



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

www.dfmagazine.ie

(ESTABLISHED 1940)

Price: €3.00 (Stg £2.70)



APRIL 2017



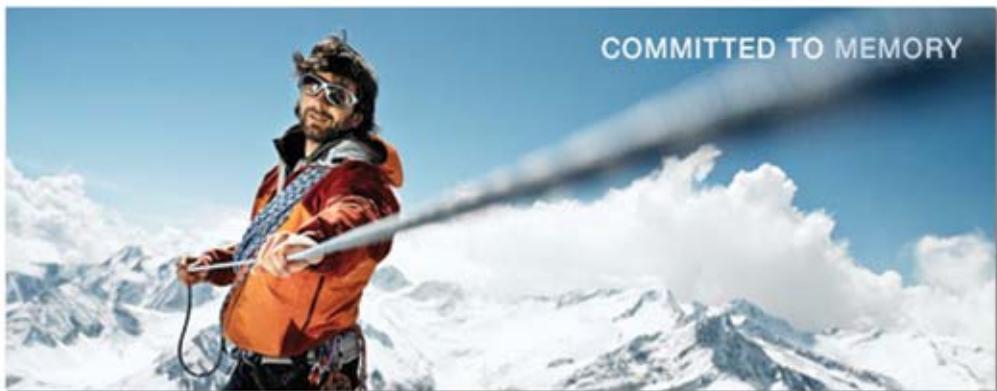
Mission Readiness Exercise

UND OF

ISSN 0010-9460



9 770010 946001



Kingston Technology Company, Inc. is the world's independent memory leader.

Kingston® now offers more than 2,000 memory products that support nearly every device that uses memory, from computers, servers and printers to MP3 players, digital cameras and mobile phones.

Blanchardstown Industrial Park

Snugborough Road

Dublin 15

Tel: 01 812 8888

www.kingston.com



Kingston

Best wishes to the Defence Forces

Mill Times Hotel
Westport

DEFENCE FORCES EXCLUSIVE RATE Easter Weekend 14th - 16th April

- Arrive Fri 14th April €109 pps 2 B&B
- 3 B&B €165 pps Friday – Sunday

Look up www.milltimeshotel.ie

T&C apply • Subject to availability

DID YOU KNOW IF YOU BOOK DIRECT ONLINE?

YOU GET ...

The best deals

Ample parking and free from 5 pm

Free wifi

Complimentary glass of prosecco on arrival

Chocolates in your room

Free tickets to Westport Leisure Park

We are walking distance from Westport bus stop and
closest hotel to the train station

Weekend deals & excellent midweek breaks available on our website



Upcoming Events

Some great gigs are available at Westport Town Hall

15% discount available to hotel residents

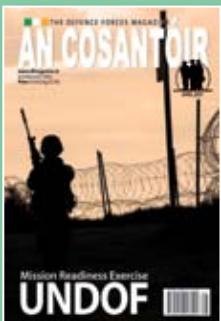
<http://www.westporttheatre.com>

Mill Times Hotel Westport, Mill Street, Town Centre, Westport, Co. Mayo F28 W942
Phone: 098 29200 www.milltimeshotel.ie info@milltimeshotel.ie

Mill Times Hotel
Westport



Contents

VOLUME 77
Number 03
April 2017

DEFENCE
FORCES
MAGAZINE
AN COSANTOIR



FEATURES



12 Air Corps Technicians' Skills Recognised
By Flt Sgt Oliver McKeown



14 Naval School's Engine Restoration Project
By CPO/ERA Ruairí De Barra



16 Training for Peace - UNDOF MRE
By Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald



18 Confidence Training
By Sgt Karl Byrne



20 Death in Darfur
By Paul O'Brien MA



26 Historic Anniversary for Athlone
By Cpl Lee Coyle

REGULARS

- 6** On Parade
- 8** In Focus
- 10** Veterans News
- 25** Tac Aide
- 28** History
- 32** Sport
- 35** Gear Up
- 36** Notice-Board
- 37** Reviews
- 38** What I Do ...



Custom made Sam Browne belts hand made by Declan at his saddlery and leather work-shop in Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Award winning Saddler with over 30 years experience in the leather industry, renowned for his craftsmanship and attention to detail. Each bespoke belt is made using only the highest grades of leather and brass fittings, ensuring comfort of ease and longevity of the product.

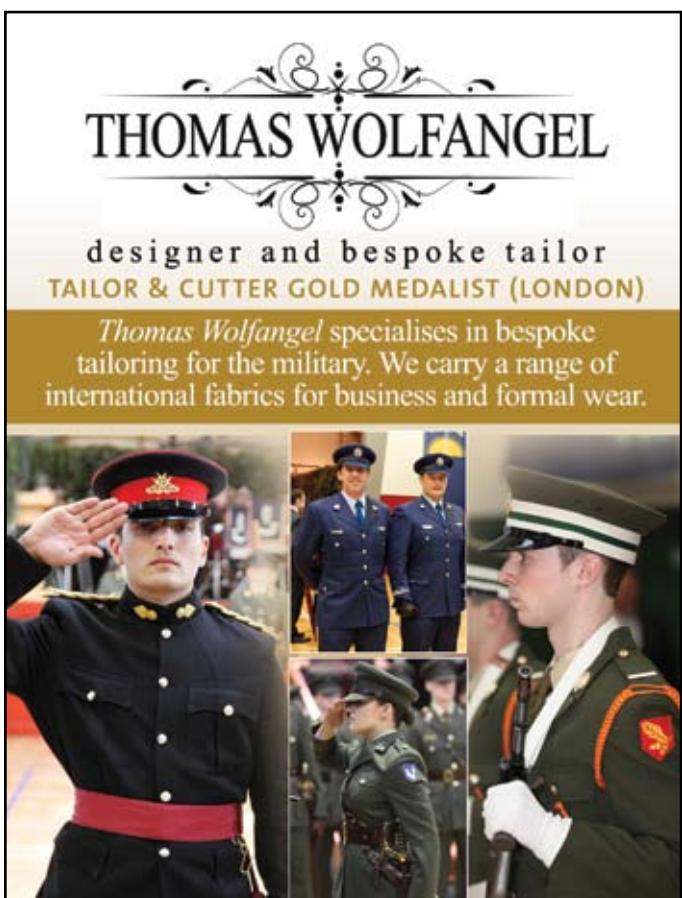


Proud to work with the Defence Forces
Contact Declan or Margaret Clancy at 045 432606
clancysaddlery@gmail.com
www.declanclancysaddlery.ie



Teamwear.ie
New Prestige Range Available!

 01 429 5727  info@teamwear.ie



THOMAS WOLFANGEL
designer and bespoke tailor
TAILOR & CUTTER GOLD MEDALIST (LONDON)

Thomas Wolfangel specialises in bespoke tailoring for the military. We carry a range of international fabrics for business and formal wear.



PERSONAL ATTENTION GUARANTEED
BEST WISHES TO THE DEFENCE FORCES
Mobile: 085 214 0479 Tel: 01 280 7066
Mellifont House, 24 Mellifont Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin



Murty Quinn Medal Mounting Service
Including Ribbons and Medal Miniatures




Ring for estimates
Mobile: 087 939 4680 Email: mquinn18@eircom.net
27 Oaklawn, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

**Manager**

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

Editor

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

Connect

Sgt Karl Byrne
connect@military.ie

Photo/Journalist:

Cpl Lee Coyle
journalist@military.ie

Photographer

Armn Adam Murphy
photo@military.ie
045 44 5307

Subscriptions

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

DF/PR Information:

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

DF Webmaster

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

Magazine Archivist

Mr Sean Shinnors

Designer/Advertising

JM Publishing & Media,
Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland
Tel: +353 1531911
Tel: +35387134435
Web: www.jmpublishing.ie
Email: info@jmpublishing.ie

Printer

Turner's Printing Co., Ltd
Earl Street, Longford, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)43 3350500

The fact that an article appears in this magazine does not indicate official approval of the views expressed by the author.

© Published by OiC Public Relations Branch for the Defence Forces at DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare, Ireland.
Tel: +353 (0)45 445312

Front Cover

Soldier Silhouette taken recently during an exercise by Armn Adam Murphy

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

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our April issue; another jam-packed magazine filled with stories from within the Defence Forces and the wider Defence Forces community, including families and veterans.

As usual, this month's issue starts with your photographs standing tall *On Parade*, after which our *In Focus* pages looks at civilian volunteers, in particular Mr Denis McCarthy, who has been an invaluable member of Military Archives for the last 30 years and who also penned over 30 articles on armoured vehicles for *An Cosantóir* over the years. Then, we focus on the Munster Driving Campus and retired Sgt Paul Fitzgerald, who utilises his DF skills in his new career.

For *Veterans News* I visited ONE's Brú na bhFiann (Home of the Brave), where they briefed other veterans groups on how ONE are *Building for the Future* and their plans for the launch of their Fuchsia Appeal 2017.

Our first two features look at the technical training schools (TTS) of both the Air Corps and the Naval Service respectively: *Air Corps Technicians' Skills Recognised* looks at how the AC TTS achieved European Aviation Safety Agency training approval and *Naval School's Engine Restoration Project* looks at how the NS TTS rebuilt a Vickers Petters VE2 engine, which may well be the only one working in existence. In our front-cover feature, *Training for Peace - UNDOF MRE*, we look at the recent mission readiness exercise conducted by the 130 personnel of 55 Infantry Group in the Glen of Imaal. Next up is a short feature on 62 and 63 Recruit Platoons, followed by journalist James Wims's tribute to Mullingar man Cpl Gavin 'Care Bear' Carey, who tragically lost his life in a swimming accident in Bundoran last year, and how members of IUNVA Post 20 Mullingar and Gavin's mother, Trish, honour his memory with a charity shop that supports the Bundoran Costal Rescue Service.

For our *Strategic Review*, Paul O'Brien looks at the current situation in Darfur, western Sudan. *In Reserve* hears from Comdt Louis O'Brien (retd) who informs us of the significant honour bestowed upon D Coy, Pearse Bn, who participated in *The Easter 1966 Guard of Honour*, and RDF QMMS Michael Barrett, who gives us brief update on *RDF Revision Training* for members of 7 Inf Bn. This is followed up with *Historic Anniversary for Athlone*, which looks at the re-enactment, organised by Lt Col Johnny Whittaker and 6 Inf Bn, of General Séan MacEoin and his troops' take-over of Athlone Castle and Victoria Bks/Custume Bks in 1922. Next, *Kerry Council Honours DF Contribution to World Peace* reports on a civic reception held to honour our contribution to UN peacekeeping. Both our *History* features are World War II related. First, the amphibious attack on the heavily defended dry dock at St Nazaire and, second, a look at the life of Irishwoman Heather Kennedy and her career in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Our *Sports* pages are devoted to the DF Indoor Athletics Championships 2017, which took place in Athlone IT recently. Plus, we have our regular *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do* features.

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

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor



PORTLAOISE ACTION TO HOMELESS (PATH)

Pte Jason O'Neill has been a volunteer helping PATH over the last year, travelling to Dublin on Saturday evenings with other volunteers to feed homeless people. PATH travels around Dublin handing out hot stews, sandwiches, teas, coffees, sleeping bags and warm clothing. They feed 70 to 120 people of all ages and who have become homeless for many different reasons. As a non-profit organisation PATH relies heavily on donations from the public, so Pte O'Neill along with Ptes David Murray and Jason Tynan (all Tpt Gp, DFTC) decided to complete an overnight 70km walk with a rough sleep out on the Slieve Bloom Mountains to raise funds for PATH.

On Friday 3rd March they set off from Glenbarrow car park and walked 50km of the Slieve Bloom Way to their basecamp on a very wet and cold day and night. The next morning they finished off the last 20km back to the car park through a snowfall. They completed the walk within 24hrs, a little cold and wet, but were happy to be able to return to a warm home and bed after raising €986 in much-needed funds for PATH.

If anyone would like to know more about the group please check out: <http://path.ie/> or www.facebook.com/PATHportlaoise/

6 | ON PARADE



NAVAL SERVICE RESERVE ▲

The Dublin Unit, Naval Service Reserve (NSR) received their 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medals in Cathal Brugha Bks on the 21st February 2017. Two members of the Unit were also awarded their service medals from OC Shore Ops, Commander Cormac Rynne. Photo: Cpl Colin Delany, HQ 2 Bde.



'THE MAN WITH THE CAMERA' ▲

Members of HQ DFTC held a function in Ceann NCOs Mess to mark the retirement of Sgt JJ Ryan. JJ was well known within the Curragh Camp as 'the man with the camera' – his photos have graced these pages for many years, and it is fitting that he gets the recognition he deserves having made sure every event he covered was sent in. Pictured L/R: CS Paul Hanley, Cpl Bernie Byrne, Sgt JJ Ryan Retd, Comdt Mick Murphy, Sgt John O'Brien and Lt Col Colin Dwyer. Photo: Coy Sgt Paul Hanley, HQ DFTC.



