the exercise. He would also like to thank Operations DFTC for facilitating the CMU and from all UCD staff who helped out in making the exercise so successful. ■

PLATOON SERGEANT BATTLE COURSE UK

BY SGT KARL BYRNE

Cpl Rory Behan joined the Defence Forces in November 2004 with the Air Defence Regiment (ADR) in the Curragh Camp. Completing both his recruit training and three-star course in the ADR, “I enjoyed every minute of it, it was a totally new challenge to me”.

After training, Rory was posted to B Coy, 3 Inf Bn, also in the Curragh Camp. He completed various courses in B Coy including the 84mm Anti-Tank weapon, 7.62mm GPMG SF and 12.7mm HMG.

In 2006 he travelled overseas to Liberia with the 96th Inf Bn UNMIL. In 2008 he completed an NCOs course and upon promotion underwent various courses like the Mowag Command Course, Public Order Instructors Course and PTS and PTI courses. Since promotion he has trained five recruit platoons, “it’s a great feeling to impart your knowledge to the new members of the Defence Forces and watch them learn and grow.”

In the 2012 Defence Forces re-org, B Coy 3 Inf Bn was established as a stand-alone mobile unit 1 Mech Inf Coy (1 MIC). In 2014 Rory served overseas again with the 45th Inf Gp UNIFIL, and in April 2016 he completed the All Arms Standard Course (AASC) in the NCO Training Wing (NCOTW) of the Military College, DFTC.

In April 2017 Rory was selected to undergo the British Army’s 12-week Platoon Sergeant Battle Course (PSBC) in the Infantry Battle School in Brecon, Wales. Another 90 students from different British Army units including the Scots Guards, Parachute Regt and the Royal Irish Regt to name a few joined him. “The reception was kind of standoffish but no different to any course here at home. Within days bonds were starting to form and then typical army banter seemed to take hold.”

The first seven weeks were spent doing tactics, with only two weeks spent in barracks and it was heavily based on the ‘7 Question Combat Estimate’. “Fitness levels were extremely high, which became apparent when we had to do various fitness tests, including an 8-mile battle run, which if not completed was an automatic fail like the 12 students found out. Other tests included a 2-mile and 3-mile battle run carrying 37lbs Bergan and the SA80 rifle, which is much heavier than the Steyr.”

Week 3 was a patrolling/offensive week, which wasn’t too different from the DF’s SOPs, “we easily covered over 100km, constantly advancing into contact, covering that distance had me fatigued by the end of it”.

Week 4 was a defensive exercise, “extremely tough, digging into trenches for the week, then a 5-mile battle fitness assessment at the end, which included an ammo resupply to mortar positions and then a platoon level assault at the end of the resupply.”

Week 5 was a FIBUA exercise, assaulting and defending the purpose-built village of Cellini in Sennybridge. Through the week they wore TESS gear, this realised the whole exercise. “As tough a week as that was, at the end of it we had to carry out the traditional race/battle run the ‘Fan Dance’, a 34km march/run, carrying weapon and kit accumulating to approximately 40lbs weight, the last 4km of the race the platoon then had to carry an 18 stone stretcher. This race just proved how high a level of fitness soldiers in the British Army hold themselves to.”



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PLATOON SERGEANT BATTLE COURSE UK



Soldiers are tested on Exercise 'Green Dragon' - a trench-clearing phase (week 4) of the seven-week Platoon Sergeants Battle Course 2017. Photos: © British Army



Cpl Rory Behan on exercise. Photo: Sgt Paul Millar



Cpl Rory Behan. Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne

Week 6 and 7 were spent in a battle camp, an 11-day exercise conducted to combine all the previous weeks training and exercises. The first five days were spent in the Brecon Beacons conducting a combination of offensive and defensive exercises, including raids, ambushes and deliberate attacks. Day six was an admin/ move to a 6km squared abandoned ammunition factory in Caerwen. The next five days were spent clearing the compound, conducting 2-3 Coy level raids per night to occupy a new area for the next day. *"The intensity level and sleep deprivation were immense over the 11 days, sometimes only getting 1 hours sleep a night."*

"At the end of the seven weeks, I was delighted to follow in Sgt John Butlers footsteps in winning the best supporting student over the seven weeks."

After the PSBC Rory moved onto the

Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) course, five weeks in the Small Arms School Corps (SASC) in Brecon. The first two weeks were spent doing rasps and traces in the barracks and then onto the range for two weeks. *"Here we lived in what I could only call a range hut building, purpose-built to house everything, equipment, weapons, ammo and troops. Initially, we carried out single person Close Quarter Battle (CQB) drills and progressing up to platoon level attacks with night vision and IR illume. Conducting these kinds of drills were a bit nerve-racking at first but you become so proficient in your own drills and everyone else's that it becomes second nature."*

The fifth week was spent doing summative tests and exams, four exams in total, taking 3-4hrs each, doing entire plans for exercises on the range. *"Each test got progressively harder with more variables to overcome."*

"The 12 weeks was an unbelievable experience, I met people I still stay in contact with today. The students/instructors fitness and skill levels were second to, you definitely need to arrive on the course extremely prepared."

"In comparison to the DF's Infantry Platoon Sergeants Course (IPSC) the PSBC would be on a par with each other, the only difference I could see was the intensity levels were higher in the UK - You definitely need to arrive on the course extremely prepared."

Since the course, Rory has instructed on two IPSC courses and he's looking to get a permanent vacancy in the NCOTW, as he's currently on long-term detachment. He is looking forward to a busy 2018 with the NCOTW instructing on various career courses throughout the year. ■

TRAINING THE TRAINERS

BY CPL LEE COYLE

I recently underwent the Specialist Instructor Course (SIC) Grade 2 that was being held over two weeks in 2 Bde BTC, Athlone. This is a course that was established following a Independent Monitoring Group (IMG) report that highlighted the need for such a course.

The course has evolved over a number of years since its first incarnation in 2014 as the Training of Trainers Course, held in NUI Galway. This became the Military Instructional Training Course a few years later and is now the Specialist Instructor Course. The course has different grades, with SIC 1 being achieved during a Potential NCOs course or a cadetship and SIC 2 following at a later stage, aimed at enhancing the instructional skill set for the delivery of instruction and the conduct of training in Defence Forces units and schools.

The course has many objectives: developing the student's ability to carry out instruction; highlighting the importance

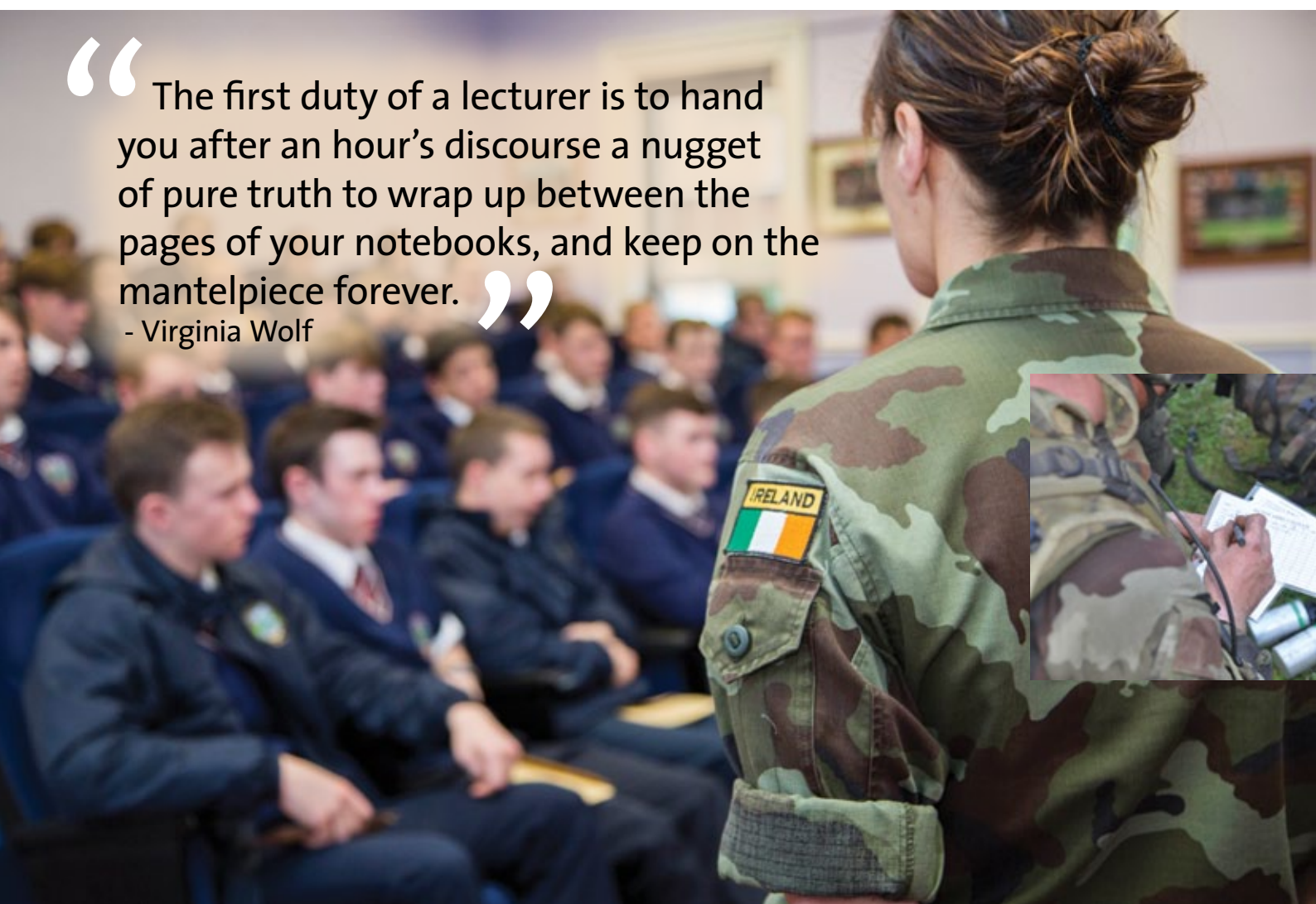
of the instructor as a leader; developing instructor skills to maximising student performance; introducing the instructor to the assessment and development process; and teaching how to conduct constructive and positive evaluations from an instructor's perspective. It also provides instructors with an awareness of new developments in the field of specialist military instructor training.

