

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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NOVEMBER 2014

THE DEVILS PAINTBRUSH HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

AN COSANTÓIR 10K
PREPARING FOR
THE UNEXPECTED

PRAISE FOR UND OF UNIT

ISSN 0010-9460

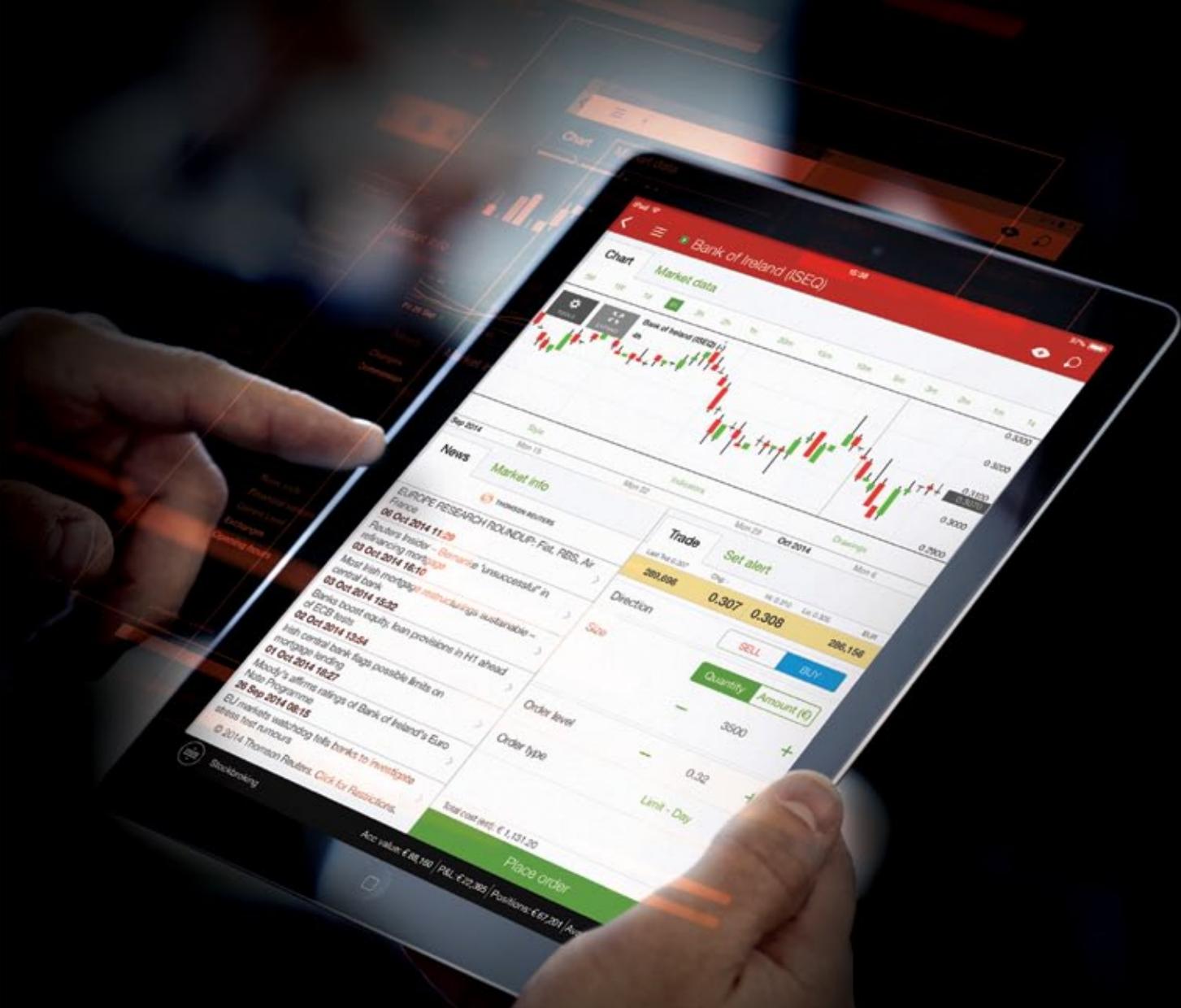


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Front Cover

Ptes Jennifer Byrne (left) and Nicole Kelly (right) both 3 Inf Bn serving with 44th Inf Gp, UNDOF. Photo by Fijian photographer.

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

Editorial

November's issue is jammed, we had to make it a 40 pager just to get it all in, and not all your photos made to our On Parade section – 19 did, there's always December for the rest. We would like to welcome Cpl Lee Coyle to the team as he takes up the gauntlet as PR Branch Admin NCO.

In Focus features a lesser-known movie made in the 1960s and utilised PDF soldiers as movie extras The Viking Queen, followed by some Air Corps and Naval Service news. Page 10 has been used to bring you a short piece on the recent Press and Information Officers (PIO) course in *Hold The Press!* by Capt Laura Keane. Our first main feature and cover story is *Praise for UNDOF*, which is an abridged version of Brig Gen Tony Hanlon's speech to the Irish personnel on their medal parade. Next up are two reports, starting with the recent PDFORRA ADC held in Sligo, and it's accompanied by *Military Logistics as a Business*, which was the theme for this year's Logistics conference held in Farmleigh House. An interesting story that will grab you is *The Devil's Paintbrush*, by Sgt Stephen Mc Cabe on how a German MG08 machine gun (WWI vintage) was found in Mountjoy Prison and was later restored by members of the Ordnance School. In *Human Rights Training*, Sgt Rena Kennedy writes about the students' experiences on the 9th International Human Rights Train the Trainer course held in the UNTSI recently. Our centre spread *Fighting Fit* features DF members on the latest unarmed combat training instructors' course. Following on in our *Life after the Defence Forces* series, Captain (retd) Willie Nugent explains how he has utilised his military skills by setting up a training company that caters for NGOs, humanitarian workers and journalists working in dangerous and volatile countries. Our Strategic Review feature *A Tiny Eye in the Sky* by Major (retd) Walter Christian Håland, features the latest hand held surveillance micro-drone technology. Our RDF feature by CQMS Michael Barrett is about the positives of completing the new RDF Life Tests. This month in *History* author Damian Shiels looks at Ireland's Forgotten Great War: The American Civil War 1861-65. In *Sport*, we have the results and photos from this year's 35th An Cosantóir Run. Plus we have all our regular features – *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

The winners of the An Cosantóir Next Top Model Competition are: Rory McCann, Kildare; Colin Delany, Meath; Brendan Clarke, Wicklow; Robert Sheehan, Dublin and Jack Fahy, Kilkenny. T-shirts are in the post!



ONE BRANCH OF THE YEAR

On September 27th/28th ONE held their ADC in Tullamore. The Convention covered many matters regarding the welfare of

homeless ex service-men and women. The Lower Ormonde Branch, Nenagh were announced as the ONE Branch of the year for 2014. Congratulations to all branch members for all their hard work. Pictured are Branch Chairman Seamus Lawlor and Secretary Tony Canning being presented with the 'Fuchsia Bowl' by ONE CEO Ollie O'Connor. Photo: Seamus Lawlor

ONET CONVENTION

Pictured are some delegates of ONE at their ADC Conference in Tullamore. Photo: Sean Shinnors & John Whelan.



6 | ON PARADE



INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR 2014 ▲

Pictured are undergraduates from the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, who attended at the IV Challenges of International Justice Seminar 2014 - PSO module 2014, at Collins Bks, Dublin. The students are pictured with Lt Col Richard Brennan (Course Coordinator), Professor Rick Lorenz (Colonel Retd US Marine Corps), Col Michael Campion, Lt Col Brendan Delaney and Ms Gillian McCarthy, Irish Red Cross. *Photo: Pte David Hogerty, 2 Bde HQ*



COMMODORE JOHN BARRY ▲

Please find attached a photo of The Mayors of Wexford at the Commodore John Barry Memorial, Wexford with Lt Col Sean Cosden, US Air Force, Brendan Howlin TD and Mayor George Lawlor.

Photo: Patrick Hogan



HAPPY RETIREMENT ▲

Pictured is Sgt Maj Paddy Galigan, 27 Inf Bn with his wife Breege at his stand down parade in Custom Bks, Athlone after serving 40-years in the Defence Forces. *Photo: Cpl Anthony Smith, DF Printing Press*



'O' GROUP ▲

Pictured recently are members of 3 Inf Bn, Stephens Bks, Kilkenny attending a Company Orders Group for a Cordon and Search Operation. 133 soldiers took part in the 3-day exercise as part of a series of Army-wide Company Group Assessments, which also included a tactical night insertion march over the Wicklow Mountains, Recce Patrolling, and Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT). This photo shows Comdt Dave O'Shaughnessy outlining his plan to the troops. *Photo: Capt Gavin Egerton OTW, Mil Col*



KOSOVO DELEGATION ▲

Deputy Mayor of Kilkenny Joe Malone, formally a Private in James Stephens Bks, Kilkenny for almost 30-years is pictured with Coy Sgt Pat O'Neill, BQMS John Murphy, CQMS Murt Crowe and a delegation from Kosovo at City Hall, Kilkenny on the 15th September 2014. *Photo: Pat Moore*





CLODAGH DALY TRUST ▲

On the 23rd September 2014 the Air Corps Golf Society presented a cheque for €2,000 to Cpl John Daly for the Clodagh Daly Trust named after his daughter. Pictured is Lt Col Hughes (Retd), Cpl John Daly and Flt Sgt Stephen Bailie. Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan



UN OPERATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (ONUCI) ▲

Pictured are Lt Col Mark Staunton SO Observer Management Group and SIO handing over to Lt Col Sean Dunne outside HQ ONUCI, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 23rd September 2014. There are currently two Irish officers serving with ONUCI, Lt Col Dunne in FHQ and Comdt Murt Larkin in Teamsit Tabou in the South West of the ONUCI AOR. Photo: Lt Col Sean Dunne



FAMILY LEGACY ▲

The Doyle Family was pictured recently with Brig Gen Derry Fitzgerald, GOC 1 Bde. L/R: Capt Ian, BSM Leslie, Pte Eoghan, Pte Brian, Brig Gen Fitzgerald D, Pte Adrian, Pte Killian, CQMS Declan and Lt Ken. Photo: BSM AR Leslie Doyle, HQ 1 Bde.



NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Congratulations to the newly commissioned officers in the Defence Forces pictured: Capt Eugene O'Connor (Med Corps), Capt John Carpenter (DFSM) & Capt Patrick Kelly (Med Corps). They received their commissions from D COS Sp Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM at a ceremony held in the Military College on 25th September 2014. Photo: Sgt Rena Kennedy, DF Press Office



A TRUE LEGEND ▲

Paddy Whitty was sent to the Naval Service from the School of Signals, Curragh Camp for a three-month attachment and stayed for forty years. He arrived as a 2* Pte and left as a Naval Service Lt Cmdr. He is pictured standing in The Titanic Memorial Garden, Cobh, a project he initiated for the one hundredth anniversary of the Titanic disaster. Upon his retirement from the NS he became a Town Councillor in Cobh and was the Mayor of Cobh twice. Photo & text: Coy Sgt Harry Mulhern Retd



LAST DUTY ▶

Pictured are Pte Mark Clancy, Ordnance Corps and Sgmn Thomas Dullaghan, DFHQ CIS Coy, the two personal to carry out duty in DFHQ Colaiste Caoimhin, Glasnevin on 29th September 2014. Colaiste Caoimhin was handed back to the Office of Public Works (OPW) who in turn have handed it over to Blackhall College. Photo: Sgt Kevin Conlon, DFHQ CIS Coy



HAPPY RETIREMENT ▲

Pictured is Sgt Andy O'Neill presenting a statuette of General Michael Collins to Comdt Dave O'Neill to mark his retirement, where he served the last 22-years in the Defence Forces Printing Press. Photo: Sgt Andy O'Neill, Printing Press

The Viking Queen

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

"An army of men brought her to her knees but no one could conquer... the Viking Queen." Hammer Films.

