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AN COSANTÓIR

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**106 INF BN
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INTERNET ESPIONAGE

MINIEWOLF

**RECCE
CONCENTRATION**

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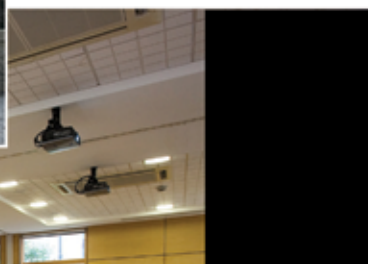


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Part-time study at the IPA

The Whitaker School of Government and Management at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that are of great relevance to those serving in the defence forces. Accredited by University College Dublin, these part-time programmes allow adult students to remain in full-time employment or attend to other aspects of their lives while working toward a third-level qualification. The list opposite details just a few of the programmes commencing in September 2012.

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57 - 61 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4



(01) 2403600



information@ipa.ie



www.ipa.ie

MANAGER:

Capt Rory Esler
045 445306
info@military.ie

EDITOR:

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald
045 445307
magazine@military.ie

JOURNALIST:

Wesley Bourke
journalist@military.ie

CONNECT:

Cpl Paul Millar
connect@military.ie

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Airman Neville Coughlan
Mr Jim O'Connor (FAS)
photo@military.ie

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Cpl Finola Lafferty
045 445312
subs@military.ie

MAGAZINE ARCHIVIST:

Mr Sean Shinnors

DF/PR INFORMATION:

Cpl Noel Coss
045 445308
admin@military.ie

DF WEBMASTER:

Sgt Mick Burke
045 445309
webmaster@military.ie

DESIGNER/ADVERTISING:

JM Publishing,
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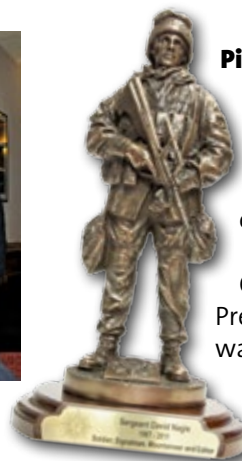
EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to our June issue, it's now over a year that I have been editor here, I would like to thank the new team here in the An Cosantóir office, and the staff of our long term partners Turners Printing Co. and our (not so new now) Designer / Advertiser team at JM Publishing. And especially you the Contributor, Subscriber, Reader or Advertiser, as we certainly couldn't do it without you - *Thank You*. This month in our *In Focus* pages we look at The Cavalry Club and long-term member Capt John Chadwick (Retd). Wesley Bourke got the chance to see the Engineer Corps latest piece of equipment, the Minewolf (MW240) de-mining machines. We also have a short piece on the Mayor of Tibnine (South Lebanon) who visited Cobh for the 100th Anniversary of the Titanic disaster. We have a nice piece on the IRISH/FINISH Battalion that left for Lebanon recently! Our *Def-Tec* centre spread is on the recent DF RECCE Concentration 2012 with some excellent photos taken by the guys here. In *Strategic Review* this month Graeme Batsman of Data Defender Ltd. warns us on the dangers of Internet Espionage. Our *In Reserve* feature is about medical training with the 54 Res Med Coy in Galway. Paul O'Brien MA writes about the Irish Civil War 1922 in our *History* section. In *Sport* we have a Ladies Soccer tournament in Lebanon and finally our other regulars – *Gear Review*, *Tac Aide*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.



Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor



Pictured: Sgt David Nagle (previous Editor of An An Cosantóir) at his retirement function, he received a personalised copy of An Cosantóir and soldier statuette from Comdt Denis Hanly (DF Press Office). A good night was had by all.

Writing articles and letters

Ideally we would like articles and letters submitted in by email or disc (CD/DVD). Hardcopy articles are also accepted.

As a general rule, we look for 2-3 page articles with 600 to 700 words per A4 page. Larger articles are considered, though they may be spread over two issues or submitted to the 'Defence Forces Review' publication with the author's approval.

All material submitted should have a military related topic or be interesting to our readers.

Sending in a photograph

When sending photographs in, especially by email, please consider the following:

- Save as jpeg format
- File size: No less than 1.5Mb and no bigger

than 3Mb (as jpegs)

- Resolution: 300 DPI
 - Dimension: 150x100mm (6x4in) minimum
- Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs, burn them to disc and post in! Clearly mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'.

Also submit a short note with details like:

- Who took the photograph
- What was the occasion
- Where did it happen
- Who is in the photograph (left to right, back to front, rank, first and surnames)

If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

If you can't do this, please send them in as big (size) as you can, unchanged or unedited.

ON PARADE



DISPATCH RIDERS ▲

Pictured shows the Dispatch Riders Course in Custume Bks Athlone which is being run by 4th Cav Sqn. Pictured: Instructors Sgt Eddie Bowes (left) and Cpl Noel Lee (right) with their students. *Photo: Sgt Anthony Feery (HQ 4 W Bde)*

GALA CONCERT ▶

Brig Gen Gerald Aherne (GOC 4th W Bde), hosted a press launch in Custume Bks Athlone recently to officially launch the Defence Forces/Pieta House Gala Concert on in the Hodson Bay Hotel on Thur 7th of June 2012. The Gala Concert will feature the DF massed Bands, guest artiste and renowned soprano Ms. Cara O'Sullivan and a performance by Athlone group Anam. *Photo: Sgt Anthony Feery (HQ 4 W Bde)*



ON PARADE ▲

Photo of the EUTM Medal Parade in Uganda, the Irish Force Commander, Col Michael Beary presenting medals to qualified personnel including the three Irish personnel: Lt Phillip Quinlan, Sgt Francis McGrath and Sgt Stephen Carr. *Photo: C/O DF Press Office*

ULTRA MARATHON ▼

Photo from the recent Connemara Ultra Marathon held on the 1st April 2012. Pictured (l/r): Sgt Mark Coffey, Cpl Brian Ankers, Cpl Nigel Campbell, Sgt John Chapman, Sgt Christopher Walsh. Special note Sgt's Chapman and Walsh also completed The Directors Marathon the previous day. *Photo: Sgt Mark Coffey (MAS, DFTC)*



ON TARGET ◀

Members of the 4 Fd Arty Regt who won the 4 W Bde Falling Plates Competition in Finner Camp, Co. Donegal recently. Pictured: (back row l/r) Cpl Olly McNamee, Sgt Garry Madden (I/C & Coach), Lt Col Ray Yorke (OC 4 FAR), RSM Noel O'Callaghan (Master Coach 4 FAR), Gnr Mick McDonagh and Gnr Lee Scally. (front row l/r) Gnr Anthony McArdle, Cpl Gerry Coyne, Gnr Jason Wallace and Gnr Damien Reilly. *Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan (4 FAR)*



◀ TWO FIRSTS FOR THE DF

The 58 Reserve Inf Bn taking part in the North West 10K on the 6th May 2012. This was the first time a block entered the race and the first time a team from the Defence Forces ran as a block in Donegal. *Photo: Lt John McCandless (58 Res Inf Bn)*

MEMORIAL CUP ▼

Pictured during the annual Alex Carolan commemorative football fixture between the 58 Res Inf Bn and An Post. Alex who was a member of the RDF and an employee of An Post, tragically lost his life in a RTA 4yrs ago. The 58 Res Inf Bn won 4-2 on penalties. *Photo: Lt John McCandless (58 Res Inf Bn)*





◀ BEIRUT

Pictured while unloading cargo on the ground in Beirut, Lebanon during the recent troop rotations is CASA CN235 Callsign 'Irish 253'. Photo: Cpl Paul Bookle (No 1 Ops wing)



SAFETALK ▼

Pictured are members of the 35th Pot NCOs Cse who attended the 'Safe Talk' about Suicide Awareness held Haulbowline Naval Base, Cobh Co. Cork. Photo: A/Sea David Jones (NS)



RECRUIT CLASS SHACKLETON ▲

Pictured performing an arms drill display during their passing out parade recently is Recruit Class Shackleton at Haulbowline Naval Base in Cobh. Congratulations to all. Photo: A/Sea David Jones (NS)

ANZAC DAY ▼

Picture shows the United Irish Ex Services Association of Australia (UIESAA) members at Anzac Day March, Sydney, 25 April 2012. Membership is open to any Irish person who served in any Allied Military Force including reserves, territorials and cadet units. For more information, visit: <http://uiesaa.wordpress.com/>. Photo: Patrick Armstrong



WITH THANKS ▼

Members of USAC in Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa completed a 100km walk in the west of Ireland, over a period of 3 days. To raise €4,740 for the Galway Hospice which is located close to USAC. Pictured (l/r): Pte Peter Folan, SS John Flannery, SS Padraig Lyons, Ms Orla Feeney (Galway Hospice), SS Paul Doolin, Cre John Greene & Comdt Kevin Campion (OC USAC & 2IC 1 Cn Cois). Photo: Cpl Eric O'Brien (USAC)



CAPTAIN JOHN CHADWICK (RETIRED)

INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS BY CPL NOEL COSS (B/W PHOTOS FROM HIS OWN COLLECTION)

John Chadwick was born in 1921 in Borrisoleigh, Co Tipperary. Orphaned as an infant, John was raised by his uncle, the local doctor in Templemore. In June 1940, during the Emergency, and with war raging across Europe, 19 year old John jumped onboard a train, along with about 300 others, and headed for Limerick to join the army, which at the time was expanding rapidly, with 200 to 300 men a day enlisting in Sarsfield Barracks alone.