COMD US ARMY AFRICA VISITS EUTM MALI ▲

Members of IRCON 8 pictured with Maj Gen Joseph Harrington, COMD US Army Africa, on his visit to MHQ EUTM-Mali on 22nd February 2017. Lt Col Trevor Ging presented Maj Gen Harrington with the Harrington family coat of arms during his visit. L/R: CQMS P McKiernan, Sgt J Grant, Maj Gen Harrington, Lt Col T Ging and Comdt D McCarthy. Photo: Lt Col Trevor Ging, EUTM Mali.



DEFENCE FORCES MASSED BANDS CONCERT ▲

Members of the Pipe Band who performed at the Massed Bands Concert in Cork City Hall on Friday 24th February 2017. The guest artiste who performed with the Bands of the Defence Forces was Mairead Bucike. Photo: Cpl Christine O'Leary, HQ 1 Bde.



PRESENTATION TO ULSTER TOWER MANAGERS ▲

On 7th February Maj Gen Kieran Brennan, D COS Ops made a presentation to Mr Teddy Colligan and his wife Phoebe who between 2002 and January 2017 were the resident custodians of the Ulster Tower Memorial in France near the battle of the Somme WW1 Battlefield. Over the last 15 years Phoebe & Teddy welcomed and entertained many serving and retired DF visitors to the Ulster Tower. The Colligans visit to Dublin was organised by a representative group of retired Cavalry Corps officers, all of whom over many years had experienced the unique hospitality offered by Phoebe & Teddy. Col Max Walker (UK Defence Attaché), Brig Gen (Retd) Paul Pakenham (Irish Military Trust), Comdt Lar Joye RDF (National Museum) and Mr Michael Thompson (IUNVA) were guests at this event which was hosted by Cols (Retd) Hayes, Kerton & Heaslip and Capt (Retd) Bohan members of the Cavalry Club. Photo: Cpl Lee Coyle, PR Branch.

DONATION TO BRÚ NA BHFIANN ▶

Kayleigh, an employee of Noonan Facilities Management Services in Dublin won a hamper at the Staff Christmas Party which included a donation to her chosen charity. The donation was originally a smaller amount but after Kayleigh gave a great account of the importance of the work that is ongoing at Brú na bhFiann the management of Noonan increased the original donation from €700 to €2,250. Kayleigh kindly chose Brú na bhFiann, ONE's Homeless Initiative in Smithfield. The home is dedicated to helping those who



served in the DF and who are now in need of a home. Kayleigh is pictured giving the donation to the House Manager Richard Dillon.



CAVALRY RECCE COURSE ▲

Students from 2 Bde Cav Sqn, that successfully completed a Basic Recce Course. The 5 week course culminated in an Urban environment in Fort Davis, having had a number of days in conventional green field exercise in Kilworth. The course is one of the toughest and most demanding in the Corps, and an essential qualification to progress as a Cavalry soldier. Pictured Back Row L/R: Sgt Glen Phelan (Instr), Tpr Connolly, Tpr Lewis, Cpl Paul Mulready (Instr). Front Row: L/R: Tpr Connaughton, Tpr Fallon, Cpl Moore, Tpr Doyle, Tpr Byrne. Photo: Sgt Glen Phelan, 2 Cav Sqn.



RESERVISTS PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION ▲

Reservists working in the Emergency Services were presented with their Paramedic Accreditations from the Royal College of Surgeons on 21st December 2016. The training was conducted with the Dublin Fire Brigade and the Royal College of Surgeons. This highlights the qualifications and experience available in the Reserve Defence Force. Pictured L/R: Sgt Michael Bracken 7 Inf Bn, Cpl Neil Quinn 27 Inf Bn, Comdt John Keogh 2 LSB, Sgt Ciaran Curran 2 Cav Sqn and Sgt Brian O'Keeffe 2 BTC. Photo: Sgt Ciaran Curran RDF, 2 Cav Sqn.



DF HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ▲

The All Army Handball Championships was recently in Dún Uí Mhaoliosa Bks, Galway. Pictured L/R: Sgt Maj Noel O'Callaghan, Gnr C O'Sullivan (Winner plate final), Gnr R McCarthy (Winner intermediate final) and Lt Col D Hanifin OC 2 BAR. Photo: Sgt Maj Noel O'Callaghan, 2 BAR.



IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE ▲

Gnr Paul Poynton is the 3rd generation of the Poynton family to receive the UNIFIL medal, and marks the 12th tour of duty in South Lebanon by the Poynton family, not counting Paul's Dad, Sgt Paddy Poynton, who is currently deployed to Lebanon. Photo: Sgt Maj Noel O'Callaghan, 2 BAR.



MACEOIN FAMILY ▲

Pictured on the 95th Anniversary of the takeover of Custume Bks, Athlone on the 28th February 2017. Members of Gen MacEoin's family with Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran (ACOS), Brig Gen Howard Berney (GOC 2 Bde), and Lt Col Johnny Whittaker (OC 6 Inf Bn/OC Custume Bks) at Dún Mac House, Custume Bks. Front (l-r): Brig Gen O'Halloran; Mrs Mona Murphy (niece), Fr Séamus Donohoe OFM, (nephew), Mr Patrick Cooney (nephew-in-law), Mrs Bernadette Clancy (niece), Brig Gen Berney. Back (l-r): Mr Andrew MacEoin (nephew), Mr Aidan Murphy (grand-nephew), Mrs Michelle Murphy, Lt Col Whittaker, Mr Andy Tynan (nephew), Mr Séan MacEoin (nephew) and John Murphy (grand-nephew).

TD RECEIVES 1916 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL ▶

On Tuesday 22nd March, Lt Col Whittaker, OC 6 Bn, presented former RDF Lieutenant Lisa Chambers now a serving TD, with her 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal along with other members of D Coy, Castlebar in Custume Bks, Athlone. Lisa is a Fianna Fáil TD for Mayo and the Party's spokesperson on Defence. On receiving her medal she said, "It was an extremely proud moment for all of us and sincerest thanks to Comdt Gary Smyth, OC D Coy, 6 Inf Bn for all his efforts commanding the unit."



I NEED A VOLUNTEER!

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

According to Volunteer Ireland, which is the supporting body for all local volunteer centres and volunteering information services: "There were over 14,800 volunteers engaged with I-VOL and local volunteer centres in 2016 and these volunteers clocked up an incredible 490,000 hours of volunteering."

Every institution, be it staffed permanently or voluntarily, is only as good as its people and while all members of the Defence Forces, permanent and reserve, volunteered to serve, there are also civilians within our organisation who work voluntarily for no pay. One of these, who has gone above and beyond an hour or two, is Mr Denis McCarthy, who has been volunteering with Military Archives since 1979.

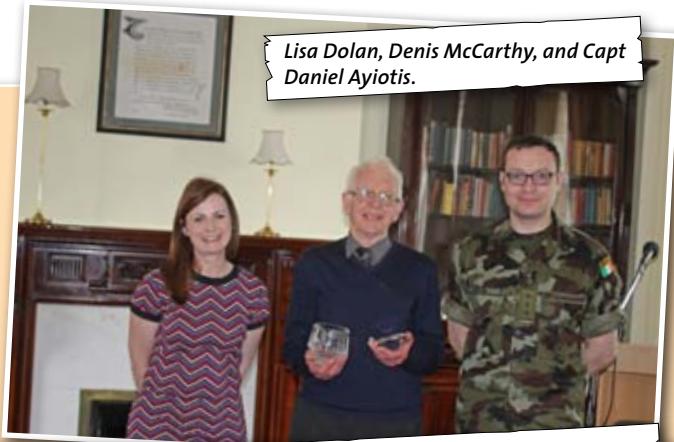
On the 22nd February 2017, the staff of Military Archives held a special coffee morning in the Officers' Mess, Cathal Brugha Bks, for our volunteers, who come from many different backgrounds and services. In his opening address, Capt Daniel Ayiotis (2 i/c Military Archives) said: "The volunteer ethos is something that is at the core of the Defence Forces. We trace our lineage back to the foundation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913, still bearing the same insignia and the name 'Oglaigh na hEireann'. Since the foundation of the National Army in 1922 our ranks have been filled by volunteer soldiers and never conscripts. This same volunteer ethos serves a very significant role in Military Archives, and it is to recognise the contribution of our volunteers that we are here today."

He then listed the volunteers who have helped Military Archives on many projects over the years, like Sgt (retd) Gerry McCann, who catalogued the Air Corps Vertical Negative collection; Flt Sgt (retd) Jim Perkins, who is currently cataloguing over 300 uniforms; Lt Col (retd) Richard Cummins, who has catalogued many high-level collections; and Tony Kinsella, who has catalogued collections including the glass plate negatives; and, finally, Denis McCarthy BSc, who has been volunteering with Military Archives for over 30 years.

Staff and volunteers of Military Archives and the Air Corps Museum and Heritage Project.



Lisa Dolan, Denis McCarthy, and Capt Daniel Ayiotis.



A small collection of Military Archives items on display.



Denis started his connection with Military Archives while researching articles and projects in the 1970s: he was a prolific contributor of articles to *An Cosantóir*, writing extensively on Defence Forces armoured vehicles. His first article, in September 1974, 'Thanks, But No Tanks!' was followed in March 1975 by 'Armour in the War Years - Armoured Car Mark IV' and in August by the first of a series titled 'Armoured Fighting Vehicles of the Army'. Denis went on to write many articles in this series, covering many of the vehicles that seen service in the Defence Forces since its foundation. In all, he penned 30 articles over a 20-year period for *An Cosantóir*.

Denis went from writer/researcher to highly-trusted volunteer with Military Archives in 1979, which was then under the command of Comdt Peter Young. Over the last 30 years he has seen Military Archives' collection and location change dramatically. He was an important part of the unit's modernisation, being responsible for introducing computerisation and for creating Military Archives' first database.

Lisa Dolan, archivist and Head of Volunteer Projects at Military Archives said: "Denis's database has been continually modified, and he continues to work with our archivists to enable the database meet their needs."

"Denis is currently cataloguing internee files from the Emergency, the output of which will be added to our general catalogue. Over the years he has created thousands of catalogue entries and, most importantly, assigned physical locations to each collection."

The work the Military Archives volunteers do, be it a few hours a day or a few hours a week, cannot be underestimated. Without their enthusiasm and expertise, students and researchers wouldn't be able to access the number of files and photographs now available that are key to many a thesis or book. We commend Denis and his volunteer colleagues for their continued assistance and wish them every success in their personal and professional lives. ■

SKILLS FOR LIFE

with *Sgt Paul Fitzgerald*
Retired & The Munster
Driving Campus

Paul Fitzgerald retired from the Defence Forces in June 2016 after 22 years service, since 1999 he spent many weeks and months instructing DF personnel on either motorcycle, car, truck and many years ago the Panhard APC driving courses.

Paul contacted the Munster Driving Campus prior to his retirement and even though he would be self-employed, the owner at the campus was very enthusiastic about having him working under their name. Paul still had to undergo Road Safety Authority's (RSA) testing to become an approved driving instructor (ADI) for both cars and motorcycles.

The Munster Driving Campus is a purpose built facility on Cork to Mallow Road, which was the brainchild of its owner John Twomey and his wife Grace.

Since joining Munster Driving Campus they have gone from just car lessons to initial bike training (IBT) and manual handling instruction. They are now conducting driving assessments for small to medium size



Sgt John Carroll, 1 BAR who recently completed his IBT with Munster Driving Campus.



Munster Driving Campus from above

businesses in Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary.

Paul said, "A large part of working life in the campus is working with over 30 schools and colleges who's transition-year students visit us to undergo road safety awareness courses."

Paul explained that a 4-hour course includes theory tests, beer goggles, technical checks, wheel changing and actual driving around the campus in dual control cars with an instructor. He continued, "Last year we had over 1,500 students take part in the course and we are already taking large bookings for the rest of 2017."



Outside of his driving and manual handling instruction, Paul also looks after the social media accounts for the Munster Driving Campus, like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter.

Paul has a Level 7 Certificate in the Management of Health and Safety, which he gained through the DF and now he manages the risk assessments and safety statements, fire register and general H&S at the campus.

Munster Driving Campus, Lissard, Mallow, Co. Cork. Ph: 022 29172 www.munsterdrivingcampus.com info@munsterdrivingcampus.com



Munster Driving Campus is the only off-road driving campus in Ireland that gives the student all the challenges which they will encounter on our country roads, minus the traffic.

Features include: Traffic lights, Roundabout, Hill start, Reverse around corners, Turnabout, Bay parking, Parallel parking, Numerous stop and yield signs

Our Initial Basic Training (IBT) is a mandatory training course that teaches basic riding skills to learner motorcyclists.

We also cater for teenagers and under 17's without a learner permit including transition-year students. Early professional advice will prevent those bad habits.



Munster Driving Campus, Lissard, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Brian: 085 7520274 - **Paul:** 083 1807764 - **Office:** 022 29172
info@munsterdrivingcampus.com
www.munsterdrivingcampus.com

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

ONE

Building for the Future

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

On Saturday 25th February 2017 ONE held an informal meeting in Brú na bhFiann (Home of the Brave) with a group of individuals and other veterans associations to thank them for their much-needed fundraising efforts in 2016 and to discuss ONE's plans for the launch of their Fuchsia Appeal 2017.