In my role as a journalist with *An Cosantóir*, I spoke with the instructors and my fellow students about their views on the course.

I asked instructor, Capt Liam McDonnell, 2 Bde BTC, if he could describe the course simply in one word. Without hesitation he said, "*Leadership*," and then went on to explain: "*The course is centred on the development of leadership in instructors. It is important for the onus to go back onto commanders at all levels and to be able to make decisive decisions when needed.*"

“The first duty of a lecturer is to hand you after an hour's discourse a nugget of pure truth to wrap up between the pages of your notebooks, and keep on the mantelpiece forever.”

- Virginia Wolf



Vox Pops

The course itself is very intense with a lot of information being delivered during the two weeks and I was amazed at the number of different lectures and topics that are considered essential to producing a good instructor. These lectures covered subjects like the leadership/instructor correlation; training management; military instructor training; care of trainee; and learning in groups. Each subject lecture is designed to make instructors think about how they portray themselves and how you can get information across to students in a learning environment, while also keeping up to date with training logs and reports.

There is plenty of interaction with the topics and feedback from instructors. There is also an opportunity for personal experiences and views to be expressed while operating in syndicates within the classroom. I found this very helpful as it showed the challenges that other instructors face from day to day.

Defence Forces values provide a fundamental centre point in many of the lectures and play a keen role on the course. Capt McDonnell told me, "Defence Forces values are used to shape individuals mentally, morally and physically, and as a guide to building a military career. They will also help leaders to make good decisions."

I also spoke with Coy Sgt Graham Nuttall, BTC staff, who has been an instructor for 27 years to get his thoughts on the course. "It is a very important leadership course for instructors," he said. "It instils DF values, which can only be of benefit to them as well. My own instructing has had to evolve and has changed for the better. This course made us evaluate our students and pitch their training at the level required."

Students on the course complete a reflective daily diary, which is used to keep track of the learning outcomes of each day. This diary ties into the newly published Handbook for Military Instructors: a new publication that has a wealth of information and should be kept in the back pocket, metaphorically speaking, by all instructors as a quick reference guide to getting the best from themselves and their students.

We all remember great instructors and we tend to retain more of the information we get from them. This course promotes this idea by building confidence and giving an instructor the tools required to be the best and to move the DF forward in the pursuit of teaching students to the highest standard.



I am completely bowled over with how much I took from this course as a student; it has made me open my eyes to instruction and how to apply it, while giving me the confidence to make better decisions. I would recommend the course to every NCO or officer, especially those looking to improve their instructional abilities. ■

CPL SEÁN CAMPBELL (INSTRUCTOR), 2 BTC ATHLONE

"What I like about instructing on the SIC 2 course is developing the instructional and leadership skills in the students. Whether they are a recently commissioned officer or a seasoned NCO, they will learn something new; from effectively delivering situation, observation, associate and access, reinforce and recommend (SOAR) reports to recruits or cadets, to personally developing their own instructional skills and styles in the classroom."

CPL TOMMY GILLESPIE, 28 INF BN

"The SIC 2 course, for me, emphasises and categorises methods of instruction that we have done in the past, and defines a clear path and guidelines to follow for eliciting the best performance and standards from new inductees. A big part of this is DF values and how these are instilled, not only in recruits, but also in us as military instructors. After this course I will be instructing recruits in 28 Inf Bn."

SGT MICK LENNON, 1 CN COIS

"I have previously instructed recruits and three-star courses as both a section commander and physical training instructor (PTI). On the SIC 2 course you are bombarded with a lot of information. Some of this is revision but overall it is quite beneficial and it gives you a chance to fine-tune the skills you already have as an instructor, while also introducing you to new perspectives and ways of thinking. The course gets you back

into the instructional mindset through theory, facilitative and practical lessons. It also emphasises your rules and

responsibilities, not just as a leader but also as a coach and mentor. Immediately after this course I will be attached to the Cadet School in the Curragh to instruct with the 94th Cadet Class."



FRONTLINE

Terror in Europe

Terror in Europe

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

Counter terrorism officers near the scene of the terrorist attack on London Bridge on 4th June 2017.
Photo: Getty Images Europe

Since January 2015 there has been an unprecedented wave of terror attacks that have penetrated Europe's defences. Major cities such as London, Manchester, Barcelona, Brussels, Paris and Stockholm have all been targeted. Recently, the summer months of 2017 have been marred by a series of attacks on holiday resorts, concerts and public thoroughfares, resulting in death, injury and mayhem.

With the rise of the so-called Islamic State (IS), the threat of a new Cold War in Eastern Europe, and famine and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa, world intelligence agencies have a new and challenging role in a deeply unstable world. Extremist groups are losing ground in Iraq and Syria, and they are now bringing their violence and extremism to Europe with attacks increasing at an alarming rate.

As Europe reels from an onslaught of terrorism, top counter-terrorism officials describe their struggle to contain the threat as 'unprecedented'. MI5 chief, Andrew Parker, recently stated that the UK's intelligence services are facing an intense challenge from terrorism. This year, England has suffered five terror attacks with 20 major attacks being foiled in the last four years. There are an estimated 3,000 extremists being monitored who Parker states are "*committed in some way to support or act in violent Islamist extremism*".

A number of years ago, small radical groups emerged in cities throughout Europe. Many of these were not religiously motivated but were disaffected youths, petty criminals and loners. These were broken up by the police and many were imprisoned for short terms, but it was there, behind bars, that they became radicalised

and forged connections that enabled them to expand their networks. It would be these prison relations and contacts that would later play major roles in the attacks throughout Europe.

On their release from prison, many travelled abroad. Weak and inadequate border controls enabled free travel in and out of Europe and intelligence agencies chose to ignore those leaving the country to train and fight, never imagining that they would return to carry out terrorist attacks.

The bombing of Syria also radicalised many living in Europe. While some terrorist organisations, such as Al Qaeda, screened their recruits, others, such as IS, did not. This allowed many people who had not previously been flagged by intelligence agencies to travel, train and, in many cases, return to Europe to recruit, establish sleeper cells, and wait for orders on what,

Las Ramblas crash map Barcelona on 18th August 2017.



Armed Spanish police after Barcelona attack on Las Ramblas.



Belgian soldiers stand guard in front of the central train station in Brussels, as the capital remained on high security alert level over fears of a Paris-style attack. Photo: AFP/Getty

when and where to target.

The Syrian refugee crisis also enabled many IS fighters to infiltrate Europe with false papers and assistance from various quarters. These individuals linked up with cells, managing to evade detection and travel to their targets throughout Europe. Groups were well supplied with money, a network of safe houses, weapons and explosives. Today, extremists are using 'safe spaces' online to plan and plot, which makes the threat much harder to detect.

of unspeakable violence that happened elsewhere. Intelligence agencies were formed and expanded to deal with organisations such as the IRA, ETA, Red Brigades and the PLO. However in recent years we have seen this trend change dramatically. Today, with the hindsight of recent events, we can now deduce that no country can claim neutrality and that no country is safe.

Ireland possesses two special counter-terrorism forces that in the event of an attack would be ready for immediate deploy-

ment, the Garda Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and the Army Ranger Wing (ARW). Long before the devastating events of 11th September 2001, countries throughout the world had developed ways of dealing with terrorists, but for the most part these groups were regarded only as domestic threats. In recent years, with austerity measures, military and police intelligence have been hampered by limited budgets, bureaucratic infighting and weak laws for crime and terrorism offences.

Agencies also failed to share intelligence, as one nation's terrorist was another nation's informer.

Many of the perpetrators were known to the authorities and many opportunities to apprehend them before they launched their attacks were missed. Cutbacks forced agencies to pick and choose who they monitored. While some groups received 24/7 surveillance, others were forgotten, while some new ones slipped under the radar completely. The counter-terrorism infrastructure that had been decades in the making was overnight simply not there due to budget and manpower restraints.

Some sought greater powers to investigate potential suspects but others saw this as an abuse of power and that certain freedoms would be compromised. The question that was being asked was, 'How much freedom do you want to sacrifice for your security?'

For many years terrorism was something hypothetical, an act

ment, the Garda Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and the Army Ranger Wing (ARW).

The Irish Government has established a special division to examine and monitor terrorist threats and this year the ERU conducted a full-scale exercise combining an unarmed and armed response to a terror attack. However, more is needed.