Recruit training at that time was very different and after just three weeks basic training John says he was "exalted" to the rank of dispatch rider (DR), where he learned to ride an army motorcycle (a BSA M-20; reg ZD-71). Not long after, he was sent to the CTD, Collins Bks, Cork, for an NCOs course, which he successfully completed and was promoted to corporal.

The huge expansion in the size of the Defence Forces meant that commissioning officers from the ranks became essential and as the young Cpl Chadwick's leadership qualities and man management skills had been noticed by his superiors he was selected, with 40 others, for potential officer training in the Curragh.

Officer training at the time was between nine to ten months; very intense but a lot shorter than today. John was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1942 and assigned, on his own request, to the Cavalry Corps. Because of his background, John was sent on a DR instructors course as soon as he arrived at Cavalry Corps HQ, which was then based at McDermott Bks, Curragh, and from 1943 to 1944 he instructed on

motorcycles at the Cav Sch.

Health and safety was minimal in those days and there wasn't anything like today's protective gear. John wore his standard officer's uniform, consisting of britches and leggings, Sam Browne belt and Glengarry headdress.

In 1949 Lieutenant Chadwick rode on the first motorcycle escort of honour, comprising a captain, two lieutenants and 32 other-ranks, on the day Ireland was declared a republic by Taoiseach John A Costello. The escort, provided by 4 Motor Squadron, based in the Curragh, escorted President Seán T O'Ceallaigh from Áras an Uachtaráin to the Pro Cathedral, then to a saluting base at the GPO for a march past, and back to the Áras. John still talks with pride of how privileged he feels to have been part of the escort on such a significant day in our country's history.

Other escorts that stand out in his mind are those of a number of ambassadors to Áras an Uachtaráin to present their credentials to the president. These included Indian Ambassador Krishna Menon, who would later become the prime minister of India. Ambassador escorts comprised one officer and 15 other ranks and John said the escort would often be invited into the Áras after the escort to partake in the hospitalities.

One humorous aspect of these escorts that John recalls fondly, is that new ambassadors always presented their credentials on a Wednesday, which coincided with a cattle market on North Circular Road. "We'd be heading down North Circular Road when we'd invariably meet a large herd of cattle being driven along the road to the docks for export," John says, smiling at the memory. "Well let me tell you, it was bad enough trying to ride a very heavy BSA without having to dodge cattle almost in a stampede: you were lucky if you didn't end up on your backside in the cow s***!"

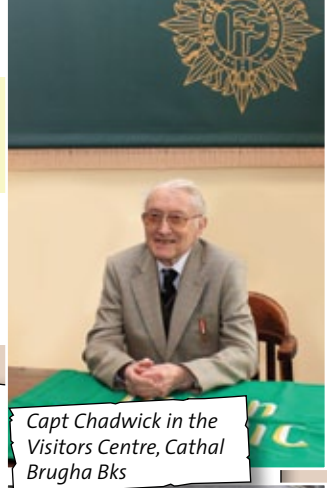
After making captain John worked in the Director of Cavalry's office and then as OiC of Cav Tech Stores in the Curragh, he then moved to 2 Mot Sqn where he served as 2 I/C.

He retired as a staff officer in DFHQ after completing 21 years service on the 1st July 1961. John then went on to have a successful career as sales manager and later as a director for A H Massers Ltd, a heavy plant and machinery company. He remained on the strength of 2 Cavalry Squadron with the First Line Reserve up until 30th April 1975.

John thinks today's motorcycle escorts of honour "are magnificent in every sense of the word", although he himself never rode a motorcycle since he left the Defence Forces. He is, however, a member of the Veteran & Vintage Car Club of Ireland and is also a very active member of the Cavalry Club, where he loves meeting up with members of the corps, especially recently retired officers.

John says he is lucky to still enjoy relatively good health and have a family that are very good to him. A photo of his wife, who he married in 1947 when she was just 20 years old, hangs on the wall. Sadly, "the love of his life" as John calls her, passed away 18 years ago.

To finish, I asked John if he would change anything about his life if he was to live it again. He replied that he would never have left the Defence Forces as it helped shape his life and he loved every minute of his time there. It was great note to finish the interview on. ■



The Cavalry Club

BY CAPT MICK BOHAN (54 RES CAV SQN & CAV CLUB COMMITTEE)

The original concept of the Cavalry Club was born out of a desire by a number of serving and retired officers in 1944 to form a cavalry officers association to enable members of the Corps who had retired, or would soon be demobbed after the Emergency, to have contact with serving cavalry officers and, by extension, the Corps. The initial objectives of that association were to enable members to keep in touch with each other by the organisation of social functions, and the promotion of the welfare of ex members of the Cavalry Corps of all ranks. Today the primary objective of the Cavalry Club continues to be the maintenance of contact between officers of the Cavalry Corps, serving and retired.

With membership spread throughout Ireland and overseas, it's important to have a central engine-room and, therefore, day-to-day management of the club's affairs and activities is vested in a committee of not less than seven, and not more than 11, members. These individuals are elected by the members at the club's annual general meeting and hold office for one year.

The committee meets on average once a month to organise and run social functions and events. Among the most popular events is the YO Induction Dinner, run every year to welcome newly commissioned cavalry officers into the club. This event is usually held in the Military College and is attended by the chief of staff. Another annual event, the Octogenarians Lunch, held in McKee Barracks, has proven very popular with our veteran members. The annual Cavalry Club Dinner is also hosted each November. All ideas for various events submitted by the members are considered by the committee and are acted upon if deemed possible to do so.

Ordinary membership is open to all serving and retired cavalry officers, and the club also has Associate and Honorary members. Current membership stands at about 210. For more information please contact Honorary Secretary - Cavalry Club c/o Lt Neil Curran - cavalryclub@gmail.com or visit: www.cavalryclub.ie/index.html



Members of the Cavalry Club with the Chief of Staff in 2010



Members on a Military Monument Tour - Dublin 2012

WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



EUROPE



The Socialist candidate, François Hollande, won **France's** presidential election.

In Moscow, Vladimir Putin was inaugurated to his third term as **Russia's** president. Hundreds were arrested during anti Putin protests.

Greece failed to form a coalition government. New elections will be held in June. As stock markets tumbled, Greece's future in the euro was in doubt.

The **Dutch** government collapsed after Geert Wilders, a right wing populist withdrew from budget talks. The Czech government, on the other hand, narrowly avoided a collapse after a junior coalition partner withdrew its support.

The imprisoned **Ukrainian** opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, went on hunger strike after alleging that she had been beaten and forcibly transferred from prison to a hospital. The authorities denied the claim.

After losing a vote of confidence the centre right government in **Romania** fell.

Former **Icelandic** Prime Minister, Geir Haarde, was acquitted of charges of negligence over the 2008 financial crisis. He was found guilty of not holding enough cabinet meetings. He called the verdict absurd.

The Former **Bosnian** Serb Military Leader Ratko Mladic went on trial in The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity.



AMERICAS

In **Guantanamo Bay** naval base, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others were arraigned at a military tribunal for the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The men refused to recognise the authority of the tribunal and declined to listen to the translation.

The CIA foiled a plot to blow up a plane using an enhanced and possibly undetectable bomb. The device was reportedly handed over by a double agent.



In **Colombia** FARC guerrillas broke their promise not to kidnap civilians when they abducted Romeo Langlois, a French journalist. The group claimed he was wearing a military helmet. Juan Manuel Santos, Colombia's president said there was merit to the group's claims.

The drug war in **Mexico** escalated when 49 mutilated bodies were found near Monterrey. They were apparently killed by the Zetas as a warning to their rivals.



