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AN COSANTÓIR

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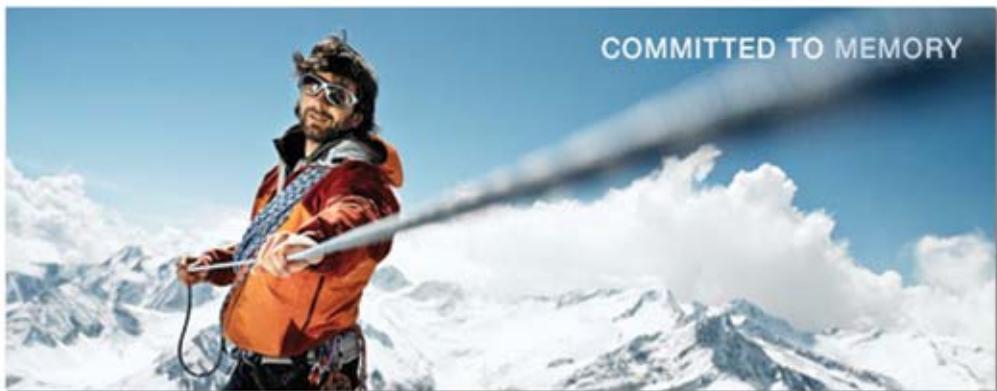
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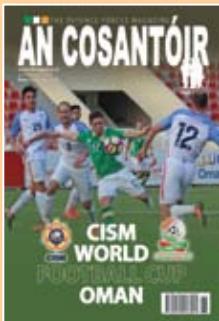
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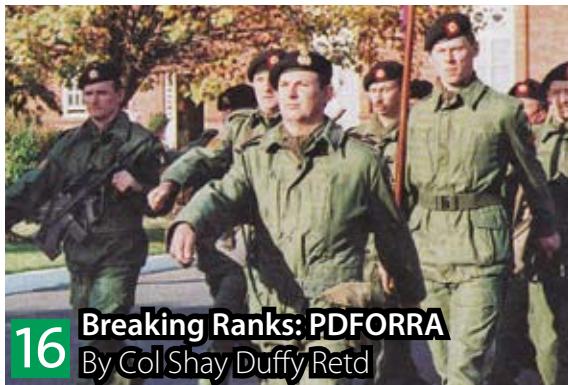
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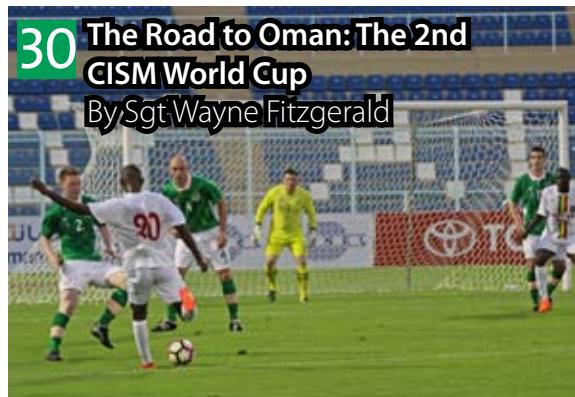
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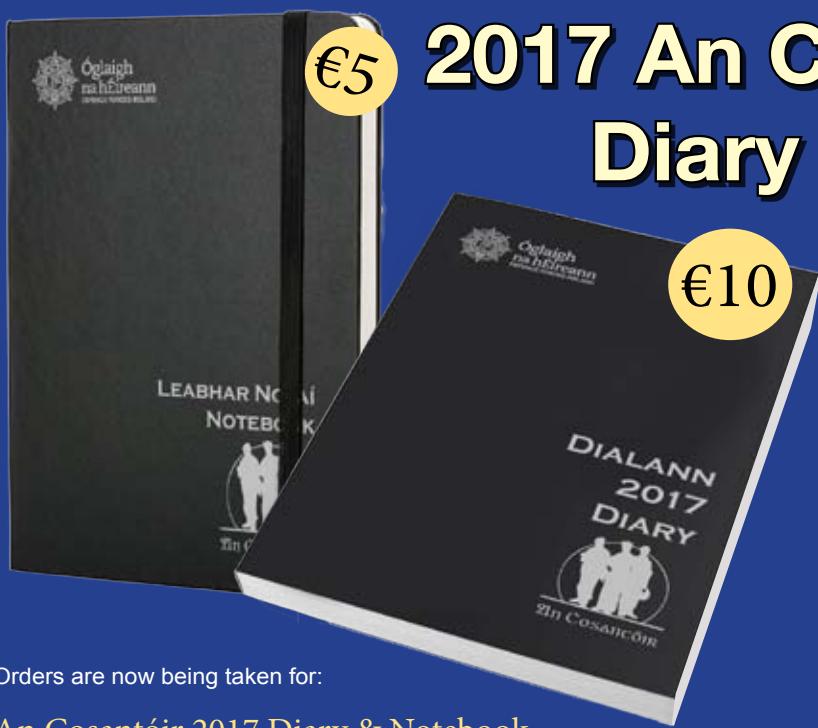
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**Manager**

Comdt Colin Lawlor
info@military.ie
+353 (0)45 44 5306

Editor

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald
magazine@military.ie
+353 (0)45 44 5307

Connect

Sgt Karl Byrne
connect@military.ie

Photo/Journalist:

Cpl Lee Coyle
journalist@military.ie

Photographer

Armn Adam Murphy
photo@military.ie
045 44 5307

Subscriptions

Cpl Kelly Gallagher
+353 (0)45 44 5312
subs@military.ie

DF/PR Information:

Cpl Lynn Ryan
admin@military.ie
+353 (0)45 44 5308

DF Webmaster

Sgt Mick Burke
+353 (0)45 44 5309
webmaster@military.ie

Magazine Archivist

Mr Sean Shinnors

Designer/Advertising

JM Publishing & Media,
Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland
Tel: +353 15331911
Tel: +353871344135
Web: www.jmpublishing.ie
Email: info@jmpublishing.ie

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Front Cover

Pte Derek Walsh, 7 Inf Bn, scores a wonder goal against USA during the 2nd CISM World Soccer Cup in Oman (2017). Photo: Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald

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

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our March issue. I would like to thank Cpl Lee Coyle for standing in last month – great job! – and to welcome photographer Armn Adam Murphy to the team and wish Cpl Neville Coughlan a safe overseas mission as he heads to UNDOF in a few weeks.

Your chosen photographs are *On Parade* before *In Focus* visits Bunratty Castle where the Military History Club re-enacted events from the 1798 Rebellion. Then it's on to the GPO for *Lowering the Flag on the Centenary Year*. The wonderful volunteers of Clonmel's Soup Kitchen, including members of IUNVA Post 24, are in the spotlight in our Veterans News item before our first full feature, *Recruits Hit the Ground Running*, looks at the arduous training undertaken by new entrants to the DF. *Water Safety - The Pool Lifeguard Course* covers an intensive four-week course in DF Physical Education School (DFPES). Col Shay Duffy (retd), a former president of RACO, reviews Michael Martin's book, *Breaking Ranks: the shaping of civil-military relations in Ireland*, which looks at the formation of PDFORRA. This is followed by a review by Brig Gen Paul Fry, GOC Air Corps, of Guy Warner's *Pioneers, Showmen and the RFC – Early Aviation in Ireland 1909-1914*.

Next, *Irish General Takes Command of UNIFIL* is a piece by stalwart security journalist Tom Brady from his interview with Maj Gen Michael Beary. This is followed by our *Strategic Review* article, *Somalia in Strife*, in which Paul O'Brien looks at the civil war that has been raging in the Horn of Africa for decades. Our *In Reserve* is a piece on *The Medal Man - COMS Ger O'Connor*, author of Medals of the Irish Defence Forces in 2010, who retired from the RDF recently. Our first *History* feature, *A Bloody Night - The Irish at Rorke's Drift*, by Lt Col Dan Harvey, is followed by *Irishmen in the 17th Century Polish Army* by Karol Kościelnik PhD. Our extended *Sports* feature follows the Defence Forces Soccer team on *The Road to Oman: the 2nd CISM World Cup* - where they did their country proud.

This issue is complemented by an A2 poster on the GPMG SF, designed by Sgt Karl Byrne, and we also have our regular *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do* features.

Finally, check out our competitions and results on pages 24, 35 and 36.

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

Submissions Sought

The Defence Forces, in conjunction with the School of Law and Government, DCU and the School of History UCC, will host a one-day conference in Cathal Brugha Bks in November 2017 that will explore political, social, economic and cultural developments in contemporary Irish history, in addition to focusing on military matters. Papers that focus on terrorism, its history, evolution and development, and the current terrorist threat, are encouraged. Contributions are welcomed from academia and from within the Defence Forces and veterans groups. Selected papers will be published in the annual Defence Forces Review, which will also be launched at the conference.

Those wishing to contribute to the conference and/or the Defence Forces Review must submit their completed paper (c.3,000 words) to the conference organisers by 29th June 2017.

Abstracts (250 words) for 20-minute papers should be emailed to Rory Finegan at rory.finegan@defenceforces.ie by 31st March 2017. Please indicate whether you also intend to submit a full paper (c.3,000 words) for publication in Defence Forces Review.

Organisers: Prof. John Doyle (DCU), Dr David Fitzgerald (UCC) and Comdt Rory Finegan (Mil Col).



6 | ON PARADE



INUVA RECEIVES DONATION ▲

The President of IUNVA, Maj Gen Vincent Savino (Retd) accepted a cheque for €2,500 from Dr Nicholas Bielenberg with IUNVA National PRO George Kerwin. Dr Bielenberg raised the money through the sales of his CD 'Silent Night', in which he tells the story of the Christmas Day truce in 1914. *Photo: George Kerwin, PRO IUNVA*



ERU PRE-SELECTION COURSE ▲

Sgt Conal Mallon, Templemore College, An Garda Síochána made a presentation to Capt Siobhan O'Sullivan, A/OC DFPES in appreciation of An Garda Síochána's use of the Obstacle Course in the DFPES. Throughout January 2017, 250 candidates for the Emergency Response Unit were tested in various physical competencies and teamwork as part of the ERU Pre-Selection course. PTIs from the DFPES planned and supervised the testing. Also in the photo are other members of the DFPES and AGS who were involved in the testing. *Photo: Armn Adam Murphy, PR Branch*



1916 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL ▲

On the 3rd February 2017, Lt Col Tim Daly, OC MP Group, DFTC, presented the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal to unit members both past and present. Pictured (L/R): Gd Sgt Paul Mayock, Insp Mel Smyth, Gd Sgt Lee Gorman (formally of MP Gp, DFTC), Lt Col Daly and Gd Sgt Brian Jacob. *Photo: Coy Sgt Patrick Balfie, MP Gp, DFTC*



DIPLOMA IN MILITARY MEDICAL CARE ▲

Pictured are members of the Defence Forces who graduated from UCC with their Diplomas in Military Medical Care on 6th January 2017. Congratulations and best wishes to them all. *Photo: Pte Jimmy Maher, NSRC, TPT GP, DFTC*



3RD DFTC RDF 2* PLATOON ▲

Pictured at their recent passing out ceremony in the DFTC are students and instructors of the 3rd RDF Recruit Troop of the 1 Armd Cav Sqn (ACS). Congratulations to all who completed the training. These students will shortly commence their 3-Star training. *Photo: Comdt I Stewart RDF, 1 ACS*



PASSING OUT PARADE ▲

Recruits from 60th and 61st Recruit Platoons, 2 BTC passed out in McKee Bks on 16th February 2017. The recruits came from 21 counties across Ireland, including five from Northern Ireland. During the ceremony Brig Gen Howard Berney, GOC 2 Bde, Lt Col Walter Hunt, 2 Bde Adjt and OC 2 BTC, Comdt Ronan Carberry presented them with their 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medals. *Photo: Cpl Colin Delany, 2 Bde HQ*



DONEGAL 'THE RACE' FOR CHARITY

Pictured is A/OC 28 Inf Bn Comdt John Martin with Pte Tommy O'Donnell and Coy Sgt Joe Doherty. Pte O'Donnell who is currently raising money for the Donegal Hospice and the Baby Caolan Melaugh fund by representing these and the 28 Inf Bn in 'The Race' Donegal, which is a 250km endurance race being conducted over the weekend of the 10-12 March. The 28 Inf Bn are supporting both charities and supporting Tommy on his endeavour to complete this tough and arduous challenge. Members of the Defence Forces to date have raised over €30,000 in other events for the Baby Caolan Melaugh Fund as his father Cpl Melaugh is a member of the 28 Inf Bn. *Photo: Coy Sgt Joe Doherty, 28 Inf Bn*



'TAKE TWO' CAMERAMAN RETIRES

On the 3rd February 2017, a presentation was held for long serving RDF member Bty Sgt Dermot O'Connor, PR Branch, DFHQ. Dermot served in the Artillery Corps for most of his 40+ years military career, but being a well-accomplished RTÉ cameraman with another few decades of service there, he moved from the 62 Arty Regt to PR Branch in 2012 on the last RDF re-org. Dermot's expertise and experience will be sorely missed in PR Br, and his colleagues here wish him well on his retirement from the RDF. Dermot is pictured receiving his Certificate of Service from OC McKee Bks Comdt Andrew Shinnick. *Photo courtesy of Dermot O'Connor*



AIR CORPS 112 HELPING OUT ON THE GROUND

Air Corps personnel recently won €3,000 during a charity event and decided to donate the money to Croí Heart & Stroke Charity, who are a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke in the West of Ireland. Since many of the cardiac patients flown by the Emergency Aeromedical Service (EAS) in the last 5 years have relied on Croí for support. Pictured (L/R) are: Maeve Frawley, CNM II Coronary Care Galway, EMT Crewman Armn Paul Mackey, Sarah Burke from Croí, Comdt Phil Bonner and Edwina Treacy from Croí. *Photo courtesy of Comdt Phil Bonner, AC*



PRO 12 TROPHY VISITS GALWAY

On 6th February 2017, two members of the Connaught Rugby Squad, Capt John Muldoon and Eoin McKeown (son of Comdt Gary McKeown), visited Dun Ui Mhaoliosa bringing the Pro 12 Trophy with them. They are pictured here with OC 1 Cn Cois, Lt Col Kevin Campion. *Photo: Cre John Greene, 1 Cn Cois*



NEW NASH AUDITORIUM

On 13th January 2017, Lt Gen Pat Nash DSM Retd officially opened the new auditorium in Collins Bks, Cork. The auditorium is named after Lt Gen Nash in honour of his career with the Defence Forces. Pictured (L/R): Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Des Cahill, Lt Gen Pat Nash DSM Retd and Brig Gen Philip Brennan, GOC 1 Bde. *Photo: Sgt Don Sheehan, 1 Bde HQ*



CURRAGH PENS WINNERS!