Security analyst, Declan Power, recently stated in an interview the importance of maximising the state's skills. Our history has demonstrated that these two units have proven themselves more than effective in combating organised crime and dissident republican terrorists. Now, Ireland is faced with a different foe, with different and varying tactics, ranging from complex and somewhat skilled attacks, such as those launched in Manchester and Paris, to more DIY attacks, such as those carried out at London Bridge and Barcelona.

Full scale exercises involving the ERU, the ARW and all the frontline emergency responders such as the Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service are needed. Our responders' capabilities need to be assessed and any shortcomings need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. While we possess some of the best trained people for the job, they lack the vital equipment needed to combat not only the threat, but also an actual attack.

Vehicles, helicopters, and adequate medical facilities are just some of the basics needed to face a potential terrorist attack and without these in place we are far from prepared to counteract such a scenario.

While the Defence Forces work as an aid to the civil power (ATCP), more collaboration and training of our frontline staff in relation to counter-terrorism strategy and tactics are needed.

Some analysts believe that an opportunity by the world's intelligence agencies to cooperate against transnational terrorism has been missed, but others believe that it is never too late.

To combat the surge in terrorist attacks, agencies must put aside their petty differences and work together to achieve a safe and secure Europe.

As IS loses ground in Syria and Iraq, they have promised more attacks in Europe. Those that perpetrate these attacks are people that want to die; they are not afraid to die and they are not afraid to kill other people while doing so. The question is not if something will happen, but when and where. ■

WATCH YOUR FRONT! RDF CONDUCT LFTT

REPORT AND PHOTOS:
COMS MICHAEL BARRETT
RDF, 7 INF BN

Live-firing tactical training (LFTT) is as close to combat as any soldier will get during peacetime training. It involves the chaos of live firing while moving tactically over unfamiliar terrain, all carried out in a safe, managed environment.

Target engaged



Coy Sgt Duff monitors Cpl Cheung.





Fire, fire, fire.



Pte Byrne (L) and CQMS Dunne (R) prepare to advance.



Engage targets.

On the first weekend in October, B Coy, 7 Inf Bn (PDF) organised and conducted an LFTT exercise for the battalion's RDF elements in the Stranahealy area of the Glen of Imaal.

Coy Sgt Gerry Duff and Sgt Wayne Eastwood, the principle LFTT instructors, briefed and exercised 36 RDF troops - all NCOs and Ptes from the battalion's C, D and E Reserve Coys in the basics of LFTT safety and procedures.

The training exercise had the RDF troops moving tactically, initially as individuals, with one of the LFTT instructors close behind and advancing some 200m into a forest track. Along the route, figure targets would appear randomly and these were to be engaged with live rifle fire by the troops under instruction.

Quick location of each target and speedy, safe response with accurate rapid rifle fire was monitored by both instructors, who provided guidance and advice as required.

The terrain was wet and muddy, forcing each participant to carefully monitor their foot placement as they advanced with loaded rifles while listening to the instructors' constant refrain of 'Watch your front!'

Next, the Reservists went through the exercise again, this time operating in pairs, using buddy-buddy methods and fire and manoeuvre techniques to close in and engage the targets.

LFTT training compels each soldier to move out of his/her comfort zone. The soldier must focus intently on the immediate task at hand; scan for potential target areas; spot the figure-sized targets as they pop up; watch the terrain they move over; control the direction their rifle is pointing; and count off the rounds they fire, so that magazine changing only takes place during lulls in the exercise, avoiding 'dead man's click' (having no ammunition when you need to fire a shot).

OC 7 Inf Bn, Lt Col Murphy was present to observe the training and spoke to the exercise troops afterwards, asking them what they thought of the exercise and what lessons they had learned from it.

While it was a short but intensive training exercise, the LFTT was enjoyed by all, particularly as it is unusual for RDF soldiers to get the opportunity to take part in this type of activity. ■

HOBBY AIRSOFT

& the Camo Shop

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS CPL LEE COYLE

On October 27th *An Cosantóir* visited Hobby Airsoft and the Camo Shop in Ballymount Retail Centre, Dublin. Hobby Airsoft moved in 2014 from their Greenogue Business Park premises to the new, more Dublin central, store in Ballymount. Since then the store has been extended three times with new additions to their stock. Along with over 200 Airsoft weapons they now stock clothing brands like 5.11, under their Camo Shop name.



Richie and Joe of Hobby Airsoft

"We expanded our clothing range about 10 months ago when we also become Ireland's only authorised retailer of 5.11 clothing," Richie Seery told us. *"We have also started to stock workwear clothing or personal protective clothing as it's known. Our main brands include Dickies, Blåkläder and Helikon-Tex."*

They also stock outdoor and survival accessories to suit campers, hikers and scouts, with everything from first-aid pouches and compasses to backpacks and kettles, and Kevin Mooney told us they can make up a survival 'go bag' to suit an individual's specifications.

Airsoft has been a very popular hobby for many years in Ireland, with participants ranging from 12 years to adult. Airsoft weapons are popular because they look so real. Most are manufactured under license from the original weapon manufacturers, and some are purposely designed for airsoft.

There's a lot of misinformation around about the dangers of airsoft weapons, and they are commonly mistaken for BB guns, which fire 4.5mm or .77 calibre steel ball bearings and can be lethal, and are illegal in Ireland. Airsoft weapons fire a relatively harmless 6mm plastic pellet, also called a BB, hence the confusion, but they are not capable of firing a metal BB. Even so, Richie told us that they still don't sell airsoft weapons to anyone under 18 years of age. About 75% of airsoft weapons are bought by collectors and are not used on airsoft ranges.

Most airsoft handguns are gas operated and fire magazines of 23 BBs, whereas airsoft rifles are generally battery operated and magazines can last for a day's gaming, firing anything from 30 BBs, to 120 BBs in mid cans, and up to 300 BBs in high capacity.

Hobby Airsoft also provides maintenance and service for airsoft weapons. *"I wouldn't recommend opening an airsoft weapon,"* Richie told us, *"as there is a lot of moving parts and springs. We charge an average of €50 to service or modify an airsoft weapon, and that could include the parts."*

Modifying an airsoft weapon could mean getting an extended barrel, fitting a better motor, or modifying the 'hop-up' unit, which controls the backspin on the BB and can extend the weapon's range from the average of 40m to near 60m.

Richie told us that some people make the mistake of reusing BBs that have been fired. *"Never reuse the BBs,"* he told us, *"as you can't guarantee their quality after they've been fired and they can damage the weapon; plus they are relatively cheap: €13 will get 5,000 BBs."*

Kevin Mooney told us about the hobby side of airsoft. *"It's quite a multifaceted hobby,"* he says, *"from those that just collect weapons to gamers who play it as a sport. Then there are those that like modifying their weapons for shooting targets quicker or further. A large percentage of airsoft hobbyists go on to other shooting sports like archery or 'real steel', which is sports shooting with licensed firearms. There are a number of sites around the country that host airsoft games."*

Kevin then took us through the Camo Shop clothing brands. *"5.11 (pronounced 'five eleven') takes its name from an international rock-climbing difficulty grade,"* he told us. *"Its range of clothing and gear is cleverly designed for military, police, security or service personnel: from bags to boots and everything in between. The brand has been tried and tested the world over by security operatives."*

Swedish manufacturer Morakniv has been making knives since 1891, and the Camo Shop is the sole distributor in Ireland. Outdoor survival enthusiast Joe Price took us through them. *"We stock the full range,"* Joe said, *"from kitchen to hunting, to construction, wood carving, fishing, survival, and scouting. They cost from €8 to €100 depending on speciality and they give a 'good bang for your buck', as the knives are designed to use less steel, which keeps the costs down. Although the blade is mounted into a moulded rubber handle they have the same strength as a full steel knife. Morakniv sold over 4 million knives in 2016, with a return rate of only 0.3% – that's some achievement – and the acclaimed Canadian bushcraft and wilderness survival instructor Mors Kochanski highly recommends Morakniv knives."*

The store is truly worth a visit and there are plenty of good deals to be had. ■

Hobby Airsoft and The Camo Shop are based at Unit 3B, Ballymount Retail Centre, Dublin 24.
Ph: 01-4568517 info@hobbyairsoft.ie
www.hobbyairsoft.ie
www.thecamoshop.ie



Michael Collins & 1918-22 Guerrilla Warfare



"The country folk who were opposed to the operations of the IRA...do not now mind, and although they are opposed to murders they are in favour of ambushes. They are beginning to be proud of their Irish heroes, in spite of all the restrictions imposed by martial law."

Basil Thompson, Director of Intelligence for the Home Office, writing to Prime Minister Lloyd George in April 1921.



Vietnam veteran and author Joseph EA Connell Jnr



ONE CEO Ollie O'Connor gets his copy signed by the author

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

On November 8th Joseph EA Connell Jnr, a Vietnam veteran and acclaimed author of *Michael Collins: Dublin 1916-22*, gave a talk titled 'Michael Collins and Guerrilla Warfare 1918-22' in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), Collins Bks, Dublin. The exclusive talk, hosted by the NMI and ONE, was arranged for veterans but was also open to the public.