MIDDLE EAST

The ceasefire drawn up by Kofi Annan, the UN mediator in **Syria**, was partially holding. The UN Security Council are sending 300 monitors to assess the situation. Human Rights Watch said Syrian forces killed at least 95 civilians and burned or destroyed hundreds of houses in the fortnight before a ceasefire came into effect on April 12th.

At least 30 people were killed in protests in Cairo against **Egypt's** ruling generals.

Lt Gen Benny Gantz, **Israel's** Chief of Staff, seemed to contradict the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu by implying that Iran might not build a nuclear weapon.

AFRICA

South Sudan withdrew troops from Heglig oilfield. As their neighbours urged restraint, both Sudan and South Sudan massed troops along the border.



In **Libya** the government banned all political parties based on religious, ethnic or tribal allegiances. Elections are due to take place in June. The National Transitional Council said its aim was to preserve national unity.

A commander of the Lord's Resistance Army, Caesar Acellama, was captured by **Ugandan** soldiers in the Central African Republic. Joseph Kony, the Resistance Army's leader, is still wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes.



ASIA

Pakistan announced it will reopen NATO supply routes into Afghanistan. A week after India tested a long range ballistic missile, Pakistan conducted a missile test of its own.

In **Myanmar**, Aung San Sun Kyi and other members of the democratic movement took their seats in parliament. It is the first time that Ms Sun Kyi has held public office. She spent years under house arrest after the military regime ripped up the election result in 1990.

A blind **Chinese** activist, Chen Guangcheng, escaped from house arrest in Shandong province and fled to the American embassy in Beijing. After six days in the embassy he left after American diplomats were given assurance Mr Chen and his family would be unhurt.

A bomb in **Nepal** killed four people during demonstrations near the Indian border.

A little-known group calling itself Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha claimed responsibility for the bombing.



US president, Barack Obama, paid a surprise visit to Afghanistan where he signed a co-operation agreement with Afghan president, Hamid Karzai. The agreement assured US support for Afghanistan after US troops withdraw in 2014.

MINEWOLF CLEARS THE WAY

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

Defence Forces personnel have served on many UN peace-keeping missions around the world, in parts of Africa, Asia, the Balkans, and the Middle East, where mines have been heavily used in the conflicts that blighted those regions. Even after years of peace, mines and other explosive remnants of war lying dormant under the soil still retain the power to injure, maim, or kill if they are disturbed. Mines are relatively cheap to produce and can take minutes to set, yet removing them can prove to be very expensive in time and other resources. Hence the slogan 'Be Mine Aware' is drilled into every peacekeeper prior to and during deployment.

The Corps of Engineers (COE) is responsible for mine-clearance in the Defence Forces, and to complement its existing mine-clearing equipment and techniques the COE recently purchased two MineWolf (MW 240), remote-controlled, tracked, de-mining machines. We spoke to COE students on the first MW 240 Mechanics and Operators course.

Swiss company MineWolf Systems is a leading provider of technologies and services for the clearance of landmines and other explosive devices, whose solutions are in use worldwide by militaries and humanitarian aid agencies alike. Millions of square meters

of mine-contaminated land all over the world have been effectively cleared using MineWolf products.

The MW 240 complements the COE's existing mine-clearance portfolio, which includes the larger Aardvark Mk 4

Dedicated Landmine Clearance Flail, the smaller Doking MV4 mine flails, and various other equipment, such as a wide range of metal detection systems used by the engineer specialist search and clearance (ESSC) teams.

The MW 240's relatively light weight means it can be easily transported to remote areas. It is a robust and proven machine, designed to operate in challenging environments and to withstand blasts from anti-tank and anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnance remnants. It is currently in use with several humanitarian de-mining organisations worldwide and is also in service with the British Army and German

Bundeswehr in Afghanistan.

Training on the course was provided by MineWolf technicians Matt Ackroyd and Zeljko Tebes. "The MW 240 has become very popular because it is easily transportable and capable of getting in anywhere," Matt told us. "It can also be fitted with a range of multipurpose attachments: flail, tiller, robotic arm, dozer blade, or forklift, all of which help the operator in a multitude of scenarios. It also comes with its own winch."

"It is proving very successful on peace-support operations," his colleague added. "German troops have successfully deployed the MW 240





Back row (l-r): Zeljko Tebes (MineWolf), Pte Kevin Reid (Eng Gp, DFTC), Cpl Marcus Varley (2 Fd Eng Coy), Pte Paul Cahill (1 Fd Eng Coy), Coy Sgt Tommy Lynam (4 Fd Eng Coy), Cpl Paul Howe (Eng Gp, DFTC) & Matt Ackroyd (MineWolf).

Front row (l-r): Pte Patrick Wade (Mil Eng Sch), Pte Tomas Tallis (4 Fd Eng), Pte Stephen Rodden (2 Fd Eng Coy), Sgt John Malone (2 Fd Eng Coy) & Pte Damien Pierce, (Mil Eng Sch)

on route-clearance operations in Afghanistan, using the robotic arm to lift IEDs out of the way to where they can be dealt with later by IEDD specialists. The MW 240 is operating worldwide in various environments from the extreme mud and bogs of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the dry sands of Iraq and Afghanistan."

Unfortunately, minefield records giving the exact perimeter, quantities and types of mines used, are not always available post-conflict. Making an area safe and returning it for public use is a multi-phased process that is collectively described as 'clearance'. The perimeter of an affected area is marked out and divided on a grid basis. Then if mechanical clearance assets are available and suitable, a vehicle such as an Aardvark, MW 240, or Doking MV4 advances into the contaminated area and systematically clears each grid. For quality control purposes each grid should then be checked manually to ensure that no hazardous items remain.

Mine-clearing machines are rarely used on their own. "Say we have to clear an area for a new camp overseas," explained Coy Sgt Tommy Lynam (4 Fd Eng Coy), "we will use mechanical ground preparation and either an ESSC team with detectors and prodders or an explosive

detection dog (EDD) team." He also pointed out that there can be terrain where no machine can go, and which, therefore, can only be cleared using ESSC or EDD teams.

As can be seen from the above, mine clearance is a systematic process that uses a combination of tools at the Engineers' disposal to survey, recce, isolate, search, detect, clear and dispose of any mines or other unexploded ordnance located in an area.

Looking at an area that has been flailed by an MW 240 it is hard to image any explosive object surviving intact. The machine moves very slowly while it literally devours everything in its path. As the flail rotates, each individual chain hits the ground seven times per second, exerting a ton of pressure on each strike.

"It is very important that the operator knows the machine's capabilities and understands the hazards in the area he is operating in," Coy Sgt Lynam said. "A post-conflict non-technical or technical survey will give us as much information as possible, but you can never be 100% sure; that's why you may have to manually proof the ground as well."

Given the relatively large size of the MW 240, it can be hard to imagine that it is remote controlled but it is. If the operator has line-of-sight to the

machine control is quite straightforward but even operating in hilly areas can be managed using a remote base station. In that scenario, cameras on the MW 240 give live feedback to the operator who can make adjustments accordingly.

Two experienced combat engineers on the course, Cpl Paul Howe and Pte Kevin Reid (both Eng Gp DFTC), found the equipment user-friendly. "It is straightforward enough to operate," Cpl Howe said, "and with practice you quickly get used to it."

"From a maintenance point of view it is mechanic friendly," Pte Reid added. "Diagnostics can be run on a computer to tell you if there's anything wrong, and the compartments are easily accessible. It must be thoroughly cleaned and greased every day, and the fuel lines and hydraulics checked for leaks. Cleaning is a big job after the machine has been used as you can see: the mud is literally caked on and there is debris in the tracks - that all has to be cleared off."

With the addition of the MW 240 the Corps of Engineers now has the capability of deploying a large, flexible suite of mechanical mine-clearance solutions that can be adapted to meet a wide variety of scenarios that may be encountered, particularly on overseas peacekeeping missions. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

MINEWOLF 240 FEATURES

- Effective clearance of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines.
- Camera system to facilitate remote operations (optional).
- Continuous ground penetration to depth of 25 cm.
- Choice of tiller or flail operations, depending on conditions and threat.
- Easily transportable: whole system fits into 20ft ISO container.
- Average clearance performance: 5,000 m² – 12,000 m² per day.
- Range of EOD/Engineering/QA attachments for multipurpose tasks.
- Robotic arm attachment for CIED operations and cutting vegetation.
- High quality components to withstand difficult climatic conditions.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Length, without attachment:

4,181mm.

Length, with attachment: 5,700mm

(tiller); 5,763mm (flail).

Width, without attachment:

1,634mm.

Width, with attachment: 2,494mm

(tiller); 2,484mm (flail).

Height: 2,183mm.

Weight, without attachment:

6,600kg.