The winners of our recent Curragh Pens Competition for a 1916 Commemorative Gift Set containing a military style bolt-action pen were pictured on the 22nd February in the *An Cosantoir* offices. L/R: Pte Brian Curran (gold), Bill Dooley (MD Curragh Pens), Pte Michelle Kelleher (gun metal grey) and Comdt Colin Lawlor, manager of *An Cosantoir*. Not pictured was A/Sgt Richard McGrath, 1 Bde Tpt Coy (silver) who was unavailable. *Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne, PR Branch, DFHQ*

KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE

with The Military History Club

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

The 1798 Rebellion was the most widespread of all Irish rebellions, with 11 counties revolting against English rule in one of the bloodiest years in Irish history and thousands died on both sides. The United Irishmen, a revolutionary republican group influenced by the American and French revolutions, were the main protagonists behind the uprising, which took place from May to September 1798.

On August 6th 1798 General Humbert's 1,019-strong Army of Ireland arrived in Killala Bay from France on August 22nd. They quickly captured the town of Killala, with many Irish recruits flocking to join the newly formed Franco-Irish army. Large-scale battles then commenced in towns and villages across Ireland as people rose against the Crown.

On February 12th 2017 *An Cosantóir* travelled to Bunratty Castle, Co Limerick, to see the Military History Club taking part in a 1798 re-enactment. The re-enactment group were dressed as soldiers of the 70th Demi Brigade, a unit commanded by General Humbert during the rebellion and which contained many Irish soldiers.

This Napoleonic period re-enactment depicted an Irish tenant farmer being evicted by his English landowners. Members of the Lord Edward's Own re-enactment group, dressed as English soldiers, marched down a street of thatched roofed cottages to the farm, where, during a search of the property, they came across a member of the United Irishmen. As he was brought to a nearby field for execution French troops arrived on the scene. Musket volleys were fired at each other's lines and then through the smoke the troops met in hand-to-hand combat.

The Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society did a fine job depicting the United Irishmen who also attacked the English lines from behind. Shouts of 'Erin go Bragh' (Ireland Forever) could be heard above the clash of steel as they charged forward wielding their long pikes at their English foes in support of their French allies.

Many had gathered on a cold, dry morning to witness the entertaining display by these enthusiastic groups, who received great applause from the onlookers.

Con O'Sullivan of the Military History Club told us about the event: "Today's re-enactment was only put together about three weeks ago when we contacted the Lord Edward's Own and the Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society, who we have worked with on other events around the country, and arranged rehearsals."

On the question of achieving historical accuracy, Con said: "The great thing about studying history is finding out interesting facts and learning to read between the lines. You need to spend time researching; not just going with the first source you find, but cross referencing many others."

Stephen Dunford told us that while the average cost of a Napoleonic-era uniform could be "between €2,000 and €3,000" it was a very rewarding hobby and he mentioned the group's "fantastic experience" of attending the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium in 2015, "one of the largest events in recent years."

Stephen also told us: "Re-enactment events are still relevantly young in Ireland, and hopefully will get bigger and better."

The group visits schools around the country to help educate students through re-enactment and storytelling. Stephen says: "It's a living history lesson using uniforms and weapons as visual aids."

The members of the Military History Club have a passion for history, re-enacting many events from our Irish military heritage, including, Jadotville, the two World Wars, and the Napoleonic, Cromwellian and Jacobite wars. Their main aim is to preserve and display the historical uniforms, equipment, vehicles and weapons of the periods. They have been going for around 12 years and currently have 35 members, male and female. The group are always looking for new members, combatants and non-combatants. They are family friendly, with children welcome on event days.

For more info on Club visit

[www.facebook.com/
themilitaryhistoryclub](http://www.facebook.com/themilitaryhistoryclub)

Many thanks to our hosts: Bunratty Castle & Folk Park - The acclaimed 15th century Bunratty Castle is the most complete and authentic medieval castle in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendour. ■



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Members of the Military History Club



Lowering the Flag on the Centenary Year



BY CQMS MICHAEL BARRETT, E COY, 7 INF BN RDF PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR AND PTE DAVID HOGARTY, 2 BDE HQ

One of the key public events of the centenary year of 2016 was the daily raising and lowering of the national flag outside Dublin's GPO, the building that was used during the 1916 Easter Rising as the HQ of the Irish rebels led by Padraig Pearse. These ceremonies, which only lasted minutes, always caught the attention of the public and passing tourists, and for many of these civilians it was probably the first time they had seen uniformed members of the Defence Forces involved in such a task.

As the year drew to a close, this ceremonial task fell to a number of senior members of the DF. On Friday 30th December Lt Col Brendan McGuinness (2 Bde HQ) and BQMS Dermot Gibney (7 Inf Bn) arrived by military transport into Princess Street, adjacent to the GPO, sometime after 1130hrs. They carried out a short recce to the flagpole to make sure there were no obstacles on the ground or other problems with the pole - a few days earlier the event could not take place as scheduled at 1200 hrs because somebody had parked a motorbike at the flagpole and gardai from Store

Street had to be called to remove it!

However, this day the terrain was clear and just before noon the officer and senior NCO marched out of the GPO onto the pavement. The duty garda at the GPO walked onto the street and stopped all northbound traffic, at which point Lt Col McGuinness, with BQMS Gibney carrying the folded tricolour, marched up to the flagpole, catching the attention of the passing public on both sides of the street, many of whom began taking photographs with mobile phones and cameras.

The flag was unfolded, mounted onto the cord attached to the flagpole, and slowly raised, as upwards of 100 civilians looked on. The two men saluted and marched back to the GPO as some members of the public applauded. The duty garda waved traffic on again, and so ended the ceremony.

The honour of carrying out the final flag-lowering ceremony at sunset that day fell to two members of 7 Inf Bn, the CO, Lt Col Ray Murphy, and Sgt Maj Jim Ahern. ■

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

The Clonmel Community Soup Kitchen & IUNVA Post 24

BY AMANDA QUIGLEY, PEER EDUCATOR, RECOVERY COLLEGE SOUTH EAST PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE

Ina Doyle and I started the Clonmel Community Soup Kitchen in 2013 from the boots of our cars. I had previously worked with the Volunteer Centre South Tipperary and had worked on the refurbishment of the Railway Station in Clonmel along with Michael Haslam and Johnny O'Callaghan, members of IUNVA Post 24.

It was because of this that we approached IUNVA Post 24 for assistance with the Soup Kitchen as the numbers attending were growing and it was no longer viable to do it from the boot of a car. The lads quickly came on board, stressing the historical role of the army in Clonmel, and how the soldiers have always provided assistance to the town in the event of flooding and especially at Christmas time.

From this meeting a relationship developed where Post 24, through the Café, was able to assist the Soup Kitchen by giving us the premises for three hours every Friday night.

The Soup Kitchen was also involved with distributing food donations locally through FoodCloud. Paddy Hackett and Johnny O'Callaghan, Seamus Cagney and other members of Post 24 also became involved in these deliveries, which are made six days per week in the areas of Clonmel Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir and Cashel.

As the Soup Kitchen grew and more people used the service, Post 24 decided to further support us on Tuesday evenings also. Now donations from FoodCloud are distributed from Post 24 each Tuesday night and Post 24 also share part of their store room with the Soup Kitchen.

Last year a nomination form was sent in to the 2016 Volunteer Ireland Awards, nominating the work of Ina Doyle and highlighting the assistance of Post 24 in the running of the Soup Kitchen. Without the premises being donated by Post 24, the Soup Kitchen could not have happened. When Ina went to the awards ceremony in City Hall, Dublin, in December 2016, Post 24 were invited as the main sponsor and host of the Soup Kitchen. Ina won a Volunteer Ireland Award in the Social Work category, out of nearly 500 nominations.

The Soup kitchen now provides meals two evenings per week, delivers food and collects donations from local supermarkets six day per week, supporting over 65 families. It caters for 40 people for Christmas dinner each year and provides donated food parcels during the Christmas period.

The role of IUNVA Post 24, particularly through its chairman, Paddy Hackett, committee member Johnny O'Callaghan, and member Seamus Cagney, was instrumental in providing this service. ■



Pictured (L/R): IUNVA Post 24 Chairman Paddy Hacket, Seamus Cagney, Ina Doyle, Amanda Quigley, John Lyons and Johnny O'Callaghan



IUNVA Post 24 Chairman Paddy Hacket and Ina Doyle



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RECRUITS HIT the Ground Running



BY CPL LEE COYLE

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 61 AND 62 RECRUIT PLATOONS BY SGT BRIAN CASSERLY AND OF THE 6 INF BN RECRUITS IN TRAINING ON THE SLEIVE BLOOM MOUNTAINS BY ARMN ADAM MURPHY

On a cold wintery morning, with the grass wet from a recent downpour, I sat with my back to an earth mound, heart pounding, breathing heavily; my body twitching with the adrenaline pumping through my veins. I listened intently to the section i/c's orders while the sounds of assault rifle fire and the sharp percussive sound of GPMP bursts pierced the air nearby, filling it with the almost sweet smell of sulphur.

Although I was only an observer on the ground with 61 and 62 recruit platoons, the sounds and sights brought back vivid memories of the ground phase of my own recruit training, even though it was nearly 20 years ago.

The modern syllabus of recruit training is laid down in TS INF 29/2012, and its objectives are 'to induct a recruit into the Defence Forces, to develop them physically, mentally and socially, while developing character, morale and discipline, and to ensure a keen sense of duty, patriotism and an awareness of DF ethos and traditions, loyalty and service to the state'. The aim of the tactical training phase is to give the recruit the basic military skills required to operate as a member of a section in unpredictable environments and

- physically demanding conditions.
- In the lead-up to the tactical training phase the recruits are given instruction in a variety of subjects, including rifle marksmanship, operating in a field environment, and fieldcraft. The physical training and the PCMLCT (physical conditioning for minimum load carrying tests) are designed to progressively improve the recruit's physical fitness and ability to be able to carry the minimum load required on route marches and in operational conditions.
- It can be a lot to take in as a young recruit, especially sitting in a classroom being lectured on standard section-in-attack and patrol harbour drills. It is only when they get to put it all into practice during the first, and probably most memorable, ground phase of their course, that all the lines and diagrams they saw in the classroom start to make sense, as they go from two-dimensional plans to three dimensions; having all their senses hit at once and needing to push themselves through pain and discomfort with the controlled aggression required of a trained soldier.
- The ground phase is usually conducted over a two-week period during which the recruit is tested in a number of



60th Platoon & Instructors reach their RV in Glenmalure & bring an end to their 2 week tactical phase finishing with a 13km crossing of Table Mountain



60th & 61st Platoons watch their instructors do a Demonstration Section in Attack

undergo another loaded march, to simulate a withdrawal from a hostile zone, over a distance of 10km.

The ground phase is physically demanding and is designed to push the recruits to their limits; to show them what they can achieve and what is expected of them. It also builds comradeship and instils in them the ethos of the DF. It is the first experience that truly makes someone feel like a soldier; part of a close-knit team and part of something bigger than themselves.

On completion and passing of all the star tests, a recruit becomes a two-star private at their passing-out parade; a proud and memorable day for any soldier, and one which is celebrated with their family looking on.

If you know anybody who is looking to become a member of the Defence Forces, tell them to check out www.military.ie for enlistment opportunities. ■

skills. To start off the first week it is customary for a rigorous PCMLCT known as 'scratch', to get the recruits used to crawling around in the mud and water, getting cold, wet and dirty. Most of the first week is taken up by section-in-attack drills, which are practiced, and rehearsed until they run like clockwork. They will also get an introduction into a platoon-in-attack.

The recruits will then be tested individually in what are known as 'star tests', which cover a range of subjects, such as observation, target indication and recognition, judging distance, and field signals. Their fieldcraft skills will also be tested in relation to camouflage, use of cover, and individual fieldcraft movements. These are broken into three stages, battle preparation, movement with and without weapons, and the stalk.

The second, and most physically demanding, week starts with a 24-hour patrol harbour exercise, where different types of patrols are conducted and tested using several different scenarios. At the end of this exercise a hasty 'bug-out' is initiated and a loaded march carried out to a dig-in site where the recruits will be required to construct two- or three-person trenches in strategically placed positions. A defensive exercise takes place over the next 48hrs before the recruits

Vox Pops

Members of 60 and 61 recruit platoons, who are currently undergoing training with 2 BTC, Cathal Brugha Bks, shared their views on the ground phase of their course.