The Irish are recorded as using guerrilla tactics as early as 1857 against their colonial masters, but it was after the Easter Rising and during the War of Independence that guerrilla warfare was developed to its greatest effect with the use of explosives. Guerrilla war traditionally consisted mainly of harassment of the enemy in the countryside and the Irish War of Independence is believed to be one of the first times that urban guerrilla warfare tactics were used.

Most guerrilla wars have a political propaganda campaign running alongside them to sway the population to their cause, as the people's support is vital to any chance of success. Atrocities were carried out on both sides during the War of Independence, but it was the British forces' overreaction to attacks against them that swayed the Irish citizenry towards the Republican cause. According to Joseph, "Collins would constantly slow down the pace of the war to control it, so he could always be two steps ahead of the British."

The Irish rebels were the first to use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in urban combat. It was also a first for armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs) to be used in an urban setting, with the British converting many commercial trucks for this purpose.

The explosives were developed for the republicans by UCD student James O'Donovan. Joseph said that Collins told O'Donovan to develop explosives that could be made by men with no technical skills in farmhouse kitchens all around the country.

Joseph said, "In all guerrilla warfare it's better to withdraw from a fight instead of losing a fight."

Guerrilla warfare requires very flexible tactics to slow the battle

and to always have an escape plan. Republican forces were very good at channelling British forces to where they wanted them in an ambush and they would try to capture weapons and ammunition.

The British forces believed they controlled the country but the republicans were really winning the hearts and minds of the population, which helped them achieve their goal.

In a deadly game of cat and mouse, while the IRA were spreading their intelligence network the British forces were developing counter-intelligence, and while the republicans perfected their guerrilla tactics the British developed a counter-insurgency doctrine, and as both sides resorted to terrorism the civilian population suffered the most, as is always the case.

Effective propaganda is one of the most successful tools in guerrilla warfare and this was exploited to the full through the *Irish Bulletin*, which was the official newspaper of the Irish republican movement.

Eventually the War of Independence ended because the British wanted out, yet the treaty talks, at which Collins represented the republican side, led to civil war between anti-Treaty and pro-Treaty sides.

Ironically, Collins, the man who had led the IRA's guerrilla war against the British, now found himself in charge of a conventional military force facing a guerrilla campaign waged by the anti-Treaty side, and at Béal na Bláth, Co Cork, on 22nd August 1922, he died in an ambush that was typical of those that had been developed by the IRA under his leadership.

Joseph finished by saying, "As a military veteran when you visit Dublin you look for something to relate too, Dublin is a battlefield, it's our Waterloo."

'Michael Collins: Dublin 1916-22' by Joseph EA Connell Jnr is published by Wordwell Books (ISBN: 978-0-993351884) for €19.00 and is available from all good bookstores or www.wordwellbooks.com/collins ■

DEFENCE FORCES REVIEW CONFERENCE

BY COMDT COLIN LAWLOR, DF INFORMATION OFFICER PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE



Comdt Laura Fitzpatrick, Chief Instructor UNTSI.



Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett, DSM with DF Review Editor Comdt Rory Finegan PhD, and Capt Deirdre Carbery.



DF COS with contributors outside University College Cork.



Panel discussion.



On 17th November the Defence Forces Review 2017 Conference was held in the impressive surroundings of the Boole Library, University College Cork (UCC). This is the first occasion where the Defence Forces Review has been presented externally and highlights the significant collaboration that is ongoing between the Defence Forces and the wider academic community.

This year the theme of the Review is *Terrorism and the Evolving Terrorist Threat*. In a year where terrorism has been the central security challenge in Europe, this publication is both a timely and welcome addition to the evolving pool of knowledge in this area. It also makes a significant contribution in helping to better understand terrorism and to mitigate the terrorist threat.

This year's publication brings together a diverse range of contributors from all three Defence Forces ser-

vices including the Reserve Defence Forces and also contributions from leading academics in the terrorism field. The papers within the Review are a clear indication of the wealth of experience and knowledge within the Defence Forces and in wider domestic academia.

Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett, DSM opened the conference by thanking the President and authorities of UCC for facilitating the event and the staff of the Boole library for preparing the conference venue. He also thanked OIC Public Relations Branch, Lt Col Oliver Dwyer and his staff, the Review's Editor Comdt Rory Finegan PhD, Co-Editor Dr David Fitzgerald, Co-Editor Prof John Doyle and the staff of the Defence Forces Printing Press for their efforts in making this publication a success.

Vice Admiral Mark Mellett expressed his gratitude to the contributors stat-

ing "I would like to pay tribute to our contributors, whom I am delighted to welcome here. Without your interest and voluntary input we would have no publication. The Defence Forces is extremely grateful and appreciates your work in this regard."

The conference itself consisted of three panels where contributors presented their papers and engaged in a panel discussion afterwards, that was chaired by a leading academic. The event was very well received by a large attendance from the Defence Forces including several retired personnel, UCC's student body and the general public.

Congratulations and well done to the editorial team and all the contributors.

Copies of the Review are available internally on IKON and externally from the Defence Forces Public Relations Branch at info@military.ie or online at <http://www.military.ie/info-centre/publication/defence-forces-review>. ■

An Cosantóir/Defence Forces Photographic Competition 2017

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

Sponsored by Baker Photographic Ltd

In February of this year we announced our *An Cosantóir/Defence Forces Photographic Competition*, which was kindly sponsored by Barker Photographic Ltd, in Cork. The competition was open to all readers of *An Cosantóir*, both civilian and military. All entries had to contain some relevance to Military Life and were limited to one entry per month per person. We received nearly 50 entries over the 9 months, with some great images from around the Defence Forces, which gave us a great selection to choose from.

The best ten finalists are published here with sponsored prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall.

Congratulations to the winners, well done to the ten finalists and thank you to all who took part, the standard of photography was excellent. ■

THE WINNERS AND 10 FINALISTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1st Prize €300 Voucher -

Henry O'Brien (September)

2nd Prize €200 Voucher - Derek O'Bryan (March)

3rd Prize €100 Voucher - John Doyle (October)

Top Ten (including above) in no particular order:

1 Roger Harrison (May)

2 Lukasz Gancarz (October)

3 Bren Burke (August)

4 Paul Magee (August)

5 John Doyle (October)

6 Henry O'Brien (October)

7 Colin Delany (May)

8 Henry O'Brien (September)

9 Derek O'Bryan (March)

10 Ian Crowley (August)



Henry O'Brien (September)

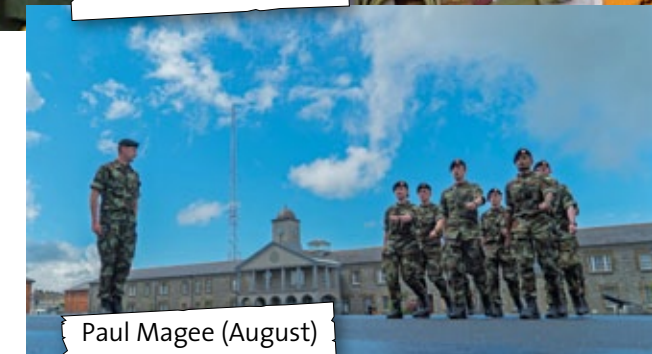
Ian Crowley (August)



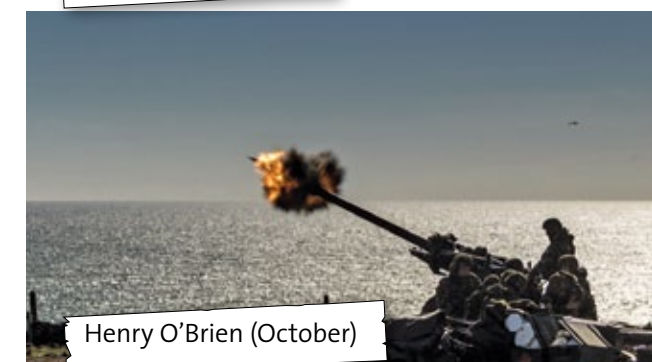
Derek O'Bryan (March)



John Doyle (October)



Paul Magee (August)



Henry O'Brien (October)



Colin Delany (May)



Roger Harrison (May)



Lukasz Gancarz (October)



Bren Burke (August)

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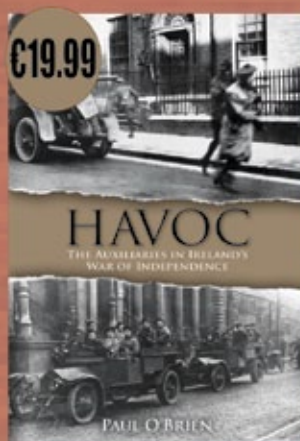
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27 Oaklawns, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath



Havoc: The Auxiliaries in Ireland's War of Independence

"They were sent over here to break the people and they were a far more dangerous force than the Black and Tans."

- Commandant Tom Barry



The latest work from military historian, author and regular contributor to *An Cosantóir*, Paul O'Brien, is a detailed look at one of the most feared and reviled units to fight in Ireland during the War of Independence; the Auxiliary Division of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

www.collinspress.ie
ISBN: 978-1848893061

For more information on Paul O'Brien and his books see: www.paulobrienauthor.ie or email him on info@paulobrienauthor.ie



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MAKING AN INITIAL REPORT TO AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Making an Initial Report:

If you are a victim or a witness to a crime you should report this to An Garda Síochána. You can do this by the following methods: **Call 999 or 112 in the case of an emergency.** An emergency is any incident which requires an immediate Garda response.