Attachment weight: 2,300kg

(tiller); 2,150kg (flail).

OPERATIONAL AND MACHINE DATA

Clearance width (max): 2,000mm.

Clearance depth: 150mm; 200mm; 250mm.

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TIBNINE MAYOR AT TITANIC COMMEMORATION

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & A/SEA DAVID JONES

On April 11th Cobh held a major commemoration of the sinking of the RMS Titanic. The event was attended by President Michael D Higgins, the Lord Mayor of Cobh, Cllr Jim Quinlan, and FOCNS Commodore Mark Mellett DSM.

After the commemoration the president carried out a fleet review of NS ships, which also included the Royal Navy's HMS Mersey, before visiting the Naval Base in Haulbowline, his first visit as president to a Defence Forces post.

Anyone who has seen one of the many movies or documentaries or read any of the many books or articles about the disaster will be very familiar with Capt Smith and many of his crew and more illustrious passengers. Being Irish we would also be aware of the large number of Irish passengers travelling in steerage. Of course there were many other nationalities represented among the ill-fated ship's crew and passengers; people from as far away as Uruguay and South Africa, and as near as Germany and Belgium. However, many people may be surprised to know that there were 154 Arabs onboard, of whom 97 were Lebanese.

We were given this information from Mr Nabil Fawaz, the Lord Mayor of Tibnine, who was in Cobh for the commemorations. "I am here to represent the 97 Lebanese that we know were on the Titanic," the Lord Mayor told us. "Thirteen were from Tibnine, and six of these were among the 29 Lebanese survivors. For me it is particularly satisfying to come to Ireland to remember these people from my village and country, given the great relationship that has been built between the people

of Tibnine and the Irish since 1978 when Irish peacekeepers first came to my country.

"To give an indication of the depth of this link between our two countries, I recently met an Irish peacekeeper in Tibnine whose grandfather served with UNIFIL in 1978 and whose father served with the mission in 1985: three generations of the same family who have seen service in South Lebanon."

As the location of the headquarters of the Irish battalions that served in Lebanon, Tibnine has been the focal point for Irish interest in South Lebanon. On President Mary McAleese's first visit to Lebanon she stayed in Camp Shamrock and visited Tibnine Orphanage, and on her last visit 14 years later in 2011 she also travelled to Tibnine.

The Lord Mayor was effusive on the contribution of the Irish peacekeepers in Tibnine. "The Irish commitment and contribution to Tibnine and South Lebanon has been very important for the security of the people in the area," he said. "All the way from 1978 through the various Israeli invasions up to 2006 the Irish have helped to protect Tibnine. The relationship has evolved both on a human and economic level. The Irish have a great way of developing relationships with the local people. Such is our feeling towards the Irish that when they came back to Lebanon a year and a half ago I insisted that Tibnine would be part of their AOR."

As part of his visit the Lord Mayor also met with members of the Defence Forces, IUNVA and ONET who had served with UNIFIL. ■

President Michael D Higgins takes his salute



Tibnine with the Crusader Castle in the foreground



Lord Mayor of Tibnine, Nabil Fawaz, and his wife Carmen with Guy Jones (Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation) and his wife Christine. <http://irishlebanese.com>



L.É. Aoife P 22 on display



106 IRISHFINN BN MRE & REVIEW

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS MRE - JIM O'CONNOR; MINISTERIAL REVIEW -
SGT CARL COSGRAVE (106 SQN)

On 26th April, 331 Irish and ten Finnish soldiers completed the final phase of an intensive three-week mission readiness exercise (MRE) in the Glen of Imaal, the first time such a joint pre-deployment exercise has been carried out in Ireland involving Irish and Finnish troops. The ten Finnish staff officers are part of a larger group of 177 Finnish soldiers who, along with their Irish counterparts, will form 106 IrishFinn Bn. The unit, under Irish command, deployed to the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon in May.

The IrishFinn battalion's mission will involve the monitoring of the cessation of hostilities along the 'Blue Line' between Lebanon and Israel, ensuring no armed elements other than the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) are operating in the area, and carrying out joint patrols of South Lebanon with the LAF.

On a visit to the MRE, Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces Lt Gen Seán McCann remarked: "Peace-support operations have become increasingly complex and it's important that both the Irish and Finnish troops are rigorously tested. The professionalism, co-operation and thorough preparation that I have seen here today will ensure that they can carry out their mission and represent Ireland, Finland and the United Nations with pride."

The MRE puts commanders and soldiers through a demanding series of complex peace-support operation scenarios based on the current situation in Lebanon and potential threats that may be encountered in this volatile mission area. The scenarios involved encountering road-side IEDs, violent incident escalation, first aid, negotiation techniques, medical heli evacuation, and the use of conventional military weapon systems and equipment.

106 IrishFinn Bn, commanded by Dublinman Lt Col Brian Monahan, will be taking over duties from the all-Irish 105 Inf Bn, which has been serving with UNIFIL since last November.

The Irish element of 106 IrishFinn Bn is drawn principally from 2 E Bde and has been in training for the past three months.

Speaking about the upcoming mission Lt Col Monahan said: "While the

command of Irish soldiers deployed overseas is a great honour and the highpoint of any officer's service, to lead an IrishFinn battalion is particularly special and I am looking forward to the experience of working with my Finnish colleagues in this challenging mission."

On 2nd May, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, reviewed 106 IrishFinn Bn in Mc Kee Bks, Dublin. The ceremony, which comprised an address by the minister and a parade and march-past by the battalion, was attended by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Andrew Montague, the troops' families, and members of the public. ■



Rinnakkain (Side-by-Side)

BY 2/LT OLLI NURMI (PIO, FINNISH CONTINGENT)

PHOTOS ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

A group of ten Finnish staff officers had the opportunity of being integrated with the Irish members of 106 IrishFinn Battalion for two weeks before the deployment of our joint battalion to the UNIFIL mission in Southern Lebanon. The main body of the battalion will consist of an Irish and Finnish mechanised infantry company and an Irish reconnaissance company.

The Irish and Finnish defence forces have a long history of mutual co-operation in crisis management missions in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and many of the personnel that are now being deployed to Lebanon have experience of previous co-operation.

Commandant Bernard Markey, chief of staff of the Irish-Finnish battalion, has an excellent grasp of Finland's history and actually owns a rare copy of the Marshal of Finland CGE Mannerheim's memoirs dating from 1953. He is also able to greet his Finnish colleagues in their own language. This is not surprising as Comdt Markey, who is embarking on his 11th overseas tour of duty, has experience of working with Finnish peacekeepers over three decades and recalls becoming acquainted with the Finnish love of sauna while serving in Lebanon in 1993.

Speaking of his experiences, Comdt Markey says of the Finns that we are people of few words but once you become friends with a Finn the friendship lasts a lifetime.

One Finnish officer, Lieutenant Commander Kari Ahnberg, has previous experience of working with the Irish when he served with the UN mission in Chad. According to Lt Cdr Ahnberg, co-operation between the two nationalities even back then was exemplary. He says he also found the sense of humour of the Irish and Finns to be very similar. In Lebanon Lt Cdr Ahnberg will take



charge of leading the IrishFinn battalion's CIMIC team, with one Finnish and two Irish peacekeepers under his command. He says that one of the main benefits to the Finnish staff officers from participating in the MRE was getting to know their Irish colleagues before deployment to the area of operations. He also says it gave the Finnish officers the opportunity to observe the high standard of professionalism of the Irish military.

Both Comdt Markey and Lt Cdr Ahnberg believe it will be beneficial to everyone involved to work in such a close multinational environment and both also believe that language will not form a barrier between the Irish and Finnish. Comdt Markey went as far as to say that linguistic problems would be a poor excuse if problems arose in our co-operation. Based on these officers' experiences there is no reason to doubt the effectiveness of this Irish-Finnish joint operation and they are both determined that there will only be one Irish-Finnish unit and not separately functioning national contingents. ■

More photos at: www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine/sets/72157629905023817

DEFENCE FORCES RECCE CONCENTRATION 2012

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & JIM O'CONNOR



The DF Recce Concentration 2012 was recently conducted by the Infantry Weapons Wing (IWW), Military College. The concentration was open to teams consisting of recce qualified personnel from all infantry and cavalry units in the PDF. In all, nine four-man teams, representing seven units from all three Bdes and the DFTC, participated. They were tested in a number of recce-specific skills, including tactical river crossing, stalking, observation, comms and target grid procedures with live mortars. All teams performed well throughout the concentration but the eventual winners were 4 Cav Sqn under the command of Lt Niall Dolan.