Rec Cian Folan (23), Galway

"I found the ground phase one of the most enjoyable parts of the training so far, as it gave us the chance to put what we learned into practice. I found the hill walk the toughest part of the two weeks."

Rec David Tyrrell (20), Donegal

"I was working in a bar before I joined the DF, it was kind of boring and this is much more exciting. I found it hard to visualise what we were being shown in the classroom but it fell into place once we got on the ground."

Rec Chloe Foley (19), Meath

"I'm the second youngest in the platoon and was straight out of school when I joined and as a result I wasn't as confident as the rest of the platoon, but I love a challenge. I found the night section-in-attack very good, but difficult too."

Rec Brandon Darcy (20), Meath

"I really enjoyed the dig-in, especially the attack and the setting up of the trip flares; although the cold made it difficult."



Water Safety

The Pool Lifeguard Course

The Pool lifeguard course is an intensive four-week course in the DF Physical Education School (DFPES). While you must be a competent swimmer to apply for the course Life Guard Instructor Sgt Mick Brogan recommends that unless you can swim continuously for a minimum of 30 lengths this course will not be suited to you.

There is a swim assessment on Day 1, consisting of 16 continuous lengths exercising each of the lifesaving strokes: front crawl, breaststroke, inverted breaststroke and sidestroke. Morning endurance swims commence on Day 3, which sees the students in DPM shirt, slacks and runners swimming laps of the pool often for times in excess of 80 minutes.

During the course you are trained how to assess an emergency situation and how to conduct a rescue from both land and water-based approaches remembering all the time Sgt Brogan's words of wisdom: *"A good lifeguard never gets wet!"*

Students also develop skills in the areas of risk awareness, safety, basic life support, basic first-aid, spinal injury protocol, and use of rescue equipment including defibrillator. It is also recommended by the pool staff to approach them in advance of the course to determine if you have the stroke proficiency, fitness and endurance required as the intensity of the course does not allow for stroke improvement or instruction.

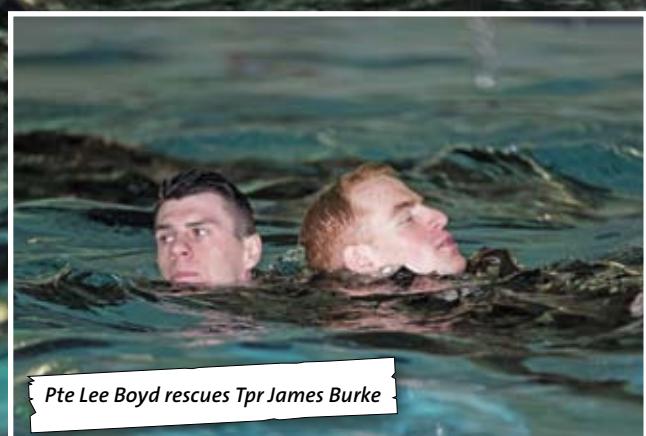
Recently qualified Lifeguard Instructor Pte Ryan Burke adds, *"You should come and swim a few sessions wearing your DPM to get a sense of how different it is to swim wearing clothes as realistically any rescue you carry out outside the swimming pool environment, the rescuer will most likely be fully clothed."*

The successful students were tested and qualified under Irish Water Safety.

Irish Water Safety is the statutory body established to promote water safety in Ireland. Their role is to educate people in water safety best practices. To develop public awareness campaigns to promote necessary attitudes, rescue skills and behaviour to prevent drownings and water related accidents.

www.iws.ie

BY SGT RENA KENNEDY
PHOTOS BY ARMN ADAM MURPHY





Pte Sarah O'Neill, Military College

"My inspiration for undertaking the course was spending time in the water with my young son Casey. I suppose I have more of an awareness of the dangers associated with water, so I wanted to have the knowledge and skills to be able to act in the event of an accident to someone in my family or someone else."



Pte Lee Boyd, 28 Inf Bn

"My motivation in doing the course was sadly the loss of Cpl Gavin Carey who drowned while swimming in the sea last summer. While I didn't know Gavin personally it gave me a greater awareness of water safety and an appreciation of how people can get in difficulty while swimming in the sea, in a pool or shallow water."

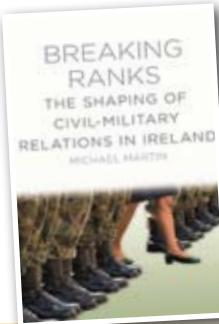
Pte Monty Balaensis, 1 Inf Bn

"I am a member of the Defence Forces Kayaking Club so I felt it would be beneficial to have the skills, confidence and knowledge to assist someone should they get into difficulty whilst in the water. I would like to be able to react if I saw someone in difficulty. Swimming and physical fitness is one of my main hobbies, being water fit is a different level of fitness, so I was glad to have the opportunity to improve."

Armn Tadhg Weadick, Air Corps

"I work in No 3 Operations Wing, so I spend a lot of time working in a maritime environment and it's beneficial to have the skills associated with water safety and life saving. A lot of my training is conducted in open water in the Irish Sea, various inland lakes and off the West Coast of Ireland, so I see the dangers of water first hand. I have an interest in the sport of swimming and hope to complete my Swim Teacher Training later this year."





BREAKING RANKS

The Birth of PDFORRA

BY COL SHAY DUFFY (RETD)

Breaking Ranks is published by The History Press Ireland in October 2016. ISBN: 978-1845885151 – priced €16.20
www.thehistorypress.ie

Col Shay Duffy (retd) is a former president of the Representative Association of Commissioned Officers (RACO), and was engaged in negotiations during the very turbulent days of the emergence of representative bodies within the Defence Forces. Here he gives us an insight into the new book, 'Breaking Ranks: the shaping of civil-military relations in Ireland' by Michael Martin on the formation of the Permanent Defence Forces Other Ranks Representative Association (PDFORRA).

Former Defence Forces member Michael Martin is to be congratulated on writing this book, in which he comprehensively analyses and recalls the events surrounding the introduction of representation to the Defence Forces in 1990. These were traumatic times for the individuals involved and for the State institutions, civil and military, which grappled with the issues as they sought to address the greatest challenge to the Defence Forces since its foundation. The book is both a sociological study, derived from the author's doctrinal thesis, and a history of those events by one of the participants.

As a sociological study, it argues and proves three fundamental truths: PDFORRA brought about representation in the Defence Forces; the process fundamentally changed the civil-military relationship in the State; and the process fundamentally changed the Defence Force's

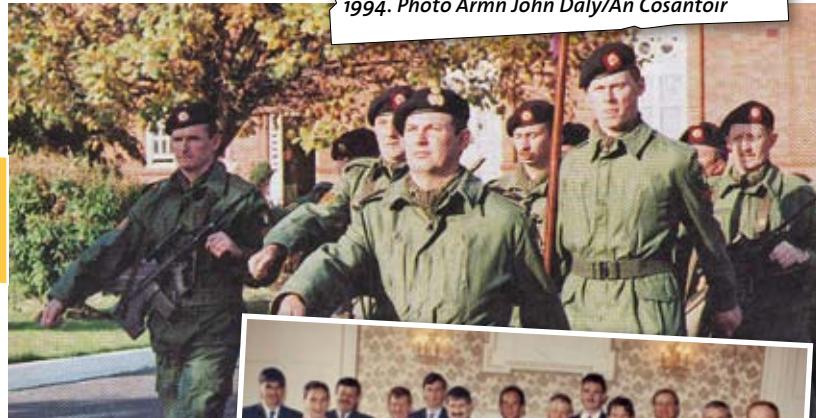
management structure but not its command structure.

The book charts the unfolding events from the impact of the National Army Spouses Association (NASA) in 1988 to the adoption of representation in the Defence Act 1990 and to the creation of representative associations in May 1991.

These historic developments evolved through a number of sequential and interrelated events: NASA and its powerful impact on the outcome of the 1989 general election; the very courageous decision taken by a small group of senior NCOs to challenge the managerial status quo on how conditions of service, and particularly pay, were negotiated; the establishing of the unofficial PDFORRA and the understandable apprehension of the authorities, civil and military, to break with existing Defence Force Regulations to negotiate with them; the Brady Interdepartmental Group and its compounding of the underlying pay problem and the growing sense of powerlessness; the Gleeson Commission, which became the vehicle for effective structural change; the breakthrough meeting in the Ashling Hotel; and the creation of the representative process.

Through access to wide-ranging original sources, the author very successfully identifies the key aspects of the conflict, which arose between the parties involved. He painstakingly uncovers and unpicks the conflict between PDFORRA and the authorities. He finds a clear divergence between the Minister of Defence and the General Staff, even uncovering a letter in which the accusation of 'surrender to PDFORRA' is alleged! His research unearths the decisive moments when the Minister rejects the 'military view' and moves to resolve the conflict.

The author concludes that the Minister's decision to break the logjam was caused



WO Michael Martin, centre with the 31 IRCOMP, UNIFIL at the ministerial review, November 1994. Photo Armn John Daly/An Cosantoir



1st PDFORRA National Executive meets President of Ireland Mary Robinson, circa 1990s. Photo: © Louis Parminter

by the impending judgement in the High Court case he took against the State but my own recollection of the events is that the situation was more complex than that single issue. The Minister's reaction to the admonishment of the Officer Gleeson Group was also telling. So too, as the author correctly acknowledges, was the direct intervention of an officer which led to the Ashling Hotel meeting and the breaking of the logjam.

The author is to be congratulated both on the sacrifices he made to support the introduction of representation and on this recording of those events. It should be read by anyone who seeks a fuller understanding of the military ethos and of the role that the different ranks play within that ethos, but more importantly, by those who wish to better understand the uniqueness of the 'military family' within the State – it is truly like no other.

Has representation made a positive contribution to the State's military resource? Is the current representation structure the one which best fits the needs of the State and the members of the Defence Forces? The answers to those very important questions need to be found elsewhere. But a reading of this book may well inspire further scholarship in those very important areas. I strongly recommend it to those interested in the history of the Defence Forces and in national military affairs. ■



Newly elected officers of PDFORRA L/R: CPO John Lucy (Deputy General Secretary) and WO Michael Martin (General Secretary). Photo: An Cosantoir May 1992

PIONEERS, SHOWMEN AND THE RFC

Early Aviation in Ireland 1909-1914

BY BRIG GEN PAUL FRY, GOC AIR CORPS & DIRECTOR OF MILITARY AVIATION
PHOTO BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD OR AS CREDITED

Author: Guy Warner. **Publisher:** Colourpoint Books (February 2017) www.colourpointbooks.co.uk.
Price: £16/€18.50. **ISBN:** 978-1780731063. **Pages:** 160

I found this book an enthralling read and a fantastic representation on the very early years of aviation in Ireland. Much detailed research has obviously gone into its construction and the result is a very engaging read for any aviation enthusiast looking for detailed history of those early days. It is well illustrated, with many rare and probably never before seen pictures and interview notes, newspaper articles and journal entries.

Guy Warner has filled this book with terrific stories of Irish aviation pioneers and catalogued the many significant struggles they faced such as adverse weather, unreliable technology, poor landing conditions, and varying piloting skills, all of which lead to elevated levels of risk.

Some things never change but today our understanding of forecasting and the intricacies of aerodynamics coupled with structured flying training courses removes much of the unknown that was a constant companion for early aviators. For example, I was struck by the story of the first attempt to fly cross the Irish Sea by Mr Robert Lorraine, a distinguished veteran of the Boer War. Not a naturally talented pilot he sought this record for himself but omitted making any plan before taking off. Guy tells us that when asked if Lorraine was a lunatic or a hero, his mechanic replied that he was 'a bit of both in turn, and sometimes both at once'! Lorraine basically started his engine in Wales, climbed to 4,000ft and set off to the west for Ireland with no naval escort below him or any preparatory work being done on his aircraft. It understandably ended badly and after six engine failures during the crossing he ditched within swimming distance of the Bailey Lighthouse on Howth Head.

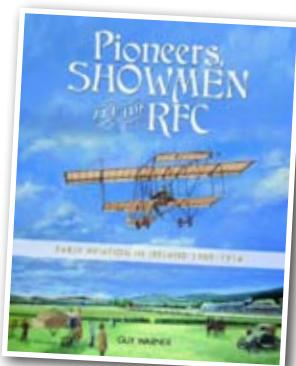
Lorraine joined the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) at the outbreak of war in 1914 but after crashing two aircraft in training the RFC deployed him to France as an observer. On 22nd November 1914 he was engaged in artillery spotting and slipping once more into lunatic mode, he dropped a message to the German anti-aircraft gunners which said, 'Keep, your eye in we'll be back in the afternoon'. They duly returned after lunch and the Germans obliged by putting a round through Lorraine's back! In his own words: 'I tried to continue but found that details were utterly beyond me, so I asked Corbett-Wilson to go back to our landing ground telling him I was hit. Then as there was nothing else to do I fainted!' Indeed.

The deployment of the first military aircraft to Ireland in 1913 is well covered in the book. No 2 Sqn RFC planned in detail prior to their crossing of the Irish Sea, reconnoitring landing sites in Ulster and throughout the country before setting off. They ensured that there was a battleship beneath them during their crossing and pre-deployed stores, spares and men to Ireland. They corresponded with the War Office, Irish Command, the Director of Military Training, and the RFC's commander at Farnborough.