Derek Ryan, a director of ONE and chairperson of its Marketing and Fundraising Committee, chaired the meeting. Other members of the committee present were Paul Cooley (ONE HQ), Dick Dillon and Sinéad Black (house manager and assistant manager, respectively, of Brú na bhFiann).

In his opening remarks Derek said: "On behalf of the board of ONE, its members and our residents, many thanks for your support and invaluable assistance and goodwill throughout 2016 in supporting our less fortunate ex-comrades. Without this support it would be very difficult for us to maintain the three homes for our former colleagues."

Unlike the UK, Ireland doesn't have a specific minister for veterans' affairs and only got a veterans policy in the last White Paper on Defence. "Most of us don't need help," Derek said, "but there is a percentage that does, and they are reluctant to ask for it. However, having a veterans policy has helped change people's mindset in the last few years."

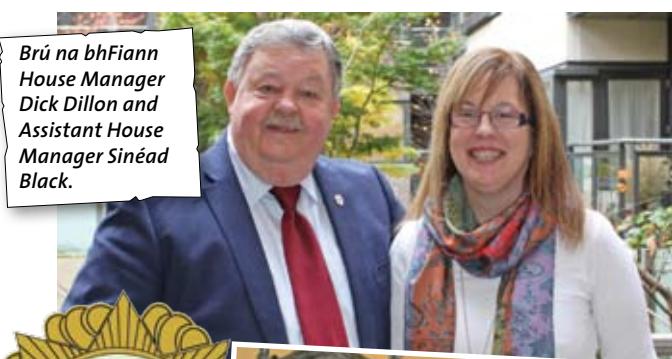
ONE meets with its counterparts in Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) approximately six times a year to discuss veterans' issues and look at cost-neutral policies to benefit veterans, like a medical file transfer from the military to a civilian system, pension restoration, and linking up with European veterans associations. The ONE also meets regularly with the Department officials and the Minister to advocate with IUNVA and ARCO on veterans issues.

There are a large number of veterans who are not members of ONE, IUNVA or ARCO: it is estimated that there are over 100,000 veterans who have left the Defence Forces since the early '70s.

Derek said: "We have to reach out to those veterans and we need to break the mould on what people perceive as who a veteran is."

ONE wants the veteran's policy to be for all veterans and Derek suggested that in the future it may be possible that all veterans' associations should look to affiliate or such like, to enable a united approach on all veterans' issues.

Brú na bhFiann
House Manager
Dick Dillon and
Assistant House
Manager Sinéad
Black.



ONE Director
Derek Ryan and
chairperson of
the Marketing
and Fundraising
Committee.



Derek continued:

"We are not trying to split any organisation or association or group; we are trying to bring them altogether."

United we have an advantage."

Speaking about fundraising specifically for their homeless initiatives, like Brú na bhFiann, which houses 40 former Defence Forces members, Asst House Manager Sinéad Black said: "We never ask if people who come to us are members of ONE or any other veterans association; they only have to be a former member of the DF." She continued, "We are always looking for people who can help us in any capacity."

It costs approximately €600,000 annually to run ONE's homes in Athlone, Donegal and Dublin. House Manager Dick Dillon says the home is part funded by Dublin County Council with a donation of €180,000 per year - €12/€13 per occupant per day - whereas some other charity-run homeless initiatives in Dublin receive €75 per occupant per night. "Our homes in Athlone and Donegal received as little as 13 cents per occupant from their local county councils, which is nothing compared to what big-branded homeless initiatives receive - homelessness has become a business, however in recent times this meagre support has ceased"

Since 1994 ONE has provided over 700 former Defence Forces personnel with a place to stay and has assisted many others in various ways. The organisation will launch its annual Fuchsia Appeal on 28th June at the Defence Forces memorial in Merrion Square. If every serving and former member of the Defence Forces purchased a €2 fuchsia badge displaying the Cuimhnímis (Let us Remember) message it would greatly support ONE's much-needed service and secure funding for its homes.

If you are interested in fundraising on behalf of ONE, get in touch with them so they can support your event in their newsletter and on social media. See our advert on page 39. ■

ONE National HQ & Brú na bhFiann: 01-4850666; info@one-connect.ie; www.oneconnect.ie. Registered Charity number: 20044268; CHY number: 13868.



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE
AN COSANTÓIR

Defence Forces

Photographic Competition



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

Photographs must be Military Related

Competition will run from:

February to October (incl).

Prizes:- 1st €300 Voucher, 2nd: €200 Voucher, 3rd: €100 Voucher

Entry Form and T&C available on
www.dfmagazine.ie

Competition Sponsors

Barker
PHOTOGRAPHIC LTD.
Equipment & Supplies

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

**The International Militaria
Collectors Club**

**Present their Militaria
& Collectables Fairs**

2017 Fair Dates

April 29th

August 12th

November 18th

10am till 3pm

The West County Hotel Chapelizod, Dublin 20

Extra Fair: June 10th - Gorey Wexford

**Medals, Badges, Uniforms, Helmets, Caps,
Equipment, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets,
Postcards, Books, and much much more**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
Mark 0861602228 Fran 0879615047
Find us on Facebook

PRO TAC

**Best Wishes to members
of the Defence Forces**



€33



€8

See our competition on page 36

www.protac.ie

PROTAC, Market Green, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare.

www.protac.ie - info@protac.ie

Ph: +353 (0) 45 441798 or visit us on
www.facebook.com/protacmilitary





Air Corps Technicians' Skills Recognised

BY FLT SGT OLIVER MCKEOWN, TTS, ACC

On Tuesday 15th February 2017 the Technical Training School (TTS), Air Corps College (ACC), was notified by the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) that they had achieved European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Part 147 maintenance training organisation approval.

As Training Manager for the TTS I was anticipating this call as we had put 14 months' work preparing the school for the audit. (The EASA is the body tasked by the European Commission to ensure safety in the aviation sector and the IAA is the competent authority to carry out the EASA's tasks in Ireland.)

The TTS delivers the bachelor of engineering degree in Military Aviation Technology, a transferrable degree accredited at level 7 by Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI), awarded by the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT). I manage three classes of undergraduates on this programme and was appointed project leader to ensure that the TTS became an EASA approved training school. This KPI (key performance indicator) had been outlined in the Defence Forces Annual Plan 2016 and Air Corps senior management was fully supportive of the project.

The ACC, the Air Corps' main training wing, is subdivided into three separate schools, Flying Training School (FTS), Military Training School (MTS), and the TTS; each fulfilling its own specific training role. The College also currently operates a total of seven training aircraft and two simulators. In addition, the College is responsible for first line maintenance of all aircraft assigned to it.

The TTS mission statement is *'to deliver the technical education programmes necessary to meet the planned needs of the Air Corps and the development requirements of its personnel. This is advanced through the commitment of its staff and students to the development of the students in the learning environment'*.

In order to meet the training needs of Air Corps personnel in an increasingly complex maintenance environment and to benchmark the technical training, EASA Part 147 approval was deemed to be the appropriate standard. The process of getting this approval requires teaching the

approved syllabus in an approved school.

The route to approval was challenging, involving proving compliance with the EASA requirements and liaising directly with the IAA to develop the documentation and processes required for the application and approval.

To achieve Part 147, which governs the establishment of a training organisation, one must show compliance with the requirements of Part 66, which establishes the requirements for the application, issue and continuation of validity of an aircraft maintenance licence. To obtain approval to be an aeronautical training organisation my team and I had to write, submit and keep an updated Maintenance Training Organisation Exposition (MTOE). To support our MTOE we developed a documented set of procedures for every aspect of the delivery and assessment of the theoretical knowledge.

Finally, the organisation must have a compliance matrix to show how it meets the requirements of Part 147. The MTOE defines the organisation and the procedures upon which Part 147 approval is based. Major inspections and audits were completed at different stages during 2016 and Mr John Bernard and Mr Craig Caffrey from the IAA Personal Licencing Section met regularly with Sgt Michael Ahern (TTS) and me.

This momentous achievement for the TTS now means that Air Corps personnel can now obtain a qualification equivalent to the EASA Part 66 licence; a world standard qualification for aircraft technicians and the minimum qualification standard required for certifying staff in EASA-approved maintenance organisations.

Approval of the TTS as a Part 147 training organisation demonstrates that TTS graduates are trained and qualified to a globally recognised industry standard.

On completion of its audit the IAA approved the TTS to train students in B1.1 (fixed wing turbine), B1.3 (rotary wing turbine) and B2 (avionics).

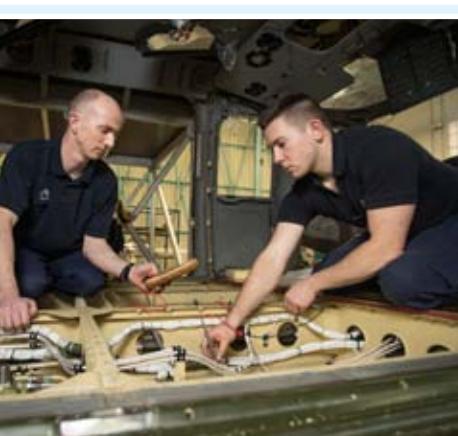
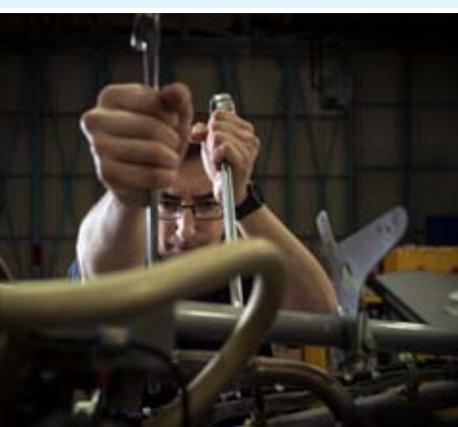
Although there are eight other Part 147 approved schools in Ireland, the TTS will be the first to deliver B1.3 technical training.

Having been involved in many projects throughout my career in the Defence Forces, I can say that this project has been by far the most in-depth and rewarding and the higher formation support we received was crucial to achieving our target.

Our plan for the project implementation brought all the stakeholders together and decided on the timeline and the milestone events. The members of the team were tasked with objectives and reporting lines. With continuing support and encouragement from senior management each milestone was achieved and, after a desktop audit and a number of location visits and inspections, the compliance report was favourably received.

In a parallel event, to celebrate its 150th anniversary, the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) teamed up with University of Limerick to hold a conference on Contemporary Challenges in Continuing Airworthiness and Maintenance Education and Training. I was asked to deliver a paper at this event and aware that I would be showcasing the training standards of the TTS to an audience of key players in the national and international aviation sectors, I decided on a paper entitled *'The Challenges of Becoming EASA Part 147 in a Military Organisation'*. This was very well received on the day and was favourably reviewed on the RAeS web page.

Achieving EASA Part 147 is a major milestone and a significant achievement for the staff of TTS and is a very important accreditation for the school. Seeing the TTS listed as an approved school (IE.147.0014) on the IAA website is also tremendously satisfying for myself and my team. ■



Flt Sgt Oliver McKeown at the IAA Offices, Dublin

Naval School's Engine Restoration Project

BY CPO/ERA RUAIIRI DE BARRA PHOTOS BY A/B DAVID JONES



Haulbowline Island, located in the second largest natural harbour in the world, where the Lee flows down to meet the sea, is a place of rich history, and tucked away on this island, in an unassuming corner of a disused building, a historical gem had been awaiting rediscovery...

In 2012 while passing the Seamanship bay on the Naval Base during some renovation works PO/ERA Alan Duggan chanced to come across a collection of old machinery. Looking closer he spotted what he thought might be a type of 'hot bulb' stationary engine, and he began to seek out information as to how it came to be there.

PO Duggans was able to identify this rare engine at a glance because he has in his collection a Blackstone, Type W 1920, hot bulb, stationary engine in full running condition. However, there was a pause in his research of nearly two years, and a lot of nautical miles, before PO Duggan rotated ashore from his sea-going unit.

'Idle hands are the Devil's tools' goes the old saying, and never a man to stay still, PO Duggan renewed his investigations when he was selected to serve with the Technical Training School (TTS) of the Naval College, co-located with the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) in Ringaskiddy. It was there that he decided that, *"the classes of technical trainees would benefit from some hands-on instruction in two-stroke technology, as well as the opportunity to gain some appreciation of historical engineering".*

The TTS/NMCI has a selection of running and sectioned engines on which young tradesmen and engineers learn operations,

watch keeping and maintenance. However, these are primarily four-stroke engines and PO Duggan thought that this old engine could provide a living classroom.

Having sought sanction from Lt Cmdr Clodagh McConnell (OIC TTS) and Cmdr Steve Walsh, (OC Naval College & Associate Head of the NMCI). The project was brought to Support Command HQ to Captain (NS) Mick Malone who facilitated PO Duggan in gaining access to the engine's location. Cmdr William Roberts visited and secured assistance from the Naval Dockyard civilian employees, which was a huge benefit.

The first task was to correctly identify the engine, its nameplate having been removed at some point. PO Duggan contacted the curator of the Internal Fire Museum in North Wales, Paul Evans, who recommended locating the maker's marks on the crankshaft, head and bearing caps.

These vital pieces of information identified the engine as a Vickers Petters Model VE2, two-stroke, hot-bulb, semi-diesel; a very rare item historically. It may well be the only one of this model still in existence; certainly it is the only one in Ireland or the EU.