Reconnaissance, commonly known as recce, is undertaken to obtain information, by visual observation or other detection methods, about the activities and resources of an enemy or potential enemy, or about the characteristics of a particular area.

Historically, recce was conducted by cavalry. However, on the modern battlefield information is everything and both infantry and cavalry units have evolved to deliver the close reconnaissance capability at their respective levels.

Reconnaissance patrols gain information by observation and operate by stealth, avoiding combat except for self protection or to take advantage of an unusual opportunity. Generally, therefore, recce patrols will be of the minimum strength needed to complete the task. eight-man patrols are most suitable for long distance patrols, while over short distances the patrol strength may be reduced.

Recce patrol tasks can include: collecting topographical information, such as tracks and the state of the ground; locating enemy positions; obtaining details of minefields, obstacles and enemy positions; observing enemy activity, habits and patrol routes; and conducting surveys of areas contaminated by fallout or chemical attack. ■





Pictured: Lt Dolan receiving the DF Recce Concentration Trophy from Comdt Keith Murphy, Chief Instructor, IWW, Military College, DFTC.

Internet ESPIONAGE

BY GRAEME BATSMAN, DATA DEFENDER LTD

Imagine the following telephone call taking place to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the UK:-

MoD: "MoD helpline, how may I help you?"

Caller: "I'm doing some research and I was wondering if you could email me a list of all the employees in your army, navy and air force, and where they are currently serving?"

The answer from the MoD to a request for such sensitive security information would undoubtedly be a polite, "Clear off!"

Although such information would be very useful to a foreign state, particularly a hostile one, in reality no state would be naïve enough to make such a request. But there are other ways that important security information can be obtained. One way would be by 'hacking' into the MoD's servers, but that would not be easy, given the layers of security in place to prevent such an attack, and even if successful

there would always be the risk of the hacking being uncovered and traced back to its source.

But why would any state take the risks involved with hacking or other high-risk intelligence tactics when most of the data they seek is freely and legally available to them? In the modern age the internet and its associated social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, are goldmines of information.

During the Cold War rival intelligence agencies resorted to specialized, complex and illegal methods of gathering intelligence, often through the use of undercover agents, bugging devices, phone taps, bribery and blackmail. Today, a great deal of intelligence can be gathered legally online.

With the right skill-set, time, patience and resources

a lot of intelligence on military organisations, governments, private individuals and businesses can be found through searching online media.

It is surprising how much can be found out from Facebook: information on location, past relationships, reli-



gious beliefs, political affiliations, and photographs can often be accessed without even being 'friends', depending on which privacy settings are selected.

Governments, particularly those in authoritarian states with access to large amounts of manpower, are likely to have entire divisions dedicated to intelligence gathering. In the recent past large-scale hacking attempts have been traced back to one city that also happens to have a large defence academy. It is highly likely that these states have teams sifting through search engines and social media, hunting for details on names and ranks of military personnel, their training and background, and past and present operations of other states' armed forces.

On LinkedIn, which has a better privacy and security record than most social media websites, you will find groups for just about anything. One such example is a group called Royal Marines Network which, in seconds, provides information on 1,300 serving and ex-serving Royal Marine Commandos to anyone who has access to the network.

Also from an individual's LinkedIn profile, which is accessible to anyone registered with the site, it is often possible to find out where they studied, their rank, past operations, recommendations, photos and information about colleagues.

Apparently harmless 'tweets' could also provide keen eyes with valuable information. "Weather here a balmy 43°C, not great for flak jackets!" Without mentioning an exact location a quick search of some likely locations on worldwide weather websites could quickly narrow it down.


All of this could be of use to a foreign intelligence agency in gathering statistics of personnel numbers and what units are stationed at home or, for example, at an outpost in Afghanistan.

Intelligence agencies are not the only worry. In the past, domestic and foreign terrorist cell networks have been found to be plotting to kidnap soldiers or poison military bases in Western states. Such terrorists could easily create a list of targets and then research the individuals to find out where they live through everyday websites such as online telephone directories.

This author once tried to report a data leakage to a multinational company but their switchboard was not very accommodating. So instead I went on to LinkedIn, ran a few advanced searches, and had the entire list of

their IT security response department within minutes ... and this for a company with a turnover in excess of £10billion.

Given all the above it should be obvious to all serving military personnel that they need to think long and hard before posting anything on any internet site about their job as even the most insignificant detail could provide information that could be exploited. For instance, information posted about recently acquired IT equipment could well be enough for a remote hacker to exploit vulnerabilities in the system to gain access to sensitive information. Military personnel must be aware that information on individuals, unit deployments, and operations are kept secret for a reason and that they should do nothing that could compromise this security and potentially put themselves or their colleagues at risk. ■




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***Note on the author:** Graeme Batsman is the CEO of Data Defender Ltd, a UK company that specialises in data protection, primarily through data encryption and the installation of self-destruct systems for data identified to be at risk.*

QUICK RESPONSE VITAL FOR RESERVE MEDICS

BY PTE MARK CALLAHAN

PHOTOS BY CPL LISA KELLY (BOTH 54 RES MED COY)



Pictured (l/r): Pte Mark Callahan (course instructor), Cpl Lyndsy Folan, Sgt Joe McGovern, Cpl Lisa Kelly (asst instructor), Coy Sgt 'Cha' Kennedy, CQMS Declan Raftery, Cpl Derek Keogh, Pte Kieran Conneely, and Pte Conor Raftery. (Missing from photo: Pte Ken Spencer, Pte Steven Ward and Sgt John Murphy)

On a dreary March Sunday morning in Galway, 54 Reserve Medical Company assembled for a unit field day. This was to be an important day for the medics, as they were renewing their skills through the Cardiac First Response (CFR) course, which would introduce them to the latest developments in CPR and updates in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). It also re-introduced the medics to the recognition and treatments of cardiac and respiratory disorders, from heart attacks to choking and unconsciousness.

This Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) accredited course, is based on scientific evidence of best practice from all over the world, and focuses on the importance of minimal interruptions in CPR and quick responses once a collapse occurs.

"As a military medical unit we also focused on team work in a CPR and defibrillation scenario, with safety being paramount," says Pte Mark Callahan (course instructor). "I believe an excellent standard of competence in CPR and the use of a defibrillator to be the most basic requirement of any medic, regardless of rank or training grade."

With approximately 5,000 cases of sudden cardiac death reported in Ireland every year, and a number of recent high-profile cases reported in the media, it is hard to disagree with his contention that a quick reaction by first responders is absolutely vital in these cases.

The CFR course is continually revisited by the unit's medics during training throughout the year. Lecture- and scenario-based training are both used to maintain the standards of best practice within the unit. The CFR course is the first, and possibly the most important, course of training that unit members receive on the road to becoming fully qualified medics. Skills learned during this course can be utilised both inside and outside the military for treatment of life-threatening conditions.

"The increased focus on cardiac conditions in both old and young in recent years has driven more and more people to seek training in basic life saving techniques," says assistant instructor Cpl Lisa Kelly (54 Res Med Coy). "We hope to equip the medics of 54 Reserve Med Coy to deal with any life-threatening or other emergency medical situations they may encounter". ■



Sgt McGovern carrying out infant CPR.



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TAC AIDE

DRIVER STANDING ORDERS PARA 64
SPEED

This month we are again going to look at Driver Standing Orders; this time dealing with speed.

All Defence Forces personnel in possession of an AF 154 must adhere to speed limits, both on the public highways and byways and also within military barracks and establishments. The maximum speed limits differ for the different service vehicles: personnel must observe these speed limits, and should be aware that a speed limit is not a target to aim for.

Slow down and have consideration for yourself, your passengers and other road users, and remember that the way you drive a service vehicle on our national roads reflects on the good name and professionalism of the Defence Forces. Personnel should also be aware that any fine or penalty points incurred by the driver of a service vehicle will be awarded against the driver and not the Minister for Defence.



The following extracts are quoted for information and compliance:

a. The maximum speed at which mechanically propelled service vehicles may be driven shall be as follows:-

(1) On Public Roads in built-up areas as referred to in section 45 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961, and article 5 of the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) Regulations, 1963 – All mechanically propelled service vehicles: 50 Kph.

(2) Non-National Roads (regional and local): 80 Kph.

(3) National Roads (primary and secondary): 100 Kph.

(4) Motorway: 120 Kph.

(5) Speed Limits applicable to certain types of vehicles:

- A service vehicle that can carry more than eight passengers, apart from the driver, but does not carry standing passengers. e.g. minibus, midi-coach, coach: 80 Kph.

- Service vehicles with a design gross vehicle weight of more than 3,500Kg: 80 Kph.

- Service vehicles drawing a trailer: 80 Kph.