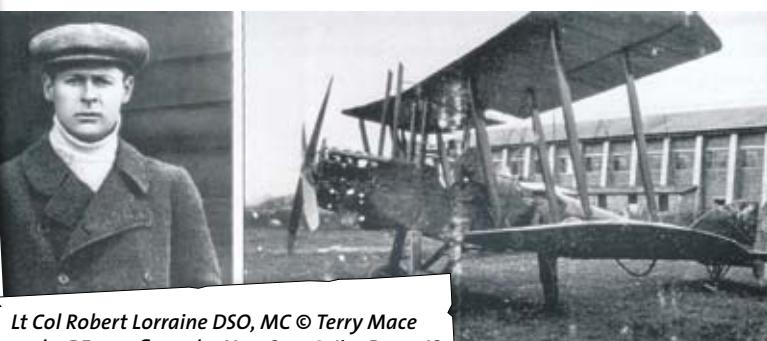
I'll leave the last words to the late Sgt Maj Patrick Joseph Aherne of the 1st Leinster Regiment who penned the following after he had observed No 2 Sqn aircraft in the divisional exercises that year:

"The part played by aviation calls for a word on its effects on the conditions of modern warfare. Will the same conditions prevail amongst air belligerents as exist with fighting bodies on terra firma? Will they endeavour to destroy or capture each other? Or will aviators be non-combatants? Not the latter certainly. The deduction, therefore, is that the army which possesses the best and most up-to-date aeroplanes and dirigibles (airships) in the next war will have incalculable advantages over others not so provided."

It's a great book, read it!! ■



L/R: Brig Gen Paul Fry, GOC Air Corps launching Guy Warner's book in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel recently.



Lt Col Robert Lorraine DSO, MC © Terry Mace and a BE2c as flown by No 2 Sqn. © Jim Bruce JS Leslie Collection

Irish General Takes Command of UNIFIL



UNIFIL's Head of Mission and Force Commander, Maj Gen Michael Beary, meets with the school students involved in 'Painting for Peace' on 21st September 2016. © UN Photo/Pasqual Gorri

BY TOM BRADY PHOTOS AS CREDITED

“Lebanese children have never known war - my aim is make it so that they never do.”

Major General Michael Beary

Songbirds flourished in the south Lebanese village of At Tiri during the 1980s and 1990s. At Tiri provided a sanctuary for the birds, which were a popular target for young boys in that strife-riven part of the country south of the river Litani and leading to the northern Israeli border.

But in At Tiri most of the population fled the village after it was devastated by clashes between the warring factions, many in a hurry - as the shattered remains of the local school showed, with lessons still chalked on the blackboard.

And of those that were left, none was under the age of 65. Among the few facilities, there was a weekly clinic staffed by medical personnel from the Irish battalion of peacekeepers.

Kildare man Michael Beary served in south Lebanon as a captain and a commandant with three Irish deployments in 1982, 1989 and 1994.

Now he is back as a 60-year-old major general and head of mission and force commander of UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon). He is only the second Irish officer to command UNIFIL, a major military honour for a small country.

Members of the Defence Forces have deployed with UNIFIL since 1978, with 47 losing their lives.

Much has changed in south Lebanon, which has enjoyed ten years of peace, largely due to the influence of UNIFIL.

“We have ten-year-olds in south Lebanon who have never seen what war looks like,” General Beary told the Irish Independent in an exclusive interview during a visit home.

“My intention and hope is that those boys and girls can become young parents at some stage and still not have seen what war looks like.”

He described his appointment as a special honour for Ireland and for the Defence Forces, particularly.

“The Defence Forces have always been very actively engaged in peacekeeping.

“Even though our GDP spend on defence would be quite low, we are among the top three countries in Europe providing troops for peace-keeping missions.”

General Beary has been in the hot seat at the mission headquarters at Naqoura, 3km north of the Israeli border, since July and is in charge of 10,500 troops, with a budget that has recently been boosted to half a billion US dollars.

The mission involves troops from 40 countries, with Indonesia, Malaysia, Italy, France and Spain the biggest suppliers of personnel.

UNIFIL's area of operations covers 300sq km, running from the Litani river to the Blue Line, which was set up by the UN with the agreement of the Lebanese and Israeli authorities to mark out a border between the two countries.

The Blue Line is about 118km long and the Irish-Finnish battalion has responsibility for patrolling a portion of it.

“We mount up to 400 military operations daily to monitor the peace, ensure that south Lebanon is not used to launch attacks of any kind and prevent the two parties from coming too closely into contact.

“We have to operate very quickly to reduce tensions between the parties and do practical things to stop them pointing weapons and insulting each other.

“By doing that, we hope to avoid a repeat of what happened in 2006, resulting in a 34-day war which, very sadly, resulted in the deaths of 1,100 Lebanese, 120 Israelis and five UN peacekeepers.”

General Beary said Lebanon was a very special country with 18

different religions and was now struggling to form a government after 29 months without a president.

"With the help of the UN, it is fighting to keep instability from coming into the country from the Syrian crisis."

"Lebanon is a country that is fragile but very resilient. The Lebanese people are very warm and welcoming and it is wonderful to think that they have had ten years of peace. We hope that will continue to grow and in my contacts with both parties, neither the Lebanese nor the Israelis wants any return to violence."

Syria is a concern to UNIFIL. *"It is a country that has had over five years of internal strife and is very fractured, with a lot of instability."*

"Lebanon is almost an oasis of calm. This is a very unusual for Lebanon and south Lebanon is almost the calmest part of the country."

"It is a country very similar to Ireland with a population of between 4.5-5 million. It's about the size of Leinster, yet it has 400,000 Palestinian refugees in 12 camps - three of them in the mission area."

"On top of that, there are 1.1 million registered Syrian refugees. That's like the population of Dublin suddenly put upon a country with very limited resources. So Lebanon needs a lot of international support and is receiving it to retain its stability."

The general, who was born in Athy, Co Kildare, described the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as UNIFIL's strategic partner in carrying out its mandate. *"The LAF is one of the most trusted organisations in Lebanese society and it is in everybody's interest to build its capability and capacity to extend the government's remit into south Lebanon, right down to the Blue Line."*

The expectation was that around 15,000 Lebanese troops

UNIFIL's demining staff officer explains to UNIFIL's Head of Mission and Force Commander Maj Gen Michael Beary, how UNIFIL's mine clearance teams refurbish 'Blue Line' points to keep them visible. 25th October 2016. © UN Photo/Pasqual Gorri



Maj Gen Beary pictured on a recent visit to the Military College, Curragh Camp. Image courtesy of Gerry Mooney, Independent News & Media.

would be deployed in south Lebanon but at the moment there are only 2,000 operating there because of major security concerns in other parts of the country, particularly along its eastern border with Syria and also in the north.

As a result, only 10% to 15% of UNIFIL's 400 daily operations are carried out in close co-operation with the LAF.

"But we have a major partnership with them and we help to train them and build their capacity so that, at some point, they will take over responsibility for UNIFIL's duties in south Lebanon," he added.

Despite Israeli claims that Hezbollah is stockpiling thousands of rockets and anti-tank weapons in villages in south Lebanon, General Beary said UNIFIL had not found any evidence of a big arms cache and had not been supplied with any precise details that would allow for a joint investigation with LAF.

"We sometimes come across remnants left over from the 2006 war and they are taken away and disposed of by the LAF. It's not

part of our mandate to search private properties and we have to exist in harmony with local communities.

"We have more than 55 posts in south Lebanon but have a good relationship with the communities and all of our troops carry out what we call market walks, where they go out and patrol through villages and talk to the locals."

"There is intensive induction training on our rules of engagement and also on sexual exploitation so we don't have any occasions where peacekeepers can be accused of exploiting in that manner. They are briefed that this is not acceptable."

He pointed out that while the LAF has only been operating in the south for the past ten years, UNIFIL has been there for almost 40 years.

There are currently some Lebanese nationals working with the sons and daughters of Irish peacekeepers with whom they worked in previous battalions.

"The link has gone through generations. They know the parents of some of the peacekeepers, which is incredible."

"Lebanon was very much in the DNA of Defence Forces peacekeeping, he said."

"Many of the Lebanese came over here on holiday and my former interpreter from 1984 has even lectured here."

"I think it is important to see what instability can do to a country, not particularly Lebanon but the Middle East in general."

"We need sometimes to have a little reality check in Ireland to appreciate what we have here, the freedom we enjoy, the ability to bring up our children, educate our children, go on foreign holidays; that's something that is denied in a lot of these very unstable countries."

Apart from its military duties, UNIFIL troop-contributing countries also engage in various projects, providing finance for utilities such as electricity and clean water, while the Irish battalion continues its decades-long involvement in an orphanage in Tibnine.

Lebanon is currently in transition. General Beary said there had been a lot of investment since the 2006 war but it had a weak economy and still needed help, with UNIFIL remaining a big employer in the south.

"The more you develop the economy in south Lebanon, the less

likely it is to return to war," he says.

As force commander, General Beary does not have direct contact with Hezbollah's military front. But he has contacts with its political party with many of the mayors, or mukhtars, of the villages within UNIFIL's area of operation being members of Hezbollah.

One of his most important duties is to chair a monthly tripartite conference on the Blue Line with generals from Lebanon and Israel. *"We sit in one room and work out a lot of the difficulties. It is a very useful format and the only forum where Lebanon and Israel can speak."*

General Beary's appointment is for two years to allow him to initiate change.

"Permanent ceasefire is a term I hope to introduce because that's where we want to go," he says.

This article was published in the Irish Independent on 18th February 2017. ■



SOMALIA in strife

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

The history of Somalia has been marred by extreme violence and social division, resulting in famine and death on an unprecedented scale. Civil war has been raging in the Horn of Africa for decades, leaving the country and its citizens vulnerable to the whims of warlords and extremists and also as a fertile recruiting ground and base for worldwide insurgency.

Modern Somalia came into being in 1960 when two separate entities that had been ruled by Italy and Britain since 1880 gained independence and declared themselves a single republic.

In 1969 USSR-backed Siad Barre came to power, declaring a socialist state. However, Somalia, like many African countries, is tribal, with different clans struggling for power and control. Warlords took control of large swathes of the country, making a centralised government difficult to maintain. Struggling to hold on to power and with the USSR no longer backing his government, Barre, in the face of an armed Somali National Movement, was forced to flee in 1991. The country's capital, Mogadishu was captured by militants and rival clan militias escalated their struggle for overall control of the country, resulting in civil war.

In 1992, hundreds of thousands of people died from starvation and disease, while the war raged around them, adding to their

misery. Terrible images of death and suffering were broadcast around the world.

The United Nations, with American support, commenced operation 'Restore Hope'. Food supplies were shipped into the country but the unstable situation made it difficult and dangerous for those distributing these vital supplies to the population. The warlords continued to attack, not only each other but also food convoys and those providing medical assistance.

In 1993, in an operation to capture prominent militant clan figures in Mogadishu, two American Black Hawk helicopters were shot down over the city. The downing of the aircraft and the subsequent rescue operation developed into a pitched battle that resulted in the deaths of 18 US Army Rangers and two UN peacekeepers, one Pakistani and one Malaysian. A year later, US forces pulled out of Somalia, formally ending their mission in the country, having had 43 soldiers killed and 153 injured.

The UN pulled out in 1995 after international involvement failed to stabilise the country. Other countries followed suit as the broken nation spiralled further out of control and the warlords battled for supremacy. Mohamed Farah Aideed, a leading warlord in this bloody conflict, continued to gain power, and after his



Al-Shabaab fighters undergoing training outside the central town of Moqorri. Photo: Hamza Mohamed/Al Jazeera



assassination in 1996 his son, Hussein Farah, took control and continued the fight.

While the country was in chaos, a small group of Islamic extremists emerged and steadily began growing in strength. Ethiopia noticed the rise of fundamentalist groups and invaded in 1999, securing key towns along its border with Somalia.

Then, in 2003 a government was established within Somalia that brought some stability. Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed became the fourteenth president of Somalia since 1991 and his government only managed to control areas that were under their direct control as warlords from other clans sought to hold the areas they dominated.

Somalia had lost most of its infrastructure, and its economy was in ruins as farms and industry were continuously destroyed in years of civil war and the Ethiopian invasion had swelled the ranks of Islamic militants who sought to repel the 'invaders'. The Islamic Courts Union managed to seize control of Mogadishu and in 2006 a fierce battle, lasting several months, ripped the city apart.

More help for the beleaguered country came in the guise of the African Union Mission in Somalia that comprised of forces from

a number of African nations, including Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Djibouti. The combined force managed to wrest control of Mogadishu's citadel from the insurgent group.

The Ethiopian forces, which had managed to bring some stability to the border area pulled out in 2009, having suffered heavy losses during the conflict. As the war progressed, another Islamic fundamentalist group, al Shabaab, emerged and, like many of its predecessors, grew in strength, moving from conventional warfare to waging a guerrilla campaign.

The militant Islamic group managed to take control of many areas from local warlords, establishing elaborate bases from which they attacked not only targets in Somalia but also in neighbouring countries. Al Shabaab's affiliation to al Qaeda also enables the group to train and equip jihadist fighters to operate further afield.

In 2013 Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed became president of Somalia and with the help of a number of international forces, is slowly taking his country back from the brink. Meanwhile, a number of terrorist attacks in neighbouring Kenya, have been claimed by al Shabaab, operating from their bases in Somalia.

Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean has also financed the rise of militant Islamic groups, with ships being hijacked and their crews and contents being held for ransom. However, increased patrols in the region by international navies have in recent years curtailed the attacks, although they have not completely eliminated the threat.

US forces have launched a number of air strikes against targets in Somalia, killing prominent members of al Shabaab such as Ahmed Abdi Godane. Predator and Reaper drones fly daily sorties and carry out strikes in the region, with intelligence networks on the ground helping to identify targets.