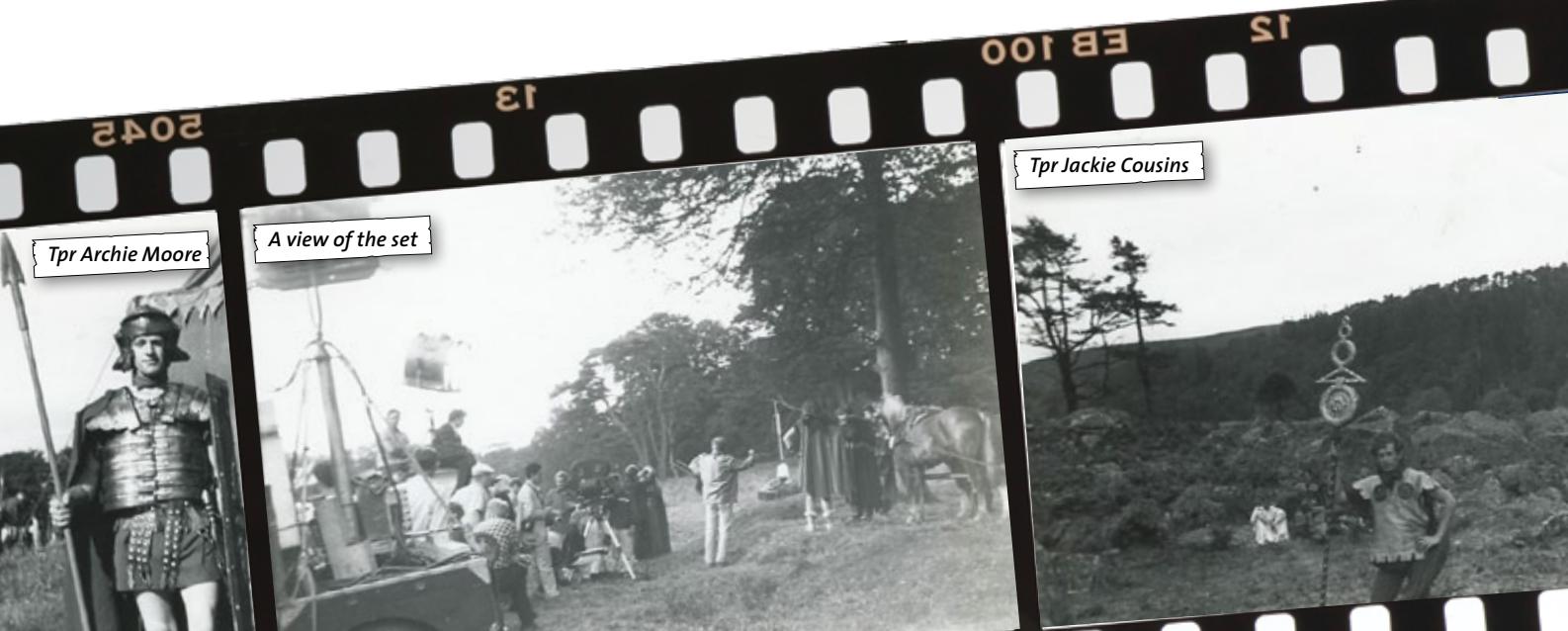
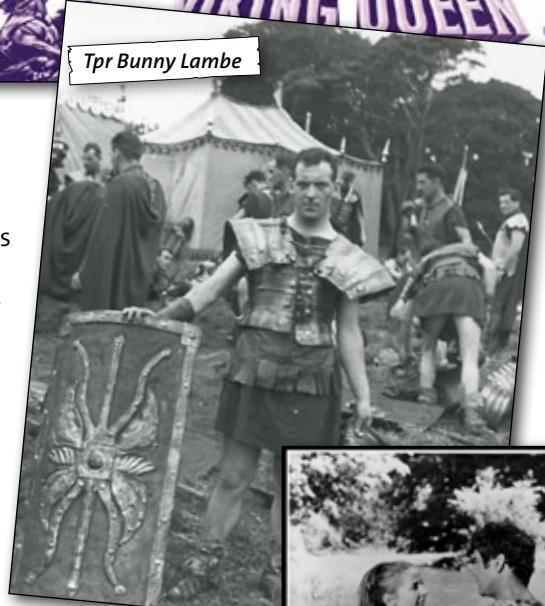
Before *Braveheart* was made on the Curragh plains and before Tom Hanks filmed *Saving Private Ryan* on the beaches of Curracloe, *The Viking Queen* utilised the Defence Forces personnel as extras while filming in the Wicklow Mountains. (I suppose I'll have the Air Corps on to me about *The Blue Max* being filmed in Baldonnel in 1965. OK then, send us in your stories lads!)

The recent 20th anniversary of the filming of Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*, with its large PDF and FCA (RDF) involvement, has stirred memories. Tpr Jackie Cousins, who served with 1 Tank Sqn in the Curragh during the 1960s and '70s and worked on *The Viking Queen* along with other members of his unit as extras, sent us in the pictures accompanying this article.

'To honour her father's dying wish, Queen Salina shares the rule of Icena with Justinian, a fair and just Roman. This displeases the bloodthirsty Druids on one side and the more hard-line Romans on the other. As Salina and Justinian fall in love their enemies start to plot and blood soon stains the green hills of Britain.' So goes the plot of the Hammer Films movie, filmed in 1967 at Ardmore Studios in Bray and other locations throughout Co Wicklow, on an estimated budget of £471,000. The film was directed by Don Chaffey with screenplay by Clarke Reynolds from an original story by John Temple-Smith. It starred Don Murray, who was in *Knots Landing* (1979-81), *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes* (1972), and over 80 other TV/film productions, and who has a place on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. His co-star was Carita, a Finnish actress known only for the films *Ladies' Man* (1962) and *The Viking Queen*.

The 91-minute film was not a box office success; probably due to the misleading title, as the movie is about a Celtic queen and her people, not Vikings. But we are sure all the cavalry lads enjoyed the acting and the scenery nonetheless!

Special thanks to Col George Kerton (retd) for bringing this story to us.



Around the Forces



Last Flight

Col Gerry O'Sullivan retires from his position as Chief of Air Staff Operations (CAS Ops) with the Air Corps after 40-years of proud

service with the Defence Forces. Over the course of his career he achieved positions of Command with both personnel and aircraft, and will be remembered by those who served alongside him. Col Gerry O'Sullivan is pictured on the 18th September 2014, stepping off 'Fox 267' with OC Flight Training School (FTS), Comdt Frank Byrne, after his last flight with the Air Corps. Air Corp Press Office –

Photos: 105 Sqn

LÉ Samuel Beckett

Pictured are the Captain and crew of LÉ Samuel Beckett, at the ship's first annual inspection, which took place in Cork City on 6th October by Commodore Hugh Tully Flag Officer Commanding Naval Service (FOCNS). Naval Press Office – *Photos A/S David Jones*



Familiarisation Training

Naval Service Reserve

Pictured are members of the Naval Service Reserve (NSR) Recruit Class at their Passing Out Parade held in Haulbowline Naval Base on 12th October 2014.

Naval Press Office – Photos A/S David Jones

On 3rd October 2014 Medical School Instructor's CMU DFTC Detachment travelled to Waterford Airport to undergo familiarisation training of the new Sikorsky 92 (S92) aircraft with the Waterford based Irish Coast Guard Rescue 117. The training organised by Keith Carolan Paramedic/Winch Op (former Medical Corps and Air Corps), included access and egress, stretcher loading and unloading to and from the aircraft and high lining. Instructors were winched off and into the aircraft. L/R: Sgt Wade F, Cpl Walshe M, Richard Wallace (Paramedic/Winch Op), Neville Murphy (Paramedic/Winch Op/Chief Crewman, former Air Corps), Capt Mark McDermott (Pilot), Cpls O'Halloran K, Corrigan B, Carolan A and Capt Mick Meally (Co-Pilot, former Air Corps). *Photo: Sgt Frances Wade, Med Sch*



HOLD THE PRESS! HOLD THE PRESS!

HOLD THE PRESS! HOLD THE PRESS!

HOLD THE PRESS! HOLD THE PRESS!

BY CAPT LAURA KEANE, ASST PRESS OFFICER, PR BRANCH

PHOTOS BY CPL PAUL MILLAR



The 4th Defence Forces Press and Information Officers (PIO) Course was conducted in the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI), DFTC from 22nd September to 1st October 2014. The purpose of the course was to provide Defence Force officers with foundation level training in press, information and media management skills. These skills would facilitate the Officers acting as PIOs at home and overseas.

The course was well subscribed with representatives drawn from each brigade and formation. The students had a broad range of skills and expertise, which contributed to the quality of media awareness. Defence Forces Public Relations Branch staff delivered lectures with topics ranging from media theory, writing for the media and social media, to mention just a few. All lectures focused on how the Defence Forces fits within the current media environment and why it is important to engage with the media in order to communicate the organisations key message to our target audiences. The course concluded with a three-day exercise, which tested the students in interview training, press release writing and media handling. The students were required to interact with invited trained journalists; who acted as role players for the duration of the exercise. Feedback during the course debrief confirmed that the layout and content of the course was effective at achieving the course objectives.

In addition to lectures, several well-known media professionals also addressed the students. RTE crime correspondent Paul Reynolds was invited to discuss his career to date with RTE and his recent involvement covering Defence issues. Other key speakers included Storyful News Editor Malachy Browne and the News Editor for TheJournal.ie, Sinead O'Carroll. Both gave very insightful briefs on the current online media environment and how their organisations engage, verify and report on military stories. A very interesting Crisis Communications lecture was delivered from the Deputy Head of Communications of the Health Service Executive (HSE), Kirsten Connolly. Former member of the DF, Declan Power was also invited to address the course in his role as a Security and Defence Analyst. All gave excellent insight into the various roles of the media, either as a reporter, press officer or analyst.

The public affairs landscape that the Defence Forces operate in has altered in recent years and it is crucial that PR Branch inform citizens of DF activities and the organisations contribution to society at home and overseas. By training PIOs we now have a pool of media aware officers who will encourage a culture of content generation and act as points of contact for PR Branch throughout the country.

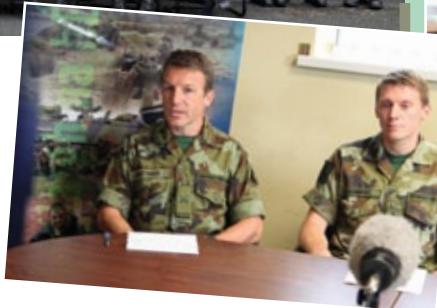
Ultimately, the most effective form of Public Relations is and always has been, the men and women of the organisation who carry out their duties on behalf of the people of Ireland in the most professional manner possible. Our newly qualified PIOs will assist PR Branch to identify possible PR opportunities at Unit level, which highlights the relevance and effectiveness of the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service. ■

Vox Pops



SUB/LT CIARAN O'SEAGHDA
Why is the DF doing PR?

"To get the fact that we are a relevant, modern organisation across to the public and create awareness about what it is we do. This course raises our awareness about the tools we have available in our arsenal and how we can get that message across."



CAPT DANIEL AYIOTIS
What benefit have you got from the course?

"This is a whole new area for me. The benefit for me is that it has given me, as a member of the DF an awareness of the media environment that we work in and I will get a chance to use the course in my future appointments."



CAPT STEVEN MACEOIN
What PR challenges are the DF facing?

"One of our key challenges in PR is selling the message of relevance. One of the take-away points here is that we as leaders have to brief our troops so that they themselves go out as ambassadors in their own communities and explain why we are relevant. I think that's a key challenge."

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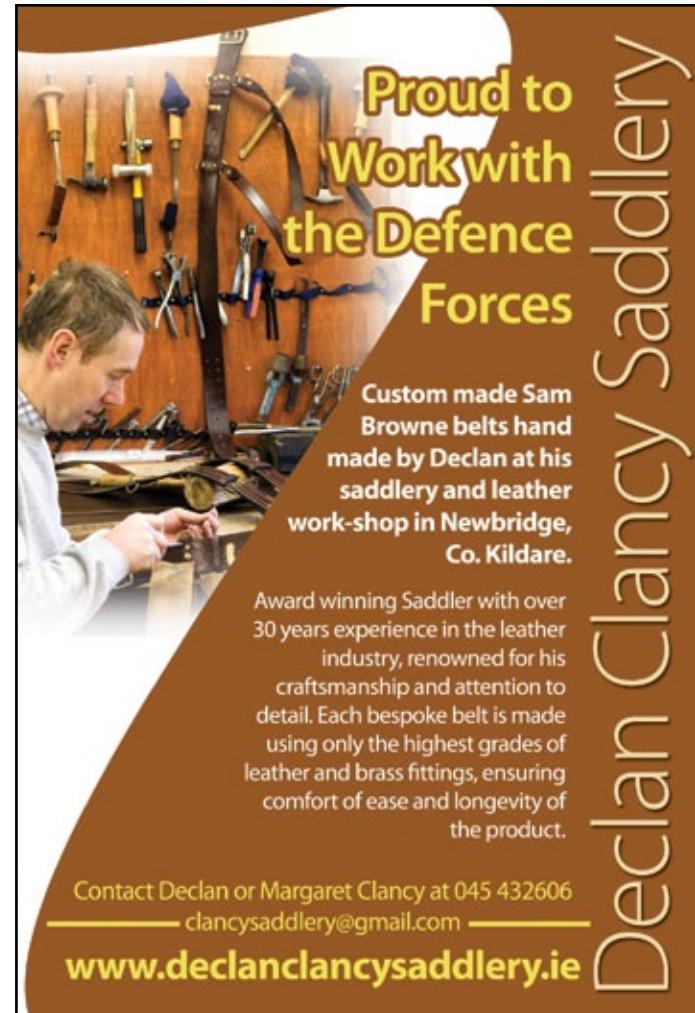
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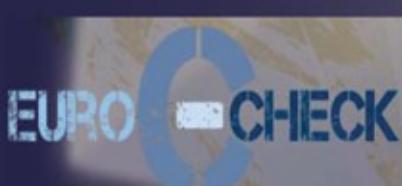
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REDUCED RATE FOR RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

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Praise for UNDOF Unit

The following is an abridged reproduction of a speech given by Brig Gen Tony Hanlon, Deputy Force Commander UNDOF, to the members of 44th Infantry Group, during their medal parade on 27th September 2014.

