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AN COSANTÓIR

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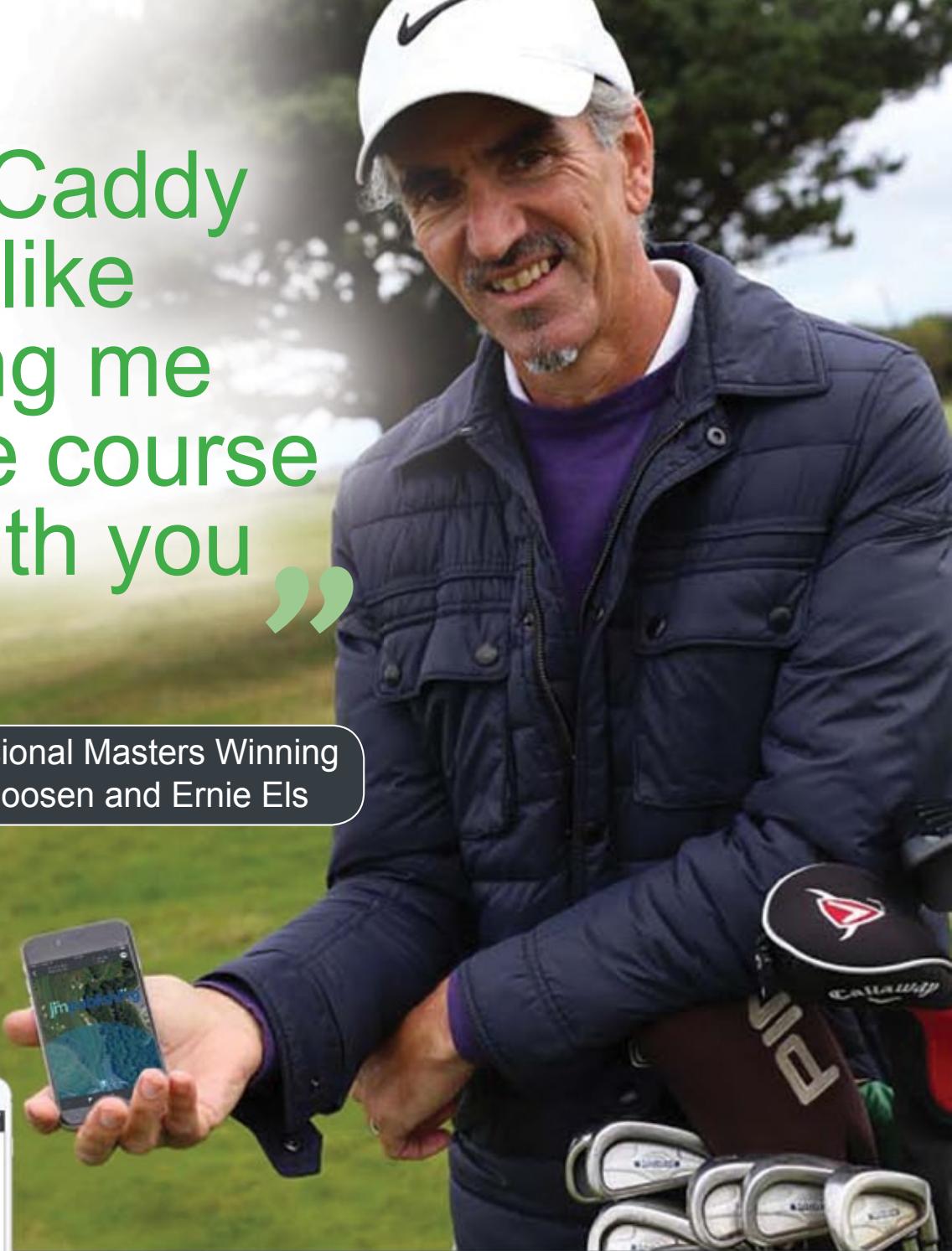
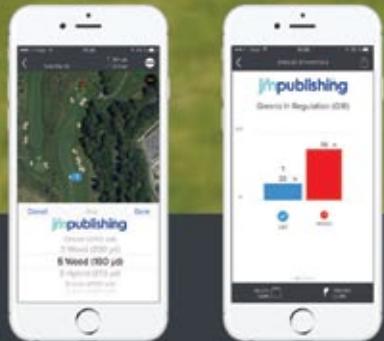


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To the members of Óglaigh na hÉireann

Earlier this year, I was deeply privileged by the trust which An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD placed in me by delegating full responsibility for Defence, a trust which I am committed to upholding for the betterment of each and every member of the Defence Forces.

From the outset, I have engaged extensively with members of the Defence Forces, through visits to Military Barracks, ceremonial attendances and during overseas visits. On each occasion I have been struck by stories of your experiences, which have been humbling and demonstrative of your ongoing dedication to the State.

A key element of Ireland's contribution to peace and security is your commitment to international peace support missions under a UN mandate.

As you know we are currently contributing just short of 500 Defence Forces personnel to eleven different missions comprising Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Mediterranean.

We will shortly be enhancing our contribution to UNIFIL when Ireland takes over command of the Battalion from Finland at which time an additional Company of some 150 personnel will be deployed.

The ongoing deployment of Irish Naval vessels to the Mediterranean assisting Italian Authorities remains an important part of Ireland's response to the migrant crisis. Your participation has resulted in the saving of over 13,500 men, women and children, demonstrating the value of your work.

These missions continue to ensure that the Irish Defence Forces' remain at the forefront of international peacekeeping but that success relies in no small part on your training, education and upholding of the values of Óglaigh na hÉireann.

You will be aware that the findings of the most recent Climate Survey have been published and as with all such surveys there are positives and negatives within. The willingness to undertake a survey such as this demonstrates the maturity of the Irish Defence Forces and a readiness to address the needs of the organisation. For it to be truly impactful there must be an effective response, this will involve all levels of management as well as representative organisations. My hope is that in the coming months that response will become evident to you and result in a more positive outlook into the future.

For my part, I am acutely aware that issues persist around pay, allowances and terms and conditions of employment. My Department is continuing to engage with Representative Associations to ensure you are fully and fairly recompensed in the same manner as members of all other Associations who have signed up to the Lansdowne Road Agreement.