Examples of emergencies are:

- A danger to life
- Risk of serious injury
- Crime in progress or about to happen
- Offender still at scene or has just left

What happens when I call 112 or 999?

Remember when calling 112 (or 999), *'stay calm, stay focused and stay on the line'*. When you call 112 or 999, please clearly state the emergency service you require. You may be required to give details such as your name, location and telephone number or call your local Garda Station or report in person. In all other circumstances when reporting a crime, you should contact your local Garda Station in person or by telephone.

Contact details of your local *Garda Station* should be ready to hand in both your home and place of work, and on speed dial on your home and mobile phones. Details of all Garda Stations are available on www.garda.ie/stations/default.aspx

Other means of reporting crime includes the use of:

Online Declaration: which is only to be used for declaring the theft of property not exceeding the value of €500 in the Republic of Ireland.

Note: Do Not Use This Online Declaration if:

- The incident is happening now
- An offender is still at the scene or nearby
- Evidence has been left at the scene

For a theft of property exceeding the value of €500 and all other incidents please contact your local *Garda Station*.

The *Garda Traffic Watch* hotline allows members of the public to report incidents of dangerous driving to An Garda Síochána so that the drivers can be intercepted, cautioned and if required brought through the courts process. **The Garda Traffic Watch hotline is contactable by telephone at 1890 205 805.**

Other means of providing information to An Garda Síochána

Ring the Garda Confidential Telephone Number 1800 666 111.

Ring Crimestoppers using the confidential free phone number 1800 250 025.

Photo courtesy of Collins Photo Agency
(www.collinsphotos.com)



A Step back in Time

BY GNR PARAIC SULLIVAN, DFAVS, PR BRANCH
PHOTOS BY A/SGT COLUM LAWLOR, 103 SQN

A large crowd gathered to attend the official launch of Military Archive's Oral History Project (MAOHP) in the Officer's Mess in Cathal Brugha Bks on the 9th of November. The MAOHP is the first initiative to be implanted since the Bureau of Military History (1913-1921) in the 1940s and 1950s to systematically collect the first-hand testimonies and personal experiences of the men and women who have been at the centre of Ireland's military story.

In attendance was GOC 2 Bde Brig Gen Howard Berney, members of the Defence Forces, including contributors to the project and invited guests. The MC for the evening was OIC Military Archives Capt Daniel Ayiotis. Guest speakers included archivist and project lead Noelle Grothier, heritage consultant Dr Tomas Mac Conmara and keynote speaker Major Gen Ralph James Retd.

Oral history is a method of capturing the past through exploring the human dimension and is a resource for Irish people to understand who we are. The MAOHP is a growing collection of over 170 interviews accumulated over an 18-month period and stored in Military Archives for people to come in and listen to and savour.

Each of the guest speakers spoke eloquently and passionately about the creation of such a wonderful service, which will give endless insight and joy to future generations. The essence of the project is to bring these personal accounts to the next generation. It also creates a link to the past and it helps people understand how people lived and felt in past times.

Capt Ayiotis thanked all those who were involved in the creation of the MAOHP and urged people to come forward and contribute to the ever-expanding library of content. A special mention of gratitude was given to Defence Forces Audio Visual Section (DFAVS) staff member Cpl Karl McEneaney who created a fantastic video for the launch night.

Reading a document or transcript can be perceived or interpreted in so many ways, however hearing a voice can mean so much more. It creates a greater sense of realism and is something people can identify with and have a greater understanding from. The MAOHP will stand the test of time and by doing so it will solve puzzles, link generations, help understand history and ultimately bring happiness to those who listen to it. ■



Major Gen Ralph James Retd, keynote speaker.



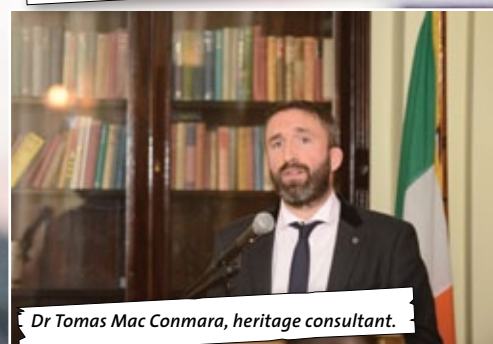
Capt Daniel Ayiotis, Cpl Michael Whelan, Dr Tomas Mac Conmara, Major Gen Ralph James Retd and Noelle Grothier.



Capt Daniel Ayiotis, OIC Military Archives.



Noelle Grothier, archivist and project lead.



Dr Tomas Mac Conmara, heritage consultant.

A BLOODY DAY

The Irish at Waterloo

BY LT COL DAN HARVEY RETD

There is one past, but many histories: there was one Battle of Waterloo, but many versions: there was one Anglo-Allied army, but many nationalities: there was one outcome, but many unknowns, one of which was that many Irishmen participated in the battle.

The Battle of Waterloo is a good story; highly dramatic, hard-fought, the outcome in the balance to the very end. The story of the part played by the Irish is equally enthralling. There was one Wellington, but many other Irish also.

Of the 68,000-strong Anglo-Allied army at Waterloo, 28,000 were British, and of these, some 8,000 were, like Wellington himself, Irish. Yet, such substantial Irish participation in an event that decided the fate of Europe, a turning point in history, is rarely recognised when mention is made of the battle.

Irishmen in their thousands, from every walk of life and corner of society in Ireland were present and active on the battlefield of Waterloo. Whether participating in specifically designated Irish units or as sizeable proportions of many, if not most, British units with no formal Irish affiliation, they were involved in all the battle's significant actions. A number of Wellington's key brigade commanders were Irish, as were a substantial number of battalion and regimental commanders. Irish officers liberally populated his battalions and regiments, and others held important staff and support appointments.

These Irish were there when the irresistible force of Napoleon's 74,000-strong Armée du Nord hit Wellington's immovable defensive line along the low ridge of Mont-St-Jean, with the future of Europe at stake.

Repeated, determined attacks throughout the day met stiff, stubborn defence, resulting in carnage. Wellington had nailed himself to the ridge and Napoleon threw everything he had to move him off it. Deadly assaults continued against desperate defence: concentrated artillery bombardments, close-quarter volleys of musket-fire, and courageous cavalry charges, all tore blood from flesh, flesh from bone, bone from body, and breath from life on both sides.

The Field of Waterloo as it appeared the morning after the memorable battle of the 18th June 1815, coloured aquatint by M. Dubourg, 1817, after John Heaviside. Photo: National Army Museum, London/Bridgeman Images



Portrait of the Duke of Wellington by Francisco Goya, 1812-14.



Napoleon unleashed multiple cannonades, massive columns of infantry, and massed cavalry to smash Wellington's will by sheer weight of numbers, while the latter replied with staunch defence and ferocious counter-attacks.

Both generals knew the battle would be decisive and that time was critical. Both were highly skilled, experienced commanders in the field. Both were winners, but one must lose.

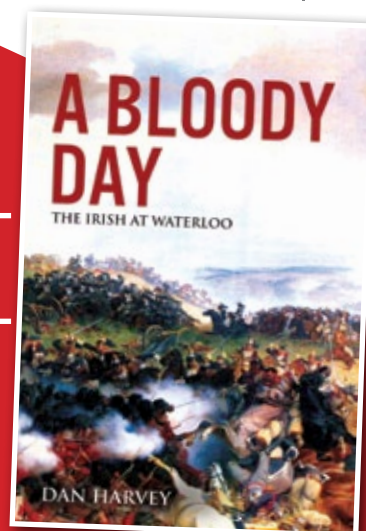
The battlefield, which contained 180,000 troops, 35,000 horses and 500 cannon, was only five kilometres long and three kilometres wide. It was a ferociously fought battle that both commanders were determined to win, and each possessed the wit and lethal means to achieve it. The result was an enormous cost in dead and wounded, including many Irish; the overall extent of the casualties on all sides was staggering.

With the battle's death toll increasing by the minute, its outcome was far from decided at day's end as dusk descended. Both armies, though shattered and near collapse, remained evenly matched. As the fighting continued, the Prussians arrived in force from the east, the French pressed harder, and the bodies mounted.

Standing with Wellington, holding the line with the battle-shocked, exhausted, and battered Anglo-Allies, only just and at enormous cost, were thousands of Irish soldiers. One unit, the 27th (Inniskillings) Regiment of Foot, located at a strategically important crossroads, reached near annihilation but did not break and at a critical moment in the battle held the centre of Wellington's line.