The speed limits prescribed in this sub paragraph shall not apply in respect of which a lesser speed limit is prescribed in the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) Regulations, 1963-2008. The lesser speed so prescribed shall be the maximum speed permitted.

(6) Within the perimeters of a barracks or camps, including the Curragh Training Camp: 30 Kph, or as local SOPs.

b. Service vehicle towing a gun or limber – speed will not exceed 40 Kph.

- Armoured vehicles – Speed will not exceed 80 Kph.

Explosion at Four Courts, 30th June 1922 (Courtesy of the South Dublin Libraries, from the T.J. Byrne Collection)

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

DUBLIN IN FLAMES

1922

BY: PAUL O'BRIEN MA

PHOTOS: PHOTOS AS ACCREDITED

On Wednesday 28th June 1922 one of the most recognisable buildings in Ireland, the Four Courts on Inns Quay in Dublin, was enveloped in a cloud of dust as artillery shells pounded into its edifice. The Irish Civil War had commenced.

As the War of Independence came to a close with the signing of a ceasefire in July 1921, Republican forces were divided in relation to ending the conflict. On 7th January 1922, following extensive peace negotiations, Dáil Éireann ratified the Anglo-Irish Treaty by 64 votes to 57. This action not only divided the Dáil but also divided the country.

Throughout the country armed groups of pro- and anti-Treaty forces occupied strategic positions. On 14th April 1922 anti-Treaty forces under the command of Rory O'Connor occupied the Four Courts and several other buildings in Dublin city and a tense standoff between pro- and anti-Treaty forces commenced.

Anti-Treaty forces hoped that their occupation of the courts would ignite a confrontation with British troops and thus unite the pro- and anti-Treaty forces but this never materialised. Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith came under increasing pressure from London to assert the new govern-

ment's authority in Dublin and remove those occupying the courts.

On 2nd June 1922, two men assassinated the former soldier and Unionist politician Sir Henry Wilson in London. Though it was stated that the men were acting on their own initiative, it was suspected that they were acting on orders from anti-Treaty forces. This action produced an ultimatum from the British government that they would attack anti-Treaty forces in the Four Courts unless the Free State government took action. In response Collins issued a final ultimatum to those occupying the courts. The three-armed parties involved had now reached a point of no return. Civil War was now inevitable.

Rory O'Connor deployed his men in a defensive role within the Four Courts. The complex had been well fortified, with Lewis machine-guns and rifles covering the main approaches to the building and a commandeered armoured car placed at the gates, its Vickers machine-gun covering any threat that might materialise. The armoured car could also be moved rapidly from point to point depending on the direction of the attack. Windows and doors had been barricaded and a number of improvised explosive

devices had been placed at possible entry points.

Outside the walls the newly established Free State Army included many ex-British Army soldiers, many of whom were Irishmen who, having served in British regiments during the First World War, had gained extensive expertise in tactics and the handling of weapons, giving the National Army a distinct technical advantage.

General Tom Ennis was placed in command of the Free State forces. A frontal assault against a fortified building would be costly but those within the courts had to be removed as a matter of urgency. General Ennis had the use of two 18-pounder field-guns borrowed from the British army. Which he placed under the command of General Emmet Dalton and Colonel Tony Lawlor. The plan was to bombard the occupants into submission and on 28th June at 0410hrs the bombardment commenced. Shelling was to continue for a number of days.

By Friday 30th June a fire was raging out of control in the headquarters block that also housed the records office. A huge explosion rocked the



*'The Block' - The east side of Sackville St.
(Courtesy of Military Archives)*



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

city as the office disintegrated into a cloud of dust. Whether a shell or a mine caused the explosion is not known. Smoke and debris littered the courts as the beleaguered garrison clung on, many of them hoping in vain for a relief column while some planned a breakout. As the shelling and machine-gun fire increased the position became untenable and the anti-Treaty headquarters staff that included Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows decided to surrender. At 1600hrs on 30th June 1922, having held out for three days, the Four Courts garrison, consisting of 140 men, unconditionally surrendered to the Free State forces. Casualties consisted of three anti-Treaty forces killed and eight wounded. The Free State forces had seven killed and 70 wounded. However, the battle for Dublin was far from over.

As the battle raged at the Four Courts, other anti-Treaty units took up positions in and around Sackville St (now O'Connell St). Commandant Cathal Brugha, with an estimated 70 men and women, took command of what was to become known as 'The Block', a section of the city consisting of 14 buildings on the east side of Sackville Street that stretched from the corner of Cathedral St up to Findlater Place. Comprising four hotels and a number of smaller buildings, the Block had been turned into a fortress by means of mouse-holing (a technique that involved burrowing through internal walls to connect each position and not exposing one's men to enemy fire). Anti-Treaty commanders such as Eamon De Valera, Séan T O'Kelly and Austin Stack joined Brugha in the defence of the buildings.

As the battle for the Four Courts drew to a close, General Ennis turned his attention to the centre of the city and the task of removing the anti-Treaty forces from the Block. On Monday 3rd July at 0200hrs he moved his troops into position.

Fire-fights erupted between the rival factions as Free State forces attempted to gain a foothold. Free State armoured cars and personnel carriers careered onto the city's streets disgorging their cargo of troops. Machine-gun fire from the turrets of the armoured cars ripped along the frontage of the Block. A cordon was established around the centre of the city and by 0315hrs Free State forces had completed their enveloping movement.

Artillery was moved into position and the bombardment of the Block commenced. Small anti-Treaty units fought from each post within the Block and when their position became untenable they withdrew further into the labyrinth of tunnels that linked each building. At 2000hrs on Tuesday 4th July, Free State forces unleashed their final assault on the Block. Artillery fire, rifle fire, rifle grenades and machine-gun fire were directed on to the row of buildings. However, it wasn't until 1700hrs on Wednesday 5th July that the last Anti-Treaty stronghold, the Hamman Hotel, was in flames. The building burned fiercely as Commandant Brugha, realising his position was untenable, ordered his unit to surrender.

With his pistol drawn, Brugha calmly walked out the front door towards the waiting Free State troops. He was shot and seriously wounded, a bullet severing his femoral artery. Though he received immediate medical attention, he died two days later on July 7th in the Mater hospital. Cathal Brugha's death was just one of a long list of prominent figures that would, in the following months, lose their lives during the Civil War. Though the battle for Dublin had ended, the battle for Ireland had just begun.

(Further recommended reading: 'The Fall of Dublin' by Liz Gillis - €11.69, Mercier Press, ISBN: 9781856356800)

About the author: Paul O'Brien, who holds an MA in history, has published three books on 1916. His latest, *Crossfire: The Battle of the Four Courts 1916*, was reviewed in last month's magazine. Paul can be contacted at: www.paulobrienauthor.ie

STORY HISTORY HISTORY



Irish Free State Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) during the Civil War (Courtesy of Military Archives)



Four Courts c.1920, before the explosion of 30th June 1922 (Courtesy of the South Dublin Libraries, from the T.J. Byrne Collection)

STORY HISTORY HISTORY

LADIES' SOCCER

**105 INFANTRY
BATTALION -V- SPANBATT**
BY CAPT CLAIRE SPELMAN (105 INF BN)



Pte Ken Hennessy giving team talk at the start of match

On 31st March a ladies soccer team from 105 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, played a match in Sector East HQ, UN Post 7-2. Our opponents were from Libano Brigado XVI, a Spanish battalion mainly from Cueta and Melilla. Prior to the game 105 Inf Bn organised training sessions at the local Astroturf facility in Haris. These training sessions were overseen by Cpl Thomas Fitzgibbon and Pte Ken Hennessy who imparted their extensive knowledge, gained from many years of experience, to the team. There were 12 ladies involved, with a mixture of all levels of skill and experience, and they trained hard, putting in the time required to form a cohesive unit.

On the night prior to the game the team met in the conference room in Camp Shamrock for a tactics talk that would put Sir Alex Ferguson to shame. At this meeting each player was presented with their jersey; a source of great pride for us to be representing our battalion.

On Saturday morning, 31st March, we departed Camp Shamrock for Span Batt.

On arrival we were greeted by a fanfare of trumpets and drums; twirling trumpets were thrown in the air and the Spanish team lined out across the square to welcome us. The noise in the sports hall would rival that of the Aviva stadium; drums were pounding and chants were being roared by mascots wielding swords and shields.

The game was no less fiercely contested, with both teams

maintaining a strong defensive posture up to the half-way point, at which point the game was still scoreless.