I am equally conscious of the effects of the re-organisation and barrack consolidation. I believe these structures are delivering a more effective, energetic and sustainable Defence Forces but be assured that work is ongoing by your military colleagues to mitigate the consequences to the greatest extent possible.

I am pleased to say that Budget 2017 includes an increased allocation to Defence for investment in equipment and infrastructure to assist you in delivering on your roles.

Plans are also in place to continue phased General Service recruitment to reach the established strength figure. We have significantly increased recruitment this year and the necessary funding has been provided to continue to do so in 2017.

I remain optimistic that with your progressive and welcoming attitude, coupled with the forthcoming publication of a new equality policy document, we will increase the level of female participation in our Force.

The greatest asset which the Defence Forces possesses is you - the servicemen and women of Óglaigh na hÉireann. I am determined that the Permanent Defence Forces remains an attractive career choice and one which continues to offer opportunities for everyone to reach their career potential.

This year, in particular, has been memorable in the history of the State and the role of the Defence Forces has been exemplary. I want to express not only my gratitude, but that of the Government, for your contribution in honouring our forebears and lending dignity and respect to all the commemorative ceremonies this year.

The solemnity that you provide at State commemorations has once again demonstrated the professionalism and the high standards which each of you apply to taskings.

I am pleased that those serving in this important year will be acknowledged by Government with the presentation of a commemorative medal. I hope to be able to meet with as many of you as possible during the presentation of the 1916 medal.



Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D.
Minister with responsibility for Defence



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Front Cover

Pictured is a 101 Sqn Irish Air Corps CASA CN235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

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

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our November issue, which is packed from cover to cover. Your *On Parade* photos from around the Defence Forces get us started this month before *In Focus*, which looks at the 50th anniversary of an Army Apprentice School platoon, and a century of military service by the O'Reilly family. Veterans' news follows with an account of ONE's recent annual delegate conference in Athlone.

Next, our front-cover article by Guy Warner takes a look at *101 Squadron*. Then, in our second major feature *New Cogs in the DF Wheel*, we hear from recruits in training with 1 Mech Inf Coy. This is followed by *Skills for Life*, which looks at the Defence Forces Employment Support Scheme.

In our Strategic Review article *On a Wave of Terror*, regular contributor, Paul O'Brien, looks at the terrorist attack that took place in Tunisia in June 2015.

In our feature on the Reserves, *Recce Techniques*, Sgt Ciaran Hughes tells us about a recce techniques course for RDF personnel conducted in 1 Bde Cav Sqn during the summer.

We have two reports from our visits to PDFORRA's recent annual delegate conference in Cork as the association celebrates 25 years of representation, and to the autumn Engineer Specialist Search Clearance exercise that took place around Gormanston and Dundalk in late September.

We also have two Congo-related history features. First up is *The Lesson of Jadotville*, written by Dr James McCafferty DSM, BA (Hons), PhD, who served in the Congo with 34, 36 and 39 Inf Bns. This is followed by *Cpl Liam Dougan – An Appreciation*, by Harry Havelin, in which he reminisces about Cpl Dougan, a member of the patrol killed in the Niemba Ambush on 8th November 1960.

Our sports pages are taken up with our very own Cosantoir 10K, now in its 37th year. We also have our regular *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do*, features.

Check out our competitions and results on pages 35 and 36.

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

THE TPR BOB FARRELL MEMORIAL SWIM/WALK

On September 14th they came to swim, walk and run, but most of all they came in memory of one of life's nice guys, Tpr Bob Farrell. Over 260 supporters took part, raising over €10,000 in Bob's name for veterans in need.

OiC DFES, Capt Siobhán O'Sullivan, gave an eloquent description of Bob's achievements and his favourite place of work, the DFTC pool. Bob's son Gavin expressed the family's thanks and appreciation to everyone who took part and supported the event.

DF Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, attended the event and joined Bob's family and many of their friends and neighbours in the 5km run/walk. ONE was well represented, which was good to see as the organisation was the recipient of all funds raised, to help in their work in supporting veterans who have fallen on hard times.

On the day a total combined swim of 168km and 400km walk/run was achieved. The military family had once again shown the strength of camaraderie in the best traditions of the Defence Forces. The organising committee wish to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported this worthy event.

Photos: Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald.



6 | ON PARADE



CISM WORLD TRIATHLON ▲

They came, they raced, they climbed and what mountains they were. It was the hardest Triathlon course any one of them had ever seen, as one of the Luxembourg Athletes explained, the local cyclists call it the Alpe d'huez of Luxembourg, and it was so true. But without complaints the team carried on and came home with a 3rd place finish with Sgt Jackie Wykes 2nd female. The European Teams represented in the CISM event were Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Ireland. The Irish Team was: Capt Micheal Barry, Sgt Johanna Tilley-Rock, Sgt Jackie Wykes, Cpl Gavin Crawford, Cpl Barry Smyth and Pte John Joyce. Photo: Sgt Johanna Tilley-Rock



JUDO CHAMPS

Sgmn Martin Leonard (blue), DFHQ CIS Coy with retired Sgt Paul McConville at the International Irish Judo Masters Championship 2016, which took place on Sunday 2nd October. Martin took GOLD at +100kgs and Paul took BRONZE at 90kgs. Photo: Sgmn Martin Leonard



NEW 3 STAR PRIVATES ▲

Pictured are members of the 33rd Recruit Platoon, 28 Inf Bn who received their 3 star rank markings on 22nd September in Finner Camp, Co Donegal. Photo: David O'Dowd



TOP GUN ▲

Members of the Royal Meath Branch of ONE held their annual shooting competition in Newtownmountkennedy on the 15th August. The overall winning marksman on the day was Cathal Rogers with Robbie O'Bryan as runner up. Photo: Noel Cloak P.C., PRO

GLEN OF IMAAL REMEMBERED

Pictured at the 75th Anniversary marking the accidental explosion that killed 16 soldiers of all ranks in the Glen of Imaal on Friday 16th September is Sgt Derek McNamara who played the last post, his father played the last post for the 50th Anniversary and his grandfather was also involved in the incident. Photo: Sgt Mick Burke



ON TARGET ▲

Keeping the military tradition going is Cpl Peter Sherlock showing his nephew Jack Sherlock how to work the Browning 12.7mm Heavy Machine Gun at the Defence Forces Open Day that was held in Custume Bks, Athlone on Sunday 16th October. Photo: Pte Aiden Sherlock, 6 Inf Bn