"The Defence Forces have a long, distinguished and proud record of peacekeeping with the UN. Since 1958, we have had a continuous presence on peace-support operations across the globe.

"The Defence Forces have had a long and turbulent association with this part of the world. Almost 50 of our colleagues died in Lebanon, with many more wounded or injured. This is a dangerous and volatile region. This contingent is testament to the danger and volatility that lies within this beautiful, tragic place.

"The Force Reserve Company quickly established itself as the key enabler, the pivot, of the operational capability of the UNDOF mission. The contingent moved quickly through pre-deployment in Stephens Bks, Kilkenny, in January; onwards to deployment in March; and to the achievement of full operational capability shortly after arrival in-theatre. Now you are in the final phase: end of tour, relief-in-place and redeployment back to Ireland.

"Regrettably the FC is on leave and it falls to me in his absence to thank you for the critical operational role you played in this mission. Please believe me when I say that you have made an entire nation proud of your operational achievements and the way you added further to the esteem in which Irish soldiers are held internationally. I am immensely proud of you and privileged to be associated with your achievements.

"This contingent, consisting of 130 personnel, is the second rotation of Irish personnel to the Golan Heights. The contingent delivered, and will continue to deliver up until the handover/takeover, the critical enablers of QRF; force reserve; and specialist IEDD, C-IED and EOD capabilities, on behalf of UNDOF.

"I applaud all your first tour personnel. The great depth of experience in your contingent has been the bedrock and guiding hand for those on their first tour of duty. There is a combined 239 previous overseas tours of duty in 44 Inf Gp, from deployments to Lebanon, Liberia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, East Timor, Eritrea, Bosnia, Honduras, Uganda, Iran/Iraq, Chad/CAR, Congo, and now Syria.

"Your primary tasking was to provide a quick reaction force but the reality is that you did so much more. To date you have completed an average of





55 armoured patrols and escorts per month and have supported the mission's engineering, policing, transport and logistics, catering, and medical assets.

"The Force Reserve Company also assisted with medical and security training for the Civilian Security Section. Neither was the FRC found wanting with the numerous operations that they conducted or assisted in. This was particularly evident on 30th August 2014 when the FRC evacuated 32 Filipino peacekeepers from UN Post 69.

"Outside of military and peacekeeping duties, your unit also showed a deep concern for those in need. This contingent raised over \$3,300 for the Jack and Jill Foundation in Ireland, which aids and assists families of children who suffer severe intellectual and physical developmental delay. This magnificent gesture is in the proudest traditions of Irish peacekeepers.

"The turbulence associated with the relocation of the mission from the Alpha to the Bravo side impacted heavily on the conduct of the mandate. Despite this, you performed magnificently and professionally and made the vital difference when it was required. The mission leadership has been fulsome in its praise for the operational effectiveness of the FRC in the successful completion of the necessary relocation. You very quickly re-established your capabilities and restored a high tempo on the Alpha side. Operational success is driven by leadership, planning, competence, resources, training, rehearsals and exercises; and through courage. This Infantry



Minister for Defence Simon Coveney TD and Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle greet members of the 44th Infantry Group on their arrival home to Ireland.
Photo: Cpl Deco Parkes

Group demonstrated all of those capabilities and competences in spades.

"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your exemplary service to UNDOF, the United Nations, and the government of Ireland. The post-modern soldier must be a diplomat, a scholar, an innovator and a warrior. My proud Irish soldiers, you are the very epitome of post-modern soldiers. Congratulations, and be very proud of your contribution to UNDOF in its efforts to support peace and stability in this troubled region." ■



2014

PDFORRA ADC

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT MICHAEL BURKE

At the invitation of PDFORRA, An Cosantóir attended the association's 23rd annual delegate conference, which ran from 30th September to 2nd October at the Clarion Hotel, Sligo. The conference really took off on the second day when the assembled delegates were addressed by Minister for Defence Simon Coveney TD, Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle, PDFORRA President Mark Scally, General Secretary Gerry Rooney and Deputy General Secretary Ger Guinan.

Although the post-'94 topic was the one exercising most people's minds, this could not be addressed publicly as it has now entered a third-party arbitration process.

Deputy General Secretary Guinan asked the minister for the immediate implementation of the European Social Charter, saying: "(It) obliges its signatory states, including Ireland, to implement a range of social rights and principles which should be applied to their citizens. The rights promoted by the charter have been brought into sharp focus by the success of a collective complaint by the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors regarding matters such as the right to organise and the right to engage in collective bargaining, including collective action."

PDFORRA has written to the Dept of Defence outlining how they believe the current restrictions on their right to engage in collective bargaining, including collective action, are a violation of articles 5 and 6 of the charter.

In his address, Lt Gen O'Boyle congratulated PDFORRA on their 23rd conference, and for their continued engagement with the Dept of Defence and DFHQ. He stated that in the last year DF personnel had conducted over 10,000 armed escorts, and carried out 108 EOD duties (38 involving viable devices); Naval Service vessels provided 885 sea-days; and the Air Corps contributed 1,700 flying hours.

Speaking with regard to the tight financial situation faced by the Defence Forces, Lt Gen O'Boyle said that the purchase of two more naval vessels (P62 and P63) and €61million required for pensions, all has to come from an overall defence budget of €150million.

Lt Gen O'Boyle finished his remarks by saying: "The Defence Forces deliver value for money and continue to provide a safe and secure environment to the people of Ireland."

President Scally told the assembled delegates that it had been "another demanding year for the Defence Forces, with as many as 20% of PDFORRA members on Family Income Supplement". He also criticised the last round of barracks closures, saying that they "were of no financial benefit to the exchequer".

General Secretary Rooney attacked the decline in income that the association's members have faced over the last number of years. "The 2009 pension levy accounted for a

6% deduction," he said, "a further 6% (was) cut in 2010 and that's not including the Haddington Road agreement deduction. It was another year of low income for some members of PDFORRA."

In his speech, Minister Coveney acknowledged "the value, importance and significance" placed by the government on the "tremendous work" being done by members of the Defence Forces in many parts of the world, particularly the recent UNDOF mission where Irish peacekeepers came under attack. The minister also stressed that the preparation of the new white paper on defence is a priority for the future, saying that he considers it "to be the key priority to provide the defence policy framework for the next decade and beyond."

The minister also referred to the important contribution made by the Defence Forces through domestic security and support duties, and he congratulated the Naval Service and Air Corps on the successful interception and detention of the drugs-running yacht, Makayabella, recently.

Minister Coveney concluded his remarks by saying: "The painful steps that have been taken over recent years have placed public servants at the forefront in playing a key role in our country's gradual economic recovery... It is a credit to PDFORRA that despite the significant challenges faced during the past number of years industrial relations within the Permanent Defence Force remain good."

This year's conference also saw Mark Keane re-elected for a second three-year term as PDFORRA vice president. Mark has 24 years' service in the Naval Service and has spent the last 15 years working at local and national level with PDFORRA. ■



MILITARY LOGISTICS AS A BUSINESS

BY CAPT GILLIAN COSTELLO J4 LOGS BR PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR (105 SQN)

The DF reorganisation of 2012 finalised the transition from Logs Admin Section to J4 Logistics Branch. Col Tony Hanlon (now Brig Gen) was appointed director and established a comprehensive programme in support of the ongoing transformation.

As part of this, a two-day senior logisticians' conference was held in Farmleigh House in September with the theme of 'military logistics as a business' and featuring presentations from the General Staff, industry experts, and academics. This was a landmark event in underpinning the branch's strategic intent of being recognised as exemplars in supply-chain management and supply-chain operations, and as innovators in logistics.

In his opening remarks Col Hanlon articulated the requirement to bring about a cultural shift in both the DF logistics customer and those who provide support service to them along the supply chain.

The delegates, BQMSs, RQMSs, and WOs, representing the senior enlisted logistics managers in the organisation, were provided with thought-provoking presentations from Lt Gen O'Boyle (COS), Rear Admiral Mellett DSM (D COS Sp), and Brig Gen Campbell (ACOS), which clearly demonstrated the importance that the General Staff affords to the logistics function.

D COS Sp spoke about 'the willingness to innovate' and how it related to supply-chain management. His presentation challenged the delegates to consider that through innovation and looking beyond traditional organisational boundaries, the organisation can become a significant enabler in support of the national economy.

Lt Gen O'Boyle's keynote speech was on transformation and the defence supply chain. The COS pointed out that the logistics function is considered by all defence planners as the key enabler in the achievement of mission success, and also applauded the professional competence and exceptional outcomes achieved by the logistics family in the course of current overseas deployments, most notably the recent deployment to Syria.

Brig Gen Campbell's presentation dealt with leadership and provided deep insights into all aspects of the topic, particularly in the context of transformation.

Dr Graham Heaslip (capt retd), NUIM School of Business, moderated an interactive session that began with a presentation on the challenges faced by the modern-day logistician. The delegates then formed syndicates on topics linked to his presentation. This was a hugely successful part of the conference, linking academic theory, business modelling and the military paradigm, and concentrated the minds of the delegates on where our focus should be in order to institutionalise commercial best practice.

The conference delegates also travelled to the Aviva Stadium where BQMS Declan Meade (retd) of the IRFU delivered a witty and hugely relevant presentation highlighting the transferability and value of military logistics skills and training.

Other conference highlights included presentations by DHL (on supply-chain control towers, which enable them to make more informed, timely and efficient business decisions) and Westward Scania (highlighting the importance of analytics and driving behaviours in

large-fleet management). One of the key lessons from the latter presentation was that monitoring driver behaviour remotely and regular training could deliver fleet fuel savings of up to 20%: a clear example of how analysis linked to the human factor can reduce costs.

The value of continuous professional development was a theme that repeatedly emerged. Mr Joe Collins and Ms Margaret Connolly from IT Carlow's Life-Long Learning Department provided an enlightening perspective on the importance of further education. Their presentation addressed the challenges, outcomes and success of their experiences with DF students on the business and supply-chain management diploma course. It was interesting to hear their perspective on the DF students, and particularly how vastly experienced they were in core aspects of supply-chain management and how the tutors learned as much from their students as the students learned from them.

Delegates to the conference left in no doubt that the business of running a €1.3bn supply chain is a challenging one and that they occupied a pivotal leadership role in enabling and enriching the supply-chain transformation process.

In the course of his concluding remarks, Col Hanlon highlighted the enormous shift in how the DF delivers its support services, saying: "We are no longer soldiers, but defence businessmen and businesswomen."

The bottom-line for all in the defence family is to recognise that we must adapt, be agile, and treat military logistics as a business. ■



The Devil's Paintbrush

BY SGT STEPHEN MC CABE, MECHANICAL SECTION, ORDNANCE SCHOOL

Occasionally, because of the unique skill-sets of ordnance technical personnel, we receive requests that can make you sit up in the chair and reply "Could you say that again?" On this particular day, I received a phone call from Sgt Dessie Mooney (D Tpt Office) who wanted me to take a look at a Maxim machine-gun that was on permanent display in the museum in 'the Joy' (Mountjoy Prison) in Phibsboro, Dublin.

After receiving permission from Lt Col Ray Lane, (Sch Comdt Ordnance School) I arranged a visit to the prison where I met Governor Edward Whelan and his staff, including the officer who had contacted Sgt Mooney, Training Officer Phil Brennan, a former member of 2 Fd Arty Regt. I also met Mr Séan Reynolds, a former prison officer who is the current curator of the museum.

The museum is a fascinating place with a large collection of material covering the period since Mountjoy Prison opened in the mid 19th century. Notable exhibits include execution paraphernalia (hangman's ropes, a white death-hood and a practice dummy), various uniforms, a cat o' nine tails (a whip made of strands of knotted rope), the 'auld triangle' (a metal triangle traditionally used to wake inmates and which is reckoned to be the inspiration of Brendan Behan's song of the same name), and of course the Maxim machine-gun. The latter artefact was on display for many years as a 'gate guard' (a withdrawn piece of equipment mounted on a plinth to symbolise the guarding of the entrance to a military facility or prison). Then, for some unknown reason, it was removed from its plinth and buried in the foundations of the prison kitchen until it was dug up during renovations in October 2006.

It was cleaned and restored by the staff and inmates and put on display in the museum. Unsurprisingly, it was in very bad state of disrepair, due to considerable damage and corrosion. I was convinced, however, that I could return this historically important weapon to close to its original state.