While the security and stability of the country balances on a knife edge, the present government has recognised the importance of the clan structure and, by using a power-sharing formula, has managed to establish a parliament for Somalia. While this may be seen by some as the beginning of an end to decades of civil war, to others it is viewed as a brief respite in a country where the gun, rather than political dialogue, has long dominated the landscape. ■

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces secure the scene of a suicide bomb attack outside the UN compound in Mogadishu, June 2013. Photo: Feisal Omar/Reuters





ÓGLAIGH NA hÉIREANN

MEDALS OF THE IRISH DEFENCE FORCES



CQMS Ger O'Connor, affectionately known as the 'medals man'.

The Medal Man

CQMS Ger O'Connor RDF

BY JAMES WIMS, MCJ, EDITOR, MEATH TOPIC, TOPIC NEWSPAPERS LTD



CQMS O'Connor being presented with the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal by OC 6 Inf Bn Lt Col Johnny Whittaker in Custume Bks.



Ger O'Connor pictured with former Defence Forces Chief of Staff, the late Lt Gen Dermot Earley DSM in the Curragh Camp. The picture was taken by the late Comdt Des Coleman, General Secretary of the Reserve Defence Force Representative Association (RDFRA).

endless additional hours in the service of the State with the army reserve force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ), which later became the Reserve Defence Force.

Prior to An Post, Ger worked for 13 years as a dough maker with Mullally's Bakery, Dominick St, Mullingar, which is now the Topic Newspapers Ltd premises. He served his time in Mullally's Bakery and did his City & Guilds bakery course at Galway IT.

Ger joined the FCÁ in Columb Bks, Mullingar, on 1st May 1975 at the age of 18, enlisting into 20 Batetry, 4 Field Artillery Regiment (4 Fd Arty Regt). In the FCÁ reorganisation in 1979 Ger's unit became part of 9 Fd Arty Regt.

In 1977 Ger was promoted to corporal in Fort Dunree, Donegal, and to the rank of sergeant in Columb Bks in 1979, and later completed his senior NCOs course in Athlone.

1979 was also the start of a historic run that saw 9 Fd Arty Regt winning numerous Command, Brigade and All-Army shooting competitions. As a member of the rifle and falling plates teams during those years, Ger won team medals at both Brigade and Command level and was a one-time runner-up in the All-Army Falling Plates Competition.

In another reorganisation in 2005, 9 Fd Arty Regt was renamed 54 Reserve Artillery Regiment. By then Ger was a battery quartermaster sergeant (BQMS), having been promoted by the late Comdt Des Colman (RIP), Mullingar.

Mullingar man CQMS Ger O'Connor retired from the Reserve Defence Forces (RDF) on Sunday 5th February 2017, after almost 42 years of service. He has the distinction of being the author of a most colourful and informative book that provides soldiers and the public with full details and photos of all of Defence Forces medals and ribbons since its foundation.

CQMS O'Connor is a postman in Mullingar who has combined his work with An Post over 30 years with

Ger's book, *The Medals of the Irish Defence Forces*, published in 2010, was the first book on military medals in Ireland and was officially launched by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann, Chief of Staff, in January 2011 in the Officers' Mess, McKee Bks, Dublin.

Ger was also afforded a local launch of his book, which was held on 18 February 2011 in the NCOs' Mess, Columb Bks, Mullingar, hosted by Lt Col Arthur Armstrong (OC Columb Bks and 4 Fd Arty Regt), together with Comdt (now Colonel) Paul Whelan, who was then OC 54 Res Arty Regt, and his cadre staff. This was another piece of history for the since-closed barrack.

In the 2013 DF reorganisation 54 Res Arty Regt also ceased to exist: the last reserve regiment in the country to be stood down, making its own piece of history.

The new reserve unit in Mullingar, based in Lynn Industrial Estate, would be C Coy, a sub-unit of 6 Inf Bn, Custume Bks, Athlone.

Ger served as the new unit's company quartermaster sergeant (CQMS) up to midnight on Sunday, 5th February 2017, when he formally retired.

Prior to his retirement, the 'medals man', as he is known throughout the Defence Forces, was presented with the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal by Lt Col Jimmy Whittaker, OC 6 Inf Bn, at a ceremony in Custume Bks.

Ger has now come to the end of his career with the Reserve Defence Forces, pointing out, true to his form as a stickler for detail and accuracy, that he has given exactly 41 years and 280 days service to the State.

He told 'Topic' that he has enjoyed his journey and the friends and comrades he has met along the way. He wishes all his friends in C Coy best wishes for their future and he hopes the unit will continue Mullingar's strong military tradition, stretching back some 800 years.

Medals of the Irish Defence Forces can be downloaded in PDF format at: www.military.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/images/Info_Centre/documents/Df_Medals_2010.pdf



This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in the 'Meath Topic' on 9 February 2017.



THE BIG 5 NEEDS YOU

The 5 Infantry Battalion Association are holding a 20th Anniversary of the marching out of Collins Barracks, Dublin on the 8th April 2017 at 12.00hrs.



Those wishing to attend must submit their name before 16th March to the 5 Inf Bn Assoc. Committee: John Mullally 087 299 5532 - mullark@live.ie or Christy Mahon 087 709 9506 - gitsy_mahon@hotmail.com

Dress for 5 Inf Bn Association members will be Assoc. Uniform or neat dress with medals, Non-Assoc. members neat dress with medals. Timings TBC.

www.5thbattalionassociation.com

READERS COMPETITION

WIN a signed copy of 'Luftwaffe: Eagles Over Ireland' by Justin Horgan & the late Paddy Cummins R.I.P.

Published by Horgan Press (October 2016)

www.horganpress.com

ISBN: 978-0995553002

Price: €35.00 H/B



Question:

What year was Horgan Press established?

Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 22nd March 2017.

*Prize will be arranged for collection i.e. from An Cosantóir's office.

Air Corps 1916-2016 Commemorative DVD



A video record of the Air Corps involvement in the Commemoration events from January to August of 2016, that includes footage from the Air Corps, DFAVS and aerial footage from RTE is available.

All profits will go to help fund the Air Corps Museum & Heritage project. The DVD is on sale now from the Museum and NCOs Mess Baldonnel and by post through www.irishairpics.com

Military Veterans Gala Ball.



The Military Gala Ball will be held on: **Saturday the 19th of August 2017** at Morans Red Cow, Naas Road.

Tickets €50 each and it is limited to 300 - with 250 already pre-booked, so get your tickets booked quickly.

The hotel has offered a special rate of €120 per room, so make sure to mention the Military Veterans Gala Ball when booking.

All proceeds will go to support the ONE's soldiers home Brú na bhFiann / Home of the Brave.

Tickets booked through either: Benny Hill 087 6798691 / Paul Clarke 087 256516

Dress: Black Tux with white shirt & black bow-tie or Assoc. Blazer with white shirt & black bow-tie and issued military medals to be worn.

Sports Supplements & Anti-Doping

Defence Forces Supplementation Awareness Campaign

A DF Supplementation Awareness Campaign has recently been launched by DF Fitness & Sports Policy (DFF&SP) Section. Posters have been distributed to all Bde/Fmn Physical Education Officers and will soon be on display in public locations in your Barracks/Post. For any queries please contact your Physical Education Officer.

To aid your decision making, visit www.informedsport.com for info on products that have been batched tested.

What is Doping?

'Doping' refers to an athlete's use of prohibited drugs or methods to improve training and sporting results.

What About Medication?

Unless you are prescribed medication by a doctor, WADA prohibit the use of such medication for performance enhancement by healthy people.

Drug Testing Within the Defence Forces

Drug testing within the Defence Forces is governed by Defence Forces Administrative Instruction A7 Chapter 3 (CRDT & Targeted drugs testing). It is recommended you make yourself aware of the sanctions for positive tests. For more information and resources go to Fitness and Sports Documents/Resource Library on Defence Forces Fitness and Sports Policy section's IKON site.

Or there are a number of links below which can be accessed online.

www.irishsportscouncil.ie
www.instituteofsport.ie
www.informedsport.com



What do the Experts say?

The Irish Sports Council recommends against the use of sports supplements for the following reasons:

- Correct dietary & nutritional regimes will provide all the potential benefits of sports supplementation.
- There are no guarantees that any dietary supplements are safe.
- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) principle of strict liability means athletes are responsible for any substances taken.
- Before taking dietary supplements, you should assess the Need, Risk and Consequences.

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A BLOODY NIGHT

The Irish at Rorke's Drift

BY LT COL DAN HARVEY



The defence of Rorke's Drift, painted by Alphonse de Neuville (1880)

In the Zulu language the word 'Zulu' means 'Heaven', but for the suddenly surrounded, hopelessly outnumbered, highly exposed, tiny British military garrison at Rorke's Drift in 1879, the warriors of the amaZulu (the people of Heaven) were more like a horde from Hell. In what was to become a famous clash in the Anglo-Zulu War, thousands of bold, blood-hungry Zulu warriors hurled themselves headlong in a deadly onslaught against the hastily defended, barely barricaded, one-time trading station of Rorke's Drift.

This action was immortalised in the 1964 film *Zulu*, directed by Cy Endfield, produced by Stanley Baker, and in which a young, unknown actor, Michael Caine, was to make his breakthrough. The film epically depicts the Battle of Rorke's Drift, at which 150 British soldiers, some of whom were sick and wounded, successfully held off repeated attacks by a force of 4,000 Zulu warriors. While there were a number of historical inaccuracies in the film, it does not suffer as a result.

The defence of Rorke's Drift was an extraordinary event; an epic encounter and an exceptional piece of soldiering. Bravery is the management of fear, in that you must first feel fear to be courageous and this narrative of bravery in adversity endures. Its tale of daring against impossible odds continues

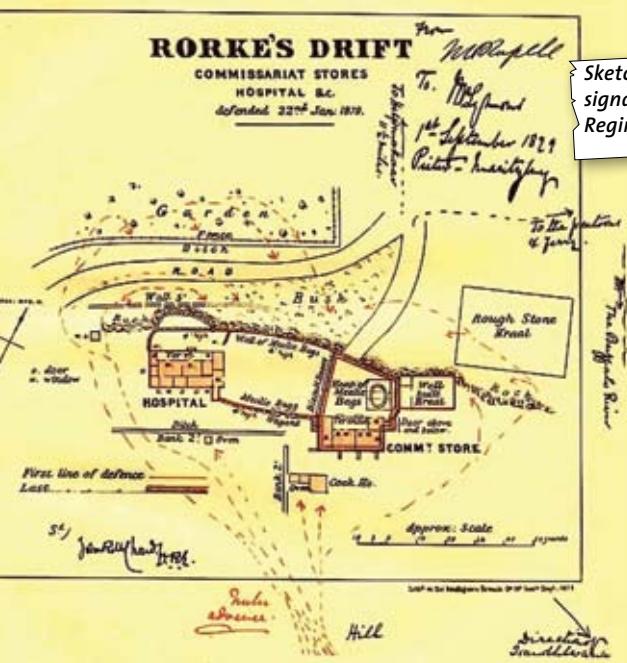
to enthrall and excite, to transfix and fascinate.

The little known part played by the Irishmen present is no less absorbing a story, and is all the more intriguing for its inherent, and largely, up to now, unheralded heroism. The defiance of the defenders was so strong because the resilience of the Irish present was so fierce.

On January 22nd 1879, not long after the officially unsanctioned invasion of Zululand initiated by the British High Commissioner in South Africa, Sir Henry Frere, a professional British military force with state-of-the-art weaponry suffered an unimagined, crushing defeat at Isandlwana. The British force was swept aside and its soldiers slaughtered by a seemingly unstoppable mass of 20,000 Zulu warriors. A portion of this huge Zulu impi, 4,000 warriors of its reserve, peeled off and later that same day attacked the tiny garrison manning the improvised supply depot at Rorke's Drift on the Natal side of the Buffalo River. In an action lasting twelve hours, through the night and into the dawn of the following day, the Zulu warriors frenetically tried to 'wash their spears in the blood of the red soldiers'.

At the strategic level the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 was an unwanted war; at the operational level it was an unnecessary

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war, the soldier who has to sort out the mess.

The engagement at Rorke's Drift involved a defence so vigorous, a contest so immediate, that it was only the 'now' of hand-to-hand combat that counted; the moment was all

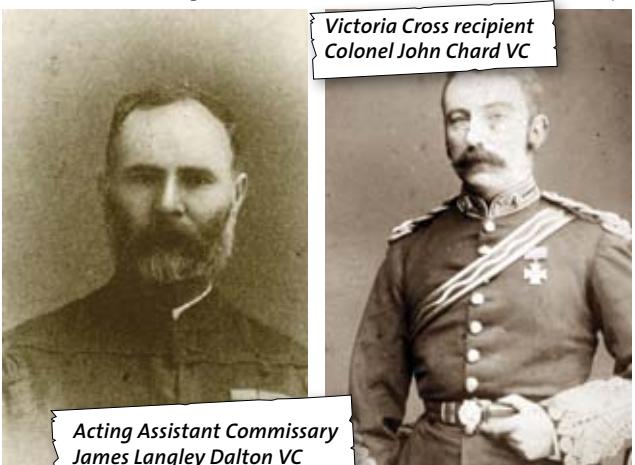
The defence of Rorke's Drift, painted by Lady Elizabeth Butler (née Thompson) (1880)



that mattered: lose that moment and everything was lost. The fighting was as ferocious as it was fiery, as frantic as it was fierce. Amazingly the British garrison was to suffer very few fatalities; only 17 in all, amongst whom four were Irish.