CIS CORPS GOLF ▲

The DCIS Annual Golf Championship was held in the Royal Curragh Golf Course on Wednesday 28th September. The Team winners were: Air Corps and the Individual winner was Alan Hill (not pictured). *Photo: Sgt Paddy McGrath, D CIS*



ARCO WREATH LAYING ▲

On Friday 7th October the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) held a wreath laying ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance. The Minister with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Kehoe TD and members of the general staff were in attendance. *Photo: Cpl Colin Delaney, 2 Bde HQ*



GUNNER MEL GIBSON ▲

Film star and Oscar winning director, Mel Gibson became an honorary member of 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment recently. He is pictured with troops drawn from 2 Arty Regt who were conducting rehearsals for a forthcoming 21 Gun Salute, and Mel decided to take time out of his filming schedule to observe their skills and drills. Mel Gibson and Sean Penn are currently shooting the movie 'The Professor and the Mad Man' which is set in the 1880s, and is based on the book by Simon Winchester, 'The Surgeon of Crowthorne: A Tale of Murder, Madness and the Love of Words'. *Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan, 2 BAR*



JADOTVILLE VETERAN ▲

Pictured is John Dreelan who served with 'A' Coy 35th Inf Bn (who for 55 years has never discussed Jadotville) was honoured by fellow Kilkenny men Sgt Tommy Comerford and Cpl David Butler, 3 Inf Bn, who visited him on Thursday 6th October in St. Luke's Hospital and presented him with the unit citation awarded to members of 'A' Coy, 35th Inf Bn. *Photo: Aiden McHugh*



NEW PHYSICAL TRAINING LEADERS ▲

Pictured are the students and instructors of the recent MP Corps and RDF Physical Training Leader (PTL) Course held in the Defence Forces School of Physical Education (DFPES) in the DFTC, Curragh Camp from 19th - 30th September. *Photo: 2/LT (RDF) Alan Markey*



HOSPITAL VISIT TO COLLINS BKS ▲

Pictured are children and staff from the Children's Ward of Mercy Hospital, Cork who visited Collins Bks, Cork on 14th October as part of a fund raising effort for the Children's Ward. All the units from Collins Bks participated in the event which was co-ordinated and controlled by 1 Bde Arty Regt. They were treated to a historical museum brief from CQ Gerry Whyte and Sgt Dennis McGarry, an equipment display followed by food and refreshments in the NCOs Mess, accompanied with a recital of music by the Band of 1 Bde. *Photo: Sgt Daniel Sheehan, HQ 1 Bde*

Apprentices' 50th Anniversary

Former members of 11 Platoon visit the site of the former Devoy Bks, Naas.



REPORT AND PHOTOS BY MAIRTÍN Ó CIARDUBHÁIN

Lawlor's Hotel, Naas, was the venue for the 50th anniversary reunion of No 11 Platoon, Army Apprentice School, 1966-1969. Fifty years had passed since the would-be apprentices walked under the arch leading into Devoy Barracks in Naas. (The arch is practically all that remains of the barracks today and is to be restored by Kildare Co Council.) The gangly teenagers were entering a whole new world – army life.

Of the 48 apprentices many stayed on in the army with the last only leaving within the year. This was the first class reunion and 28 attended; seven had died, seven couldn't be traced and six could not make it for various reasons. As well as coming from the four corners of Ireland, others had travelled from Canada, New York and the UK.

The senior man there was Comdt Vincent Fitzgerald (retd) from Tipperary, a member of the platoon who went on to become a commissioned officer.

The reunion, which was well organised by Piery Holden and Marty O'Hara, began with Mass in Naas parish church at which the deceased members of the class were remembered. A guided tour

of the site of the former barracks was then given by Seamie Moore of Naas Town Council who also spoke of the historical significance of Devoy Barracks. In addition, during the two-day reunion some took the opportunity to visit the Military Museum in the Curragh

The attendees at the reunion dinner held in Lawlor's Hotel, and ably chaired by Jimmy Arundel, a member of the class, were addressed by their former platoon commander, Mick Kavanagh, and their armourer instructor, Tom Keenan.

Responding on behalf of the class, Matty Doyle (the youngest recruit) thanked everybody for their support and kindness and said what a wonderful opportunity it was to get together again after such a long time and relive the good old days.

Those present were evidence of the truth in the Apprentice School motto, 'Ní obair in aisce' ('There is no work without gain'), as all had a full and rewarding career in either military or civilian life. All resolved to keep in touch in the coming years. ■

Eddie Ryan (seated) and Piery Holden (right) discuss the layout of Devoy Bks with local historian, Seamie Moore (Naas Town Council), during the class visit to the site of the former Army Apprentice School.



L/R: Joe Murphy, John Croke and Paddy 'Pauric' Keady, stand in front of the gate into Devoy Barracks that they first entered 50 years ago this year.



A CENTURY OF SERVICE

BY CPL VINNY O'REILLY, NO 5 SP WING, AIR CORPS

As a teenager my paternal grandfather, John O'Reilly, took part in the 1916 Rising with the 4th Battalion in Boland's Mills and Mount Street Bridge. He was interned in Mountjoy Prison during the Civil War in 1921, and later served in the Defence Forces during the Emergency. He died in December 1954, and is buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, close to his brother Joseph O'Reilly, who was on the opposing side during the Civil War.

My maternal grandfather, Hugh Kessie, joined the Defence Forces in 1936, serving through the Emergency, and then again from 1947 to 1972. He was based in Magee Bks, Kildare Town, before transferring to 5 Inf Bn in Dublin, where he was based in St Brigid's Hospital until his retirement in 1972. Hugh played in goal for the 5 Inf Bn GAA team during the 1950s, winning a number of medals. He was a storeman/cobbler and was one of the storemen who issued UN kit to the first Irish soldiers travelling to the Congo in 1960. Hugh died in December 1974.



Father Peter O'Reilly

My father Peter O'Reilly, joined the Defence Forces in 1955, serving with 2 Grn Military Police and later with 2 Fd TPT Coy. After promotion to sergeant in 1970 he was posted to McKee Company, AHQ, retiring with the rank of company sergeant in 1979. He served two tours of duty with the UN in Cyprus in 1965 and 1966/67.