In one of the greatest battles of all time, the Irish played a significant role, perhaps even tipping the balance by preventing the disintegration of Wellington's line when it was on the verge of collapse. We Irish are more connected to the Battle of Waterloo than we may have been aware. So let 21st century Ireland now honour these men by promoting a justified pride in their deeds. ■

'Prepare for Cavalry' a painting of the 27th (Inniskillings) holding square at Waterloo by Peter Archer. Photo: Royal Irish Regiment



Dan Harvey's 'A Bloody Day: The Irish at Waterloo' (ISBN: 9781785371264 / Price: €14.99) has been published by Merrion Press recently. www.merrionpress.ie

Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Project

BY CÉCILE GORDON – SENIOR ARCHIVIST AND MSP PROJECT MANAGER

October 2017 Release



The Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Project is a joint Department of Defence and Defence Forces contribution to the Decade of Centenaries. The project is mandated to release the files and records of the Department of Defence dealing with the service of members of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army, the Hibernian Rifles, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann, the Irish Republican Army and the National Forces from the period April 1916 to the 30th of September 1923. This involves cataloguing the files of those members who applied for service pensions but also medals, allowances and other gratuities as well as processing applications lodged by the dependants of the deceased members of those organisations. Files are processed according to stringent archival standards and each file is read entirely before data is inputted in our dedicated database. Each page is scanned manually as no automatic processes can be used with unique and very fragile archives. All the information contained on files (apart from Data Protection and other legal considerations) is made available online through phased releases on the Military Archives website. It is a meticulous process necessary in order for the project to yield as much new and unique information as possible. There is now an unprecedented amount of archival material being made available to all in Ireland but

also internationally. Through this rigorous work, the Project has enjoyed positive interest from other bodies interested in setting up medium to large-scale archival projects involving extensive digitisation.

The collection is the largest collection in the Military Archives (around 250,000 individual files) and the Project is staffed with a dedicated team of archivists in Cathal Brugha Barracks. Material contains not only information on the leadership but also reveals unknown identities of the rank-and-file, gives a voice to the dead (through the dependants' claims), and has given us completely unique perspectives on the role of women during the War of Independence and the Civil War.

The material offers possibilities for studying themes like military operation and military structure, of course, but also social and welfare history, politics and women's history. It is a national asset in the sense that, as a whole, the material conveys the idea of a common Irish history while showing a multiplicity of experiences and memories.

There have been four releases from the Collection to date since January 2014, and in October 2017 a fifth tranche of MSPC files entered the public domain for the first time. Including this latest addition, around 20,000 scanned files relating to 6,563 individuals can be accessible online. To this can be added around 1,300 files forming the 'administration series' in-

cluding the membership lists (pre and post-Truce) for the IRA, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Eireann. These offer a wonderfully rich contextual backdrop for the entire collection. So far, 850,000 individual pages have been scanned and made available online.

What is contained in the October 2017 release?

- 343 IRA Civil War casualties.
- 66 individuals executed during the Civil War. This brings the total number of individuals who were executed during the Civil War and whose files will have been released by the Project to 73. The total number of politically related executions during the Civil War was 77 with a further 4 executed for criminal offences at that time. Of the 66 executed individuals included in this release 6 had service in the British forces and of the 277 total casualties 16 had previous service with the British armed forces and 1 had served with the Australian forces during WW1.
- 352 claims lodged by dependants of deceased participants.
- 5 veterans of Easter Week.
- 300 claims lodged by women who were active during the War of Independence and Civil War. 11 applications were lodged by the dependents of deceased members of Cumann na mBan.

These include files relating to women occupying strategic spaces in the intelligence network in Dublin and in Cork. For instance Josephine O'Donoghue (MSP34REF55794) whose work was crucial to Cork 1 Brigade IRA during the War of Independence. Confidential Secretary to Captain Webb, Strickland's principal staff Officer, she worked tirelessly for the IRA, collecting and transmitting original documents, copies of documents, and information of various kind, relating to British Military Forces, personnel, equipment, movements of troops and staff (especially British Intelligence staff attached to 6th Division). Some of her information led to the execution of three British Intelligence Officers in November 1920. In a reference letter dated 5 June 1939, Liam Tobin declares that:

"I have no hesitation in saying that the IRA Intelligence Services in Cork City were equal to if not surpassing our work in Dublin. This situation existed because of the extremely important contacts established within the Enemy Organisation. The most reliable and important Operator was the Applicant, Mrs O'Donoghue. I remember Michael Collins expressing his pleasure on more than one occasion when information which was secured by the applicant was forwarded to him".

PROTECTING CERTIFICATE.

THE BEARER HEREOF

Charles Joseph Chidley

a Deserter from the Royal West Kent Regiment
Age 35 1/2 Height 5 Feet 6 Inches
Eyes Blue Hair Brown Complexion Fair
Marks Scars on left knee

IS NOT CLAIMED FOR SERVICE IN HIS MAJESTY'S ARMY.

By Authority of the ARMY COUNCIL

He is therefore not liable hereafter to arrest on suspicion of being the Deserter whose present description is given above.

Given at THE WAR OFFICE
this 24 day of April 1936

To all whom it may concern,
J. D. Boyd Colonel, AGG.
for Director of Personal Services

Chidley was hospitalised at Maryborough (Portlaoise) Hospital and then interned at Maryborough (Portlaoise) Prison and Tintown No. 2 Internment Camp on the Curragh until his release in December 1923.

While in Ireland Chidley appears to have mostly lived in Sligo Town and seems to have been a popular and well-known figure. Charles Chidley's received an allowance under the Army Pensions Acts from 1936 until his death at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool, on 5th March 1975.

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1929.

Registration District Collyhurst
Death in the Sub-district of Collyhurst in the County of Manchester G.S.

No.	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Place of Birth	Place of Death	Signature of Registrar
104	John Morgan	Male	21	Private	Collyhurst, Manchester	Collyhurst, Manchester	

1. Registrar General, Deputy. 2. Registrar General of the County of Manchester & South. 3. Registrar General of the County of Manchester & North. 4. Registrar General of the County of Manchester & West. 5. Registrar General of the County of Manchester & East.

John Morgan of Collyhurst, Manchester, England joined the IRA in 1920. He was killed on 2nd April 1921 at 58 Hulme Street, Manchester. At the time of his death Morgan (aged 21) was serving at the rank of Lieutenant with 2 Company, Manchester Battalion, IRA.

The file contained in the MSPC relates to the application lodged by his mother Emily Morgan for the awarding of an allowance or gratuity under the Army Pensions Act, 1932. According to information in file the property at Hulme Street was a club, which was used by the IRA to conduct meetings. On this particular date members of the police force raided the meeting. Morgan was shot and killed during the exchange. His death certificate records cause of death as 'bullet wound in his head'. His mother claims that a Constable Bolar shot him.

Morgan had previously served in the British army with the Royal Engineers at the rank of Private. In a letter to Mrs Morgan from the British War Office she was informed that Morgan had served between 3rd February 1916 and 18th March 1919.

One interesting aspect of Morgan's death lies with the fact that he is one of just four individuals, uncovered to date, that were killed in action outside of Ireland. The others in question are; Neill Kerr (DP7713) who was accidentally shot in Liverpool in September 1920; Reginald Dunne (DP1462) and Joseph O'Sullivan (DP6925) who were both executed at Wandsworth Prison, London following their conviction for the murder of General Sir Henry Wilson in London on 22nd June 1922.

The Project is ongoing and the Project team is now focused on the few years' ahead and associated commemorations and will continue to contribute to the appreciation of the complexities of Ireland's revolutionary past. The material is available to search and view online at www.militaryarchives.ie.

Project blog: www.militarypensions.wordpress.com

MSP Project Team includes: Cécile Gordon, Senior Archivist and MSP Project Manager, Michael Keane, Project Archivist and Robert McEvoy, Project Archivist. ■

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BATTLE OF CAMBRAI 1917

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

At dawn on 20th November 1917, the British Third Army launched an attack on the German lines, employing innovative tactics that were to form the template for future attacks and which would become the framework for mobile warfare in the decades to come.

General Sir Julian Byng was given the task of spearheading the assault against the powerful Hindenburg Line defences between the Canal de l'Escault and the Canal du Nord near the town of Cambrai. An important supply point for the Germans, the capture of Cambrai and the nearby Bourlon Ridge would threaten the rear of the German line to the north.

Utilising an estimated 476 tanks from Brigadier Elles's force, General Byng also liaised with Major General Henry Tudor, Commander Royal Artillery of the 9th Scottish Division, to co-ordinate a new artillery/infantry technique. One thousand artillery pieces, amassed secretly and under camouflage netting, registered their targets silently, using mathematical calculations to work out their co-ordinates rather than the usual firing of live rounds. Meanwhile, the troops and tanks were moved to staging areas where they remained under cover awaiting the order to attack.

While the initial plan envisaged a raid, General Byng wanted more, and sought to penetrate deep behind the German lines. In



A breakthrough here would enable the Allies to open routes to the bridges on the River Sensée. If these were taken the Germans would be forced to retreat as their communications to the rear would be threatened. Nevertheless, the sector, defended by General Georg von der Marwitz's Second Army, had many unmanned positions because the German High Command considered it 'quiet'.

In planning the attack, Byng knew that the main obstructions to his advancing infantry was the deadly combination of the barbed wire and machine guns, the two components that had always entailed huge losses for little territorial gain. His answer to overcoming these obstacles lay with a massed tank attack supported by infantry. This required suitable terrain, which he found at Cambrai.

order to achieve his goals, he intended to employ all his infantry and tanks, leaving him with no reserves of men or machines to consolidate any gains.

At 06.00 hours the battle commenced with a short, intense bombardment, followed by smoke and a creeping barrage to cover the initial advance. The Germans, though having some knowledge that an attack in their sector was imminent, were taken by surprise at its ferocity. Tanks rumbled through no man's land, navigating over shell holes and through barbed wire entanglements towards the German front lines. Machine gun nests were knocked out by the tanks' guns and the infantry moved up to secure vital positions.