The real hero of the defence of Rorke's Drift was not Lt Gonville 'Gunny' Bromhead (played in the film by Michael Caine) or Lt John Chard (played by Stanley Baker) but an Irishman, born in London; acting Assistant Commissary James Langley Dalton. In fact, the cumulative presence of Irishmen at Rorke's Drift, including native Irish-born, others born of Irish parents in

*Victoria Cross recipient
Colonel John Chard VC*



*Acting Assistant Commissary
James Langley Dalton VC*

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war; but at the tactical level it was a war that had nonetheless to be fought and won by soldiers. It is the politician that commits a nation to

noteworthy for the awarding of the highest number of Victoria Crosses to a single unit for a single action; seven being awarded to members of the 24th Regiment of Foot (2nd Warwickshire). In all, 11 VCs were awarded for actions during this battle and there is a distinct Irish connection to four of those who were in receipt of this honour. Acting Assistant Commissary Dalton, Surgeon James Henry Reynolds (Dublin), Lt Bromhead (75% Irish), and Pte John William Fielding, born in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Wales, to Cork City parents.

Another Corkman, Assistant Commissary Walter Dunne, who was highly exposed to fire from gunshot and spears while he built the final fall-back position, the Redoubt, out of 200lb mealie bags, was nominated for a VC but was not finally granted one. In a separate, earlier and unconnected action, Lt Neville Coghill, born in Drumcondra, Dublin, but of a Cork family with strong associations to Castletownsend, together with a Lt Teignmouth Melville, made a bold bid to save the Queen's Colour of the 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot, removing it from the battlefield at Isandlwana to prevent it falling into Zulu hands. This undertaking was to cost them both their lives but they succeed in their task and were subsequently to become the first posthumous recipients of the Victoria Cross. (The colour in question when the unit was stationed in the Curragh Camp).

The outpost at Rorke's Drift comprised two thatched-roof buildings, the first of which was the house built around 1849 by another Irishman, Jim Rorke, a hunter, trader, farmer, and once part-time soldier who saw service in one of the many Cape frontier wars against the Xhosa. Seeking new adventures, he travelled north to the then new and remote frontier between Natal and Zululand where he settled on a plot of land on high ground above a favoured fording site (or 'drift'). Over the following 20 years built his storehouse and his trading relationships on both sides of the Buffalo River. It became known as 'Jim's Land', or Kwajimu to the Zulus. On his death the trading post was sold and converted into a Swedish missionary station. When the British took back the site they converted it into an unfortified improvised supply depot.

On his death, Jim Rorke was buried nearby at the foot of a hill named Shiyane ('eyebrow') where he remains to this day. Many fresh graves would be dug alongside his on 23rd January 1879. ■

Britain, and those with Irish names and connections, suggest the Irish participation numbered some 30 or so of the defenders.

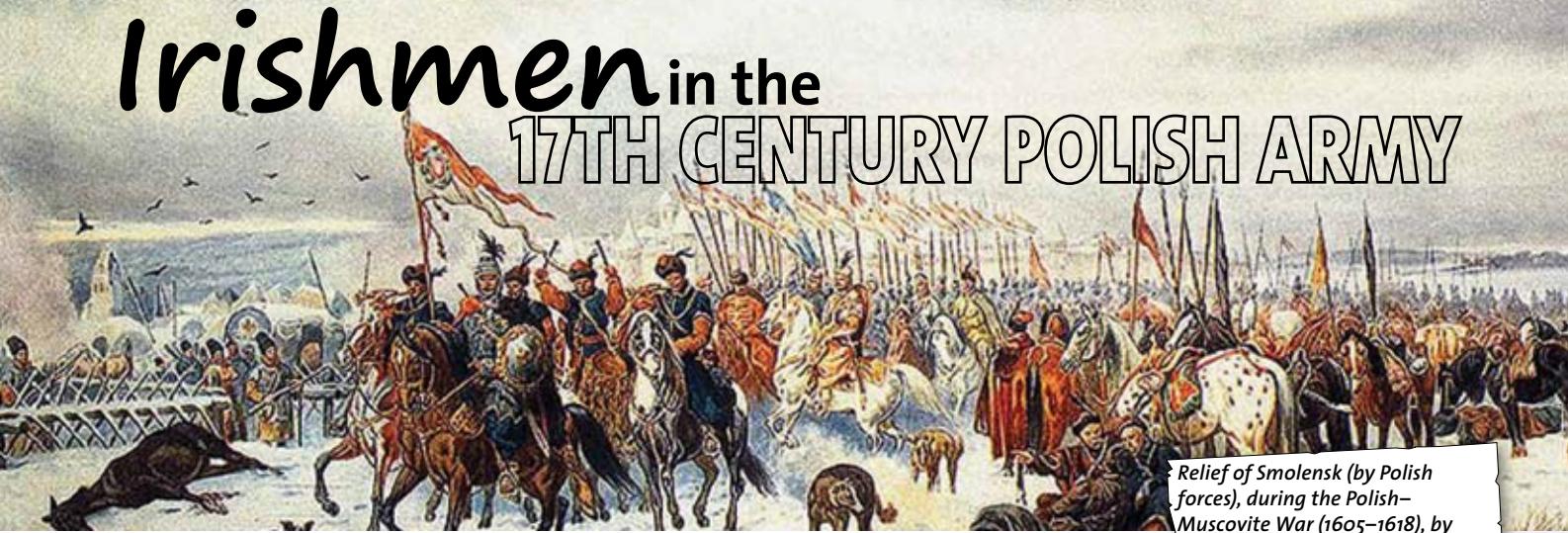
The event is also

Lt Col Dan Harvey's book 'A Bloody Night - The Irish at Rorke's Drift' (a follow-on from his book last year, 'A Bloody Day - The Irish at Waterloo', reveals the story of those Irishmen at Rorke's Drift and does an invaluable service in helping to remember them properly. Their bravery is something that should be upheld and acknowledged as a source of national pride, and an example of inspirational bravery. A Bloody Night - The Irish at Rorke's Drift " is published by H-Books, Cork, ISBN: 987-3-9504276-0-8

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Irishmen in the 17TH CENTURY POLISH ARMY



BY KAROL KOŚCIELNIAK, PHD, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAN, POLAND

Relief of Smolensk (by Polish forces), during the Polish-Muscovite War (1605-1618), by Juliusz Kossak

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a real union of countries, which due to its size and geographical position comprised many nationalities and ethnic groups. In the first half of the 17th century it suffered wars and conflict due to the expansionist actions of its neighbours, such as Sweden, Russia and Turkey. Because of these international threats and a complicated internal situation at the time, the Polish kings very often employed soldiers from other European countries, such as Germans, Swedes, Italians, French, Spaniards, English, Scots and Irish in the Polish army.

Going through documents gathered in Polish archives and libraries I found one such Irish soldier who served kings Sigismund III Vasa and Vladislaus IV Vasa. His name was recorded as Jakub Butler (or Buthler - both names are found in the documents), and was probably born towards the end of the 16th century and died probably in the middle of the 17th century.

The Butlers, Kasper Niesicki writes in *Herbarz Polski* (the Polish Armorial), were Irish soldiers known in England since the 18th century. One offshoot of the family moved to Kurlandia as early as the end of the 16th century and Kasper Niesicki traces our Jakub Butler from the Irish lords of Ormond.

So how did Jakub Butler come to Poland? There are two possibilities. Firstly, after the failure of the Irish uprising against England at the end of the 16th century (the Irish Nine Years' War 1594-1603), two younger lines of the Butlers were among the dozens of earls who emigrated throughout Europe. Secondly, at the beginning of the 17th century, a constant danger for English authorities in Ireland were the so called szermierze, former court soldiers of Celtic leaders, who were deprived of an occupation and income. A few thousand of these went to serve Charles IX of Sweden in his fight against Sigismund III. This service was not popular among the Irish and many of them deserted. There were Butlers among them and this is probably how Jakub Butler got to Poland.

There was no shortage of the Irish soldiers in Poland, as well as the deserters from the Swedish army many had come directly, seeking a better life. Also, Sigismund III was the only Catholic monarch who received official permission to recruit in Ireland because of his war with Turkey.

We first encounter Jakub Butler in the Polish army in 1618 at the head of 100 infantry on a campaign against Moscow with a young Prince Vladislaus Vasa. During the campaign he must have received permission to continue recruiting because in July 1618 he arrived at the prince's camp after the battle of Borysow at the head of a 500-strong regiment of infantry.

Soon after, he and his regiment participated in the attack on Moscow, where he was responsible for covering those who were attacking the Harbowska Gate. Due to the betrayal of deserters who defected to the Russians, the defenders massacred the attacking Polish units.

After the Polish army withdrew from Russia, a new threat emerged in the south due to a Turkish expansion. It was due to this threat that in 1619 Sigismund III asked King James I of



Krzysztof Radziwiłł field hetman of Lithuania (1585-1640)



Stanisław Koniecpolski polish great hetman (1592-1646)

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England to allow him to recruit volunteers from his kingdom.

In September 1619, Sigismund III gave Jakub Butler *salvus conductus*, to return to Ireland and come back to Poland with new soldiers.

As a result of the agreement between Sigismund III and James I, a few thousand soldiers were expected to arrive from Britain and Ireland to aid in a war with Turkey. However, in the end only a small percentage of the expected number arrived in September 1621 and by then the war with Turkey was over. As a result, the newly arrived soldiers, among who was Jakub Butler at head of 300 of infantry, were directed to the Duchy of Livonia under command of the Field Hetman of Lithuania, Krzysztof Radziwiłł, who was fighting there against Sweden. Butler and his force arrived in Livonia on 10/11th February 1622 and fought in there until the end of the war.

At the Sejm (Polish Parliament) in 1623, after the end of the conflict in Livonia, Field Hetman Radziwiłł presented soldiers who were to be awarded medals; Captain Jakub Butler was among them.

In the Polish-Swedish war of 1626-1629 Jakub fought at the head of 400 infantry, together with his relatives, Walter Butler senior and Walter Butler junior. On 26th June 1627, Jakub's unit participated in the battle of Gliwice, where he repelled the attacking forces of Gustav Adolf, and, on 3rd July, in the battle of Gniew, where he prevented attempts to resupply the Swedish forces with munitions.

In 1627, during the Sejm in Warsaw a bill was introduced which stated: 'Taking into account the brave and bloody services of Jakub Butler, the Irish nobleman, and his loyal services for us and the Commonwealth of Poland in various military expeditions, with agreement of all Royal States and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, we take him as a nobleman of the Commonwealth of Poland under condition that he will take *iuramentum fidelitatis* (a vow of faithfulness).'

Jakub Butler then received an *indygenat* confirming his position as a nobleman of the Commonwealth for his war services.



Vladislaus IV Vasa
king Polish-Lithuanian
Commonwealth (1632-1648)



Sigismund III Vasa
king Polish-Lithuanian
Commonwealth (1587-1632)

In 1628, in the ongoing Polish-Swedish War, Jakub Butler and his regiment were utilised heavily at the front by Royal Field Hetman Stanisław Koniecpolski. In the battle of Malbork on 25th July, Jakub Butler was wounded in the throat during an attack against Swedish ramparts but survived.

On 21st December, he received a recruitment letter from Field Hetman Koniecpolski allowing him to form a regiment of infantry at his own expense. He spent 25,000 Polish złotys on the unit and became Colonel Jakub Butler.

The south-east of the country was constantly vulnerable to attacks by Tatar armies and it is no surprise that in 1631, not long after the end of the war with Sweden, we find Jakub Butler at the head 300 dragoons in that area protecting the Commonwealth against Tatar attacks.

Next he was sent to the Reich during the Thirty Years' War, where he fought under Albrecht Wallenstein.

Vladislaus IV Vasa came to the throne as another war began with Moscow (1632-1634) and the king decided to make use of already trained soldiers, such as the Poles who had served in Wallenstein's army. In 1633, after negotiations between Vladislaus IV and Wallenstein, Jakub Butler brought 600 Silesian dragoons to Smoleńsk, where the Polish army was fighting the Russians. During this campaign Jakub Butler also took command of 1,000 infantry.

Towards the end of 1633, after many tough battles, peace negotiations began and Jakub Butler was included on the Polish delegation. On 24th February 1634, on condition of the Russian army's capitulation, an agreement was signed. One of the signatories was Jakub Butler as a courtier and colonel of King Vladislaus IV.

In 1634, Jakub Butler was near Kamieniec Podolski in the south with a regiment of 1,000 when the Commonwealth put on a show of force to deter Turkey. Documents record that in 1635 Colonel Jakub Butler was sent to Prussia with 600 infantry.

This is the last mention of Jakub Butler in Polish military campaigns, which is surprising as he was a very important person in the Polish army, given his position as a courtier and royal colonel serving in a royal guard. It is possible that he died around that time, but due to his prominence it is likely that this would have been recorded.

The most likely scenario is that after the events of 1635, Jakub Butler probably left Poland and went abroad to fight in the Thirty Years' War. There is, of course, the possibility that he returned to Ireland, but there is no information on this in the Polish sources.

One thing that is certain, however, is that Jakub Butler was an experienced, professional soldier who contributed to many of the Polish army's victories in the first half of the 17th century and whose dedication to the Commonwealth was recognised by the country's rulers. ■

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THE ROAD TO OMAN:

the 2nd CISM World Cup

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

The International Military Sports Council (CISM), founded in France in 1948 and now headquartered in Brussels, is one of the world's largest multidisciplinary sports organisations, organising events around the world for the military forces of its 134 member countries.

CISM's motto is 'Friendship through Sport' and its aim is to promote sporting activities and physical education among member nations and to foster world peace through sports.