After retiring from the Defence Forces, Peter got involved with ONE and was one of the founders of IUNVA. He was president of the Col Dan Fitzgerald Branch of ONE and vice-president of ONE in 1985.

Peter died in November 2014.

My brother, Stephen O'Reilly, joined the Defence Forces in October 1979, training in the Curragh with 3 Inf Bn before being posted to the Air Corps. He served as a crash rescue fireman until 1986 when he transferred to the Air Corps Photographic Section, Group HQ. Stephen served overseas with 53 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, in 1983 and retired in October 2000.

I joined the Defence Forces in 1987 and was posted to the Air Corps where I am still serving as a transport corporal and driving instructor.

Members of the family have served Ireland from before the foundation of the state: during the 1916 Rising, the Civil War, the Emergency, and beyond: a total of 100 years of service, which may come to 102 years, as I'm due to retire in 2018. ■



Brother Stephen O'Reilly



Grandfather John O'Reilly



Grandfather Hugh Kessie



Cpl Vinnie O'Reilly

ONE Conference 2016

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

ONE's Annual Delegate Conference 2016 was held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, from 23rd-25th September. In his address to the delegates, President Mick Carroll thanked CEO Ollie O'Connor and his assistant, Paul Cooley, for their work, and ONE house managers and their staff

for the excellent contribution they make towards achieving ONE's main aim, helping former soldiers in distress. Mick also thanked the branches for their continued help and fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Chairman, Patrick Rooney, spoke about the recent White Paper on Defence, telling delegates that a lot of work had been carried out meeting politicians and the general staff to get their points heard.

He went on to list a number of initiatives, including the Fuchsia Appeal and the DF Race Day, to help fund ONE's work and said they could be better supported by the members. He also questioned if County Councils could do more. "Everyone agrees we are 'doing a wonderful job,'" he said, "but what about giving us €5,000 towards the upkeep of the houses? Nothing comes in!"

In his address, CEO Ollie O'Connor said: "It was a very busy year with parades, but this has paid dividends as one unnamed benefactor donated €20,000 for house projects, because of the great turnout and seeing you marching smartly down O'Connell Street on Easter Sunday."

He told the conference: "There are currently 43 residents in our homes: 30 in Brú na bhFiann, six in Letterkenny, and seven in Athlone."

He also said ONE was not finished with the White Paper and that they had expressed to the Dept of Defence and the minister that they wanted to flesh out the bulleted points listed in the veterans' policy.

Ollie thanked those non-members who continued to help fundraise for ONE, including Benny Hill, Tommy Conlon and Paul Clarke, who presented a cheque for €6,000 on behalf of Swan Batt from the proceeds of their recent black-tie Veterans' Ball; Trisha McLoughlin, who raised €6,600 from swimming; and the Tpr Bob Farrell Committee and its supporters, who raised €10,000 in Bob's name.

Ollie encouraged members to take part in the Defence

Forces Friday Club initiative and spoke about the great work being carried out by the drop-in centres in Limerick and Dundalk, saying that anyone was welcome to drop in for a cup of tea and a chat if they are passing.

Ollie thanked the DF for the recent Veterans Day, and finished by saying that ONE would continue working with other veterans organisations and would seek clarification about the mention of 'catastrophic injury' in the veterans policy section of the White Paper, as many veterans suffer mentally as well.

Again the issue of the requirements and duties of being a charity were raised when Paddy Rooney, as head of the Financial Committee, complemented the board and the committee for reducing overall spending by 12.5%. "Now we need to look at branch spending," he said. "We owe it to our donors to make sure we operate correctly – or we risk losing our charity status."

ONE Director Derek Ryan spoke about their Strategic Plan, "We are at war with other charities for funding! We have to focus on raising funds and plan like other agencies do. Our vision and mission is to look after our former colleagues and homeless veterans."

ONE Company Secretary Albert Farrell spoke about governance and gave a stern warning to all branches to provide receipts for any spending. "We are governed also... otherwise we would have chaos. If we see irregularities with any accounts I, as company secretary, am obliged by law to inform Revenue and An Garda Síochána or I face a €5,000 fine and/or a year in jail – and I'm not doing either!"

Finishing the conference CEO Ollie O'Connor urged members to "Support the Fuchsia Appeal and let us do more to help our comrades!" ■



New board elected for 2016/17.



Branch of the Year award winners Fr. James Gilmore Br. N/Dublin. L/R: John Whelan, President Mick Carroll and Seán Shinnors.



President elect Tom James, St Conleth's Branch, who will take over at the 2017 ADC in Limerick.



ONE Director Derek Ryan discussing ONE's Strategic Plan.

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- George Bernard Shaw

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SQUADRON 1

BY GUY WARNER

The Irish Air Corps first mounted maritime patrol duties in February 1977 as part of Ireland's responsibilities as a member of the European Economic Community. The venerable DH Doves of the General Purpose Flight were the original aircraft used; wholly inadequate for fishery protection or the detection of pollution, drugs smuggling or arms trafficking within Ireland's designated economic zone (EZ), which, with an area of 132,000 nm² (440,000 km²), is five times the size of Ireland and comprises some 16% of EU waters. A leased Beechcraft Super King Air quickly replaced the Dove in March 1977, with a second in 1978. These were purchased in 1978 and allocated to the Maritime Squadron, No 1 Support Wing in 1980.

Conditions for the crews flying box pattern patrols were much better than in the Dove but had little in the way of comfort. They were repainted in high visibility white and Day-Glo red in 1983 and served on maritime operations until 1991, when both aircraft reached the manufacturer's 5,000-hour safety limit for low-level flights over the ocean.

In 1990 a DoD Maritime Aircraft Evaluation Board recommended the purchase of two CASA (now Airbus Group) CN 235MPs from the manufacturer in Seville. These were ordered in April 1991 at a cost of €55.3m, half of which was to be provided by the EU on condition that 90% of the flying hours would be on maritime patrols over the Irish sector of the European EZ.

Pending delivery, a CN 235-100 was leased from CASA to serve with Maritime Squadron. While not specifically equipped for the role, the nose-mounted, weather radar was capable of detecting surface activity in the patrol area. It entered service in June 1991 and flew a full range of missions, until the arrival of the two purpose-built aircraft in December 1994. From 2001, following

an internal structural reorganisation, the

aircraft were allocated to 101 Squadron, No 1 Operations Wing.