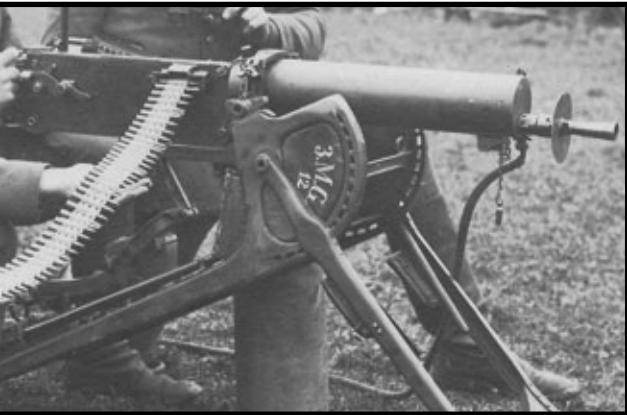


With permission from DFTC HQ I took the weapon back to the Ordnance School's workshops and started the restoration process.

After some research in the Curragh Military Library and the Curragh Museum, I was able to determine that it was a German 'Maschinengewehr 08' (MG08), which was virtually a direct copy of the American Maxim machine-gun (1901 model). The German version was named after the year of its introduction into the German military in 1908. The MG08 was mounted on the unique schlittenlafette (sled mount) and the barrel was water cooled.

The weapon gained a fearsome reputation on the battlefields of France during the Great War and indeed, it is fair to say, helped to change warfare. It was quickly understood by the Germans that when used in conjunction with other MG08 teams, arcs of interlocking fire could be brought to bear on advancing Allied troops to absolutely devastating effect, which led to it being given the moniker 'the Devil's Paintbrush'.

How it got into Mountjoy Prison in the first place is a mystery: it was thought it may have been among the weapons smuggled in from Germany in advance of the 1916 rebellion but there is no record of MG08s being supplied. Alternatively, it is possible that it was a war trophy presented to the governor of the prison by an Irish regiment of the British Army on returning to Dublin. Unfortunately, any



distinguishing numbers or proof marks have been obliterated over the years by weathering. However, the range-plate of the sled mount has survived somewhat intact and bears markings that may in time provide an answer to its origin.

The work completed in the Ordnance School was substantial and had to be carried out between courses. The first job was to strip as much of the old paint off the sled mount and the weapon as possible. In this task I was supported by Cpl Morgan James, Fran Dillon (civilian staff) and Dickie Carroll (civilian staff) from Ordnance Base Workshops (OBW).

With this done, base metal repairs could begin in earnest. Large holes in the water jacket were repaired; the top cover and hinge and sight bracket were fabricated and rivet fitted; an approximation of the muzzle flash hider was constructed from mild steel; and locking plates for the top cover, water jacket inlet, and safety valve were fabricated from brass.

On the sled mount the elevation mechanism was completely damaged due to cement corroding the lead screw, but most of the assembly was eventually released through a combination of highly concentrated heat application and the impact vectoring of tools (in other words heating it with an oxy-acetylene torch and hitting it with 7lb hammer!). A retaining bracket was fabricated with brass retaining screws so the weapon would sit as originally designed on the sled mount. Finally a colour scheme which would be appropriate to its history as a weapon of war was applied. Again I was helped out here by OBW civilian staff, Damien Burke and charge-hand, Matt Cummins.

The restored piece was presented to the governor and his staff by Lt Col Lane at a small ceremony in September.

Although it was difficult to find the time that a task of this scope warranted, it was a very interesting and worthwhile project to have led. In the centenary anniversary of the start of the Great War, I feel the refurbishment was important. It was also very beneficial to practice skills I learned over many years.

I hope the weapon becomes a fitting centrepiece of the Mountjoy Prison museum long into the future. ■

Characteristics of the Maschinengewehr 08

Calibre: 7.92mm

Feed (cyclic): 400 rounds per minute

Feed: 250-round cloth belt, fed from right side of weapon

Water capacity (cooling): 4.5l

Range (max): 3,660m

Range (effective): 2,000m

Crew: 3-6

Human RIGHTS Training

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT RENA KENNEDY, DF PRESS OFFICE
GROUP PHOTO: ARMN BILLY DOYLE, 105 SQN

The 9th international train-the-trainers course in human rights for military personnel on peace-support operations took place in the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) from 8th – 17th September. The course was delivered through a series of lectures, workshops and syndicate presentations, with involvement from the Irish Human Rights Commission, Defence Forces Legal Service and subject-matter experts Comdt Rory Finnegan and Capt Deirdre Carbery.

The Defence Forces demands the highest standards of conduct from its personnel at all times, whether serving at home or overseas. Consequently, a comprehensive approach to human rights training has been adopted, incorporating a foundation course for inclusion on all junior command courses; an induction course for all personnel prior to deploying overseas; a pre-deployment (refresher) course for subsequent overseas trips; and a train-the-trainers course to maintain the standards of those involved in imparting human rights training.

All training is based on the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) model for training national and international human rights training staff. This training is underpinned by the Defence Forces' Human Rights Handbook for Peace Operations and includes the Peace Support Operations – Human Rights Card for soldiers, and a copy of the UN secretary general's bulletin Special Measures for Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Prior to all overseas deployments, Defence Forces personnel also receive training in cultural awareness, gender-based violence and a code of conduct based on the UN's standard generic training module. Each Soldier is also issued with the UN peacekeeper's card, which details the standards of behaviour required of all peacekeeping personnel.



Major Janie Des Jardins,
Canadian Armed Forces

One of the principal instructors on the course was Maj Janie des Jardins from the Canadian Armed Forces, who has extensive overseas experience working in human rights and served in SFOR, ISAF, UNMIS (Sudan) and MINUSTAH (Haiti) missions.

Her human rights experience stems from Afghanistan in 2007 where she worked with the Ministry of Women Affairs, trying to help them to set up regional offices. With UNMIS in South Sudan she was deployed with the child protection office, where she says she learned a lot from civilian UN workers about the cultural aspects of human rights and how to interact and intervene with street children or how to empower women groups without compromising their security or their acceptance within the community.

In her last two deployments, in Haiti, Maj des Jardins learned about human rights issues affecting military personnel during natural-disaster response.

She is currently working with the Field Support Group of the Influence Activities Task Force and is completing a master's degree in international humanitarian assistance at York University, UK. She is particularly interested in the use of information technology to facilitate co-ordination of humanitarian efforts to prepare for, and respond to, natural disasters.



Instructors from the Irish Human Rights Commission



Vox Pops



LT JOHN MC CANDLESS (RDF), C COY, 28 INF BN

"This course was one I always wanted to partake in and under the 'single-force' concept the opportunity arose this year. The programme offered an introduction to the UN system for the promotion and protection of human rights, while also examining the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The course was enjoyable, thought-provoking, and the manner in which it was conducted was very professional. I would highly recommend this to any RDF personnel."

"I work as an enforcement officer for a local authority and the course brought home to me the fact that human rights isn't something confined to 'overseas' but applies just as much at home. I realise that a lot of my day job involves human rights, such as ensuring due process and allowing people the right to reply and to appeal decisions."



CAPT JACK FAHY (RDF), OTW, MIL COL, DFTC

"The course was very well structured, and the programme was very comprehensive, with a very good mix of lecture and activity-based learning. The instructors, both international and domestic, were of the highest standard and they made use of not only their experience but also the students' experiences, which led to many lively discussions."

"The broad range of subject matter, ranging from women's rights, to the law of armed conflict, to delivering human rights training, gave us a good insight into all aspects of human rights."

"As an assistant chief officer in the Irish Prison Service this course opened up a whole new point of view for me. On a daily basis I deal with prisoners on 23-hour lock-up and sensitive-protection prisoners and need to be aware of their rights, ranging from how much exercise they get to their access to education and services."

"The course broadened my knowledge on issues such as how to deal with foreign nationals and people of different religious faiths. I now have an understanding of why someone of a different cultural or ethnic background might act in a certain way or how they may react in a certain situation. This helps me to meet the needs of these prisoners and can help me prevent a situation from occurring or escalating."

"The course demonstrated the importance of human rights training for members of the Defence Forces. It also showed me that the protection of human rights is everybody's responsibility. I am now more sensitive as to how to meet the needs of, or perhaps more importantly not inadvertently infringe on the rights of, a vulnerable person or group."



LT FERGAL FITZGERALD (RDF), E COY, 27 INF BN

"The week saw a mix of Irish students from different backgrounds and disciplines join with six international students from the USA, Canada, Greece and Russia, for an intensive and wide-ranging course on international human rights. The course commenced with a series of lectures on the origins of both human rights law and international humanitarian law. These were followed by trainers from the Irish Human Rights Commission, who work to promote and protect human rights in Ireland. Next, we received a series of lectures on other 'actors' in the human rights arena, including the makeup of the UN in general and the OHCHR in specific and NGOs such as the International Committee for the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Visiting lecturers from Childline also briefed us on their work in Ireland."

"For the second half of the course we formed syndicates tasked with applying what we had learned in an analytical and critical way to several current UN missions. This involved gathering background information on each mission, such as origins, key events, limit and extent of the mandate, and current human rights situation."

"I found the course excellent and extremely interesting. In civilian life I'm responsible for corporate social responsibility in Ulster Bank, which involves working with NGOs and charities that use our branch network. This has helped me understand the difficulties faced by aid agencies operating in unstable environments and often at great risk to their staff."

FIGHTING FIT

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

The basic skills of unarmed combat are taught in recruit training. They are necessary skills that a soldier may call on if required, possibly in an aid-to-the-civil-power setting or on a peacekeeping mission, where they could be used as a non-lethal alternative to prevent being disarmed or injured in an attack.

No two fights will ever be the same as there are too many factors at play, such as the specific situation and each fighter's willpower, physical fitness, size, training and natural fighting skills. A trained fighter, however, will generally have an advantage over an untrained one. While not redressing the imbalance fully, unarmed combat training can also reduce the advantage held by an armed attacker.

The Defence Forces Physical Education School (DFPES) conducts an unarmed combat instructors course every year. This year's course, which ran from 22 September to 10

October, was attended by 22 DF students from around the country and two civilian students undergoing work experience with the DF.

Training for unarmed combat requires a high degree of physical fitness and willpower. Accordingly, every morning the students underwent conditioning training that included circuits, gym workouts, and a mixture of endurance and stamina training.

At the end of the course the new unarmed combat instructors will go back to their respective unit/brigade/formation qualified to instruct other soldiers on basic unarmed combat techniques and skills.

The instructors for this year's course were Sgt Tommy Sheehan, Sgt Liz Kelly, Cpl Leonard Smith, Cpl Shane Stafford (all DFPES) and Cpl Dermot O'Leary (Tpt Gp, DFTC). ■





Vox Pops



Cpl Aaron Behan, MTS, Air Corps.

(A military training instructor for recruits and apprentices and a qualified SERE instructor with 14 years' service.)

"I didn't have much knowledge of unarmed combat before this course. It was tough and physically demanding, but really enjoyable. The instructional staff were great!"



Cpl Michael Comerford, A Coy, 3 Inf Bn.

(A PTI in Stephens Bks, Kilkenny, with 16 years' service.)

"This was a fantastic course. The hour's conditioning training every morning was tough but necessary. This course opens up more opportunities to me as an instructor. I hope to run a basic unarmed combat course soon, so I can pass on the skills I learned. The instruction was of an excellent standard."



Craig Bowes

(A 15-year-old transition-year student from Coláiste de hÍde, Tallaght.)

"I contacted the Defence Forces about work experience and I was offered a place on this course. I do martial arts and run regularly but I still found this course to be physically and mentally demanding. The students and instructors have been really friendly. I hope to pursue a career in the Defence Forces when I'm 18."



Life after the Defence Forces

PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

As part of our series on former personnel who are utilising the skills they developed in the Defence Forces we met with Captain Willie Nugent (retd), now managing director of Eurocheck Security Consultants who provide hostile awareness training to NGOs, human rights workers and journalists.

Willie Nugent grew up in rural Co Wicklow, and like many people who have joined the Defence Forces, his family has a long military tradition, although it was mainly in the British Army. Although his parents wanted him to get a trade after his leaving cert, Willie instead enlisted in the Defence Forces in McDonagh Bks, Curragh Camp, in October 1976.

"There were three platoons as part of the recruit intake," Willie recalls. "My platoon had 30 potential soldiers, mainly from Dublin, with a few of us 'culchies' thrown in – it was a bit of a culture shock! The Curragh Camp was a thriving community at the time, with everything from family accommodation, shops, cafes and a cinema."

After recruit training Willie was posted to the MP Depot on general duties and soon after applied for a military police probationers course, after which he became an MP corporal, carrying out policing duties around the Curragh.

Willie later transferred to the Curragh Detention Barracks, or 'the Digger' as it was known, which at the time was being used to house non-military prisoners, mostly Dublin criminals or non-aligned subversives during 'the Troubles'.

In 1979 Willie completed a civilian parachute course, which helped him to get on a DF one conducted by An Para Cumann Mileata. At that time the DF did not have a Special Forces unit, although personnel had been sent abroad on training, most notably Lt Gen Dermot Earley DSM (RIP), who was trained in Fort Bragg.

With the Troubles ongoing and highly publicised terrorist incidents taking place around the world, it was decided Ireland needed a highly trained intervention unit. This led to the formation of the Army Ranger Wing (ARW).

In July 1980 Willie successfully completed the second ARW selection course, 'Bravo'. (The first course, 'Alpha', was for officers.)