In 1946 soccer became one of the first sports organised by the Armed Forces Sports Council (the forerunner of CISM), with Great Britain winning those first championships in Prague.

Minister for State with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Keogh TD and FAI Chief Executive John Delaney speaking to DF players at the National Sports Campus in January 2017. Photo by Armn Adam Murphy



participating nations. After a proposal from CISM President Col Alshino, the name was changed to the CISM World Football Cup.

In the CISM European Football Championships, held in Galway in 2016, Ireland qualified for the 2017 World Cup to be held in Oman. (The last time the Defence Forces played at the top level was in 2007, coming 7th in the CISM World Summer Games in India.)

The 1st CISM Women's World Football Cup took place in Rennes, France during May and June of 2016, with the host nation France beating Brazil 2-1 in the final.

For more on CISM visit: www.cism-milsport.org

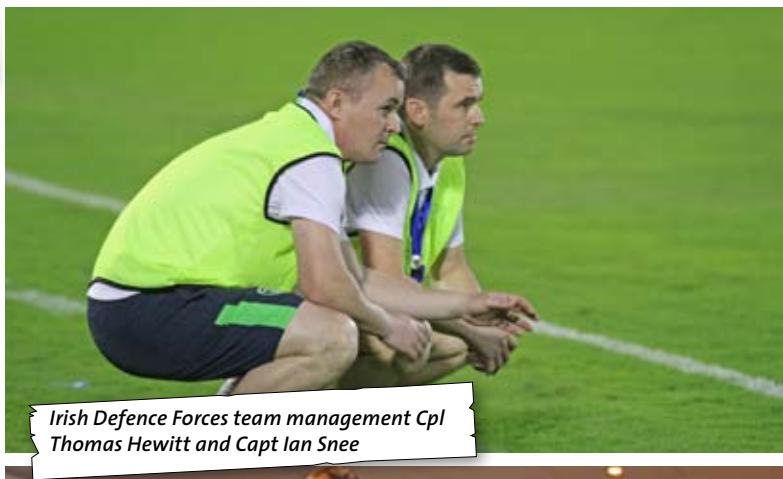
In November 2016 the squad formed up at FAI HQ, which is part of the National Sports Campus Development Authority in Abbottstown, Dublin, where the team's preparation and training would take place in this state-



In 1975 the annual soccer championships became a biannual competition, organised every odd-numbered year until 1983, when CISM's 38th General Assembly decided to terminate the competition due to frequent unsportsmanlike conduct.

The 40th General Assembly in 1985 reversed this decision and the tournament resumed under a set of regulations close to the ones in use today.

In 2013 the soccer competition was separated from the CISM Summer Games and given its own place in the sporting calendar as the CISM Football Trophy, to be held every four years. The inaugural tournament was hosted in 2013 by Azerbaijan, with 16



SPORT

of-the-art training complex. Friendlies arranged for the DF team included matches against Crumlin Utd, a selection from the PFAI, Cherry Orchard FC, Bray Wanderers U19s, and Limerick FC.

In January, FAI Chief Executive John Delaney addressed the Defence Forces team at the National Sports Campus. Also present was Minister Paul Keogh TD; Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM; DCOS Ops Maj Gen Kieran Brennan; and Brig Gen Philip Brennan, GOC 1 Bde and head of DF soccer.

Mr Delaney said: *"I am delighted to host the Defence Forces in their preparation for this prestigious tournament. It's one thing to*

The Minister added, "...The Defence Forces is not just about defending, it's about building team spirit and representing the Defence Forces and your country at the highest level. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Secretary General Maurice Quinn and the Dept. of Defence on this. ...As long as you can put your hand on your heart and say you played your best... I would encourage every young person in the Defence Forces to get involved in sport."

With the best of training under their belts the DF team set off for the 2nd CISM World Football Cup in Oman, where they would battle it out for the trophy with 15 other teams, from Oman, Iran, Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, the USA, Canada, DPR (North) Korea, Algeria, Egypt, Mali, Guinea, France, Germany and Poland. The draw had placed Ireland in Group C with Mali, Qatar and the USA.

On 15th January the opening ceremony took place in the 30,000-seater Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex Stadium. An amazing display of traditional music and dance was rounded off by a marching band and a precision arms drill display.

The next day, the DF team manager, Capt Ian Snee, announced the team for the opening game against Mali, and the Chief of Delegation Lt Col Kevin Campion (OC 1 Inf Bn) presented official FAI jerseys to each player. After motivational speeches from the coaching staff everyone was ready for the game and the meeting finished with an emotional tribute to their



The Irish team for the game against Mali



Mark Horgan celebrates with his team mates

play for your club, but to play for your country is a great honour. Make the Defence Forces proud, your family proud, and play for yourself; it's important to give yourself credit for getting here. The best of luck and we will be watching your results and cheering you on."

Minister Keogh thanked the FAI for their assistance and for allowing the team to use their training facilities in the National Sports Campus and wished the squad the best of luck.



Ricky Fox and Sean Gannon attack the ball



The Irish team for the game against Qatar



David Stack in action against Qatar

former teammate Pte Paddy Conlon (28 Inf Bn), who tragically died in an accident in McKee Bks in 2013.

The next day Ireland played their first game, against Mali, with the following players: 1 Cpl Darren Kelly, 2 Bde MP Coy (Cherry Orchard FC); 2 Pte Sean Guerins, 12 Inf Bn (BT Harps); 3 Pte Ricky Fox, 3 Inf Bn (Shamrock Rovers); 4 Tpr Mark Horgan, 1 Bde CIS Coy (Avondale); 15 Pte Keith Duffy, 28 Inf Bn (Ballina Town); 11 Armn Aidan Friel, No 1 Ops Wing (Longford Town); 13 Pte Craig Shortt, 1 Inf Bn (Birr Town); 10 Cpl Michael O'Shea, 1 Bde MP Coy (Cobh Wanderers); 20 Gnr David Stack, 1 Bde Arty Regt (Cobh Wanderers); 8 Pte Craig Wall, 3 Inf Bn (Freebooters); 5 Tpr Chris Kenny, 1 Armd Car Sqn (Sligo Rovers). Subs: 6 Pte Shane Dempsey, 3 Inf Bn (Wexford Youths); 7 Pte Sean Gannon, 7 Inf Bn (Dublin Central FC); 9 Pte Jody Dillon, 1 Mech Inf Coy (Portlaoise FC); 12 Gnr Ross MacCarthy, 1 Bde Arty Regt (Youghal United); 14 Lt Richard Barber, 27 Inf Bn (St James Gate); 16 Pte Stephen Whelan, 7

Inf Bn (St Paul's, Artane); 17 Pte Derek Walsh, 7 Inf Bn (Usher Celtic); 18 Cpl David Sweeney, 1 Bde Tpt Coy (Ballincollig FC); 19 Pte Ian Lordan,



Chris Kenny leading the Irish line against USA

12 Inf Bn (Greenwood FC); 23 Lt Kenneth Deegan, Tpt Gp/Sch (Newbridge Town).

Ireland got their tournament underway with a high tempo game in the Royal Police Stadium, with a small section of Irish fans singing 'Ole! Ole! Ole! Ole!' to get them in the mood. With their confidence high the DF team's wingers got to the bye-line on several occasions and put in dangerous crosses into the opposition box. As the Malians didn't have many tall players their game was played on the ground, working the ball through a tight midfield. However, Ireland kept their shape and were rewarded for their continuous pressure with a headed goal by Mark Horgan in the 18th minute after a great cross from Chris Kenny.

Just after the fourth official had signalled one minute of ex-

tra time, disaster struck for the Irish when Mali squeezed a shot past Darren Kelly for the equaliser.

The Irish team's halftime talk focused on keeping their shape and keeping the ball, and the second half started with Ireland again trying to get back on top. However, despite an end-to-end game no more goals were scored.

In the post-match conference, Capt Snee said: *"Mali were good opponents and I would have taken a 1-1 draw before the game. Many teams have professional players and I'm impressed with the quality of the teams I've seen so far. We have a young team and many of them have never played at this level."*

Ireland's second group match against Qatar took place two days later in the Al-Seeb Stadium and Capt Snee announced three changes to the starting 11, with Shane Dempsey, Sean Gannon, and CISM debutant, Jody Dillon, coming in for Keith Duffy, Chris Kenny and Michael O'Shea.

A very strong Qatari team started at pace and the game was played mostly in the Irish half, with Qatar having a goal ruled offside as early as the fifth minute. Ireland had a forced substitution in the 27th minute due to an injury to Craig Wall, who was replaced in midfield by Michael O'Shea. Qatar finally broke through the Irish defence in the 40th minute to go one up.

Ireland started the second half trying to push out and Chris Kenny came on up front for Jody Dillon in the 50th minute. Qatar hit the post on 64 minutes and had a soft penalty claim turned down in the 69th before Capt Snee made his final substitution, bringing on right midfielder Ross MacCarthy for Sean Gannon.

Qatar's second goal came from a corner kick on the 72nd minute and their third wrapped up the match in the 82nd minute.

In the post-match conference Capt Snee said: *"I'm proud of this young team: we will assess the USA-v-Mali game later tonight and see where we go from there."*

For Ireland to qualify for the quarter finals they needed to win their final group game against the USA and they also needed already-qualified Qatar to beat Mali and to end up with a better goal difference than Mali. A big ask, but possible nonetheless.

The Irish coaches put the players through light training on Friday morning and the manager took the pressure off the squad by not announcing the team sheet until a few hours before kick-off.

A good crowd turned up in the Sultan Qaboos Stadium on Saturday 21st January for the crunch Ireland-v-USA game, with the Irish among the spectators in their usual fine voice.

Trying a new 1-3-5-2 formation Capt Snee announced a starting 11 of Darren Kelly, Sean Guerins, Mark Horgan, Keith Duffy, Aidan Friel, Michael O'Shea, Craig Shortt, Ricky Fox, Craig Wall, Chris Kenny (captain), and Derek Walsh.

Before the match Capt Snee told the squad: *"We are very proud of your performances in the first two games; you showed fantastic leadership, especially the young soldiers. Concentrate on this game, as we've no control over the other game. We have to believe we are going to win."*

Team Coach Cpl Thomas Hewitt said to those that hadn't played yet: *"Your positivity to the team that gets selected has been great; your encouragement to each other has been great. If you get your chance to play – embrace it, and go out there and enjoy it."*

As it turned out Ireland had kept their best for their final game, and what a game we witnessed, where brothers-in-arms gave everything for qualification and pride. Ireland took the game to

the USA from the kick-off, with a few shots on target within the first two minutes and two free kicks from 25 yards in the first five minutes. Goals were inevitable and in the 16th minute Derek Walsh scored a fabulous goal from play.

With the team's new formation working well the Irish looked like scoring again every time they attacked and the USA made a substitution on 32 minutes to try to cope with the Irish pressure. Despite Ireland going close again on 44 and 45 minutes the game broke for halftime without any more goals.

In the second half Ricky Fox scored two goals from the penalty spot, in the 50th and 58th minutes, making it 3-0. Ireland were on fire.

Derek Walsh scored his second in the 60th minute and after that the game began slow as the players began to suffer from the intense heat. Craig Shortt got Ireland's fifth in the 84th minute, before the DF team had their only lapse in concentration straight after scoring, conceding a goal in the 85th minute. However, the scoring wasn't over and sub, Sean Gannon, scored Ireland's 6th and final goal in the 90th minute to end the game on a high.

Despite Ireland's heroics, Qatar and Mali played out a scoreless draw, meaning that Ireland finish in third place behind Qatar, with two wins, and Mali, with a win and two draws.

In the post-match press conference, both team managers thanked Oman for a wonderful tournament and their hospitality. Capt Snee thanked his staff and players and especially their families and the travelling supporters. *"All my players were fantastic,"* he said, *"and very disciplined. This tournament is of a huge benefit to my team and staff and we will now look forward to qualifying for the 3rd CISM World Cup in China in 2019."*

As the tournament continued our group qualifiers had mixed fortunes, with Mali going out in the next round, beaten 5-0 by Oman, while group winners, Qatar, beat Bahrain, Egypt and Syria on their way to the final, where they faced the hosts, Oman.

The final ended 0-0 after extra-time and the two sides faced the dreaded penalty shoot out.

Qatar cracked under the pressure, with two of their players missing the target, and a final score of 4-1 gifted the 2nd CISM World Cup to Oman in front of the jubilant home fans.

At the last DF team meeting prior to travelling home Capt Snee spoke of the great achievement of reaching the group stage of this tournament and of taking four points from their three games. He personally thanked his coaching staff and players: *"Because of your age some of you have probably played your last game in an Ireland jersey, so I thank you for your contribution. To those of you coming through, and especially those that didn't play in this tournament, I urge you to stick at it and keep with the team; you'll get your chance."*

The staff and players voted Pte Craig Shortt as their 'Player of the Tournament', and he was presented with a token of his team-

mates' appreciation by Lt Col Kevin Campion, who as well as being Chief of Delegation is also Craig's commanding officer in 1 Inf Bn.

Players' Player of the Tournament: Pte Craig Shortt (13), 1 Inf Bn with Lt Col Kevin Campion, Chief of Delegation and OC 1 Inf Bn

Lt Col Campion said to the players and staff: *"You have been great ambassadors for your country and the Defence Forces. Your results were great, and what you have done for Defence Forces soccer is great. You displayed many Defence Forces traits, loyalty, courage and physical fitness, and you did yourselves proud."*

He finished by thanking Capt Snee and his staff for their excellent work in getting the team to perform at such a high level.