It is a roomy aircraft, crewed by a pilot, co-pilot, two airborne sensor and radar operators (SAROs), a signals operator and a photographer, with a galley and toilet just aft of the flight deck and eight seats in a rest area in mid-cabin. On the starboard side there are twin stations for the mission consoles. Aft of these are two large bubble windows, port and starboard, and, behind the rear bulkhead, stowage on the cargo ramp for SAR equipment, including up to six air-droppable life rafts.

In 2006, the aircraft received a €12.5m mid-life upgrade at Seville that considerably enhanced their capabilities with the introduction of the Fully Integrated Tactical System (FITS). This included the replacement of the Litton APS-504 (V5) radar by a Telephonics Ocean Eye AN/APS-143(V)3 system and a new Star SAFIRE® III forward-looking, electro-optical, infrared (FLIR) turret that incorporates a gyro-stabilised video camera system and a powerful spotter scope. They are also equipped with the SAAB Aerotech RS4 Automatic Identification System (AIS), which interrogates a vessel's transponder for information such as its name and unique maritime mobile service identity number, destination and cargo. Not all vessels are fitted with AIS, and in any case a visual identification of 'targets of interest' is necessary, with photographs being taken by a hand-held Nikon D2X digital camera, slaved to the GPS to ensure that all images are of evidential quality should they be required in court.

The continued health of Ireland's economy and coastal communi-



Flight Sergeant Gerry Mooney studies the radar screen.



ties requires that its natural resources be used sustainably: fishing is very big business with huge profits on particular species, so poaching and unlicensed, illegal activities must be strongly discouraged.

Over the last 22 years the Air Corps has built up a huge amount of experience and expertise in the highly specialised field of maritime surveillance, carrying out close to 5,000 missions. The aircraft have accumulated almost 20,000 flying hours (the highest hours and greatest utilisation of the type in the world), during which over 250,000 sightings of surface activity have been logged. The Air Corps' pilots, sensor operators and engineers have accordingly built up considerable practical experience and deep knowledge of the aircraft and their systems.

An excellent relationship is maintained with Airbus in Seville: the company seeks advice and comments on technical issues from the Air Corps and has commended its personnel on their high maintenance standards.



The crew of Charlie 253 at work.



The crew of Charlie 253 with Guy Warner.

For all the reliability and robust nature of the CASAs' airframes and engines, it is the mission equipment and skill of the operators that provides the key to successful operations. It is a feature of maritime conferences that the Air Corps representatives' knowledge is widely recognised and their input greatly valued, and in light of this expertise it would seem to this author that a programme of short exchange postings with other operators would be a logical progression.

101 Squadron works very closely with a number of agencies including Customs and Revenue, the Coastguard and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority. However, the principal relationship is with the Naval Service, which patrols the Irish EZ from its base at Haulbowline.

Daily, in support of the NS the Air Corps' maritime patrol aircraft scans large sections of the EZ or homes in on areas of particular interest. In summer two patrols are undertaken daily and one aircraft is available round the clock.

The EZ is divided into 10 sub-zones and the first duty of the day for the captain and co-pilot is to ascertain which of these zones has been selected. They then study the latest detailed report from the Met Service and plan what is possible over the course of a typical six-hour patrol taking into account wind strength and direction, visibility, cloud base and precipitation.

On the day of my visit for an afternoon patrol (the 106th maritime mission of the year) the NS had requested an inspection of an area to the south-west of Ireland. Stable and calm conditions were forecast on a perfect late summer's day.

A summary of the UK's fishery protection patrols and the IAA's NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen) were available. Planning was carried out for diversionary airfields in Shannon, Kerry, Cork or Brest, should the need arise. Meanwhile, the radar SAROs downloaded the latest update of the Lirguard database, which gives details of over 5,000 European and Irish fishing vessels.

For take-off and transit to the patrol area we were required to wear immersion suits and lifejackets. I also had the opportunity to have a close look at the cockpit avionics.

The aircraft is equipped with conventional flight instrumentation, including regulation FMS, TCAS2 and EGPWS. It is also equipped with two Collins ANARC 210 VHF and UHF multi-band radios; a TX-ARQ and Collins 9000 HF voice and data transmission system; and a Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) set, which allows for secure communications with NS vessels and military units.

A large, central touch-screen in the cockpit mirrors the display of the left-hand FITS console. Clearer and larger than the originally specified screen, the repeater displays not only the main radar return but also the FLIR, video or spotter scope image, either full size or as a smaller window within the main display.

Comdts Kenny Byrne and Will Cummins described the wide range of duties undertaken by the CASAs.

A considerable number of air ambulance flights to England have been flown, as well as troop, cargo, evacuation and repatriation flights as far afield as Norway, Lebanon, Kosovo and Malta. Participation in army exercises and parachute training with the ARW are regular duties, as are multi-engine flying training and ministerial air transport cover.

Examples of one-off missions included providing vital airborne command-and-control capability during the visits of President Obama and Queen Elizabeth II, and providing SAR top cover during the recent rescue of solo transatlantic rower, Stein Hoff. (The RAF sent an A400M Atlas, the crew of which requested that the CASA should remain in support as it had a much better surveillance fit.)

On reaching the area of operations, I moved into the cabin to observe the work of the SAROs Flt Sgt Gerry Mooney, Cpl Jeff Healy, and photographer Cpl Colum Lawlor. The left-hand, multi-function console was the main sensor station, while the position to the right was used as the tactical display.

The radar data obtained is affected by altitude and sea conditions, and while the system can detect surface targets out to 230 miles at 16,000ft, as we descended to the operational height of between 800ft and 1,000ft, it was switched to enhanced, small-target detection mode and about 50 radar returns (or targets) could be seen within a 100 square mile box. Most were transponding AIS returns (vessel type, call sign, speed, heading, destination, etc) but still needed to be visually identified and photographed if selected as 'targets of interest'.

The SAROs have developed a great corporate knowledge of what constitutes a normal pattern of shipping movements and can readily identify anomalies. Leading the way is the chief SARO instructor, Flt Sgt Gerry Mooney, who has 22 years and 7,000 flying hours on the CASA.

Using the infrared and the video and spotter scope cameras in turn, the SARO guided the pilot onto an into-wind approach on a logical search pattern around the patrol area. As we closed with each target, we dropped smoothly to between 300ft and 400ft, though the CASAs can go down as low as 250ft if necessary.