Trawling through the archives of the Internal Fire Museum led to the discovery that on June 29th 1922 the Cork Electric Tram & Lighting Company took delivery of this Vickers Petters Model VE2 onto the dockyard side of Haulbowline. (Haulbowline had been split in half by the British: a dockyard on the eastern half and a military installation on the western half. The dockyard side was handed over to the Board of Works in 1923 while the military side



and Spike Island remained in British hands until the handover of the Treaty ports in 1938.

PO Duggan was unable to glean much information on the intervening years up until the modern era. The naval draftsman, Neil Rasmussen, says that when he investigated some drawings from many years ago that “*the Model VE2 stationary engine was driving a dynamo supplying electrical current to the massive capstans located at the head of the slipways which run adjacent to the buildings*”. These capstans were used to remove small boats from the water and haul them up the slips for maintenance and repair.

The last known report of the engine being fired up was discovered by SCPO/ERA Mick Kennedy, who on hearing that a project was getting under way put out a call on social media via the ‘Irish Navy Friends Connection’ page on Facebook. Reports back indicated that it may have possibly been run in the 1970s.

SCPO Kennedy has a keen interest in history and in 2015 led the restoration of an early 18th Century cannon. He believes that “*the NS and wider DF should invest more in preservation projects of this nature*”, and suggests that a future project might be “*the restoration of the Lister engine and generator from a Flower Class corvette that is in the neighbouring building to the Vickers Petters*.”

“*This engine is known as a semi-diesel engine due to its method of operation.*” PO Duggan explains. “*It starts the internal combustion process by the use of kerosene burners to heat the ‘hot bulb’ or ‘vaporizer’, mounted on the cylinder head, into which fuel is sprayed, this bulb is connected to the cylinder by a narrow passage called the ‘hot tube’.*

“*The kerosene is pressured and mixed with air so the burner acts as a heating torch, which raises the temperature of the hot bulb and hot tube until the iron is red hot. The fuel is ignited by coming into contact with a red-hot metal surface inside a bulb (also known as hot-plate ignition), followed by the introduction of air (oxygen) compressed by the rising piston.*

“*Vigorous ignition takes place only when sufficient oxygen is supplied to the hot-bulb chamber on the compression stroke of the engine. The engine is started by compressed air supplied at 150-170lbs per sq inch, which is directed into the cylinders, while a sprayer (injector) is used to introduce diesel fuel into the chamber once the engine is rotating via its own cam operated pumps.*”

Once combustion is achieved the engine will run with great reliability as long as fuel is continuously supplied. Most hot-bulb engines were produced as one-cylinder, low-speed, two-stroke crankcase, scavenged units; while this Vickers Petters Model VE2 is a two-cylinder configuration.

Of course, getting the engine back into running condition took a huge effort and no small amount of skill. The engine had seized, parts were missing and others were broken.

PO Duggan introduced many TT/ERAs and mechanicians to the VE2 for practical instruction, learning valuable lessons in engineering skills and the importance of respecting heritage.

The various classes tackled all the jobs required. They helped strip the engine down, cleaned back years of grime and even fabricated guardrails for around the massive exposed flywheel. All the while the classes were learning about the mystery of the two-stroke cycle.

The project is a major success and the noise of this museum piece must be appreciated at close quarters for full effect. A traditionalist when it comes to restoration PO Duggan feels that “*the original surface finishes and patinas should be left in place whenever they need not be removed for engineering purposes*”.

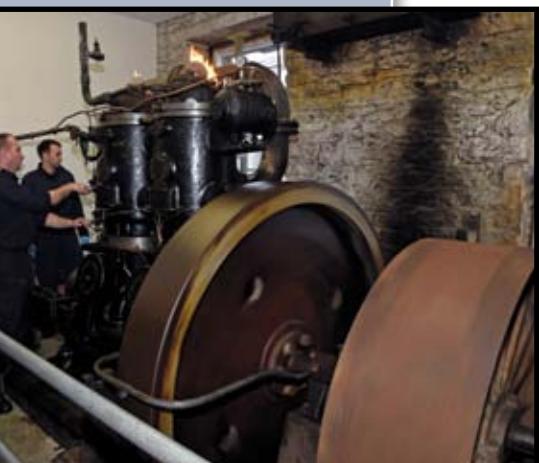
A special oil is all that is applied to the exterior parts to make the brass and copper shine brightly against the dark cast surfaces.

The OIC TTS is very proud of PO Duggan’s personal achievements in this project and is grateful to his team members PO/ERA Dave O’Hara and the technical training classes for their hard work and dedication.

Paul Evans and his wife travelled to Haulbowline in February 2017 to view this masterpiece. They were amazed at its condition and reiterated its historical importance. The Internal Fire Museum has had considerable queries regarding this engine since their visit and even suggested a new project! The TTS were very grateful for their visit and a token of appreciation was presented to them.

PO Duggan hopes “*that many more generations of ERAs will come in contact with this old workhorse and develop their knowledge while receiving an appreciation for the skills of those who will have worked here in the past*”.

Let us also hope that the VE2 is kept running and that the facility around it continues to improve, so that future generations of sailors can help maintain a rare piece of living history. ■



PO/ERA Alan Duggan presents Paul Evans from the Internal Fire Museum in North Wales with a token of their appreciation, pictured with CPO/ERA Brian Attridge.



Training for Peace UNDOF MRE

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD
PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE &
ARMN ADAM MURPHY

Towards the end of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 between Israel, Egypt and Syria the UN set up the UNEF II mission along the Suez Canal between Israel and Egypt. No similar deployment took place on the Israel-Syria front until that sector became increasingly unstable in early 1974 with escalating incidents and exchanges of fire. As a result the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established on 31st May 1974 by Security Council Resolution 350 to allow for the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights. Since then, UNDOF has remained in the area to maintain the ceasefire between Israeli and Syrian forces and to supervise the implementation of the disengagement agreement.

The Defence Forces have been providing troops to the UNDOF mission since September 2013 and the latest unit, 55 Infantry Group, are entering the final phase of three months of intensive training in preparation for their forthcoming deployment in early April.

As part of these preparations a Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) was conducted in the Glen of Imaal over a number of days in early March.

The MRE puts commanders and soldiers through a series of demanding scenarios based on potential threats



that may be encountered in the mission area. As their role with UNDOF will be providing the Force Reserve Company, the troops rehearsed securing, extracting and evacuating personnel under attack.

The 55 Infantry Group is comprised of 130 personnel drawn from units across the army, Air Corps and Naval Service. The unit has a wide range of skills and capabilities, enabling it to make a key contribution to the mission and comprises infantry, artillery, cavalry, signals, engineering, ordnance, transport, medical and military police personnel.



Other countries contributing troops to the 789-strong UNDOF mission include Bhutan, Fiji, India, the Netherlands and Nepal.

The Defence Forces participation in the UNDOF mission is another important chapter in Ireland's commitment to international peacekeeping and its valuable contribution to peace and security in the region. ■

For more info visit www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/undof/



United Nations
Peacekeeping
un.org/peacekeeping

CONFIDENCE TRAINING

with the 62ND & 63RD Recruit Platoons

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE

On 10th March 2017 the 62nd and 63rd recruit platoons of 2 BTC Athlone converged on Blessington Lake and Cloghleagh Woods for some Organised Recreational Training (ORT). For these troops, recruit training started on 14th November 2016 and finished on 27th March 2017. Over the course of their training ORT consisted of over 30hrs training to which the instructors have used over 27 of these hours to carry out confidence training. They abseiled off the accommodation block in Custume Bks, rock climbing in the gym, confidence jumps off Hudson Bay into Lough Ree, dived into the deep pool in the Curragh as well as doing the obstacle course also located in the Curragh Camp.



First activity of the day was jumping off a bridge into the cold dark waters of Blessington Lake. After CQMS Ken Sheridan declared the area underneath the surface safe for jumping into, the green light was given to make the jump. A cold southerly wind ensured that each jumper was pushed out into the water away from the bridge once the leap of faith was taken. With two army divers in the water and a RHIB (Rigged-Hulled Inflatable Boat) on standby, safety was paramount for each jumper and anyone in difficulty once they surfaced were assisted onto the lakes edge. Leading the way were the Lieutenant and Sergeant instructors of 62nd pln, Lt Eddie McGuire and Sgt David Graham who made the leap with no hesitations. For each person making the jump, it was a different mental battle, some fearing the height, others fearing the water, but for some it was both, and the internal struggle to jump was too much for 4 of the 35 recruits who were on the bridge, all others proceeded to make 2 successful jumps each.

Not happy with doing just one activity for the day the group moved onto Cloghleagh Woods not far from Manor Kilbride, where a team of CTIs (Confidence Training Instructors). Lead by Capt Alan Mordaunt and Sgt Deirdre O'Raw of

the Defence Forces Association of Mountaineering (DFAM), they were ready to push the recruits to their limits once more. Broken up into teams of 6 they were handed a chicken egg to protect along the course, just to keep things interesting. The course consisted of various rope bridges, a zip line over a river in which they then both jumped over and into. The final part of the heavy rope course was a tough rope climb up the side of a 5m bridge to the finish line. All this, while trying to keep their egg from cracking on route.

Speaking to Lt Eddie McGuire he said, *"All this confidence training gives the soldier confidence when working at heights and in water, building the ability to follow orders, sometimes in the face of danger".* Watching from the sides and having memories of doing all this many moons ago, I was glad to be warm and dry but couldn't help be slightly jealous of the excitement and adrenaline experienced by the troops on the day. We can have no doubt that this training will serve them well as they push forward with their army career well past their 3* course and onto bigger and brighter horizons in the Defence Forces. ■



In Memory of Cpl Gavin 'Care Bear' Carey

REPORT & PHOTOS BY JAMES WIMS MCJ1, EDITOR, MEATH TOPIC



Ring buoy West of Ireland. Photo: Shane Smyth

Post 20 Mullingar, of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA), in conjunction with the mother of Cpl Gavin 'Care Bear' Carey, a 27-year-old Mullingar soldier from 2 Arty Regt who drowned in a swimming accident in Bundoran last August, have combined to provide a public charity shop in Columb Bks, Mullingar, which at present opens four days a week.

All involved give their time and facilities on an entirely free and voluntary basis, and all proceeds from the shop are split between Post 20 and Bundoran Costal Rescue, which was one of the key participants in attempting to rescue Gavin and subsequently recovered his body last August.

Mullingar man Eddie Robinson, National Chairman of IUNVA and Patricia 'Trish' Payton, Gavin's mother, have been instrumental in setting up the charity shop.

"All are welcome to visit the charity shop in Columb Barracks, either to donate items for sale, or to view all that is on display and buy some of the items at the keenest of prices, either for themselves or as gifts and presents for family members and friends," Eddie says.

Eddie explained that the shop has a huge range of items for sale at very reasonable prices, including ornaments, delph and other kitchenware, books, electrical items, souvenirs, children's clothes, school uniforms, CDs and DVDs, bric-a-brac, and lots more.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the shop to buy items, or to browse without obligation. They are also welcome to donate items, including books, household items, children's clothes, school uniforms, and all else.

Trish Payton said that at the moment the charity shop is open from 11am to 4pm on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturday and Sundays, but as its success continues it is hoped that the days and times of openings may expand.

Trish has volunteered to staff the shop each day, and she says she and the veterans are delighted at the support it has received since opening.

The Department of Defence has given the members of Post 20 the use of the former Officers' Mess including 'G' Block in Columb Bks and the charity shop is located across the barracks square from the main entrance, on the ground floor of the former Officers' Mess. It is in the ground floor of the adjoining 'H' Block, which is signposted and has the letter 'H' over the entrance door. ■



Cpl Gavin Carey (centre) holding the 2 BAR pennant is pictured with his unit members at the 2015 2 Bde Military Skills Competition in Kilbride Camp. Photo: Armn Jamie Martin, 105 Sqn



Members of Mullingar Post 20, IUNVA in the Charity Shop with Mrs Trish Carey Payton on St. Patrick's Day, from left: Paddy Gallagher, Joe Boyce, Arty Dunne, Ray Matthews, Joe Quinn and Davy Robinson, Chairman of Post 20.



Conor Carey, a brother of the late Cpl Gavin Carey, brings his mother Trish a flask of tea to the Charity Shop supporting IUNVA and Bundoran Coastal Rescue.

DEATH IN DARFUR

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

Hundreds of pick-up trucks, or 'technicals' as they are known, armed with an array of weaponry move rapidly through the scarred landscape of Darfur. Burning buildings, scorched earth and death are left in their wake, as groups such as the Justice Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) launch lightning attacks against government forces in the region that have left, according to UN estimates, 2.5 million people internally displaced and 1.2 million food-insecure residents. The death toll of this conflict has been incalculable but hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, as this little-known war has escalated.

Darfur, a region in western Sudan, covers an area of 493,180 sq kms, comparable in size to France. It derives its name from the predominant Fur tribe, one of the indigenous groups that reside in the vast expanses of western Sudan. It is divided into five federal states, Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur. The land consists of an arid plateau with the volcanic peaks of the Marrah mountain range the most dominating feature, rising up to 3,042m. Darfur's population is estimated at seven-and-a-half million and it has two main cities, Al Fashir and Nyala. Because of years of war, arable farmland remains unused, vast mineral resources are untapped and pastures are laid waste.