The full squad and team prior to the game against the USA

The Defence Forces soccer team will now look to continue their progress with some international fixtures later this year, possibly against British and French military teams. ■

DF CISM WORLD CUP MANAGEMENT TEAM

Manager: Capt Ian Snee, 1 Bde Arty Regt

Asst Mngr: Cpl Thomas Hewitt, 2 Bde Ord Coy

Coach: Pte Alan Corboy, 2 Fd Eng Coy

GK Coach: Coy Sgt Anthony Jinks, 3 Inf Bn

Physio: Sgt Lloyd Murphy, 2 Bde Arty Regt

Doctor: Capt Patrick Kelly, CMU

Kit-man: Cpl Edward Clifford, 3 Inf Bn

FAI Official: Comdt (Retd) Gerard McAnaney

Referee: Armn Eoghan O'Shea, Air Corps

Referee: Pte Declan Toland, 6 Inf Bn



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

DF HILL RUNNING SERIES 2017

22 MARCH 17

TWOROCK 9.6km

Registration from
0930hrs at
Kilmashogue
Carpark (O 1510 2450)

Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

26 APRIL 17

DJOUCE 10.4km

Registration from
0930hrs at
Ballinastoe Woods
Carpark (O 194 078)

Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

31 MAY 17

SPINKS 14km

'DF King of the Mountains'
Registration from 0930hrs
at Glendalough Visitor
Centre (O 127 968)

Race start: 1200hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL EVENTS

- Trail shoes recommended particularly in wet weather conditions.
- Rations not provided, bring packed lunch; Tea/Coffee/ Scones provided at start/finish.
- Walkers are welcome to all events with earlier start.
- €2 Race Fee (to fund prizes & raffle).
- Registration on the morning of the event.

CONTACT:

Sgt Alan Hayles for further information.
Air Corps Fitness Centre,
Baldonnel
Ph: 01 403 7537
E: alan.hayles@defenceforces.ie

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Specifications:

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- Diameter: .83"
- Weight: 3.2 ounces (with batteries)
- System: 6 volt
- Cell: 2 CR123A Lithium Batteries
- High Level Output: 575 lumens (ANSI Standard)
- Run Time: 2 hours
- Low Level Output: 15 lumens (ANSI Standard)
- Run Time: 80 hours
- Available in CR1 & CR2 exclusively from Team-Alpha.ie

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How much is the Edge Hamel Grey Wolf G-15 Vapor Shield© Lenses on team-alpha.ie?

Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 22nd March 2017. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn. **Last month's winner was:** Paul Gifford, Dublin.

COMPETITION



NOTICEBOARD

International Women's Day Talk by Liz Gillis: **'WHAT DID THE WOMEN DO ANYWAY'**

Liz Gillis will discuss the vital role that women played in the Irish Revolution. Often seen as being mere supporters of the Revolution, this talk aims to show exactly what these women could do and did do in the Easter Rising, War of Independence and Civil War.

Liz Gillis is a historian specialising in the Irish Revolutionary period 1916-23. She has written six books about the Irish Revolution, 'Ireland Over All', 'The Fall of Dublin', 'Revolution in Dublin 1913-1923' and 'Women of the Irish Revolution', 'We Were There: 77 Women of the Easter Rising', co-written with Dr. Mary McAuliffe and 'The Hales Brothers and the Irish Revolution'.

The lecture and discussion will start at 5.30pm sharp and it will be held in the Witness Gallery. Tickets for each lecture are €10, this also includes an optional self-guided visit of the GPO Witness History Visitor Centre at 4.45pm.

Please book your ticket here: www.gpowitnesshistory.ie/BookNow/Booktickets.aspx?eid=0197

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B A N B J M S P L C I K A Z V
D C I B R R P I G Z H M I Q R
P Y L L I F C K T K U E O J B
J J P Z U N L J V O G B S U Q
N A I A M W T F C G I M V X P
U X C E L T T A B G R R E X L
Z J S O R M I Z T U D S T M A
J T I U R C E R O A A E F A S
I X D J S Z A S C L Z E G D P
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COMPETITION €50 VOUCHER

Q. HOW MUCH IS THE KID'S EXPLORER KIT ON WWW.PROTAC.IE?

Post your answer along with your name, address and contact number to us or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a PROTAC €50 Voucher to use in store or online.

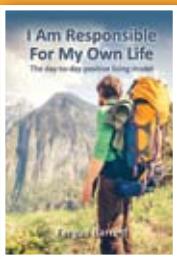
Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Wes Murphy, Co Kildare. Closing date is 22nd March 2016.

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I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN LIFE

Author: Fergus Barrett
Published: Amazon Digital Services LLC (January 2017)
ASIN: B01MR7YToD
Pages: 113
Price: €8.50 eBook



'Success doesn't choose you, you choose success. Everybody should live a life where they love themselves and life itself.'

Your daily action plan is broken down into six parts: the wake up, the mind, the body, action, re-action and reflection.'

Sgt Fergus Barrett joined the Defence Forces in 1994 and currently serves in 12 Inf Bn, Limerick. He has numerous military courses completed including: Sniper Instructor, SERE Instructor and Physical Training Instructor. He has served overseas on seven tours of duty to Lebanon, Kosovo and Chad.

Fergus availed of a career break in 2007 and took the opportunity to travel. He qualified as an outdoor instructor whilst in Australia and these travels were the main source of his inspiration in writing this book. The people he met, the places he travelled to and the overall experience was life changing for him. He qualified as a life coach in 2013 and now assists other people achieve their own personal goals.

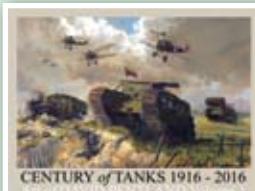
The Defence Forces was also very influential when it came to writing his book. In the time he spent away from home on his numerous tours of duty gave him the space to think, gather his thoughts and put life into perspective. "The roller coaster ride that life in the Defence Forces provides, the people you meet and the varied experiences of daily life in uniform gave me great inspiration for writing the book."

RK

CENTURY OF TANKS

1916-2016:
The Art of David Pentland Vol. 1

Author: David Pentland
Publisher: Art of War Books (May 2016)
ISBN: 978-0995482500
Pages: 112
Price: €45 H/B



On September the 15th 1916, the first tanks trundled across the Somme battlefield on the Western Front. Thirty-five British tanks attempted to break through the German defences. Though the attack failed, the potential of this machine was recognised and over the next 100 years, the tank would become the cornerstone of military forces throughout the world.

This book is the first collection of paintings and drawings by David Pentland and consists of over 90 images to mark the 100th anniversary of the tank and those that served in tank regiments.

Magnificently illustrated throughout, the book takes the reader from initial designs and ideas from chariots and war wagons to modern day fighting machines. The art work is superb and captures in brilliant colour every rivet and weld line that one might see on the body of these magnificent machines.

From World War one through the intervening years to World War two the artist paints these machines as they develop through the decades and how the military adapt the use of these new weapons into their battle tactics. The Author also examines the tanks during the post World War Two period, looking at the Korean War, Indochina, and Vietnam conflicts. He also illustrates European tanks and takes in modern conflicts such as Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan.

This book, as well as being beautifully illustrated, is also a great read, and comes highly recommended. POB

THE HISTORY THIEVES:

Secrets, Lies and the Shaping of a Modern Nation

Author: Ian Cobain
Publisher: Portobello Books Ltd (September 2016) <http://portobellobooks.com>
ISBN: 978-1846275838
Pages: 368
Price: €19.50 H/B

This excellent work draws on previously unseen material and rigorous research, with the author revealing how a complex and bureaucratic machine has grown up around the British state allowing successive governments to escape accountability and hide their secrets.

The first Official Secrets Act was passed in England in 1889 creating offences of 'disclosure of information' and 'breach of official trust'. It limited and monitored what the public could, and should be told. From the vast paper archives amassed during Britain's colonial era to the electronic data captured and stored today, the British state has been meticulous in recording its own activities and those of its citizens, and equally meticulous in ensuring that many of these records remain hidden.

Of particular interest are the files missing from Britain's former colonies such as Kenya. Before independence the British waged a vicious counter-insurgency war against the Mau Mau. Little is known of these clandestine operations and archives seem to be devoid of much information dealing with this turbulent period in Kenya's history. Boxes and boxes of files were transported out of the country before independence and taken to top secret and secure locations in Britain. These same files were buried in the hope that no one would come looking but in recent years, claims of abuse by former Kenyan Prisoners against the British government have unearthed the facts that papers do exist but are being withheld. While some have been handed over to those pursuing the case, others have not, which gives the reader the impression that a conspiracy is afoot to hide or dispose of documentation that may be damaging to the government, even now, decades after the British withdrawal.

For those researchers and historians that have trawled through archives and public record offices in England looking for that vital piece of information that you know should be there, but seems to have vanished into thin air, this book is definitely for you. A must read. POB

NAME

JOE O'ROURKE

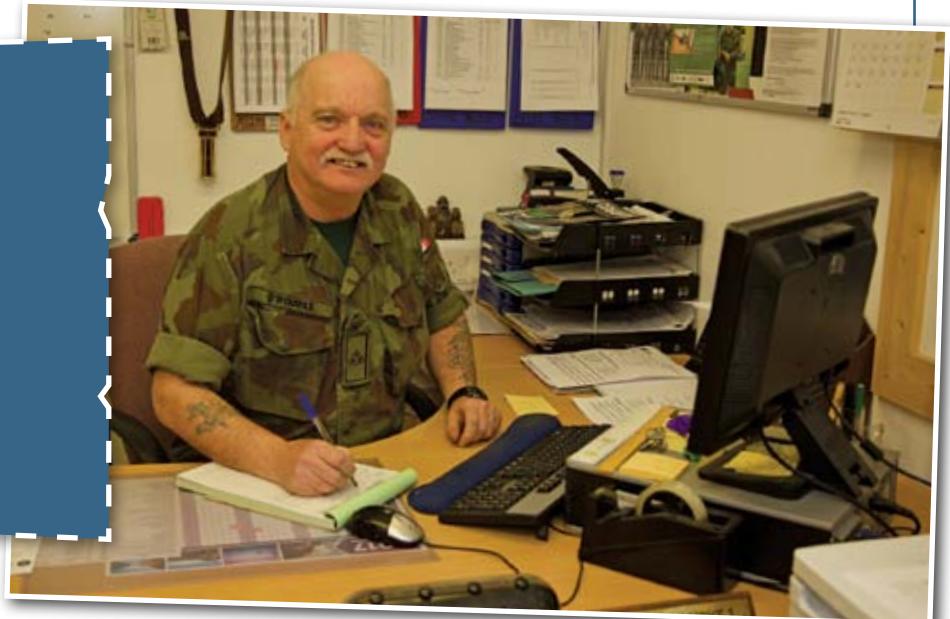
RANK

GUNNER

UNIT

2 BAR/ATT MCKEE
BKS COY

REPORT & PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE



I enlisted on May 13th 1976. I had been working in a pub at the time and was looking for something different. One of my uncles had served in 2 Fd Arty Regt and always told great stories about serving in the DF, so that made me think about joining up.

I formed up with 13 Recruit Platoon, 2 Fd Arty Regt, in McKee Bks. Our platoon commander was Lt Fitzsimons (who retired not long ago as a colonel) and Sgt O'Brien was the platoon sergeant.

Not long after passing out as a three-star private, I went on my initial gunner's course, where I learned how to be a member of a gun detachment on various artillery weapons, including the 25-pounder and its predecessor the 4.5-inch howitzer: there wouldn't be many serving members left that would have fired the latter. We were also lucky enough to cover the 12-pounder coastal defence gun thanks to a ship's visit that coincided with our course. We were trained on the weapon and got to fire it as the ship approached. Later I went on to cover the 105mm howitzer when it replaced the 25-pounder in the '90s.

September 1979 was very memorable time for me in the DF as 2 Fd Arty Regt had the privilege of providing a guard of honour at the airport for Pope John Paul II's arrival for his visit to Ireland.

Another good memory was the 1980 Dublin bin strike. It was great to be able to get out and help the people of Dublin and to see how appreciative they were for what we were doing. That same year I went on my first overseas trip, to Lebanon with 48 Inf Bn UNIFIL, as a member of an anti-tank crew. I remember being told during form-up training that in a modern battle the expected lifespan of an anti-tank crew was only about three minutes from the time they fired their first round. I omitted to tell my wife this information, so this will probably be the first time she hears about it.

When I returned home I went to work in the HQ Bty stores with RQMS Tommy Whelan. While work-

ing there I went on a tentage course with a really good friend of mine, Gnr Joe O'Halloran. After the course we were put in charge of all the tentage for 2 Fd Arty Regt. Working in the stores gave me the chance to do some computer courses, which were very hard to get at the time; these included CAPS and Lotus 123 courses.

With the DF re-org of 2012, 2 Fd Arty Regt was amalgamated with 4 Fd Arty Regt to form 2 Bde Arty Regt and the HQ and all its batteries were moved to Custume Bks, Athlone. While it was a sad time to see my home unit move out, I was lucky to stay in McKee Bks as there was a stores driver required in the Bk Accountant's stores under CQMS Paul Gifford. I was attached to McKee Bks Coy in January 2013 and have been employed there since.

Among my main tasks are carrying out stock checks of the stores and the dining complex to ensure that the CQ knows what stores are required to be ordered and issued. I deliver stores around the barracks, sometimes by forklift, and also take in stores if the CQ is unavailable. I also deliver furniture and other items to all 2 Bde locations, and assembling the furniture if it is flat packed.

I am the last serving member of my recruit platoon, and hope to serve for another two years until I retire at 60. ■





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