The Hindenburg Line was quickly pierced to depths of 6-8 miles

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(9-12km), with the exception of Flesquieres where the German defenders held the line and knocked out an estimated 40 tanks with their artillery. The unit holding this sector had experience in fighting tanks as they had faced French tanks during the Nivelle Offensive. Poor co-ordination between infantry and tanks also proved problematic and enabled the Germans to delay the advance in this sector throughout the day before deciding to pull out of Flesquieres under cover of darkness.

Fighting was fierce around Bournonville and Anneau with German counter-attacks forcing the British to withdraw. This moving back and forth continued throughout the battle in many areas and British reserves were quickly depleted as General Byng had used much of his force in the initial assaults.

By 1600hrs on the first day the initial battle had been won by the Allies, but there were no reserves of vehicles, crews or infantry to consolidate their gains and German reinforcements were being rushed to the area.

Ribecourt and Flesquieres. The great breakthrough had been squandered due to the lack of reserves.

The brief and often overlooked Battle of Cambrai ended in bitter disappointment for the British. The blame for the failure of the attack, as happened so often during the war, was levelled against junior officers and NCOs. This accusation was unjust as it was the front-line officers who had warned senior commanders that a German counter-attack was imminent and that without proper reserves they could not hold their positions.

During the Spring Offensive of 1918, German forces continued with the tactic of breaking through defences with small mobile teams of heavily armed storm troopers that they had first employed at Cambrai. However, this offensive did not succeed because the Germans lacked the mobility to exploit their attacks and create a deep penetration of the British lines.

In the aftermath of the war, while many military commanders realised that tanks and motorised infantry were the key



The task of knocking out the tanks fell to the individual soldier using grenades and flamethrowers, as anti-tank weapons or a designated tank-killer unit were non-existent at the time. In some places anti-aircraft guns were modified for use against the tanks and mounted on trucks to pursue them. British progress slowed as the battle raged.

By November 28th the British had reached a position on the crest of the Bournonville Ridge, where they held the salient. Two days later, the Germans launched a major counter-offensive, utilising intense artillery fire and new infantry tactics that made use of infiltrating small groups of 'storm troops'. Unable to hold their newly taken positions, the British were forced to withdraw from their salient, leaving them just with the gains they had made around the villages of Havincourt,

to sustaining a breakthrough, the British High Command failed to recognise their potential. To compound this error, during the 1930s a parsimonious Parliament and a pacifist sentiment deprived the army of the weapons and training needed to develop tank warfare. In contrast, German military commanders developed and advocated the strategy of concentrating armoured formations at the point of attack to achieve deep penetration of enemy lines, based on the principles of surprise, deployment in mass and the use of suitable terrain. As a result, in 1940, 23 years after tanks had proved their worth at Cambrai, German panzers formed the spearhead of the devastating Blitzkrieg unleashed on an unsuspecting world. ■

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SPORTSPORTSPORT 40 Years at Sea

BY SGT JOE DOHERTY, 28 INF BN &
CHAIRMAN DFSAC

The 40th Defence Forces Sea Angling Club (DFSAC) competitions were held recently, with the 2017 boat competition winners being the 1 Bde team, comprising CQMS Phil Barry, Sgt John Meere, Cpl Tom O'Regan and CQMS Ger Power, and the shore competition being won by 2 Bde, with a team of Sgt Tom O'Neill, Cpl Robbie Slattery, Sgt Gary Condren and Gnr Peter Lynch.

The winter league will commence shortly and the dates will be released as soon as possible through the club reps in each formation. Membership of the club, which is affiliated to the Leinster Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, is now open for 2018 and we are inviting anyone interested to come along and give it a go at one of our 'come and try it' events, at which equipment will be provided if names are given to the reps in time.

Sea angling became a recognised sport in the Defence Forces in 1976 and the first Defence Forces championships were held in Dungarvan, Co Waterford, in June 1977, where a total of 60 anglers competed and the Western Command team, consisting entirely of 28 Inf Bn personnel, became the first winners. Teams consisted of four members and this format continues today.

Each year the competition rotates between the South, West and Curragh, and rivalry between teams has always been very competitive but also fair and friendly.

Southern Command/Brigade teams have dominated the boat championships, with 24 team, 20 individual, and 21 overall wins during the 40 years. The shore championships have been more equally divided among the commands/services.

In 1991, the DFSAC successfully applied to be affiliated to the Irish Federation of Sea Anglers (IFSA). This affiliation means that the winners of the DF Boat and Shore Championships qualify to compete in the annual Irish national championships, known as the Master Angler Championships. These championships are used to select the Irish team to compete in the world championships.

Three DFSAC members have represented Ireland in the past: CQMS Philip Barry (1 Bde Ord Gp, retired) in 1995, 2001, and 2006; Sgt Michael Barry (CMU Curragh) in 2005, 2012, and 2013; and Sgt John Meere (1Bde Ord Gp) in 2009.

In addition to these, Comdt Ailbe O'Sullivan (4 Inf



Bn, ret'd), and Coy Sgt Pat Tobin (4 Fd Engrs, ret'd) competed in the Inter-Provincial Championships and Home Nations (England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales) Championships.

The island of Ireland has for many years been recognised as one of the world's premier sea angling destinations, with coastal waters that thrive with fish. Visiting fishermen can expect something in the region of 80 species, anything from a blenny that weighs a few grams to a six-gilled shark of over 400 kg can be expected!

The diverse nature of the coastline is varied and spectacular, with miles of awe-inspiring sea cliffs. Competing members of the Defence Forces get different and spectacular views of Fort Davis and Fort Dunree when boating out from Crosshaven or Rathmullin pier, and it is easy to see how these sites were chosen as defensive positions.

Sea fishing can be divided into three categories: offshore or deep sea angling; inshore angling; and shore angling.

Offshore, on which much of Ireland's international sea angling reputation has been built, consists of trolling, bottom fishing, wreck fishing, and drift fishing for sharks, usually from purpose-built charter vessels of 9m and over, up to 32km offshore. It is most popular in the west of the country.

Inshore angling consists of trolling, bottom fishing and spinning from a self-driven small boat (up to 6m), in bays and sheltered waters, generally less than 5km from land. This is the fastest growing branch of sports fishing in Ireland, and its traditional bases are on the eastern and southern coasts, although its popularity and availability



A FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

(Anon)

*I Pray that I may Live to Fish
Until my Dying Day
And when it Comes to my
Last Cast
I then Most Humbly Pray
When in the Lord's Great
Landing Net
And Peacefully Asleep
That in His Mercy I be
Judged
Big Enough to Keep*



COMS Phil Barry presenting the Michael Moore perpetual trophy to Cpl Tom O'Regan (1 Bde) on winning the All Army Individual Shore Competition 2017

are spreading rapidly throughout the country.

Shore angling comprises spinning, fly fishing, and bottom fishing from beaches, rocks, estuaries, quays and piers. This is probably the most widely practised form of sea fishing and is enjoyed all-round the coast, being most popular south of a line from Galway to Dublin. However, anglers based in Finner Camp are blessed with Tullan Strand on their doorstep and Rosnowlagh only a few kilometres away; both fantastic venues for flounder, turbot, dogfish, whiting, plaice and coalfish.

For anyone interested in fishing or would like to try then please keep an eye on IKON and on unit noticeboards for upcoming DF-SAC 'come and try it' events. ■



DFSAC formation reps are:

1 Bde: Tom O'Regan, tom.oregan@defenceforces.ie; **2 Bde:** Tom O'Neill, tom.oneill@defenceforces.ie; **NS:** Kevin Kennedy, kevin.kennedy@defenceforces.ie; **DFTC:** Gary Condren, gary.condren@defenceforces.ie;

EAT YOUR WAY to Success



BY GNR PARAIC SULLIVAN, PR BRANCH

Growing up in Ireland in the 1990s, sport had a huge part to play in my life; from athletics to basketball and from handball to Gaelic football, I tried everything. However, Gaelic football was the game that really gripped me. Back then it was just about the game and I remember coaches and family members telling me the most important thing was to “go out and enjoy it”. Today, football is about your entire lifestyle.

As a 32-year-old who has been immersed in the game at inter-county level for a decade and at club level for over 20 years, I have seen dramatic changes. The demands are higher, the responsibilities on the player are greater and the manner in which football affects each individual off the field is far more taxing.

In 2005, I joined the Defence Forces and from day one I learned that maintaining a high level of fitness is paramount. We are required to pass annual fitness tests and need to be vigilant about our weight as well, as we are also subject to annual BMI testing.

Success in any facet of life takes preparation, ambition, drive and patience. It is trial and error; a process in which you figure out things that work for you through making mistakes. Once you are willing, things will fall into place for you, as the information is readily available to anyone who wants it. It is then up to you to decipher what is for you and what isn't.

On match day, you arrive at the field with your gear bag. Inside are the tools you require: football boots, gloves and

gear. You also need a focused mind to carry out your job to the best of your ability. As the ball is thrown in and the game starts, it is all about the football. However, what leads up to it all is a whole other world.

A few years ago, my team had a talk from a dietician about the importance of food in sport. Although a lot of the guys would have had a decent enough diet he was really emphasising how important it is to eat properly to enhance your game.