"These two courses were the start of the ARW," Willie says, "and we became the nucleus of the new unit, with course 'Charlie' and many others following on quickly."

ARW personnel trained at home for their conventional role but the unit needed to send people abroad to seek current Special Forces training and develop the best skills. "I went to train with the Dutch Royal Marines in Holland," Willie told me, "who at that time had dealt with a few major terrorist incidents. The RMS, a terrorist group from South Moluku (or Molucca), an East Indies island seeking independence from Holland, carried out a number of attacks on Dutch soil, including attacks on a train and on a village school in 1977 that led to the Dutch government using military force."

Other ARW personnel were sent to France and Germany, other countries deemed as highly experienced in anti-terrorist training.

In 1982 Willie travelled overseas as Transport NCO with C Coy, 51 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, in Lebanon. "It was during that trip that the massacres in Sabra and Shatila took place in Beirut, where hundreds of defenceless Palestinian men, women and children were killed by members of the Israeli-backed Christian militias," Willie recalls.

In addition to his career courses, potential and standard NCO courses, Willie underwent many other courses during his time in the ARW. "I never



Argentina 2012



Benghazi March 2011



Darfur April 2008

UN Base Darfur 2008



Libya March 2011



CV, although I didn't know it at the time, because as a young man you never think of leaving the army."

After many good years in the ARW, Willie was nominated for the 6 Potential Officers Course, on completion of which he was posted as a cavalry troop commander to 1 Cav Sqn in Fermoy. After completing his cavalry YOs course he went overseas again to Lebanon in 1988, with Recce Coy, 63 Inf Bn.

He did three more trips to Lebanon; another with Recce Coy, one with the FMR, and one as Logs Officer in Naqora.

Not long after returning from his last overseas trip, however, Willie felt the time was right to move on. "I was 42," he told me, "and while I had enjoyed every minute of my time in the army I also believed I had plenty of time to start a new career. It was the start of the Celtic Tiger and it seemed a good time to start a new business. Prior to leaving I worked on my CV and started building my contact list."

So in March 2001, Willie set up Eurocheck Security Consultants, mainly specialising in fraud investigations and consultancy work on intellectual property and software piracy. "It was a busy time," he recalls. "During the first few months after I left, I went on courses like accountancy (PRSI/VAT), adult education and business management."

While Willie appreciates how much his training in the Defence Forces has helped him, he warns against complacency.

"I still use a huge amount of what I learned in the DF on a daily basis," he says, "but don't expect civvies to be overly impressed by your experiences – you need to be able to back it up. Saying 'I was in Bosnia 10 years ago' doesn't count for much!"

In November 2007 Willie went on a war crimes investigation course held in the UN Training School in the Curragh Camp in conjunction with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI). As a result of this he went to Darfur in April 2008 to conduct training on war crimes investigation for the IICI and the UN.

In 2009 Willie was selected by Irish Aid and the Dept of Foreign Affairs to go to Israel and Gaza as part of EUBAM Rafah (EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah crossing point) as a special security officer to look after members of the team going in and out of Gaza. He was the only Irishman within the 50 international staff.

refused a course," Willie says; "it was always courses, courses, courses. I was building my

At this time the recession had hit hard, and many of Eurocheck's existing customers had stopped spending on security. Following his recent experiences Willie decided to branch out into supplying security awareness and hostile environment training. "I looked at the threat faced by NGOs and other agencies operating in hostile environments around the world," he says, "and I put together a training course that I offered to charities, human rights groups and NGOs. We work with small and large groups and all training is tailored to suit the size of the group.

"The training has evolved over the years to take account of current situations and best practices. We have conducted training for personnel in the UK, Europe, South and Central America, Indonesia, Africa, and the Middle East. The market in Ireland is very small, so you have to think big – international – and for that you need plenty of contacts worldwide, which takes time to build up.

"We also became more involved in teaching war crimes investigation and our trainers now travel around the world conducting training in these areas. We have been in Colombia, Syria, Holland and the US so far this year, and we are heading to Korea and Uganda shortly."

Originally, Eurocheck only trained human rights and aid workers but due to recent increases in the dangers faced by journalists and photojournalists they have now started offering hostile-environment training to this group as well. "We also teach them how to recognise war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity," Willie says, "as journalists often don't realise what they are witnessing: it's often only with hindsight that they realise it may have been a war crime."

In early 2011, Willie was in Egypt during the Arab Spring, working as part of a human rights investigating team when they were asked to go to Libya for a few weeks. "We were on one side of Benghazi as the fighting was ongoing on the other," he told me. "We thought we were the first in but found that there were a lot of journalists and camera crews there already! These are brave people who bring stories to the world's attention at huge personal risk to themselves. This is why I started looking at providing this training. Of course, with the recent kidnappings and brutal killings of journalists this training is now even more relevant." ■

For more info visit: www.eurocheck.ie or follow them on Facebook and Twitter.



A Tiny Eye in the Sky

BY MAJOR (RETD) WALTER CHRISTIAN HÅLAND

A surveillance micro-drone, easily started from the palm of the hand, that can fly over a suspect area, or hover beside a building and look into a window, gives soldiers on foot patrol the advantage of seeing potential threats ahead from a safe distance.

When US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan needed to see whether danger lurked over the next hill or on the next city block, they often relied on small, hand-launched, fixed-wing, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), such as the army's 'Raven' and the Marine Corps' 'Dragon Eye'.

Perhaps no technology is more important today for soldiers on a foot patrol than these micro-drones equipped with cameras that can be used to get a bird's-eye view over distant objects.

The PD-100 Black Hornet personal reconnaissance system (PRS) provides the modern-day warrior with such a piece of equipment for instant use on the battlefield.

The ISTAR capability this pocket-sized system provides, allows immediate situational awareness for soldiers on dismounted operations. It provides real-time video to the operator and gives the opportunity to take snapshots during missions. Combat-proven in Afghanistan with NATO forces, and with a range exceeding 1.2 km, the PD-100 enhances the operational capability available to military units.



The Black Hornet provides instant situational awareness within two minutes of activation and is capable of covert target surveillance and route reconnaissance. There is no assembly required and it is easy to operate.

Using the Black Hornet, an infantry patrol or Special Forces team can quietly conduct surveillance missions that enhance security by 'seeing the hidden'. The system also allows the team to get a close look at dangerous situations as they unfold.

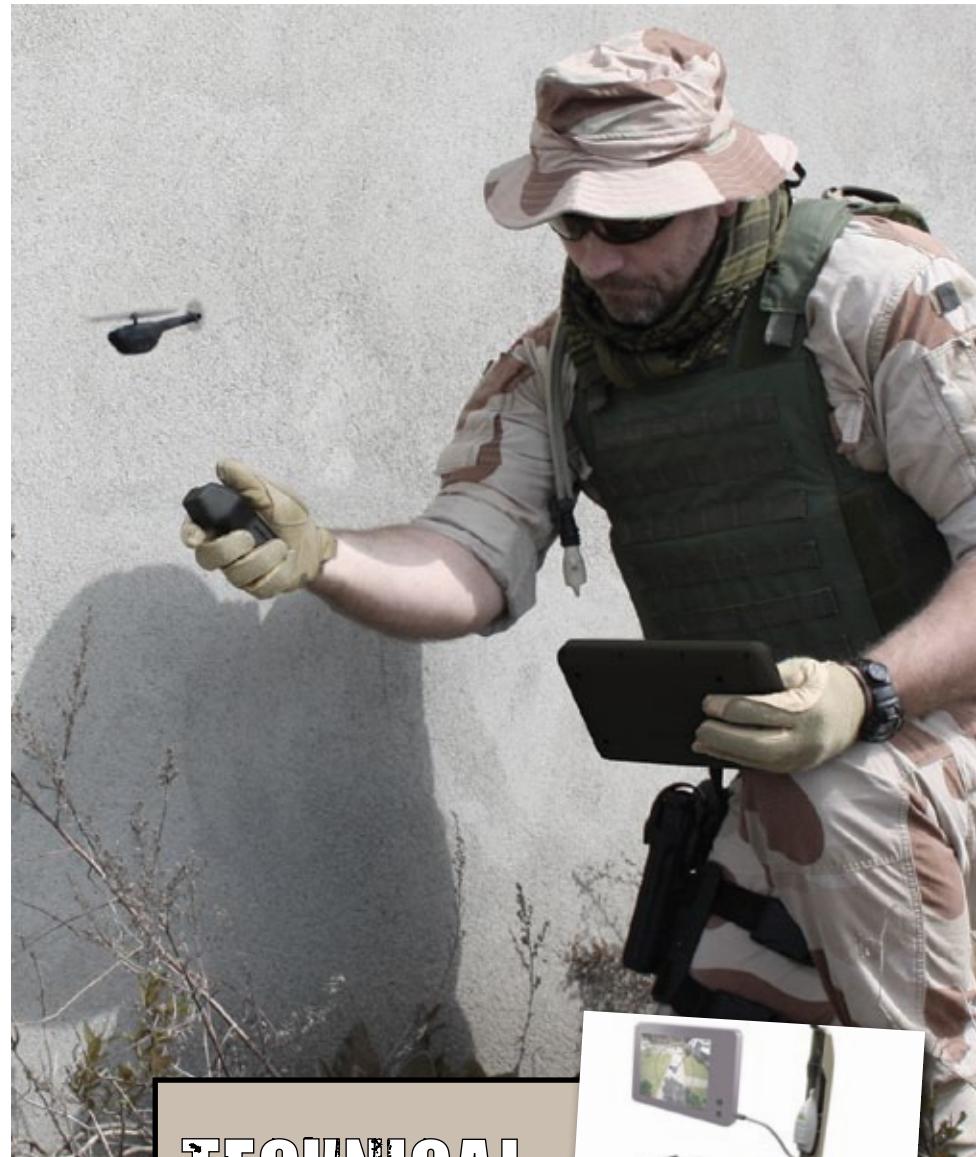
Having a drone that is very easy to carry, starts from the palm of the hand, and that can be launched from confined areas, provides a significant tactical capability.

The complete system, comprising two nano-helicopters, base station, hand controller, display unit and pouch, weighs only 1.3kg, and comes with a hard, waterproof transport case.

Its small size and electric motor renders it inaudible and invisible beyond short distances. Nano-UAVs are inherently safe and pose virtually no risk to other aircraft or personnel, allowing the system to be operated almost anywhere, at any time, without prior airspace co-ordination.

The base station contains everything necessary to plan, execute and analyse missions. It stores all mission data and its internal rechargeable batteries supply power to the external display and also recharge the drones.

The PD-100 is designed as a short range ISTAR system for lower echelon combat units, providing them with a quick reaction reconnaissance and surveillance capability. ■



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

UAV

Rotor diameter: 120mm

Fuselage length: 120mm

Mass: 16grams (including payload)

Endurance: 25 minutes

Max speed: 6kts

Wind tolerance: 10-15kts

Range: 1,000m+ (line-of-sight)

Base station

Dimensions: 200mm x 80mm x 50 mm

Mass: 0.6kg

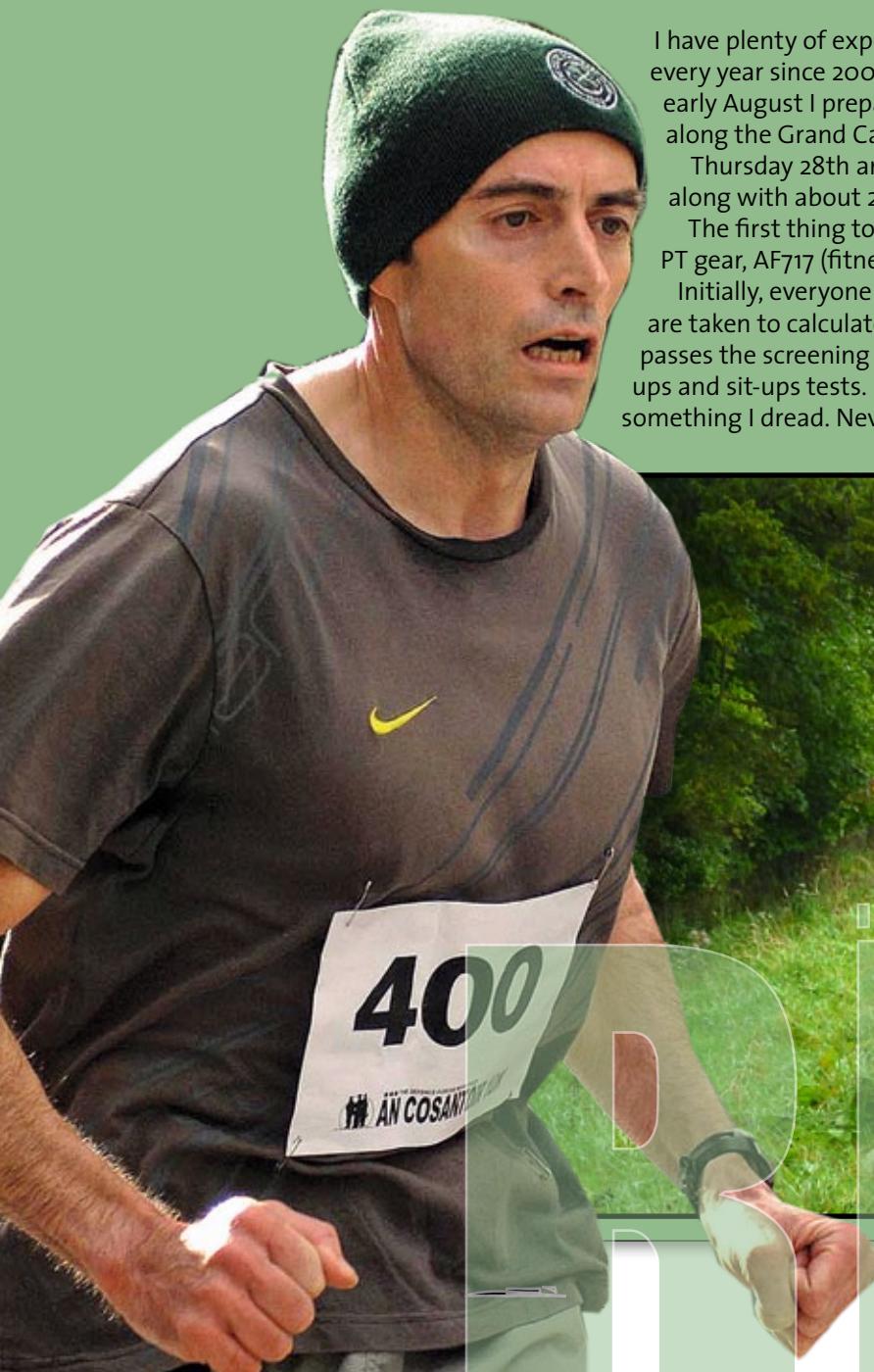
Data storage: Video and stills from >6 missions