At about 30 seconds to run, the captain gives permission to the photographer to open the port or starboard blister and calls when overhead. An identification cross-check is then made by the co-pilot (who, in addition to the SARO, records target-specific information) and the photographer, while the tactical-console SARO updates the database. This process was repeated until all targets within the area had been logged and then we climbed to transit to the next set of radar reflections.

The CASAs' radar is powerful enough to pick up shoals of tuna, dolphins and other cetaceans and members of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group have occasionally accompanied patrols to carry out monitoring exercises. Other items that the aircraft's radar have detected include a fridge-freezer floating 400 miles off the coast of Donegal, and several shipping containers of bananas, which subsequently had to be sunk by the NS as they were a hazard to shipping. One container had burst open, covering a large area with floating fruit!

The conditions for our patrol were ideal: light winds, a calm sea and good visibility. On rough days it can become quite turbulent at 250ft and a lot of skill and concentration is needed and there are few other flying jobs that require so much 'seat of the pants' work. In poor weather (the minima are a cloud base of 1,000 feet and visibility of one-and-a-half miles) the workload on the whole crew is pretty high.

The maritime crews come from a fairly small pool and, typically, pilots and SAROs fly two or three missions a week. There are nine pilots qualified as P1s (seven of whom are double-hatted, with other jobs at Baldonnel), 15 P2s (two of whom are full-time) and ten SAROs.

The role of SARO is open to all members of the Defence Forces after successful completion of aptitude tests and a nine-month training course, followed by three months probationary service. Having accumulated about 250 flying hours and after passing a rating flight, they would then be fully fledged SAROs.

The photographers and signallers come from flight-qualified pools within their own specific sub-units.

This has resulted in a close-knit formation, which is evident in the highly professional but relaxed attitude on board; while transiting from one area to another, some of the banter was very funny but the switch of focus to the task in hand was immediate. It was obvious that they enjoyed each other's company and respected the particular skill that each crew member brought to the task.

There is no doubt that the CASA 235's FITS has provided the Air Corps with an excellent surveillance system for fisheries protection duties and the monitoring of other surface activity. The CASAs' role has been subtly changing in recent years, reflected in the change of 101 Squadron's title to 'Surveillance and Airlift.' Given the current threat to Europe from international terrorism and organised crime, a significantly greater emphasis on maritime security and defence has been added to the fishery protection role. Dissemination of information and greater interaction with interested national and international agencies has assumed ever-greater importance. The top-cover provided to the Irish Coastguard's Sikorsky S-92s on/off-shore rescue missions has been enhanced, with the ability now to gather and download vital medical information on casualties from the scene of an incident to the receiving hospital. With the withdrawal of the RAF's Nimrod MR2s from service in 2010, the CASAs have been the only dedicated military maritime patrol assets in Ireland or the UK.

The White Paper on Defence 2015 stated that the CASAs would be due for replacement in 2019, with consideration being given to larger, more capable aircraft to enhance the existing maritime surveillance capability and provide a greater degree of utility for transport and cargo carrying tasks. It is unlikely that the Air Corps would purchase a large jet or four-engine turboprop type, and in this author's view the logical step would be to acquire two or three Airbus C 295 MPAs (the variant operated by the Portuguese Air Force), which are larger (but not too large), faster, longer-ranged and with enhanced mission and cockpit systems. Other contenders would include the Alenia C-27J Spartan and the Bombardier Dash 8 MPA.

With the considerable expertise and skill of the crews gathered over the last 20 years, maritime patrol operations around Ireland are in good hands and can only increase in importance in the years ahead.

Grateful thanks from the author are due to GOC Air Corps, Brig Gen Paul Fry, Comdt Patrick Ridge (OC 101 Squadron), Comdt Gerry Fitzpatrick, Capt Seán McCarthy, and the crew of 'Charlie 253', Comdts Kenny Byrne and Will Cummins, Flt Sgt Gerry Mooney, and Cpl Jeff Healy, Colum Lawlor and Thomas Magee. ■



New Cogs in the DF Wheel

BY LT JOHN PAUL LEE, PL COMD, 106 RECRUIT PLATOON, 1 MECH INF COY

In May 48 young men and women from many different backgrounds embarked on a 17-week journey from civilian to soldier with 106 Recruit Platoon, 1 Mech Inf Coy. The pressure and requirements of recruit training saw some leave early on, with 42 making it to the platoon's passing-out parade on September 22nd.

Their journey began with adjusting to a new routine of early mornings, maintaining high standards of cleanliness, learning foot drill, and operating under a constant level of discipline. As the weeks passed and the expected standards began to become second nature, the intensity increased as the platoon progressed to weapons and arms drill, culminating in the firing of the Steyr, GPMG and M72A1 grenade. The select few who earned their marksmanship badge on the ranges wore them proudly on their uniforms.

Next up was the tactical training phase, consisting of camouflage and concealment, basic tactics, patrols, section attacks, unarmed combat, and two 24-hour exercises to test their progress. The physical training also intensified, with the recruits swapping singlet and shorts for combat boots and battle runs.

After much anticipation and preparation, the platoon embarked on their final tactical assessment week in the Glen of Imaal, which provided a true testing ground for the recruits and gave them the chance to prove themselves as soldiers. The week consisted of long-range, recce and fighting patrols, section attacks and a defensive dig-in exercise on Cemetery Hill. The recruits were also pitted against enemy forces in Stranaheely forest in an exercise that tested their ability to effectively find and destroy an enemy.

The week ended with the recruits proudly marching back to the Curragh, where they were warmly welcomed by the privates, NCOs and officers of their unit.

The platoon then went on to conducting guard duties and a medical first-responder course, while at the same time preparing for their passing out.

Finally, having completed 17-weeks of rigorous military training and with their passing-out parade behind them, their road now leads on to their 3-star training course.



SGT MARK WALSH (PL SGT)

"I remember from my own experience how tough the first week of training can be. You have to adapt straight away from being a civilian to starting to learn to be a trained soldier: learning to stand to attention, and not eyeballing NCOs or officers; keeping your uniform to a high standard every single day; getting used to thinking in a military manner; and adapting to intensive physical and military training."