Arab domination in Sudan was established in 1821 when Muhammad Ali Pasha, ruler of Egypt, invaded. Despite a number of insurrections in the 19th century, Egypt, with the support of Britain, maintained control over Sudan. In 1916, concerned by the threat from the Ottoman Empire in World War I, the British

government invaded Darfur and incorporated it into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Colonial rule centred on Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, with those in that area benefiting from the financial and administrative control of the British. However, this was to the detriment of those in outlying regions such as Darfur.

Sudan received its independence in 1956 when the British-Egyptian Condominium was peacefully dissolved, and, like other countries gaining independence at that time, began a rapid descent into civil war. In 1972 this conflict ended with the establishment of the Southern Sudan autonomous region but eleven years later, in 1983, the war resumed when Jaafar Nimeiri forced Sharia Law on non-Muslim tribes in the country. Once again the country was plunged into a bloody conflict as Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi permitted Arab militias to rampage through Darfur. Amid the violence, a drought destroyed agricultural production, impoverishing millions, and bringing the population to the point of annihilation.

In 1989, what had become known as the Second Civil War came to an end with the signing of a treaty. However, this lull was short lived when a coup brought to power Field Marshall Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, an experienced officer who had previously served with the elite Armoured Parachute Regiment in numerous campaigns.

On seizing power, al-Bashir established the National Islamic Front. This was the beginning of decades of a brutal dictatorship that would bring international condemnation and accusations of war crimes against President al-Bashir. Government jobs, grants and subsidies were distributed unfairly, favouring those who supported the president and deepening religious and



tribal divisions that had existed in Sudan for centuries. Areas were depopulated as government troops forcibly removed inhabitants and accusations of genocide were levelled against al-Bashir.

In 2003, the crisis in Darfur erupted with the JEM and SLA launching attacks against government positions in the region. In order to combat this threat, al-Bashir armed and funded local Arab militias, such as the Janjaweed, to fight against anti-government forces.

The strategy and tactics deployed by al-Bashir's forces are based on mobility, with militias utilising armed horsemen that can act on their own initiative as well as not being a burden on logistics. Reconnaissance and hit-and-run attacks against villages are used by both sides, with many innocent people being caught in the crossfire.

Anti-government forces use a range of vehicles, mostly 'technicals'. These mobile weapon systems are usually mounted with a range of fire power provided by weaponry left over from Africa's Cold War battlefields of the '70s and '80s. These include 12.7mm DShk heavy machine guns, recoilless rifles, and 12-barrel 107mm rocket launchers. To deter government gunships and air support, heavy machine guns such as the Russian ZU-23 or 14.5mm KPV are also used.

Government forces also have an array of weapons in their arsenal and have workshops in Khartoum that provide technical and logistical support for self-propelled howitzers, tanks, light aircraft, helicopters and trucks. The Sudanese government also provides training for militia personnel, which brings worldwide condemnation.

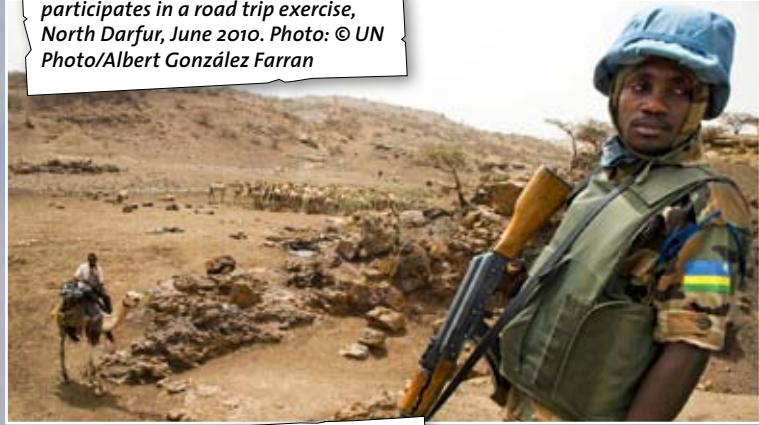
In 2004, supported by the UN, the African Union launched a mission to restore peace in the region. Though peace agreements were signed by some of the antagonists in the years that followed, some groups refused to recognise the treaties and continued their campaigns of violence. In 2007 a joint UN/AU mission, UNAMID, was established to take over peacekeeping duties in Darfur.

In 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President al-Bashir on several counts of crimes against humanity. He was also later accused of genocide. The warrant reduced his capability to travel and his movements were restricted to neighbouring countries.

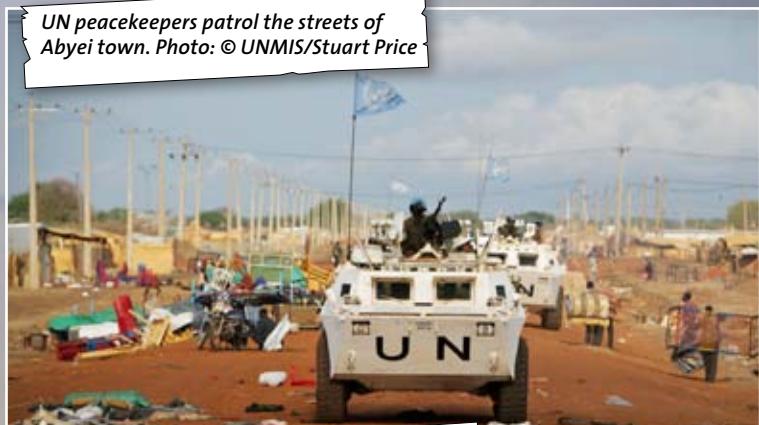
In 2011, a referendum resulted in the secession of South Sudan and it was granted independence. The world's newest country was also one of the poorest.

This bitter and bloody war has continued for decades, with UN peacekeepers, observers, aid workers and countless international interventions all failing to bring peace or stability to a region that has been ravaged by drought, hunger and internal conflict. Now, despite the continuing conflict, the world is looking away from Darfur as new threats emerge and the region and its beleaguered people drift further from the world stage. ■

A Rwandan officer with UNAMID participates in a road trip exercise, North Darfur, June 2010. Photo: © UN Photo/Albert González Farran



UN peacekeepers patrol the streets of Abyei town. Photo: © UNMIS/Stuart Price



A housing compound burns after an attack by the Janjaweed. Um Ziefa, South Darfur, December 2004. Photo: © Brian Steidle



Military equipment allegedly seized during a battle in the contested area of South Darfur, Nyala, Sudan. Photo: © Marwan Ali/EPA



The Easter 1966 Guard of Honour

BY COMDT LOUIS O'BRIEN (RETD)



President de Valera reviews the guard of honour outside the GPO. Photo: Hulton Archive/Getty Images



A photograph of the OC GoH Comdt Dan O'Connell and of Lt O'Brien which was signed by President de Valera.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in 1966, it was necessary to furnish an outstanding 100-strong guard of honour (GoH) for President de Valera at the opening and closing ceremonies.

'D' Company (Pearse), 20 Inf Bn FCÁ were chosen, firstly because of the appropriateness of its name and, secondly because the Pearse was recognised as having a standard of foot and arms drill second to none.

The company commander, Comdt Dan O'Connell, was given three months notice of what was required. (Comdt O'Connell was a brother of the former Archbishop of Dublin, Cardinal O'Connell, so if any miracles were required, he had an inside track!)

The two officers chosen for the GoH were 'D' Company's most senior lieutenants, Canice Mansfield and myself, who was appointed colours officer.

The 100 men of the GoH were chosen from all five sub-units of the company. There was plenty to pick from, as in 1959, when the Pearse Battalion was reduced to the status of a company, it had a strength of 650 - making it the largest infantry company in the world!

The company began rehearsals on 1st January 1966 and each weekend and every Tuesday night were devoted to training and polishing our foot and arms drill. To counteract the risk of the company becoming over-trained and losing heart, every second parade was devoted to lessons not connected with ceremonial drill. This worked and the non-attendance rate sank to almost zero. In fact, men who had gone 'non-effective' in 1965 applied to rejoin so that they could participate in 'the Guard'. This GoH was the first to wear white gloves, and was awarded a golden lanyard to commemorate the event.

Amongst those who made up the final 100, were Cpl N Scarlett, a grandnephew of Pearse, and Pte J Bruton, a future Taoiseach.

On the Easter Sunday morning, the GoH formed up at Liberty Hall and marched to the GPO. The weather held up and everything went like clockwork. The weather for the closing ceremony on the night of the 16th was not as kind but at least the rain had ceased.

Apart from being in charge of the colours, I had hurried my wife into a nursing home that morning just in time for the delivery of our son.

Sadly the other two officers involved have passed away, as have 20% of the GoH. However, thankfully there are enough left to cherish a historic moment in their young lives and the compliment to their unit in being selected for this hugely important event.

Thank you to Comdt Tony Thuillier (Retd.) for submitting and helping with this article. ■



President de Valera arriving for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising. Photo: The National Photographic Archive

RDF REVISION TRAINING

REPORT & PHOTOS
CQMS MICHAEL
BARRETT RDF, 7
INF BN

The last weekend in February saw Dublin-based 7 Inf Bn RDF on a short training exercise in Kilbride, Co Wicklow, the purpose of which was revision of basic infantry skills. Sections were formed up and exercised in formations, movement, field signals, and field craft. They also did walk-and-talk-through section-in-attack drills.

Over 40 RDF personnel were involved on a day, which, while not too cold, saw plenty of persistent drizzle and mist, leaving the ground soggy underfoot.

7 Inf Bn's RDF companies will, as they did in 2016, provide support to their PDF comrades on both ceremonial functions and tactical field exercises in 2017, and this day on the ground was intended to keep the section commanders and their troops as up to speed as possible in their infantry roles.

Several of the section commanders present were newly promoted corporals from last year's RDF Potential NCO Course, the first in three years, and this was their first time exercising tactical command of troops on the ground.

Training was suspended for a short period for a very welcome lunch of chicken curry and rice, which was delivered from Cathal Brugha Bks, after which the sections slogged back onto the training area for further revision of section-level tactics.

At the conclusion of the day's training a short debrief was held, followed by an ordnance check on all weapons and equipment, before heading back to Dublin.

This day's activities in Kilbride will be followed by further RDF training exercises as skills are worked up before larger exercises with 7 Inf Bn's PDF companies take place later this year. ■

Troops fall-in before moving out to the training area.



RDF troops receive an ammunition resupply.



Debriefing at the end of training.

READERS COMPETITION

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

Published by Horgan Press (October 2016)
www.horganpress.com
ISBN: 978-0995553002
Price: €35.00 H/B



Last Months Competition Winner:

Colm Kenny, Naas, Co Kildare

Congratulations Colm, we will make contact and arrange delivery or collection of your prize from An Cosantóir's office.

Thank you to Justin Horgan for the signed copy.

UCD CLINTON INSTITUTE

MA in Media and International Conflict

“The MA in Media and International Conflict provides a fascinating insight into the interaction between the military and the media during conflict. It highlights the critical importance of strategic communications during crises and teaches the techniques and methodologies used by journalists when reporting on the policies and actions of state actors, governments and the military. It also addresses the evolving role of ‘new media’ and how new technologies are being utilised by state and non-state actors to communicate their world-view and further their strategic aims.”

Captain James O’Hara, Irish Defence Forces, Class of 2015-16

OTHER GRADUATE PROGRAMMES INCLUDE:
MA in American Politics and Foreign Policy

Further information: www.ucdclinton.ie
or email catherine.carey@ucd.ie

Military Veterans Gala Ball.



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

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

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

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

Tickets booked through either:
Benny Hill 087 6798691 / Paul Clarke 087 2565161

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

Making your money go further



SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Savings • Loans • Budget Plan Service
- Home Heating Oil Scheme
- Petrol Card Scheme • Members Draw

75/76 Amiens Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 8554489 Fax: 01 8558067
Email: info@ansaccu.ie
Web: www.ansaccu.ie

SURVIVAL TIPS

Here we will look at some of the practical aspects of military training and show you how the Defence Forces prepares soldiers for service, at home and abroad. Though informative, these tac-aides are not designed to replace the military instructor.

PURIFYING WATER

WHY WATER IS IMPORTANT

Water is key to survival and without it you can dehydrate. In sunny weather or hot climates, you need on average 7 litres of water a day. Without water you succumb to heat stroke and die within 24-48 hours. When you perspire (sweat), your body is trying to cool you down. However that is water you need to replace quickly.

ON FINDING WATER

Once you have found a source of water, you need to determine if it is safe to drink.

Is it flowing or stagnant?

Are you in the open country or near a road, a farm, an industrial or urban area?

Unless you are 100% certain that the water is safe to drink, you will have to treat it. It may look clean, but you have no way of knowing.

NASTY THINGS IN WATER

Water can contain many impurities (toxins, chemicals,



human waste and even rubbish). Even in the open country, animal waste can get into water and contaminate it. Cryptosporidium is found worldwide and causes over 50% of water-borne diseases that are attributed to parasites. It is very common in hikers and travellers who drink unfiltered water to cause cramps, diarrhoea and sickness.