RDF LIFE TESTS

BY CQMS MICHAEL BARRETT, D COY, 7 INF BN

All RDF personnel have to complete a medical check and fit-for-life test this year. Having passed my medical in June, I managed to get myself booked in for the tests in McKee Bks on 28th and 29th August.



I have plenty of experience passing the annual fitness tests, having passed every year since 2008. However, they are still tough enough and so from early August I prepared myself by evening speed runs near my home along the Grand Canal with a 5kg backpack.

Thursday 28th arrived and I found myself in the gym in McKee Bks along with about 25 other personnel from various units.

The first thing to remember is that all you really need with you is your PT gear, AF717 (fitness form), and a bottle of water!

Initially, everyone undergoes screening, where bodyweight and height are taken to calculate individuals' body mass index (BMI). Anyone who passes the screening does a warm-up and continues on to Part 1, the push-ups and sit-ups tests. I always found push-ups easy enough, but sit-ups are something I dread. Nevertheless, I managed to pass both with a grade 1.



Then it's on to Part 2, the 3.2km run. For those carrying out their test in McKee Bks the route follows the main road through the Phoenix Park. While some drive to the starting point I jog over as I find it a good warm-up.

At the start point the BPEO gives the timings required for the various age groups and any final instructions. I took my last gulp of water and set off. The 3.2kms can be a killer on a windy day but luckily it was quiet, sunny and pleasant, and I completed it in a respectable 13mins 2secs.

So far, so good. Times and grades were marked up in the AF717s, and it was time to go home and pack up the webbing for tomorrow.

The next day I returned to the Army Grounds in the Phoenix Park, the start point of the 10km loaded march. Unlike previous years this wasn't done with the rucksack but with the DPM battle-vest and day-sack, loaded to 14kg. Also unlike previous years, this year's route comprised of two loops over open ground and trails.

The weather was wet with persistent rain as the BPEO again gave out instructions on the route and times. Then we were off.

I jogged the first kilometre to warm up, and although it's the first time I have worn the battle-vest/day-sack on something like this I found it easier to carry than the rucksack – no chaffing on the back. I also found the terrain easier on the feet than the tarmac path of previous years.

The rain continued as I finished the first loop, but by that point the wetness really made no difference. I find the second loop easier than the first, which I put down to my pre-test preparation paying off!

As I passed the Papal Cross for the second time I was on the home run and I crossed the finish with a time of 68mins. That's it for another year!

My advice for RDF personnel is to complete the tests as early in the year as possible. You must prepare, as failing to do so will almost certainly lead to failure and the need to repeat. On test days have a good breakfast and hydrate right up until the start. For the loaded march, pack your 14kg well, watch for chaffing and wear good socks. Needless to say your boots should be well broken in too.

Overall, don't be complacent! No matter how fit you think you are, always prepare for each test as best you can. ■

CQMS Barrett (a regular contributor to An Cosantóir) is a physical training leader (PTL) with D Coy, 7 Inf Bn.



The 90th Anniversary of the Formal Establishment of the Army Nursing Service

On the 9th December 2014

In 1922 the Irish Free State Army took over all Military Barracks from the withdrawing British Army to include Military Hospitals and in association with the take over the Army Nursing Service (ANS) was informally initiated in order to provide the necessary nursing staff for the Military Hospitals. The newly formed ANS continued on an ad hoc basis through 1922 and 1923 until it was formally established in 1924 by the then Executive Council within the overall establishment of Óglaigh na hÉireann.



It is intended to Celebrate and Commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Formal Establishment of the Army Nursing Service on the 9th December 2014. This Celebration and Commemoration will take place under the direction of Rear Admiral Mellett DCOS (Sp) and will be hosted by Brig Gen Ó Giolláin GOC DFTC.

The itinerary for the day is:

1030 hrs - Mass in Garrison Church Curragh Camp.
1200 hrs - Launch of Commemorative Booklet DFTC Museum.
1330 hrs - Reception in Ceant NCOs Mess.



All currently serving members and retired members of the Army Nursing Service to include their families or friends are warmly invited to attend the Celebration and Commemoration. If you aware of any retired ANS member or surviving family, please bring this notice to their attention. All currently serving or retired members of the Defence Forces and members of the Curragh Community who benefited in many ways from the services of the ANS or Families Hospital and Clinic are invited to attend.

“Such an occasion and opportunity to demonstrate and bestow our gratitude to the enormous contribution made by the many members of the ANS past and present (734 in total) to the health and well being of so many, is long overdue. It is hoped and anticipated that many will avail of this opportunity and the turn out will be such as to demonstrate the level of esteem associated with the ANS.”

In order to assist with the planning, anyone who wishes to attend is requested to contact:
Sister Miriam Hyland at 045 44 5395.



NA HÓGLAIGH CHÚLTACA THE RESERVE DEFENCE FORCES



Tá cónai orainn i saol éagsúlachta; tá fir agus mná 6 gach culta ag teastáil ó Óglaigh na hÉireann.

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- Cúltaca na Seirbhísé Cabhlaigh

Is éan dáta deireanach d'íarratais ná an Aoine 14/11/2014

Le tuile eolas, agus chun feicéáil cén súiomh RDF is gaire duit, tabhair círt ag www.mileata.ie

www.mileata.ie

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FIELDCRAFT – PART 3

Fieldcraft is an integral part of weapon training and must not be separated from it. Unless the soldier learns marksmanship, technical handling and fieldcraft 'hand-in-hand', their progress towards becoming a proficient battle-shot suffers. Individual fieldcraft training is an excellent way to develop character. Every soldier must become an expert in fieldcraft.



MILITARY VOCABULARY

Military vocabulary is used to teach the soldier how to improve his powers of description and recognition. This lesson will teach the soldier the importance of using his/her eyes at picking up details from the ground and relating them back to other squad members that may be able to identify that description and if needed bring fire to bear on that location.

The instructor should select an area that has a variety of military features in preparation for the lesson.

While military vocabulary is being taught the objects to be recognised may be indicated by descriptions or by the instructor aiming a rifle and those under his instructions looking down along the sights. The instructor then explains what they have been looking at using military vocabulary. Instruction can be carried out on objects viewed from the vicinity of the barracks in addition to the use of landscape targets. It should, where possible be continued during drill or other basic training.

ARTIFICIAL FEATURES:

Canal	Path
Church Tower	Post and rail fence
Concrete Road	Pylon
Crane	Quarry
Cross Roads	Railway Signal
Culvert	Ricks
Cutting	Road
Embankment	Road Junction
Factory	Sign Post
Fenced/unfenced	Sunken Road
Ferry	Stooks
Footpath	Tarred Road
Ford	Telegraph
Gable-end	Track
Gasometer	Viaduct
Hurdle	Windmill
Iron Fence	Wire Fence
Lock	

FIELD ENGINEERING:

Shelter Trench	Observation Post
Slit Trench	Blockhouse
Trench	Emplacement
Parapet	Right Angle
Revetment	Square
Traverse	Triangle
Barricade	Circular
Dug-out	Vertical
	Horizontal

TYPES OF COLOURS:

White	Black
Yellow	Blue
Green	Red
Brown	

TYPES OF TREES:

Bushy-Top	Fir	Poplar
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TYPES OF FIRE:

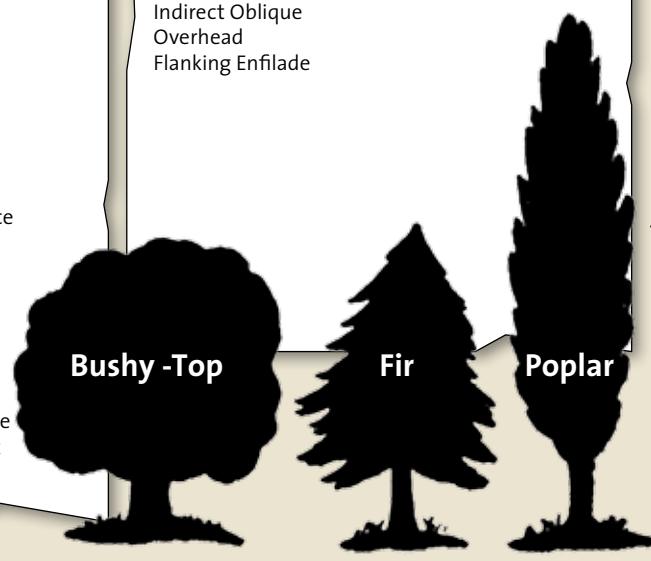
Direct Frontal
Indirect Oblique
Overhead
Flanking Enfilade

NATURAL FEATURES:

Fir	Cornfield
Popular	Plough
Bushy-topped	Root Field
Hedgerow	Stubble
Gorse (known as Furze & Whins)	Copse

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES:

Ridge	Foreground
Valley	Middle Distance
Fold	Distance
Defile	Dead Ground
Crestline	Cliff
Horizon	Gorge
Spur	Ravine
Knoll	Clearing
Saddle	Salient
Slopes-forward	Slopes-concave
Slopes-reverse	Slopes-convex



Bushy-Top

Fir

Poplar

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

IRELAND'S FORGOTTEN GREAT WAR:

The American Civil War 1861-65

BY DAMIAN SHIELS ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In the early morning hours of 12th April 1861 Confederate artillery opened fire on Fort Sumter, South Carolina- the action that started the American Civil War. The following day, after almost a thousand rounds had struck the Charleston Harbour position, its commander Major Robert Anderson decided to surrender. April 14th was set for the handover of the position, with the Confederates allowing the defenders a final 100-gun salute before marching out. As the firing reached the halfway mark, Private Daniel Hough of the 1st US Artillery reached for a cartridge to ram home for the next discharge. Suddenly it exploded, sending Hough spinning through the air and ripping off his arm. Mortally wounded by the accident, the former farmer from Co Tipperary became the first soldier to die in the American Civil War.

The odds that the first fatality in the war would be Irish were high. The explosion that mortally wounded Daniel Hough also injured five other members of his gun-crew. One was a New Yorker, the other four were all Irish. The second soldier to die in the American Civil War was Edward Gallway (or Galloway) from Co Cork, who succumbed to his injuries that night. Of the 86 men that made up Fort Sumter's military garrison only 23 had been born in the United States; 38 of them (44%) were from Ireland.

Four years and some 750,000 lives after Daniel Hough's death, another Irishman, Brigadier General Thomas Alfred Smyth, widely-regarded as perhaps the best Irish-born Union general of the war, was leading his men in a final pursuit of General Robert E Lee's broken Army of Northern Virginia. The 32-year-old Irishman's brigade was the spearhead of the Army of the Potomac as it crossed the Appomattox River and

closed in on Farmville, Virginia. Their advance ground to a halt when Smyth's line came under artillery and small-arms fire. Never one to shirk the front, the Corkman rode up to his skirmishers to assess the situation. A bullet fired by a Confederate sharpshooter struck the left side of Smyth's face, removing a tooth before entering his neck and spinal column. Smyth breathed his last breath two days later, in the early morning hours of 9th April 1865. Less than twelve hours later Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House. The former farmer from Ballyhooly, Co Cork, thus became the last Union general to die in the war.