"Another big thing is getting used to living with people who you never met before and who may have very different personalities and views. While this can cause arguments or conflict, it is overcome by getting to know each other, helping each other along the way, and realising that you are all in the same boat; that you can't overcome every obstacle or difficult situation alone; that it must be done by working together as a section or platoon."

PTE PETER CUNNINGHAM (22) FROM BRACKNAGH, CO OFFALY

"I was playing GAA in Chicago when I applied for the Defence Forces in 2015. As it was a career I always wanted, I decided to come home for the selection process. Since joining the DF I've made many friends and bonded with everyone. I've made many memories that will stay with me forever and I'm looking forward to making many more throughout my career. There's a lot more to the Defence Forces than people know and I enjoy the everyday challenges, both mental and physical."

"I've been honoured to play on the Curragh Camp GAA team twice and reach an All-Army football final."

PTE SHAUNA HANLEY (21) FROM KILDARE TOWN

"I joined the DF for a career and also to follow in my grandfather's footsteps. I didn't want a nine-to-five job, but something that offered me new opportunities and possibilities. I also wanted to defend and protect my country, and to travel around the world doing what I love. I took a gap year from college in 2015 and applied for the army. There was a massive drive to recruit women and I knew this was the perfect time."

"I did find it tough, as I had to get used to a lifestyle that is

far from the glamorous one many women want - but I wouldn't change it for the world. Over the last few months I have lived with 41 other individuals and have gained some of the best friends anyone could ask for. I have also acquired skills that few people get to."

"On joining the Defence Forces I became part of a team where I am treated exactly the same as the man standing next to me; real equality, something women have fought for years to achieve."

"In the next five years I hope to serve overseas, become an NCO, and finish my degree. I know being a part of the DF I can achieve all the above and more."

PTE GARY HUI (21) FROM PORTLAOISE, CO LAOS

"My mother was born and raised in Dublin and my father in Kowloon, Hong Kong. I grew up in Dublin and moved to Portlaoise in 2000. I have trained in the Portlaoise Kenpo Karate club for 13 years and I'm a 1st degree brown belt. After a number of unsuccessful applications to join the PDF I joined the Reserve Defence Forces in March 2015, serving until my last, successful, application for the PDF."

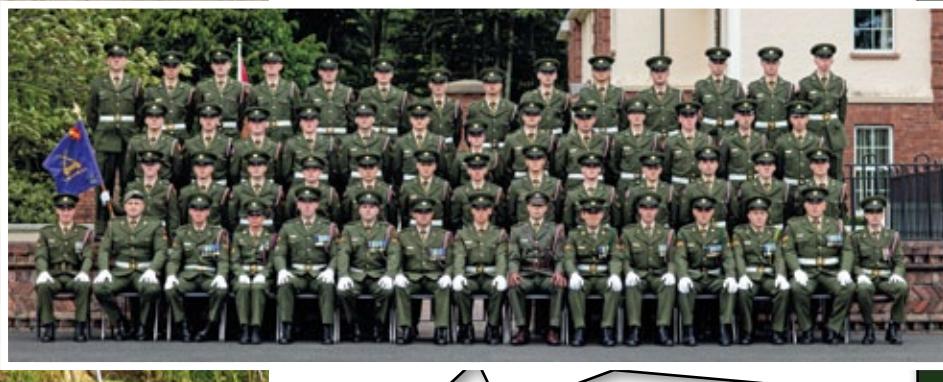
"My family has a military history that goes back to a great uncle who served with the British Army and was at Dunkirk; my grandfather, Frank Kavanagh, was a sergeant in the DF, serving in the Congo and Cyprus before retiring in 1979; and my uncle, CQMS Noely Kavanagh, also had a long career. I would like to follow in their footsteps and start a new chapter in the family's military history."

"I am proud for making it through as it has been the toughest part of my life by a long mile."

PTE PETE McNAMARA (19) FROM NEWBRIDGE, CO KILDARE

"Joining the Defence Forces was always an ambition as I come from a family with a proud tradition of service with the Defence Forces, starting with my great-grandfather, who served with the Connaught Rangers in India before joining the Irish Free State Army during the Civil War in 1922. My grandfather joined up during the Emergency and my father is still serving, having enlisted in the 1980s."

"The Defence Forces also appealed to me as an exciting and interesting career that would allow me to develop new and unique skills. Joining has been the best thing I've ever done and being the fourth generation of my family to serve gives me a great feeling of pride, especially as we commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising."





"Having done a level-5 course in Sport, Recreation and Exercise helped me with the physical side of recruit training, and I'm now looking forward to our three-star training, which will bring a new set of challenges and experiences and further our journey to becoming trained soldiers."

plying for the Defence Forces.

"I found the training to be tough and hard at times but the friends I've made are friends for life. We are lucky to have got this opportunity as many who apply don't make it through."

"It's great to be doing so much and learning more and more each day and I hope to keep improving and learning; to get overseas; and to make myself and my family proud, as well as the NCOs that have trained me so well."

PTE THOMAS PROCTER (20) FROM CALVER-STOWN, CO KILDARE

"I lived in England until I was 11 and moving to Ireland was a massive change, but it's worked out well as I've been able to follow my dream and join the army, something I've wanted since I was 7 or 8."

"I'm a member of Scouting Ireland and the British Scouting Association. Both my parents were scout leaders and I was six weeks old on my first camp! Being a scout leader brought me into contact with many people from the Defence Forces who are also scout leaders."

"The training has been hard but good and I found helping others in my section and platoon really helped me. We all bounced off of one another and grew as one. Our training NCOs are brilliant and really know how to get you up to the required standard needed."

"I can't wait to progress in my career and get overseas. In the future I might try for the Ranger Wing or maybe a cadetship. I also plan on doing the full 21 years as I am enjoying every day."

PTE RICHARD REDDEN (21) FROM BALTORE, CO KILDARE

"My family's ties with the Defence Forces go back to my grandfather who was in the Blue Hussars and was part of the colour party that raised the Irish flag on Spike Island when Britain gave it back to the Irish state. He served during the Emergency and later transferred to 3 Inf Bn in the Curragh."

"Despite this, to be honest, the Defence Forces didn't appeal to me when I was growing up. My main interest was in tractors and farming and in 2013 I went to agricultural college where I got a level-5 qualification in Agriculture."