Moments into the second half the Irish went in to a 1-0 lead courtesy of an own goal, brought about due to strong pressure from midfielder Capt Laura Keane. This lead was stretched to two by a fine goal, well taken by Pte Shelly Kehoe. This was quickly followed by another goal from striker Pte Paula Spillane. However, this lead was soon back to two after a penalty awarded to the Spanish was well-taken and managed to make it past keeper Pte Natalie O'Sullivan.

In the final minutes of the game there was strong Spanish pressure that resulted in another goal. However, that was the end of the comeback and the final score was 3-2 to the Irish ladies.

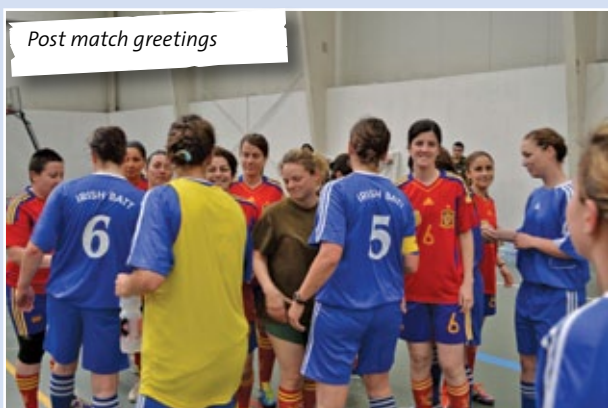
After the match we were treated to a fantastic reception, which topped off a truly memorable occasion. This was a very sweet victory for the ladies of 105 Infantry Battalion, particularly as it had been contested so fiercely by a much respected Span Batt side. Who knows, maybe this might be a good omen for the upcoming match between the two countries in EURO 2012! ■



Capt Claire Spelman and Pte Paula Spillane start the game off



Pte Shelly Kehoe advances



Post match greetings



Capt Laure Keane celebrates an Irish Batt goal



Irish Batt and Span Batt Ladies Soccer



Pte Natalie O'Sullivan in goal, with Cpl Lisa Walsh and Pte Shelley Kehoe defending a corner



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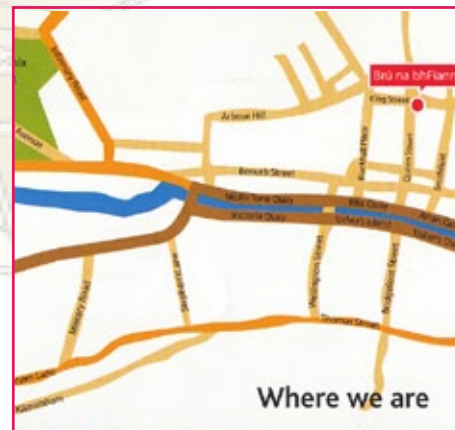
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Brú na bhFiann



Where we are

GEAR REVIEW



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Team Alpha.ie

STREAMLIGHT SIDEWINDER

€83.95

A high-intensity LED helmet or belt light that offers the wearer a huge amount of versatility as well as hands-free functionality. Streamlight's Sidewinder features white, blue, green and red LED bulbs, each of which feature four levels of output intensity: low (5%), medium (20%), medium-high (50%), and high (100%). The 'high' level also has a strobe function. The head of the Sidewinder can rotate up to 185° and is designed to be easy to turn when wearing gloves. A spring steel clip attaches to MOLLE or belt and can be mounted on either side of the light. Switching the light function is designed to be seamless with one switch for 'on/off', dimming and mode-selection functions.

The Sidewinder is very strong and Streamlight say that the polycarbonate lens is not only scratch resistant but unbreakable as well, and has been drop-test verified from 30 feet. The Sidewinder also includes a handy, tactile, on-body battery polarity indicator that facilitates battery replacement in the dark.



Tested by Cpl Paul Millar (Inf Std NCO course student)

Coming from the Inf Std course perspective, I'd have to say that the torch is ideally suited to operations and field use. It does a multitude of jobs that you would need at least three different torches to do; it incorporates easy-to-use colour changes and battery saving/tactical lighting modes: it can be set with right-angle or normal torch configurations, and it can even be used as a head torch.

I'd have no problem recommending it to a colleague that spends a lot of time on exercises or on the ground. The changeable brightness in all colours is a big plus as it helps save battery power on occasions when you don't actually need a full beam. Its easy to use, even with gloves on, and it takes standard AA batteries, so you don't have to worry about trying to find obscure battery types as spares in the middle of an exercise.

It is a bit pricey, but considering that it's as indestructible as a torch can get, saves on batteries over its life and does numerous jobs in one, it could be the only torch you need and end up paying for itself...

Rating: Brightness - 10. Battery life - 9. Ease of operation - 9.
Value for money - 7.

5.11 TACTICAL TACLITE™ 6-INCH COYOTE BOOT

€139.99

A lighter weight, breathable tactical boot, made from 5.11's patented Taclite™ material, which is a combination of suede, 1200D Cordura nylon and breathable air mesh.

5.11 have enhanced the boot's breathability with the use of perforated EVA foam padding instead of the traditional basic foam backings. The boots feature antibacterial and moisture wicking linings, keeping the wearer's feet drier during strenuous activity and are less likely to hold onto odour. In terms of comfort, the Taclite boots feature an Ortholite sock liner, a composite shank and CMEVA midsole, which are designed to work together to provide maximum cushioning, comfort and support for any possible situation.

The outsole of the Taclite has deep flex grooves for great flexibility while the multi-directional lugs provide a solid base and traction in all terrains. The fast-rope control tread and defined heel-brake help control your movements when you need it most. The zonal lacing system and the multiple notch-outs work well with the 'sausage laces' to adjust and secure any shape foot.



Tested by Cpl Noel Coss (DFTC)

Having worn these boots for two weeks so far, I have to say that as footwear go they are probably the best boots I have worn. The boots fit like a glove and are very comfortable to wear even for long periods at a time.

They are very lightweight yet rugged and durable over all types of terrain from mountains to marshland to forest trails and urban streets. They are waterproof, keeping the feet dry but at the same time preventing overheating and sweating, letting the feet breathe. They are, in my opinion, the perfect boot in every aspect, providing value for money at €139.99, and they will suit people from the soldier to the hiker, the walker, campers, and even those who just want a good looking pair of boots for good wear or every day use. Only one simple suggestion I would have to improve on these boots would be to offer the would-be buyer a choice of colour.

Rating: Comfort - 10. Fit (true to size) - 10. Durability - 9.
Value for money - 8.

COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha is offering a €120 voucher to be used on their website www.team-alpha.ie

For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: Name three of the six categories on the team-alpha website?



ANSWERS TO AN COSANTÓIR'S REGULAR ADDRESS OR BY EMAIL TO SUBS@MILITARY.IE BY 22ND JUNE 2012.
WINNER WILL BE THE FIRST CORRECT ENTRY DRAWN.

LAST MONTH'S WINNER OF THE MAGPUL DVD COLLECTION WAS CPL MICHAEL BOOKLE, CVBW, CURRAGH CAMP.

NOTICEBOARD

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

The Friends of the Curragh Museum est 2011, are now looking for new members and support. Their objectives are:

- To foster and promote the study of the history of the Curragh.
- To acquire, insofar as it is possible, items of historical interest concerning the Curragh so that they can be put on Public Display.
- To assist in the provision of suitable means of display for such items.
- To raise funds for these objectives.

A number of fund raising projects are being initiated but there is a need for members of the Friends and anyone who is interested in joining should contact either:

Col Joe O'Sullivan (Retd.), email: joeosullivan@eircom.net

Hon Treasurer: Lt. Ray Bonar, email: raybonarwhb@gmail.com

Membership costs €15 Single or €20 Family - <http://www.curragh.info/museum.htm>

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

R. Johnston Master Tailors: Phone: 01 8204378 / 086 3531664 or visit www.rjohnstonmastertailors.com

Curragh Military Museum

Opening Times: Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 2.30 to 5.30pm; Closed Friday, Saturday and Bank Holidays.

For all queries contact: 045-445342

or email: curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie

SUDOKU

数独

SUDUKO NO. 009 (MEDIUM)

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5			1					7
1	2				5		4	8
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SUDUKO IS THE LATEST PUZZLE CRAZE TO COME FROM JAPAN; IT'S A NUMBERS GAME THAT'S DRIVING EVERYBODY MAD!

JUNE Q&A COMPETITION

1. Who was elected as the new president of France?
2. How many observers are the Defence Forces sending to Syria?
3. How long did the siege of the Four Courts last in 1922?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a signed copy of Paul O'Brien's latest book, 'Crossfire: The Battle of the Four Courts, 1916'. Last months winner of Stieg Larsson's 'The Girl Who Played With Fire' was Martina Fitzgerald, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.