PURIFYING WATER

Water can be purified easily by filtration, using purification tablets or by boiling it. However, you may be in an escape and evasion scenario and lighting a fire may not be an option. In certain cases purifying tablets may not kill Cryptosporidium – boiling will. If there are chemicals in the water, charcoal will take some of it out, but to be sure boil it. So you will need to light a fire.

FILTER TECHNIQUE ONE - THE SHIRT ON YOUR BACK

Your DPM shirt or dryflo top will filter out most big particles - use both if you can.

Simply elevate your shirt or dryflo above your container so you can pour the water in. You may have to repeat the process again and again until the water is clear.



FILTER TECHNIQUE TWO - PLASTIC BOTTLE AND SOCK

You need to place a cloth at the neck of your bottle to stop the rest of your filter (sand, small stones and charcoal) from blocking the hole. With the sock you do not need to do this. Clean the filter out first by running water through it several times and then throw that water away. ■

Historic Anniversary for ATHLONE

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS BY ARMN ADAM MURPHY

In January 1922 the Irish Free State was taking its first steps as an independent nation. With the newly signed Anglo-Irish Treaty, the hand-over of installations from the British to Irish forces began. On 28th February 1922, General Séan MacEoin and his troops took over Athlone Castle and Victoria Bks, which Gen MacEoin renamed Custume Barracks.

On the 28th February 2017, to mark the 95th Anniversary of this event, Lt Col Johnny Whittaker (OC 6 Inf Bn) organised a re-enactment of this momentous day in Athlone's history.

The day began with guests, including Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran (ACOS), Brig Gen Howard Berney (GOC 2 Bde), Cllr John Dolan (Mayor of Athlone), relatives of Gen MacEoin, and Mr Paddy Cooney (former Minister for Defence from 1982-86), a nephew of Colonel Commandant Ned Cooney, who was present at the takeover in 1922 and whose aunt was married to General MacEoin.

Comdt Stephen McEoin from Military Archives addressed the guests as master of ceremonies, pointing out the significance of the takeover of the castle and the barracks. He gave a quick outline of the day's events and also recalled significant details from the takeover in 1922, including the interesting fact that due to the original flagpole in the castle being cut down by the departing British, as was the traditional protocol, a local man, BD Simmons removed the mast of his boat and gave it to be used for the first raising of the tricolour.

The guests were then invited to the castle's highest battlement from where they could view the bridge in Athlone. The re-enactment started with troops from 6 Inf Bn and 2 BAR forming up at the bus and train station (where Gen MacEoin and his troops had debussed 95 years previously to be met by a reported 10,000 spectators). Accompanied by members of the Army No 1 Band, the troops marched down the street and over the bridge, passing the castle and entering Custume Bks.

A flag-raising ceremony was then conducted in the castle.

Councillor Dolan thanked the DF for "a great display" and for their contributions at home and abroad. He also spoke about

how important the DF is to Athlone.

The guests were then invited to Custume Bks where an open day was held with a series of events, including photographic displays, a number of historical talks, and a military display.

After refreshments Lt Col Whittaker welcomed everyone to the barracks, saying, *"Today's ceremonies are likely to evoke special memories for any families or their family members who participated in this historic event 95 years ago."* He then gave a brief history of the barracks and the ties 6 Inf Bn has to it, before thanking those who had *"helped to make this day special!"*

Lt Col Whittaker then invited Andrew MacEoin (Gen MacEoin's nephew) to address everyone on behalf of the MacEoin family. Mr MacEoin thanked the DF for their hard work and great display, and then spoke about his uncle.

John McGlynn, an actor, then recited Gen MacEoin's very moving speech, which was put together from eyewitness accounts. It began: *"This has been the greatest and most glorious day for Ireland..."* before going on to speak about how Athlone had been

a British stronghold in the midlands and the many previous attempts that had been made to gain freedom for Ireland before ending by saying of the takeover of the barracks: *"...it will be a guarantee to the people of Ireland of their freedom, a guarantee to enable them to live in peace, prosperity, and progress."* ■



Flag raising ceremony, Athlone Castle.



KERRY COUNCIL HONOURS



DF Contribution to World Peace

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY DOMNICK WALSH
PHOTOGRAPHY www.dwalshphoto.ie

On Monday 20th February 2017, Kerry County Council (KCC) hosted a civic reception to honour members of the Defence Forces for their contribution to world peace through UN peacekeeping.

Comdt Cathal Keohane (2i/c 12 Inf Bn) and members of the DF and RDF based in Sarsfield Bks, Limerick, the majority of whom live in Co Kerry, were welcomed to the Council Chamber by Cllr Jim Finucane (Leas-Cathaoirleach KCC).

Cllr Finucane expressed his delight at welcoming the troops and said: "We, as a local authority, express our pride and gratitude to the members of our Defence Forces who, for decades, have given tremendous service to the State both at home and abroad."

Comdt Keohane accepted an award on behalf of the Defence Forces, saying: "We feel the link between Kerry people and the Defence Forces very deeply, and would like to express our gratitude for the honour today."

The Defence Forces currently contributes 604 personnel to 15 different missions throughout the world, which Cllr Finucane described as "a remarkable achievement."

Currently the main deployment is to UNIFIL in Lebanon, with 379 personnel, followed by UNDOF on the Golan Heights with 136.

Speaking of Ireland's legacy as international defenders of the

peace, Cllr Finucane said: "Defence Forces personnel conduct their duties on behalf of the Irish people, but also on behalf of the international community; taking on hazardous and difficult duties in some of the most dangerous parts of the globe. This tremendous service enhances Ireland and the Irish people's reputation as

honest brokers internationally, benefitting our citizens, trade, politics and culture.

"Almost 70,000 individual tours of duty have been completed to hostile regions throughout the world, protecting the most vulnerable people on the planet."

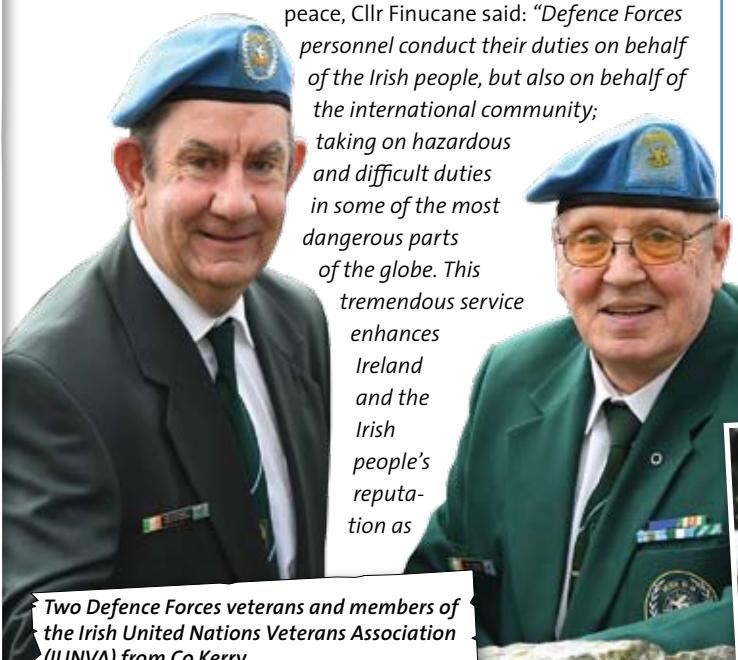
The Defence Forces has unbroken service in the cause of world peace on over 70 UN or UN-approved missions since 1958, although this legacy was not achieved without sacrifice, with 87 members of the Defence Forces paying the ultimate price in the cause of world peace.

Cllr Finucane said DF personnel from Kerry had also played their part and spoke very highly of our veterans: "We remember John O'Mahony from Scartaglen who was shot and wounded during peace-keeping duties in Lebanon in 1980. We also honour the late Jimmy Lucey of Caragh Lake who fought at the siege of Jadotville in 1961 in the Congo under the command of Pat Quinlan from the parish of Caherdaniel. May they rest in peace."

In his closing remarks Cllr Finucane said: "We in Kerry County Council, are immensely proud of what you do and the service you provide to keep the peace in dangerous and war-torn parts of our world. Your patriotism, courage and civic duty are an example to all the citizens of Ireland. We wish you continued safe and successful service in the name of Ireland and the UN in the years to come."

Many thanks to Owen O'Shea, Media & Communications, KCC, for his help with this article. ■

Cllr Jim Finucane presents an award to Comdt Keohane.



Two Defence Forces veterans and members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) from Co Kerry.



Cpl Emily Woods from Brosna Co Kerry and Cpl Aishling Griffin RDF, Listowel Co Kerry, both 12 Inf Bn.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

British Commandos in WWII

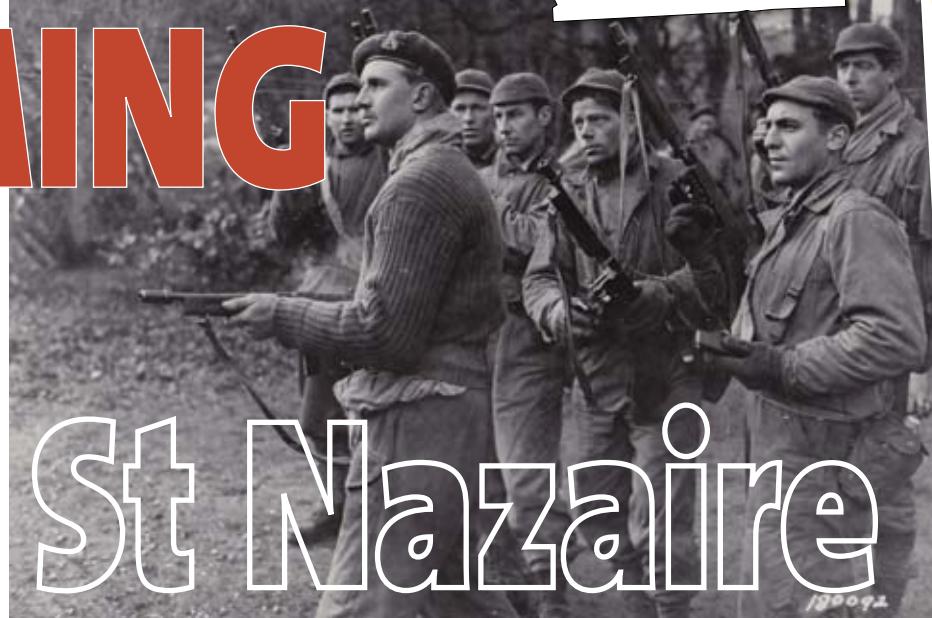
STORMING

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

On 28th March 1942, British forces launched one of the most daring raids of the Second World War, with an amphibious attack on the heavily defended dry dock at St Nazaire, Normandy, in German-occupied France. Operation Chariot, as the attack was code named, was a daring assault that would change the way the war at sea would be fought for the remainder of the conflict.

Located on the north bank of the Loire, the town of St Nazaire is home to the largest dry dock in the world since its construction in 1932. The port has an outer harbour known as the Avant Port, formed by two piers jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean. This leads to two lock gates before the Bassin de St Nazaire. These gates control the water levels in the basin so it is not affected by the tides. Beyond this basin is the larger inner dock, which can accommodate ships of up to 10,000 tons.

Built to accommodate the passenger liner, *SS Normandie*, the port was a key asset for the German Navy where its larger battleships, such as the *Tirpitz* and the *Bismarck*, could dock for refitting and repairs. The alternative was to return to German waters, which would mean the ships having to run the gauntlet of the English Channel where they were susceptible to attacks by the Royal Navy and the RAF.



St Nazaire

British Naval Intelligence commenced planning for an attack on the dock in 1941. The purpose of the raid was threefold: the destruction of the *Normandie* dock; to destroy the old gates into the Bassin de St Nazaire, along with water pumping plants and other quay installations; and to put out of service any U-boats or other shipping in the dock area. A bombing raid by the RAF was ruled out, as precision bombing of the target could not be guaranteed and the loss of civilian life that would result without it was deemed unacceptable.

The plan decided upon would utilise specially lightened destroyers, a flotilla of motorboats and an attack force of 265 commandos and 346 Royal Navy personnel. One ship would ram the gates, deploy the commandos and be rigged to explode at a set time, while the others would provide covering fire against the shore batteries and pick up the raiding party after the operation.

Central to the plan was the use of HMS *Campbeltown*. The ship, obtained from the American Navy, was converted for the planned attack by stripping off superfluous equipment and raising her draught to let her get over the sand banks in the estuary. Extra armour was added to the bridge and wheelhouse and two rows of armour were fixed along the sides of the ship to protect the commandos on the open deck. Two of the four funnels were removed and the remaining two were cut at an angle to resemble those of a German destroyer. The holds were filled with 4.5 tonnes of explosives set in concrete. The explosive charge was set to detonate when the raiders had pulled back from the harbour. The officer tasked with the commando assault was Lt Col Charles Newman.



Injured German troops in St Nazaire.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



The Germans believed that an attack on the base would be hazardous and highly improbable as St Nazaire was garrisoned with 5,000 troops and festooned with anti-aircraft batteries and shore artillery that covered the approach to the docks. In addition, a destroyer, a minesweeper and an armed trawler patrolled the estuary.