When he used an analogy about a car journey, things clicked with me. “Imagine trying to drive a car from Dublin to Galway on five Euros’ worth of fuel,” he said. “Impossible. The body is simply a machine. We can choose to ignore this fact or with proper research and practice we can utilise it to its maximum ability.”

His analogy is also relevant for members of the Defence Forces. There is such an array of different roles and job capacities, from carrying out section attacks in the Glen of Imaal, to daily physical training, and everything in between. To be able to partake and succeed in such physically demanding activities it is vitally important you are fuelled appropriately. Soldiers can also be on a lengthy career course that has a high demand for physical exercise, so recovery is an absolute must, which also starts with food.

Back to sport. In the modern game, the training workload is quite substantial. Most teams are doing three field sessions and a gym session every week, and a lot of players would do some additional exercise of their own also. This takes its

toll on the body, as when you exercise your muscles tear and then need to repair. Putting the right food into your body helps it to repair quicker and more effectively.

During all this activity, it is protein that ensures optimum muscle growth and recovery. Ideally, any serious athlete should be eating protein in every meal. For amateur sports people with busy work schedules this task becomes more difficult. This is where preparation comes into play and you see the full value of good, consistent practice.

An average 80kg man participating in a high level of sports needs 2 grams of protein per kilo of body weight to repair, replenish and fuel the body. You should be consuming six meals a day: breakfast, snack, lunch, snack, dinner and snack. This adds up to 42 meals a week, 38 of which should be on point. Consistent repetition of the small things leads to top class performance.

To succeed in achieving this you will need some important tools. Lunch boxes, cooler bags, protein shakers and water bottles are vital. It is important that on a Sunday night prior to your working week you have a fridge full of the right foods at your disposal. This limits the possibility of making excuses for not being prepared.

You should always think three meals ahead of what you should be eating. Going to work you should have a fully packed lunch and a water container for constant hydration. Taking out a container full of pre-

cooked food in front of work colleagues may seem alien at first but it will become the norm. Possibly you might get jeered but this will wane after a while or you might become a trendsetter for good eating habits. At home you will need to separate yourself from others regarding your intake.

This food will help you be ready for your next training session or game. Owning this process will make you a better player, and soldier. It may seem robotic and boring but being excellent with your diet can take you above your opponent.

Maintaining your body, however, takes more than just a good diet. Sleep is vitally important to everyone. To perform in your job and also have the time to commit to sport, you must have the appropriate rest. A minimum of seven to eight hours is key to remaining attentive and alert. This means getting to bed, leaving your phone down, and allowing your body to naturally drift off without focusing on a mobile phone screen. Respect this process, as you will benefit hugely from it.

Every contact sport and physically demanding job will lead to knocks and bangs. Taking time out to stretch your muscles every day is a must. This can be done in front of the TV with a foam roller or a band. Remaining supple and loose prevents the build up of lactic acid and can ultimately help you remain injury free and habitually stretching must become a constant in your life along with drinking water, eating well and getting the proper amount of sleep every night.

Every single act that you do should be with a view to make you a better player. It is a process of trying to gain an extra percentage from every session, as when it comes to the crunch in a game that one percent could be the difference between winning and losing.

We all look for that edge over our opponents and at the end of the season it's nice to have a piece of silverware to reward the efforts.

However, we shouldn't let sport take over our lives; we must remember to enjoy it too and partake for the right reasons. It can have a huge part to play but there is life outside of it. Sport shouldn't consume us; it should always leave you with a smile on your face and a thirst to come back for more. ■



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COMPETITION



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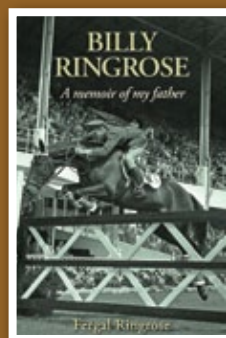
A new book on a true legend of Irish show jumping is just published.

In 1961 Army rider Capt Billy Ringrose won the Grand Prix in Nice and then the Grand Prix in Rome. In his riding career Capt Ringrose won six individual international show jumping Grand Prix and seven Nations Cup team events – including being part of the first mixed army-civilian Irish team to win the Aga Khan Cup in 1963.

Colonel Ringrose later became CO of the Army Equitation School and Chef d'Equipe of the Irish team. Colonel Ringrose's son Fergal has written and published a 280-page memoir of his father's life and equestrian career, including nearly 80 images taking the reader back in time to his days as a rider on the international circuit in the 50s/60s.

Over the course of over a year Fergal sat down with his parents and recorded a series of conversations. He also spoke to other equestrians – Ned Campion, Dermot Forde, Sneezy Foster, John Ledingham, Brian MacSweeney and Des Ringrose – to help complete the story of one of the greats of Irish show jumping: his father, Colonel Billy Ringrose.

The book is self-published by the author and is only available at www.billyringrose.ie priced €15.00.



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Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was David Green. Closing date is 22nd January 2018.

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

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BOMBS, BULLETS AND THE BORDER: POLICING IRELAND'S FRONTIER: IRISH SECURITY POLICY, 1969-78

Author: Patrick Mulroe
Publisher: Irish Academic Press (April 2017)
www.irishacademicpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1-911024491
Pages: 300
Price: €24.99 PB / €45.00 HB

The troubles in the north of the country are a very recent memory, and this work is an excellent and well-researched account of Irish Security policy during the period from 1969-78

It was during this turbulent period in our nation's history that the country witnessed some of the worst atrocities committed on Irish soil, leaving hundreds dead and much more injured.

Utilising a variety of archival material, Patrick Mulroe pieces together the often complex relationships between security and police forces, north and south of the border.

The discreet co-operation between these forces stopped a number of violent acts from taking place and saved many lives but the co-operation was effectively on condition that, 'it never took place', or was simply coincidence. The author states 'The difficulty for the Irish State was not so much in co-operating with the British but being seen to co-operate.'

Republican groups were incensed that the security forces were liaising with one another in a bid to thwart attacks.

The book is an excellent and easy read and is a very important addition to the history of the north and Ireland's Security policy. **PO'B**



CORKS REVOLUTIONARY DEAD 1916-1923

Author: Barry Keane
Publisher: Mercier Press (June 2017)
www.mercierpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1-781174951
Pages: 448
Price: €31.50

There is no doubt that County Cork played a leading role in Ireland's struggle for Independence through the centuries, and this new book covers the period from the Rising, through the War of Independence and then on to the Civil War.

More than 700 men, women and children lost their lives in this County during this turbulent period in our nation's history. While many were combatants, coming from the ranks of the British army, the Irish Republican Army or the police, a great number of them were innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of the opposing sides.

In his latest work historian, Barry Keane has divided his book into two parts. Part One of the book is a brief introduction to the period and examines the most important events which epitomised the conflict in the county from 1916 to 1923. He covers incidents such as the Kilmichael ambush, the Burning of Cork city, the deaths of Lord Mayor Tomas MacCurtain and the Funeral of Terence MacSwiney to name but a few.

The second part of the book is a comprehensive list of those who died along with a description of how they met their fate. This is very interesting reading and will, in years to come become a very important reference source.

This is an excellent book, though I was a little disappointed with the photographs which are only in Part One. The author states that there are few photos surviving which are of sufficient quality, but I feel the publisher should have done more and with digital scanning and photographic enhancement, more photos may have been included.

Overall, a good read and excellent reference source. **PO'B**



NO WAY OUT: THE IRISH IN WARTIME FRANCE 1939-1945

Author: Isadore Ryan
Publisher: Mercier Press (July 2017)
www.mercierpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1-781174876
Pages: 352
Price: €17.99

This excellent, well researched and very readable book covers a very often overlooked period in Irish as well as European history. After the German Army invaded France in 1940, an estimated 2,000 Irish people found themselves stranded in occupied France. They would remain there for over four years with as the title states, no way out. As the German jackboot spread throughout the country, work, food and money became scarce and the Irish trapped behind enemy lines so to speak, struggled for survival. While some keep their heads down in the hope the conflict will end soon, others become involved to varying degrees in the war which has taken hold of the country. Ireland's small group of diplomats in France tried to offer

assistance, with limited resources there is little that they could do. With the constant fear of internment, the Gestapo, Resistance attacks on the Germans and bombing raids, the years in France were fraught with danger.

The author relates the experiences, adventures and misadventures of some those caught up in a war not of their making from well-known figures such as James Joyce and Samuel Beckett to more obscure but no less interesting individuals such as Stephen Rice and Una Whyte. There are a number of black and white photographic plates of the people and places covered in the book. This work is a good read on a very original subject. **P.C.**



ARE YOU THE IRISH DEFENCE FORCES' ELDEST VETERAN



An Cosantóir – the Defence Forces Magazine and Ireland's Military Story have teamed up with Military Archives and the National Museum of Ireland in search for the oldest veterans of the Irish Defence Forces.

We would like to find the eldest veteran in each Corps/Service and record their story.

If you served or know anyone who served in the following Corps/Services: Air Corps, Artillery, Cavalry, Coastwatching Service, Construction Corps, Engineers, Infantry, Local Defence/Security Force, Local Defence Force (LDF)/ Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ), Medical, Marine/ Naval Service, Signals, Transport, Military Police, or Ordnance please get in touch.

As part of an ongoing Oral History project, the Veterans accounts will be recorded and deposited for future generations in Military Archives and the National Museum, and published in both magazines.

A reception will be held in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, in the New Year, date TBC.

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