On the eve of the American Civil War a total of 1.6 million Irish-born people lived in the United States. A staggering 25% of New York's population were originally from Ireland. As the vast majority were unskilled labourers, they were drawn to the major industrialised cities in search of work. These cities were overwhelmingly located in what would become the northern states, and so, unsurprisingly, the majority of Irishmen fought with the Union.

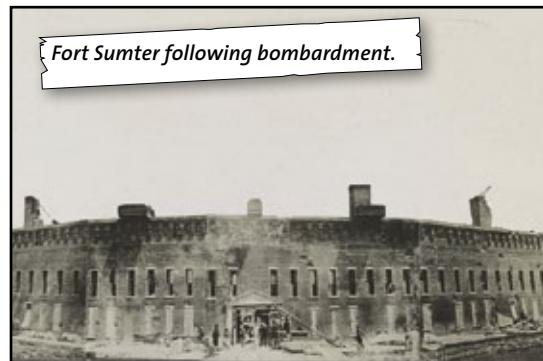
In total somewhere between 150,000 and 180,000 Irish fought for the north and the key statistics are impressive: there were 12 Irish-born Union generals and 32 brevet generals, more than from any other foreign country. At least 146

Irishmen were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war, and some 20% of the entire Union navy was made up of Irishmen. The only other ethnic group who made a comparable contribution towards the American Civil War were the Germans.

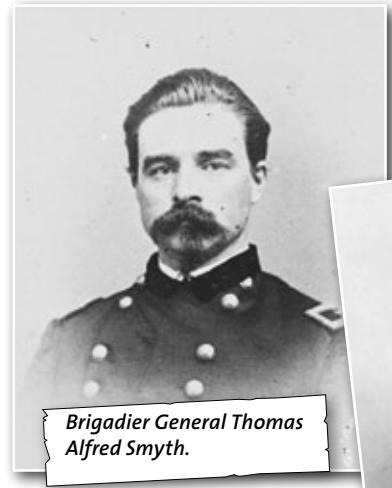
Although the most famous ethnic Irish unit of the American Civil War was undoubtedly the Irish Brigade, there was a large number of 'green flag' formations. These included



164th New York Infantry, Corcoran's Irish Legion, dressed in Zouave-style uniforms.



Fort Sumter following bombardment.

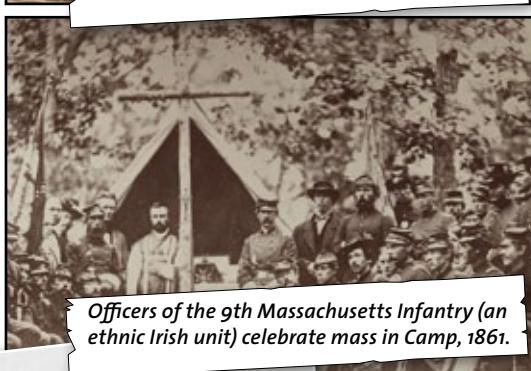


Brigadier General Thomas Alfred Smyth.

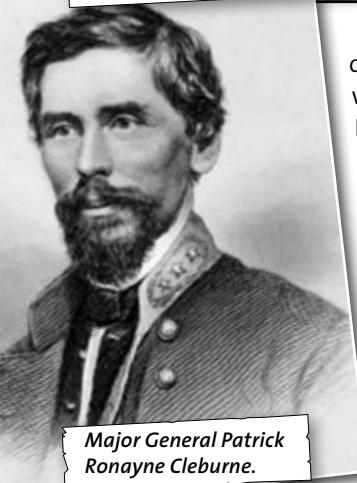
HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



Men of the 63rd New York (Irish Brigade), with their United States and Irish Colours.



Officers of the 9th Massachusetts Infantry (an ethnic Irish unit) celebrate mass in Camp, 1861.



Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne.

continue to dominate Irish memory of the war, the reality was that the majority of Irishmen experienced the conflict serving in the ranks of non-Irish regiments.

Although huge numbers of Irish served in the Civil War, their numbers are actually lower than might be expected given the total Irish emigrant population. Despite much initial enthusiasm for the conflict, heavy casualties sustained by units such as the Irish Brigade in the second half of 1862 and Abraham Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that September saw

many in the Irish community turn against the war. This culminated in the New York Draft Riots of July 1863, where an estimated two-thirds of the rioters were Irish. Although many early Irish enlistments were motivated by combinations of ideology, economics and a search for adventure, from 1863 onwards the driving force behind enlistment was largely financial, particularly as bounties on offer for joining increased.

In contrast to the large numbers of Irish in the northern ranks, the much smaller population of Irish in the south meant that only some 20,000 Irishmen fought in Confederate gray. The biggest contribution came from the state of Louisiana, mainly due to the concentration of Irish in New Orleans and along the Mississippi. There was only one 'green flag' regiment, the 10th Tennessee Infantry, but there were significant numbers of ethnic Irish companies within larger formations. Six Irishmen became generals in the Confederate army. Major General Patrick Cleburne, from Killumney, Co Cork, was the highest-ranking Irishman on either side during the war. Nicknamed 'The Stonewall of the West' he was widely regarded as the finest Confederate fighting general in the Western Theatre. Killed at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, on 30th November 1864, he remains famous in the United States where he has been the subject of a number of biographies,

Corcoran's Irish Legion, which boasted a strong Fenian contingent, and regiments such as the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry, part of the force that famously repulsed 'Pickett's Charge' at Gettysburg.

While ethnic units such as these

statues and memorials. The city of Cleburne, Texas, which 30,000 people call home, was also named in his honour.

Many of the Irish impacted by the Civil war were Famine-era emigrants, for whom the war represented the second great trauma of their lives. One such couple were Charles and Marcella O'Reilly, who left Ireland for a better life the United States sometime in the mid-1840s. In 1860 they lived in Auburn, New York with their four children. Their eldest son Anthony enlisted in the 9th New York Heavy Artillery in August 1862, where he was joined by his father Charles in December 1863. At the Battle of Cedar Creek in October 1864 the two O'Reillys were fighting side by side when the Confederates launched a furious attack on their position. One of their comrades described what happened next:

...Anthony Riley (sic) was shot and killed; his father was by his side; the blood and brains of his son covered the face and hands of the father. I never saw a more affecting sight than this; the poor old man kneels over the body of his dead son; his tears mingle with his son's blood. O God! what a sight; he can stop but a moment, for the rebels are pressing us; he must leave his dying boy in the hands of the devilish foe; he bends over him, kisses his cheek, and with tearful eyes rushes to the fight, determined to avenge his son.'

A little over five months later Charles O'Reilly also lost his life, succumbing to disease contracted in the trenches of Petersburg, Virginia. The loss of a husband and eldest son proved emotionally and financially ruinous for Margaret and her remaining children. With the main breadwinners gone, in 1871 her property in Auburn was seized by the sheriff and sold at auction. Whatever their original circumstances in Ireland upon emigrating, Margaret and Charles O'Reilly could never have imagined what life in the United States ultimately held in store for them.

The American Civil War is the only conflict in Irish history comparable to World War One in terms of the number of Irishmen who served and the numbers who died. Although it was fought 150 years ago, the impact of the conflict was still being felt by veterans and their families until well into the twentieth century. The last known Irish participant, Limerickman Jeremiah O'Brien, was still alive in 1950.

Despite its major significance as part of the story of the Irish people, the experiences of these hundreds of thousands of emigrants have been largely forgotten in Ireland. Although many had lived through the Famine, they are not remembered as part of that catastrophe. Few books are written here that explore Irish participation in the conflict, fewer Irish historians study it, and no events or conferences have taken place to mark its 150th anniversary. Perhaps most poignant of all is the fact that Ireland still lacks a memorial to remember those Irish, like Charles and Margaret O'Reilly, whose lives were so deeply affected by the conflict between Blue and Gray. ■

AN COSANTÓIR 10K ²⁰¹⁴

Results

PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN, PR BRANCH

The An Cosantóir 10K Road Race, a highlight of the Defence Forces competitive sporting calendar took place in The Phoenix Park on the 8th October 2014. Where 1,150 members of the Defence Forces braved the elements for the 35th annual An Cosantóir 10km Race. This year the 27 Inf Bn earned the bragging rights and envy of many a Unit by winning the Best Block while the 6 Inf Bn won Best Team for an impressive 6th consecutive year. The Best Female category was won by Sgt Tara Kennedy, DFHQ in a time of 41.10 and the Best Male won for the fifth consecutive year by Pte Kenneth Rogers, 12 Inf Bn in an impressive time of 31.03. Well done to all who took part and a big thank you to all who put the graft into making the event what it is, in particular the organising committee, the An Cosantóir/Info Office, the Defence Forces Athletics Association (DFAA), and all those who gave a hand on the day.



Male Senior Winner: Pte Kenneth Rogers



Female Senior Winner:
Sgt Tara Kennedy

CATEGORY WINNERS

NAME

MALE SENIOR

Pte Kenneth Rogers
AB Patrick Roche
Sgt Eddie O'Neill

UNIT

TIME

12 Inf Bn, 1 Bde
Naval Service
1 MIC, DFTC

31.03
31.46
33.01

FEMALE SENIOR

Sgt Tara Kennedy
Cpl Mary Molloy
Cdt Selma Bedair

J7, DFHQ
3 Inf Bn, 1 Bde
Cadet Sch, DFTC

41.10
41.40
44.08

MALE 0/35

LS Darren Molloy
Pte Paul Buckley
Cpl Peter Walsh

Naval Service
6 Inf Bn, 2 Bde
6 Inf Bn, 2 Bde

33.15
34.46
35.13

FEMALE 0/35

Sgt Jackie Wykes
Sgt Sinead Wearen

2 AR, 2 Bde
CIS Sch, DFTC

44.24
45.23

MALE 0/40

Pte Noel Kelly
Pte Anthony Devaney
CQMS Tom Monks

6 Inf Bn, 2 Bde
2 COE, 2 Bde
Ord Coy, 2 Bde

34.05
36.50
37.34

FEMALE 0/40

Cpl Deborah Carr
Pte Sandra Maher

ACHQ, Air Corps
27 Inf Bn

51.46
55.40

MALE 0/45

FS Paul Tuite
CS Dave O'Toole

ACHQ, Air Corps
J7, DFHQ

39.54
40.19

MALE 0/50

Sgt Tom Bishop
Pte Mark Bulman

DFSM, 2 Bde
1 Tpt Coy, 1 Bde

37.03
39.15

MALE 0/55

Sgt Jack Doyle

2 CIS Coy, 2 Bde

39.02

BLOCK (25 START WITH 20 NEEDED TO FINISH)

1st Block: 27 Inf Bn, 2 Bde
2nd Block: 7 Inf Bn, 2 Bde
3rd Block: 28 Inf Bn, 2 Bde

39.46
39.51
39.55

TEAM (A COMBINED TIME OF 6 INDIVIDUALS)

1st Team: 6 Inf Bn, 2 Bde
2nd Team: Naval Service
3rd Team: DFHQ



1st Team: 6 Inf Bn, 2 Bde
2nd Team: Naval Service
3rd Team: DFHQ





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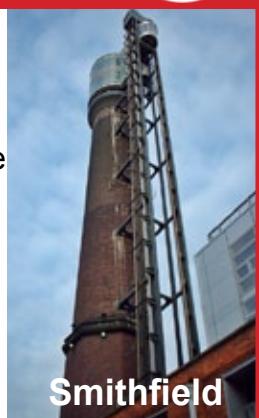
Did you know that we provide overnight accommodation facilities to serving and ex-service personnel at Brú na bhFiann (7 rooms) in the centre of Dublin. Our rates are very competitive. Members of the ONE receive a 15% reduction as do members of the Defence Forces who donate to ONE through the payroll deduction scheme.

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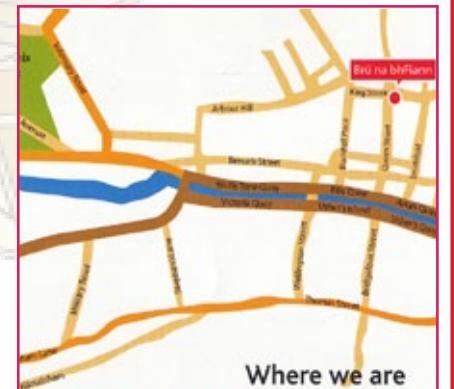
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Brú na bhFiann



Where we are

GEAR REVIEW



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

POHL FORCE BRAVO TWO KNIFE

PRICE: €65.50

COLOUR: BLACK

The manufacturer says...

Pohl Force Knives are designed for the elite, experienced knife user and the Bravo Two: Survival edition is no exception. As with all the Pohl Force Bravo knives, the Bravo Two: Survival was designed with survival in mind and needed to meet a number of unique requirements including; a compact size for the knife, same capabilities as the Pohl Force Alpha series, and in particular, the weight could not exceed 100 g significantly. When closed, the Bravo knives are just 11 cm long.



The Bravo Two: Survival features a plain edged Tanto style blade crafted from D2 (DIN 1.2379) blade with a black PTFE-coated corrosion resistant surface which eliminates glinting meaning this knife is very suitable to undercover or personal protective use. The coating also helps the Bravo Two: Survival to retain its edge for longer.