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

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

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

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

BOOK

SEAL TEAM SIX & SEAL TEAM SIX 2

Author: Chuck Dixon

Published: Dynamite Entertainment

Format: Kindle Edition

(Sept 2011)

(Feb 2012)

Pages: 175 pages

Pages: 288

Price: \$0.99 (€0.76)

Price: \$3.68 (€2.82)

ASIN: B005LQXMGW

ASIN: B007D7OXJC

CHUCK DIXON'S FIRST ever novel is written in the tradition of Tom Clancy, it is the No 1 best selling war book in the Amazon Kindle store. The great price is the first reason; the second is the great storyline that helps us learn more about these highly secret SEAL teams. Follow these highly-trained, military men as they train, hunt and fight the enemy. SEAL Team Six are the unknown heroes who endure unimaginable hardship and murderous combat to protect America.

In SEAL Team Six: America is suffering as one-man cells are inspired by a new kind of terrorist who speaks to them through chat websites, tweets and emails. They get brought into this new hip online terror group and are unleashed with their orders and directions on how to carry out bombings and shootings by a man only known as 'Young El'. Whose identity isn't known by any Counter-intelligence agencies in the West, to identify him all they have is his voice on a podcast. SEAL Team Six is sent on a mission around the world to find and eliminate this new source of terror. Travel between the USA, Philippines and finally, a showdown deep in the jungles of Borneo, where 'Young El' is hold up.



In SEAL Team Six 2, follow the team again, only this time they are thrust into the lawless chaos of Libya and the fallout of civil war. Their mission: to find and retrieve a Chinese national held within a Gaddafi stronghold deep inside the embattled city of Sirte. He is of vital importance if US Mil and INT forces hope to stop WMDs disappearing from within the crippled regime. Short two men and the planning is hasty, SEAL team Six are willing to jump into the fire, face impossible odds and battle enemies from within and without, but if they're captured alive, there's no rescue and no release. Book 3 will be available June 2012.

Chuck Dixon is a New York Times Best-Selling Author, best known for his decade-long run on multiple Batman titles. He is the co-author of the best-selling Robert Jordan New Spring and Wheel of Time Graphic Novels. He has also written short stories (Domino Lady, The Spider) or graphic novels (The Punisher, Savage Sword of Conan). He is the co-creator of the Batman villain Bane and currently writes GI Joe.



REVIEWS

reviews

33

DVD

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4:

GHOST PROTOCOL

Director: Brad Bird

Genre: Action/Adventure

Certification: 12

Run Time: 2 Hr 13 Min

Rental Release Date: 27 Apr 2012

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Tom Wilkinson, Ving Rhames, Josh Holloway, Léa Seydoux, Michael Nyqvist, Anil Kapoor, Darren Shahlavi and Vladimir Mashkov.

IN THE FOURTH instalment of the Mission Impossible series, Tom Cruise reprises his role as Impossible Mission Force (IMF) agent Ethan Hunt. Along with a new team he races against time to track down the terrorist Hendricks (Nyqvist), who has stolen Russian nuclear launch codes that he plans to use to strike against the US. The IMF team's attempt to stop him at the Kremlin fails terribly, with the IMF being blamed for bombing the Kremlin and forcing the US President to invoke Ghost Protocol, under which the IMF is disavowed, and will be offered no help or backup in any form. Ethan and his team seek the help of an enigmatic former IMF agent, Brandt (Renner), and are surprised to learn how much the shadowy figure knows about Hunt's past. They chase Hendricks to Dubai and to Mumbai, with several spectacular action sequences in-between, the story twists and turns at a good pace right up to the climax... but will they be too late to stop a disaster?



GAME

SPEC OPS: THE LINE



SPEC OPS: THE LINE is a challenging and gripping third-person modern military shooter that challenges players' principles by pitting them against unimaginable situations where life and death decisions must be made. Spec Ops: The Line unfolds within the destroyed magnificence of Dubai, which has fallen victim to a series of devastating sandstorms. The city's ultramodern architecture lies half-buried under a million tons of sand. The very sand that blankets the city plays a significant role in altering combat situations and will both help and hinder players throughout the game. While most people fled before the sandstorms swept the now-barren wasteland, except for US Army Col John Konrad and his loyal squad. Who remained behind to protect those incapable of escape. The US Army feared Konrad and his team dead until they picked up a weak distress signal and launched a rescue operation. You enter as US Army Capt Martin Walker, along with your elite Delta Force team you are sent to infiltrate the treacherous region and to bring Konrad and his team home. Players will experience 'The Line', that razor's edge known only to men who deal in war. It is the line they cross when death and duty become one and the same. It is the end - of self and sanity - when their duty is done and only they remain.

Genre: Third Person Shooter - **Platform:** PS3, PC & Xbox 360 - **PEGI:** 18 - **Price:** €42.97 (PC €34.97) (Gamestop.ie) - **Released:** 01 June 2012 © 2011 Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. 2K Games, All Rights Reserved.

WHAT I DO

NAME
GARETH MURRAY
RANK
SERGEANT
UNIT
BAND OF 1 S BDE


“No day is the same for us and I absolutely love my job. Even after 21 years service I still look forward to coming into work every day.”

There are three Defence Forces bands, 2 E Bde, 4 W Bde, and 1 S Bde.

These bands also cover the Air Corps and Naval Service. Both at home and overseas we act as ambassadors for the Defence Forces and our country. As musicians we provide all the musical honours for the Defence Forces, playing at everything from passing-out parades to presidential inaugurations.

In addition to Defence Forces functions, the members of 1 S Bde Band also play at a wide range of civilian events from local functions in Cork to St Patrick's Day parades abroad. A full band consists of 36 musicians and is configured differently for a military parade than for a concert. There are also different instrumental formations for different situations. For example, we form quintet ensembles to perform at smaller venues. You could have a brass quintet, with two trumpets, a French horn, a trombone, and a tuba; or a wood quintet consisting of a flute, an oboe, a bassoon, a clarinet, and a French horn. We also have different formations for orchestra performances, big band ensemble, and coral recitals.

There is great diversity in the bands, with instrumentalists (many of whom are multi-instrumentalists), percussionists, and singers. I'm an instrumentalist. I play the French horn, which is a uniquely classical instrument, very important in the military band, orchestras, and in the quintets.

We are constantly on the go in this unit. This year, as well as our regular routine within the brigade, we played at Queen Elizabeth's and President Obama's visits to Ireland. We also play at about 30 school concerts a year, which is a fantastic way of getting the Defence Forces' profile into the schools. We often get called on to play at big GAA matches and international soccer or rugby matches.

Previously we have played at the International Cork Coral Festival, the Toronto St Patrick's Day parade, the Military Tattoo in Saumur, France, and the International Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes. We also played at the opening of the Irish Peace Park in Mesen (Messines), Belgium. Also, Sgt Jimmy Hynes, who just retired, sang at the Rose of Tralee festival.

The standard in the Defence Forces bands is extremely high, as nearly everyone would have either a diploma or bachelor's degree in music on entering the DF, and many go on to their master's degree.

Joining the Defence Forces you would have to be of Grade 8 standard to be a two-star bandsman, and then on final approval you are posted to a band and promoted to three-star. To reach the rank of corporal you have to have a minimum of an associate diploma in performance from Trinity College London, and a minimum of nine years service. To reach the rank of sergeant you need 15 years service. ■

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Members Draw

Results Sheet for 25th April 2012

1st Prize, €10,000: Brendan Harte, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

2nd Prize, €5,000: Francis Prendergast, Ballincollig, Co. Cork.

3rd Prize, €2,500: Brendan Moran, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

4th Prize, €1,500: James G Ward, Carrick, Co. Donegal.

€500 Prize: Martin Doyle, Swinford, Co. Mayo; Robert Taylor, Ongar Green, Dublin 15; Philip O'Reilly, Douglas, Co. Cork; Paul Carville, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

€100 Prize: Mary Larkin, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal; Paul Martin Doolin, Oranmore, Co. Galway; Anthony Farrelly, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan; Jason Dennis, Gormanstown, Co. Meath; Richard Crowe, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; Andrew Mc Kenny, Ardee, Co. Louth; Edward Boyce, Ramelton, Co. Donegal; Kieran Gallogly, Kilglass, Co. Roscommon; James Robinson, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare; Robert Treacy, Sallins, Co. Kildare; Gavin Crawford, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal; Patrick Molloy, Cabra West, Dublin 7; Alan Carr, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare; Joel Knight, Drimkeague, Co. Cork; Catherine Ryan, Darndale, Dublin 17.

Congratulations to all our winners

The next draw will take place on 31st May 2012.

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