At 23:30hrs on the night of the 27th March 1942, British bombers began diversionary attacks in the area. Searchlights and anti-aircraft fire lit up the night sky. Realising that the attacks were perhaps a preliminary to a raid on St Nazaire, the Germans switched off the lights at 01:00hrs and ceased firing rather than identify the exact position of the docks to British aircraft. However, under the cover of the firing, the British ships had entered the estuary and were steaming ahead.

The searchlights were switched on again at 01:22 hours, illuminating the convoy, but thinking the ships were theirs the Germans held their fire. The deception worked and the ships gained a valuable eight minutes as they pressed on with full steam ahead. When the Germans realised their error they opened fire. Bullets and shells hit the advancing ships but the *Campbeltown* sailed on, hitting the dock gate at a speed of 19 knots, the impact embedding the ship 33 feet onto the gates. Commandos jumped from the decks and rapidly assaulted the dock area. Assault teams fired on the defenders and demolition squads laid charges while the sounds of explosions echoed through the docklands. Plumes of smoke and flame shot into the air amidst the hail of gunfire.

The Germans fought back, preventing some commandos from targeting some facil-

St Nazaire Memorial in Falmouth, UK



HMS *Campbeltown* in port at dry dock on 28th March 1942.
Photo: Schaaf/Das Bundesarchiv

ties along the docks. Many of the smaller motorboats were destroyed by the German shore batteries, preventing those on the docks from escaping. As the last of the naval personnel left the *Campbeltown* and joined the commandos on the quays, the charges were set to explode. Realising that his men could no longer rely on the motorboats to facilitate their withdrawal, Lt Col Newman ordered his men to do their best to get back to England, not to surrender until all their ammunition was expended and not to surrender if they could help it.

The stranded commandos fought running battles with the German defenders through the narrow streets and tried to break through from St Nazaire's old town to its new town but, outnumbered, surrounded, and running low on ammunition, they were forced to surrender. While some escaped via the sea, a few escaped overland, with five reaching neutral Spain with the assistance of the French Resistance. As those captured were taken to German headquarters under guard, they waited for the explosion of the *Campbeltown*, which was set for 04:30hrs, but there was none.

As the time passed without an explosion some of the attackers believed that the wiring must have been damaged in the attack, rendering the explosives ineffective. However, when a party of senior German officers and a number of civilians arrived on the quay at noon and were being given a tour of the *Campbeltown* the ship exploded. It is estimated that the explosion killed 360 people, destroying the dock and rendering it useless for the remainder of the war.

The delay in the detonation of the explosives has never been explained satisfactorily but some believe that the acid in the pencil detonators had distilled away. Whatever the case, the mission was a success but came at a huge cost both in the loss of ships and men. Of the men that participated in the attack, 169 were killed and 215 captured, with only 228 men returning to England. For this raid, 89 awards for gallantry were granted, including five Victoria Crosses. Considered by many to be 'the greatest raid of all', Operation Chariot has entered the annals of military operations as one of the most audacious raids in history. ■

Heather Kennedy



million, as women were called on to help in an age of total war. They were also in the midst of the action. One of them was Irishwomen Heather Kennedy, whose experiences during the war changed her life in ways she never expected. Women were needed to fill traditionally male jobs and Heather was trained to carry out inspections and rectifications on Allied aircraft used to carry out bombing missions in Europe.

Aileen Heatherington Kennedy (always known as Heather Kennedy) was born and raised in Armagh, completing secondary school at the age of 17 in a boarding school in Dun Laoghaire near Dublin. In October 1943 as the war was as raging, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), the women's branch of the RAF. It was an opportunity for adventure and to acquire exciting new skills in aircraft maintenance.

Having completed her initial training in military discipline, including the usual square bashing, Heather was posted to Edinburgh to begin a course on radio theory and maintenance. Seven months later she was posted to an RAF school in Lancashire for further training on aircraft radio maintenance. On completion, she became a qualified aircraft radio mechanic and began her life as a working airwoman servicing large WWII aircraft.

Her first posting was to the RAF base at Nutts Corner in Northern Ireland, where she worked on the Sterling bomber. Later she worked at a heavy conversion unit at RAF Riccall in Yorkshire, where aircrew who had operated twin-engine aircraft converted to the four-engine Avro York. These aircraft were extensively used by the Allies in Europe and the York, a military transport aircraft, featured

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

Heather Kennedy & the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in WWII

BY LIAM MURRAY

When WWII began in 1939, just over five million women were at work in the UK. By 1943 that number had exceeded seven

prominently during the Berlin airlift. Heather also serviced aircraft radio at RAF Dishford in Yorkshire, which also had a flight crew conversion unit. Heather's final posting was back at RAF Aldergrove, where she had the experience of working on the radios of the newly introduced Vampire jet-powered fighter aircraft; the first aircraft mechanic in Ireland to work on this aircraft type.

In 1947 Heather completed her military service and after three years study qualified as a physiotherapist in Dublin. She began her new career in a military hospital in the UK and later practised in hospitals in Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Dublin.

As a physiotherapist she remembers with satisfaction many extremely grateful patients, such as a medical surgeon in Singapore with severe injuries to his hands who was able to return to surgical work after extensive physiotherapy.

Working at RAF Headley Court near Epsom in the UK she also gained valuable experience treating injured members of the armed forces.

However, Heather says that her time working in a south African hospital was the most rewarding experience, as she found the native African patients, often of humble circumstances, to be the most humorous and good natured, irrespective of the seriousness of their illness. This was a significant change in working conditions for Heather, she remembers with gratitude the help given to her by the doctors while she adapted to her new circumstances.

Now 92 years old, Heather reflects on her life of travel and learning at a time when her fellow servicewomen and fe-



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

male medical professionals did not always receive the same recognition as their male colleagues. She particularly remembers the love and rewarding friendships she experienced with her comrades and also, with sadness, the many aircrew who lost their lives during the war. Two of her closest friends lost their aircrew husbands in combat shortly after having their first children. Her feelings are summed up in this poem by AP Herbert about the loss of young air crew:



They are the Boys of whom we said
 'They are not what their Fathers were
 They have no heart and little head
 They slouch and do not cut their hair'

Yet these Falcons live or die
 There every night have new renown
 And while we heave a single sigh
 They shoot a brace of bombers down. ■



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

DF Indoor Athletics Championships 2017

BY COMDT NOEL CONWAY, CHAIRMAN DF ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE & ARMN ADAM MURPHY

On 27th February last, the Defence Forces Indoor Track & Field championships (and new entrants Grand Prix) were held at the state of the art indoor athletics facility in Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT).

Close to 150 DF personnel took part in the competitions, which included 17 track events and three field events across four competitor categories including a special category for new entrants to the DF. Although the numbers attending were smaller than in recent years (probably due to the high operational and training tempo throughout the DF), the atmosphere in the compact stadium was electric, particularly during the 4 x 200m relays - the relays are always an exciting event at the close of any track and field meet.

Notable performances included superb running by Cadet

Brian Kelly – he won the Defence Forces senior men's 800m (time: 2m 10s) and also won the DF senior men's 3,000m and the new entrants 1,500m as well as being the anchor man on the Cadet School's 4 x 200m relay team – he certainly earned his "day off" from cadet training that day. Pte Doyle (1 Mech Inf Coy) showed his sprinting ability by winning the senior men's 60m and 200m championships.

The men's field competitions included the 35lb weight for distance event – the first time this event has been part of a DF championships. Comdt Tom Bouchier (MTS Air Corps) won this specialised event (which is unique to Ireland and Scotland).

Brig Gen Joseph Mulligan, GOC DFTC was in attendance and presented prizes to the winners. The event was hosted by 2 Bde and supported by the DF Athletics Committee. ■





FULL RESULTS

EVENT	1ST	2ND	3RD
SENIOR MEN			
60m	Pte Doyle, 1 Mech, DFTC	Pte Bennett, 1 Inf Bn	Pte O'Connor, 27 Inf Bn
200m	Pte Doyle, 1 Mech, DFTC		Pte Kenny, 1 Inf Bn
800m	Cdt Kelly	Cdt Harney	Cdt Callaghan
3000m	Cdt Kelly	Cdt Harney	Pte Kelly, 6 Inf Bn
Long Jump	Pte Doyle, 1 Mech		Pte Mc Nally, 1 Inf Bn
Shot Putt	Pte Brennan, 3 Inf Bn		Cpl Reddy T, DFHQ
35lb weight for distance	Comdt Bouchier, Air Corps		Cpl Reddy T, DFHQ
MASTERS MEN			
60m	Comdt M Getrick, A/C	C/S Daly, NS	Pte Mc Grath, 28 Inf Bn
3000m	Pte Devaney, 2 Bde Engrs		CQMS Monks, 2 Bde Ord Gp
MASTERS MEN (OVER 45)			
3000m		Sgt Boothman, A/C CIS	
MASTERS MEN (OVER 50)			
3000m		Pte Bullman, 1 Bde Tpt Coy	
LADIES			
Shot Putt		Pte Ni Cheide	
NEW ENTRANTS GRAND PRIX: LADIES			
60m		Cdt Carroll	
1500m	Cdt O'Connell		Cdt Kelly
Shot Putt	Cdt Anthony		Cdt Carroll
NEW ENTRANTS GRAND PRIX: MEN			
1500M	Cdt Kelly	Cdt Harney	Cdt Mc Carthy
60m	Cdt Moore	Cdt Stapleton	Cdt Beary
200m	Cdt Callaghan		Cdt London
Long Jump	Cdt Callaghan	Apt Bradley	Apt Sutton
Shot Putt	Cdt Mifsud	Cdt Nolke	Apr Hearne



Óglaigh na hÉireann

DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

DF HILL RUNNING SERIES 2017

22 MARCH 17

TWOROCK 9.6km

Registration from
0930hrs at
Kilmashogue
Carpark (O 1510 2450)
Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

26 APRIL 17
DJOUCE 10.4km

Registration from
0930hrs at
Ballinastoe Woods
Carpark (O 194 078)
Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

31 MAY 17
SPINKS 14km

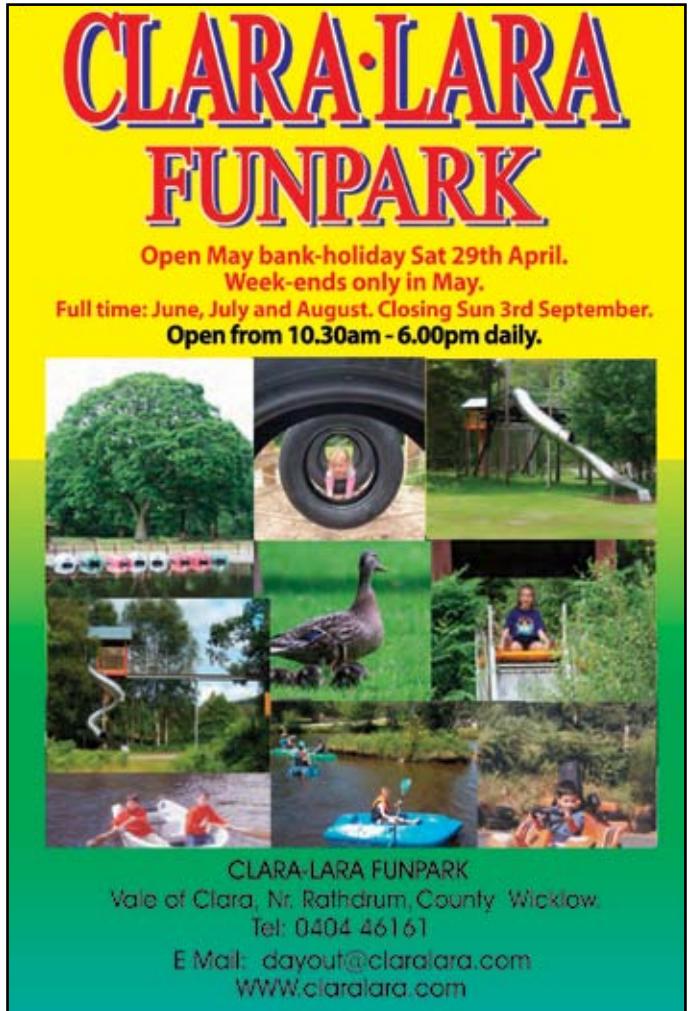
'DF King of the Mountains'
Registration from 0930hrs
at Glendalough Visitor
Centre (0 127 968)
Race start: 1200hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL EVENTS

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

CONTACT:

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



GEAR UP



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

SIDEWINDER® RESCUE PERSONAL DISTRESS MARKER LIGHT

The manufacturer says...

The new Sidewinder® Rescue has all of the functions of a Sidewinder® personal illumination tool with all the visibility you require in a strobe/beacon. Featuring White, Blue, Green and IR LEDs that require no filters, the Sidewinder® Rescue can illuminate pre-flight checks, serve as a cockpit illuminator, and allow you to conduct covert or eye-safe in flight activity. You can select from 50 BPM or 110 BPM for a ground based visual location signal or a water rescue distress beacon strobe. All this, and conveniently powered by AA batteries. Plus, it fits all existing mounts for combat, flight, and operator style helmets. The new Sidewinder® Rescue from Streamlight, helping to make sure no one gets left in the dark.