The 3.3 inch (8.3 cm) blade is 3mm thick and has a hardness rating of 59 on the Rockwell Scale. With black 3 mm thick handles made of fibreglass-reinforced plastic (fibreglass, 45%) and 1 mm thick stainless steel plates, the Bravo Two: Survival is also lightweight enough (100 g) to be easily transportable never weighing you down. The perfect knife to bring on a hunting trip or carry during any outdoor activity, the Bravo Two: Survival can be discreet whilst still being there when you need it.

Ambidextrous functionality, superior grip, comfort and suitability for a range of hand sizes as well as multiple carry options make the Bravo Two knives fantastic value for money.

Our reviewer Cpl Alan Dere (Cav Sch) says...

I tested the Pohl Force Bravo Two Knife while instructing recruits in training and found it a very good small lightweight knife. It is well balanced with a comfortable grip. It has a reliable lock system that won't close accidentally. The blade stays sharp and it allows easy access to fit in the chest rig. Overall, it's great knife and is highly recommended.

Blade - 9 Ambidextrous functionality – 9 Grip – 10 Comfort – 10 Lock – 10

COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha is offering a '5.11 Duffle Bag and 5.11 Watch Cap' www.team-alpha.ie

For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: How much is the Streamlight MicroStream Pen Light on team-alpha.ie?

Answer along with your name & address to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 21st November 2014. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Stephen Molumphy, Cork

5.11 TACTICAL 6.10 POUCH

PRICE: €29.95

COLOUR: BLACK

The manufacturer says...

Designed to mesh seamlessly with 5.11 bags, packs, and duffels, the 6.10 Vertical Pouch provides lightweight all-weather storage for any application. Crafted from ultra-durable 1000D nylon, the 6.10 Pouch features a full-length YKK zipper and a molded grip pull for glove-friendly accessibility. Compatible with MOLLE and 5.11 SlickStick™ web platforms for easy integration into your existing loadout.



The 6.10 is the vertical orientation of the 10.6 MOLLE Pouch with the same dimensions (10" H, 6" W, 3 1/2 D). Both feature one large compartment with a zipper the full width of the top and can attach to any MOLLE attachment system.

Our reviewer Pte Ross Moore B Coy 6 Inf Bn says...

The 6.10 Vertical Pouch is tough and versatile. It's designed to clip on to 5.11 packs, or any packs using the MOLLE/slickstick web platform and I found it was easy to fit onto the chest rig or into the side of the backpack. It's great for multipurpose all-weather storage. It has rugged zips with grip pulls that will last and is made of a durable nylon so it's tough enough for everyday use. All in all it's a great product for multipurpose that will last on the ground.

Durability 9 - Molle Attachment 9 - Easy Access 10 - Value 8 - Size 10 - Function 9

NOTICEBOARD

CALLING ON IRISH AVIATION HISTORIANS

Author and historian Guy Warner, is looking for help on his latest project. It concerns the RAF in Ireland during 1918-20. There were two squadrons 105 and 106 sent to Ireland in May 1918. Their role was the first example of what was later to be known as Internal Security Duties. 105 Sqn was based in Omagh, with flights in Castlebar and Oranmore and 106 Sqn was at Fermoy, with flights at Birr and Athlone. He is steadily gathering information from friends and fellow Irish aviation historians, and has some great contemporary photos of Omagh and one each of Castlebar and Fermoy.

But is still searching for photographs of these squadrons and for anyone who may have knowledge on the subject, he would be very grateful for your help and information.

"I would love to access some more photos not only of 1918-20 but also of when several of these former airfields were used by Sir Alan Cobham and CWA Scott for the one off air displays between 1933 and 1935. I would also like to find out more from what the Irish Volunteers and emerging IRA thought of the air patrols and did it affect their activities in any way?"

He can be contacted by email: gwarnero6@aol.com

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WORD SEARCH

**CROSS OFF THE
WORDS IN THE LIST
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Word searches are fun, they also bring benefits you may not realise and can play an important role in keeping you mentally fit.

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

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UAE
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The Middle East

Q&A NOVEMBER

1. WHAT DATE DID THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR START ON (THIS ISSUE)?

Post your answer along with your name and address to us or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a limited edition An Cosantóir Dry Flo T-shirt and DF 'Goody Bag'

Last month's winner of the An Cosantóir T-shirt and 'Goody Bag' was Fr Paul F Murphy CF, Galway. Closing date is 21st November 2014.



CORK AND THE GREAT WAR LECTURE SERIES 2014

Remembering Sgt Myles Abraham, DCM, MM

The speaker will be Ms Rachel Abraham of the Western Front Association. The talk will be about Rachel's quest to find information about her grandfather, a well known sportsman who was an Irish Boxing Champion and played international rugby for Ireland and someone who, as she discovered, was also a forgotten hero of the First World War.

Date: Thursday, 27th November 2014, at 7 pm.

Price: All talks are free.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 11 am – 1 pm, 2.15 pm – 5 pm

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FRANK AIKEN'S WAR
THE IRISH REVOLUTION 1916-1923

Author: Matthew Lewis

Publisher: UCD Press (Aug 2014)
www.ucdpress.ie

ISBN:
9781906359829

Price: €25.20

Pages: 250



THE IRISH REVOLUTIONARY period is commonly confined to the years 1916-1923, with an enthusiastic nod given to the precluding years 1913-1915 as the years that shaped nationalistic ideals in men and women and set the stage for what was to become the Irish 'theatre of war'. Lewis, in his introduction, recognises that historians have arrived late at the telling of Ulster's experience of the revolutionary period and thus sets out to construct a personal and localised experience relived through the exploration of rich archival sources which present Aiken during these formative years. Lewis, in presenting this treatment of Frank Aiken, who was a colossal figure of Irish political life and a survivor of the revolutionary period, situates Aiken within the revolutionary period only where there is evidence to support Aiken's place within the books' narrative of events. Lewis goes beyond the locale of Aiken, and recognises the impact of Aiken on areas he visited as a Sinn Fein and an IRA organiser to fractured IRA units in the six counties, and bordering counties during the 1919-1921 period (Louth in particular). Woven throughout this book are topographical, genealogical and ethnographical notices, which all contribute to the presentation of an experience, not just of Aiken himself but perhaps the affected population of the localities Lewis focuses on. I would recommend this book to anyone with an interest in exploring the life and times of a key player in the revolutionary period, and anyone with an interest in the local history of Armagh and Down during the 1916-1923 period. LD

THE IRISH IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Author: Damian Shiels

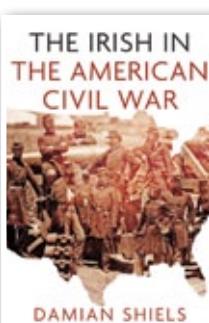
Publisher: The History Press Ireland (1 May, 2014)

ISBN: 978-1845887681

Price: €18.00 PB / €4.00 eBook

Pages: 256

DAMIEN SHIELDS TAKES us back to a war that is forgotten in Irish history. With over 200,000 Irishmen fighting in this war, Damien gives us an in depth look at where and who they fought for. From the drive for recruitment in



New York for the Union to the man hunt for Abraham Lincoln's killer in Washington DC organised by Roscommon man James O'Beirne. Damien's knowledge and research into the War and in particular the Irish who fought in it is captivating. The stories that are told bring you back into that period of time that no film can portray in the same way, as Damien celebrates the gallantry, sacrifice and bravery of the Irishmen who both gave their lives and survived the American Civil War. I would highly recommend reading this book, not only to the avid war historian but to anyone with a thirst for Irish history on American soil. KB

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Damian Shiels is an archaeologist who specialises in 'conflict archaeology'. He has spent time as a curatorial staff at the National Museum of Ireland, working on the award-winning Soldiers and Chiefs military history exhibition. He runs a website dedicated to the Irish in the American Civil War.

<http://irishamericancivilwar.com>

**ONCE A SOLDIER
(TWICE A HERO)**

Author: Phil Tomkins

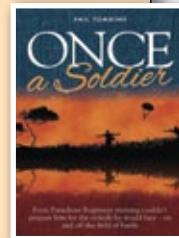
Publisher: Mereo Books (June 2014)
www.mereobooks.com

ISBN: 978-1861511751 /
ASIN: BooLRKCY1A

Price: PB €9.95 /
eBook €5.95

Pages: 248

ANOTHER GREAT STORY from Phil Tomkins, of how a young Dublin lad becomes a soldier, told by someone who has lived that life – with true emotion all the way. Travis having tried the Irish army and failed, travels to England and joins the highly coveted Parachute Regiment. Here he learns the true calling of soldiering, where his father's failings drive him on. Highly trained in weapons and tactics, he becomes an elite operational soldier. With his baptism of fire on Cyprian soil during its civil war. When he finishes his service with the PARAs, he ventures south and joins the French Foreign Legion, to become the best he can. He sees many a ruthless battle won and lost in the Middle East. Follow Travis as his battles are eventually fought within his sole as he tries to "put the horror and tragedy behind him and find honour, love and peace". Highly recommended reading from the author of: *Twice a Hero: From the trenches of the Great War to the ditches of the Irish Midlands 1915 - 1922* (October 2012). WF



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phil Tomkins, born in Dublin, educated at CBS Westland Row, Dublin, and awarded a BA Hons Degree in Creative Writing by the University of Bolton, Lancashire, England. An ex-elite forces soldier' whose writing reflects his continuing interest in military history. He currently resides in the North of England in semi-retirement with his wife Maree.

www.philtomkins.com

A Good Head for Football

CQMS Casey McQuillan, Equit Sch

Interview by Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald **Photos by** Cpl Neville Coughlan

I played for my first soccer team, Kilbarrack United FC, at 12 and progressed well in the game, being offered, but turning down, a trial with Wrexham FC prior to joining the Defence Forces in 1990. After recruit training I was posted to CTD E and joined the Cathal Brugha Bks football team, which was drawn from the small units in the barracks. Outside, I was playing with Ballymun Utd in the AUL Premier.

After serving with 69 Inf Bn in Lebanon in 1991 I did a clerks course, and in 1993 I underwent a potential NCOs course, which was quickly followed by an orderly room sergeants course. I returned to the CTD E orderly room as an acting sergeant. It was a busy job, with an average of 70 students on courses and 120 recruits on our books at one time, and this was before the PMS came in.

I was then playing soccer for the barracks, the brigade, and also the Defence Forces, competing against the Gardaí, banks, colleges and other armed forces.

I completed my standard NCOs course in 1995 and served in Lebanon again with 79 Inf Bn.

That year I also completed a DF referees course.

I was on the Ballymun Utd team that won the Amstel Cup in 1997 and lost in the finals of the FAI Junior, Amstel, and Liddy cups in 1999. I also received the player of the year award during this time.

In 2000 I was promoted to orderly room sergeant with the Equitation School, McKee Bks.

I won the Oscar Traynor Trophy with the AUL in 2000 and followed that up in 2001 with four major trophies, including the FAI Junior Cup. In 2002, after winning the league and cup double with Ballymun, I returned to Kilbarrack Utd as player/manager in the AUL Premier B. I was promoted to CQMS in the Equit Sch later that year.

In a match in 2003 I suffered a serious injury to my spine that left me with a paralysis lasting about six months. After recovering I went back playing but in my first match I had a relapse. This led to another period of paralysis and on medical advice I reluctantly hung up my boots to focus on coaching. (I now have both the UEFA 'A' and 'B' coaching badges.)

In 2004 I won promotion to AUL Premier A with Kilbarrack and I also became assistant coach of the DF team, working with Comdt Jim Noone. By 2006 we were recording our first international victories, culminating in qualification for the 2007 CISM World Soccer Championships in India, where we made it to the quarterfinals.

In 2008 I left to help Cpl Ben Looney with the DF female soccer team, which wasn't generating much interest at the time. However, things improved and in 2009 we were beaten in final of the FAI Junior Cup. In the meantime I had taken over the helm at Ballymun Utd and in 2010 we won the FAI Junior, the 'Nivea for Men' and the Leinster Junior cups, and I received the manager of the year award. The following year we beat Finn Harps before losing to Derry City in the FAI Senior Cup.

That year Ben and I resigned to take up positions as Academy Director and Director of Coaching, respectively, with the newly formed Metropolitan Girls League. We take the best of the 10-16 age groups from Dublin and surrounding areas and develop them in the academy. Our model now competes with the best that Spain and England have to offer.

In 2013 I managed Raheny Utd ladies team in the UEFA Champions League group stage.

The next year Raheny asked me to take on the role permanently. We won the league and qualified for the Champions League again, where we beat the Romanian, Maltese and Bulgarian champions; the first time, at any level, that an Irish team had won all games in their qualifying group.

In the knockout stage we were drawn against Bristol FC (who came second to Liverpool in the UK), with the winners to play the mighty Barcelona FC! We played the home leg in Richmond Park on October 9th but unfortunately went down to a heavy 4-0 defeat. The away leg in the UK saw us defeated 2-1, but we will now build on these experiences and go for it again next year! ■



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