**Walther PPQ
Tanto**
€22.00



**Arc'teryx
Squamish
Hoody**
€105.00



**OTIS 9mm
Pistol
Cleaning Kit**
€40.15



**Salomon XA
Pro 3D GTX
Forces Camo**
€135.00



SOG Power Duo
€50.00



Hatch D1 Bag
€62.00



5.11  **ALWAYS
BE READY.**

Team-Alpha is an online store providing members of Military and Law Enforcement in Ireland with extra equipment and uniform clothing at a competitive price. Our brands include 5.11 Tactical, Arc'Teryx, ASP, Streamlight and many more that also cater for the Hunting, Outdoor and Airsoft industries. We are committed to bringing our customers the highest quality and best value products. For more information please contact customerservice@team-alpha.ie

For a chance to win a 5.11 Fleece Watch Cap – Coyote, sponsored by [www.team-alpha](http://www.team-alpha.ie) answer the following question:

How much is the Walther PPQ Knife on team-alpha.ie?

Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 20th April 2017. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn. **Last month's winner was:** Ruairí Byrne, Glasnevin.

COMPETITION



NOTICEBOARD

UNIFORM

SERVICES :
Medal Mounting

Service :
Competitive
prices, contact
Murty Quinn 087
9394680

**Lanyards made
to order:**
Competitive
Prices, contact
Brian 087
2971982

Lectures and discussions normally will be held in the Witness Gallery. Tickets for each lecture are €10, this also includes an optional self-guided visit of the GPO Witness History Visitor Centre at 4.45pm.

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

GPO WITNESS HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

1st April 2017 (5.30pm) - Evening talk: 'Beyond 1916; Cumann na mBan & Revolutionary Propaganda' by Dr Mary McAuliffe Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at UCD. Her latest publication 'We were there: 77 women of the Easter Rising' was co-written with Liz Gillis.

6th April 2017 (5.45pm) - Evening talk: A Few Things You Didn't Know About The Easter Rising 1916 by Mick O'Farrell, author of: 'The 1916 Diaries of an Irish Rebel and a British Soldier'; '1916 – What the People Saw'; '50 Things You Didn't Know About 1916'; 'A Walk Through Rebel Dublin 1916'.

13th April 2017 (5.00pm) - Evening talk: The first anniversary of the Easter Rising by Dr Roisin Higgins, who is a Senior Lecturer in History at Teesside University. She is the author of 'Transforming 1916: meaning, memory and the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising'.

WORD SEARCH

Recruit Training No 2

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

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

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

DRILL
EDUCATION
FITNESS
MARKSMANSHIP
MILITARY
MOTIVATION
SKILLS
TACTICAL
TRAINING
WEAPONS



COMPETITION €50 VOUCHER

Q. HOW MUCH IS A SEALED THERMAL MUG ON WWW.PROTAC.IE?

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

Protac, Market Green, Curragh Camp,
Co Kildare. www.protac.ie info@protac.ie
Ph: +353 (0) 45 441798 or visit us on:
www.facebook.com/protacmilitary



Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Paul Sheehan, Co Kilkenny. Closing date is 20th April 2017.

THE MISSING ONES: Detective Lottie Parker Series Book 1

Author: Patricia Gibney
Publisher: Bookouture (March 2017) www.bookouture.com
ISBN: 978-1786811134
Pages: 424
Price: €1.14 eBook / £12.60 PB



"When a woman's body is discovered in a cathedral and hours later a young man is found hanging from a tree outside his home, Detective Lottie Parker is called

in to lead the investigation. Both bodies have the same distinctive tattoo clumsily inscribed on their legs. It's clear the pair are connected, but how?"

Mullingar's Patricia Gibney is fast making her name as an international writer, with her first crime thriller, 'The Missing Ones' already in the top 50 in Australia and elsewhere with great pre-sales. The eBook publishing took place on the 16th March, and the launch of the printed book followed on the 31st March, in the Mullingar Arts Centre.

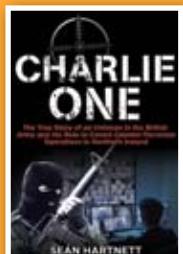
Last July, top London based digital publisher, Bookouture, signed up the Mullingar debut crime author for a four book series featuring her creation, Detective Lottie Parker. 'The Missing Ones' is described as "A gripping, page-turning serial killer thriller, guaranteed to keep you reading late into the night."

'The Missing Ones' ebook is presently only 0.99p on www.amazon.co.uk, and it is also available on Audible, Kobo, iBookstore and Google Play, and on her website: www.patriciagibney.com.

Patricia's husband, Sgt Aidan Gibney served in Columb Barracks, Mullingar and Custume Barracks, Athlone, but sadly passed away 8-years ago at the age of 49, following a short battle with cancer. Aidan and Patricia have three children, Aisling, Orla and Cathal. JW

CHARLIE ONE The True Story of an Irishman in the British Army and His Role in Covert Counter- terrorism Operations in Northern Ireland.

Author: Seán Hartnett
Publisher: Merrion Press (October 2016) www.merrionpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1785370854
Pages: 214
Price: €14.99



In recent years there have been a plethora of Special Ops memoirs released, many of them based in Northern Ireland. While some are fantasists cashing in on the recent troubles in the province, Charlie One seems to be a genuine work on the subject of counter-insurgency warfare. The British Ministry of Defence wanted the distribution of the book halted, because it contained, what they believed, was sensitive material. The author, Seán Hartnett grew up in Cork and joined the British Army where he became a member of a secretive and covert counter-terrorist unit known as the Joint Communications Unit Northern Ireland aka JCU-NI, the FRU or simply the DET for short. The group operated throughout the province, collating information and being involved in some of the highest profile events in recent years that included the arrest of John Hannon for the bombing of the BBC, the preventative measures taken to stop the murder of Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adare and the tragic death of David Caldwell. The book also reveals the many blunders that often befall intelligence units, and there, very often tragic consequences.

'Charlie One' is the call sign for the most wanted targets of British Intelligence Units in Northern Ireland and this well written book will have the reader sitting on the edge of their seat, as they take a roller coaster tour of duty during a very troubled time in our nation's history. POB

THE MAN WHO SHOT THE GREAT WAR The remarkable story of Lance Corporal George Hackney of the 36th Ulster Division.

Author: Mark Scott
Publisher: Colourpoint (February 2017) www.colourpoint.co.uk
ISBN: 978-1780730950
Pages: 120
Price: €11.50 PB



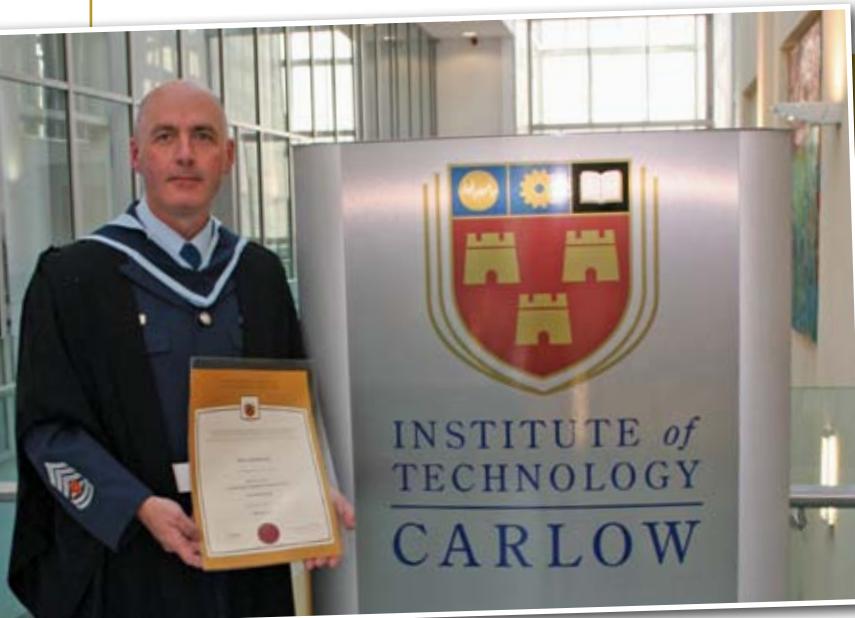
"One man's wartime experiences fuelled an unlikely moral quest that was to change his life forever."

L/Cpl George Hackney, 36th Ulster Division was an ordinary soldier from Belfast, who rebelliously took his camera away to war in 1915. As it was against military law at that time to take photographs during World War I. This shows his determination to record and capture those events that would otherwise have not been recorded.

These once rare exceptional photographs of the Great War, depicting soldiers training, relaxing after battles, travelling to France, and the first day of the Battle of the Somme are now some of the only memories we have of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice against tyranny.

"Through the making of the BBC documentary, 'The Man Who Shot The Great War', author Mark Scott found himself researching George's work and in doing so, retracing the footsteps of his own great grandfather, Jimmy Scott, who was George's sergeant for two years. George took several photographs of Jimmy Scott, photographs that were handed on to Jimmy's widow after he was killed in action near Messines in 1917. They have been in the Scott family ever since. Four generations have looked Jimmy in the eye through George's lens, and been able to put a face to the name on a grave. Such is the power of photography."

It was a great book; I would highly recommend it to military photographers and anyone who has an interest in photography. AM



Flt Sgt Oliver McKeown is a serving senior NCO with 30 years' service. He joined the Air Corps in 1986 and graduated from the Technical Training School (TTS) as an aircraft technician in 1989. From 1990 to 1999, his main appointment was crew leader and NCO in charge of aircraft, completing all levels of maintenance on helicopters from daily inspections in No 3 Sp Wing to major overhauls with Engineering Wing. Subsequent to achieving management, leadership and teaching qualifications, he was transferred to the TTS as a technical instructor in 1999 and was promoted sergeant in 2002.

He served in Lebanon with HQ Coy, 77 Inf Bn UNIFIL, as battalion pay clerk, working in the Orderly Room and carrying out duties on the ops panel.

He instructed on the 34th Senior NCOs course in the NCO Training Wing, DFTC and has delivered lectures on leadership as part of the Army Ranger Wing's Special Operations Forces Instructors Course and was selected as a dissertation supervisor for the Irish Defence Forces/IT Carlow's two Level 7 degree programmes in 2015: the BA Leadership, Management, Defence Studies (LMDS) and the BA Logistics Management (LM).

In 2012 he was promoted to flight sergeant and appointed Training Manager for the TTS. He is directly responsible for delivering and managing the Bachelor of Engineering degree in Military Aviation Technology (DT011M). The awarding body for this transferrable level 7 qualification (as approved by Quality & Qualifications Ireland - QQI) is the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT). In addition to the four-year B Eng degree programme, he is also responsible for 22 other technical courses that are delivered to Air Corps personnel in the TTS.

In 2016, Flt Sgt McKeown was the appointed project leader, and liaised with the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), to seek accreditation for the TTS to become a European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Part 147 training school, which he and his team recently achieved,

NAME
OLIVER MCKEOWN

RANK
FLT SGT

UNIT
TTS, AIR CORPS COLLEGE

and which Ollie sees as possibly one of his greatest achievements. As the senior technical instructor/senior aircraft inspector in the TTS, Ollie is one of four primary post holders and is appropriately titled Training Manager. It is a position that brings a lot of responsibility but he relishes the challenge.

He has attained a Level 7 BA in LMDS from IT Carlow, a Level 8 BA (Hons) in Training & Education from NUIG, and has recently attained a Level 9 Masters in Engineering Management in the UK. He has completed many technical courses throughout his career and has been on courses such as the NATO Advanced Leadership and NATO Academic Instructor courses, both of which were held in the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. He holds professional membership with the Dublin branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Engineering and Scientific Association of Ireland, the City & Guilds of the London Institute, and the Institute of Leadership & Management.

With the promotion competition for 2017 now active, Flt Sgt McKeon has been preparing for and looking forward to being interviewed for sergeant major appointments. ■

"We live life looking ahead but learn from looking back"





SERVING PERSONNEL SUBSCRIPTION APPEAL FORM

I hereby consent to the deduction of 50 cent per week from my pay for the purpose of supporting ONE in their efforts in providing accommodation for ex-service personnel. Such payments are being made solely for my convenience and may be discontinued at any time. I also accept that all my queries in relation to this deduction are a matter between ONE and myself and I may cancel this subscription at anytime.

NAME: _____

RANK: _____ SERVICE NO: _____

UNIT CODE: _____ AMOUNT: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

DEDUCTION CODE: _____ REF: _____

PENSION SUBSCRIPTION APPEAL FORM:

I hereby consent to the deduction of 50 cent per week from my pay for the purpose of supporting ONE in their efforts in providing accommodation for ex-service personnel. Such payments are being made solely for my convenience and may be discontinued at any time. I also accept that all my queries in relation to this deduction are a matter between ONE and myself and I may cancel this subscription at anytime.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PAYROLL NO: _____ SERVICE NO: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

DEDUCTION CODE: _____ REF: _____

If You London



You'll *Love* London Culture App



Proud to Support
**Great
Ormond
Street
Hospital
Charity**

www.LondonCultureApp.com