"After college I was working on building sites when I successfully applied for the Defence Forces. I was hesitant to take up the offer at first as I was in a good job with a good wage. In addition, my fiancé was recently pregnant and spending so much time away from her on recruit training was a tough decision. However, my fiancé told me she would support me the whole way and my job said they would take me back if I didn't like it."

"It was too big a chance to pass up so I joined 106 Recruit Platoon and I haven't looked back. The training has been very good with many challenges. I've made great friends and had some great experiences. I have thoroughly enjoyed my training and now I couldn't imagine a different life."

"It's exciting to think what we have accomplished so far and now we have our three-star training next. I'm delighted I decided to pursue a career in the Defence Forces with its many possibilities and opportunities and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds." ■

PTE KEVIN MOLONEY (21) FROM NEWBRIDGE, CO KILDARE

"I have always wanted to join the Defence Forces. My dad served for 13 years before leaving for a career in the private security sector, and my uncle and aunt are currently serving as a company sergeant and sergeant major, respectively."

"In 2014 I was with 104 Recruit Platoon, 1 ACS. The training was tough but we soon realised it wasn't about being an individual but being part of a team; that we were all in it together."

"Things were going fine until I suffered an injury while on a battle PT run. I was given plenty of opportunity for my injury to heal, although I missed a lot of training. Even though I gave it my best, the injury ultimately came against me and on the day my fellow recruits were heading to their passing-out parade I was packing my bag for home. I was devastated and felt that a career in the Defence Forces was out of reach."

"After some serious soul searching I reapplied for the next recruit competition, and made it through to 106 Recruit Platoon. At the start I questioned whether or not I had made the right decision as I knew what lay ahead; how hard it was going to be and the time I would have to spend away from friends and family. Within days, however, I had developed new friendships and bonds with my fellow recruits and my doubts were banished."

"My story shows that if you want something badly enough you have to keep focused on that objective until you accomplish it despite any setbacks along the way. I have learned a lot about myself, and made many great memories. I'm excited about the next phase of training and really looking forward to my career in the Defence Forces."

PTE AARON PHELAN (20) FROM BALTINGLASS, CO WICKLOW

"I completed a one-year level-6 course in Security, Legal, and Business Administration as I felt it would stand to me when ap-



SKILLS for Life

BY LT RYAN VAN HAEFTEN, ESS PL COMDR
PHOTOS BY CPL COLIN DELANY, 2 BDE HQ



The government's White Paper on Defence 2015 led to the establishment of the Defence Forces Employment Support Scheme (ESS) after detailed discussion involving the Dept of Defence (DoD), the Defence Forces, the Dept of Social Protection (DSP), and the Dublin-Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB).

The objective of the scheme was to help develop a path to economic and social independence for disadvantaged young people aged 18–24. The ESS was designed to exert a positive influence on the participants, with the specific aim of equipping them with skills that will assist them in entering the workforce or pursuing further education, and thereby allowing them to participate more fully in society.

Participation in the scheme involved a 10-week training programme consisting of just over five weeks of military-oriented training by the DF interspersed with slightly less than five weeks of education-oriented training by the DDLETB. The first two weeks of the programme were fully residential and the remaining eight weeks were residential from Monday to Friday only.

Gormanston Camp was selected as the location to conduct the pilot scheme, primarily due to its proximity to the DSP's designated catchment area and the DDLETB's training centre in Baldoyle. The military instructors were drawn from across the DF.

Initial planning at DFHQ level began in earnest in mid-2015 with preparations at ground level commencing in January 2016. A selection process was developed between the DF, DSP and DDLETB to ensure the most appropriate candidates received a place on the scheme. Applicants selected then underwent a selection process comprising interviews, Garda vetting, and security clearance, before receiving a place on the programme.

OIC ESS, Comdt Curtis, was involved from January and the initial platoon commander, Lt Kenneally, from early April. For the majority of the instructional staff, however, preparations commenced on 30 May 2016 in Gormanston Camp, where

2 BTC co-ordinated a pre-orientation course for ESS instructors. This featured a number of specialist external instructors, including a humanistic counsellor and psychotherapist from Youthreach and specially qualified DSP staff, to help prepare the instructors for the unique nature of the scheme.

On Monday 20 June the programme commenced, with 26 participants reporting to Gormanston Camp. However, one person opted out of the programme due to personal circumstances, leaving 25.

The training syllabus for the ESS (TS 032/2016 'Skills for Life, Employment Support Scheme'), produced by J7, incorporated a number of certifiable skills including hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) training, manual handling, and first aid, and a number of marketable life skills including discipline, dress and deportment, confidence, teamwork, a sense of routine, motivation, and many more.

The group was structured as a platoon, with OIC ESS Comdt Curtis (27 Inf Bn); Military Supervisor Lt Kenneally (3 Inf Bn) and Lt Van Haeften (1 Inf Bn); Pl Sgt Reid (TIS Gormanston); section commanders and 21/Cs Sgt O'Reilly (1 BAR), Sgt O'Raw (Mil Col), Sgt Halpenny (2 Bde HQ), Sgt Knowd (DFTC CIS Gp), Cpl Carville (27 Inf Bn), and Cpl O'Doherty (Air Corps Mil Trg and Survival Sch).

Initially, the participants received an in-depth induction from the DF and Oiliúna (the training contractor acting on behalf of the DDLETB), were screened for underlying learning difficulties that might impact on their progress, and received detailed briefings on the ESS.

During week one the participants achieved a manual handling certificate, a Solas/Safe Pass certificate and basic instruction in foot drill and personal administration. In order to prevent cabin fever and to mix up the training the participants undertook a number of tours over the course of the weekend, including visits to Newgrange, Glasnevin Cemetery, Croke Park and a 1916 Tour of Dublin City.

Over the following weeks the participants continued working hard with their DF instructors on foot drill, inspections,



and physical training and conditioning, in Gormanston Camp, while focussing on word processing, e-mail, internet, communications, CV construction and interview techniques, with their DDLETB instructors.

Minister Paul Kehoe and Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, visited midway through the programme to see how the scheme was going and spoke to the participants to see how they were progressing and how they were finding the ESS.

As part of the programme the participants undertook a camping exercise in the Cooley Mountains. The day began with demonstrations on how to construct and establish a sleeping area. They were then briefed on various survival skills and underwent some practical demonstrations with Cpl O'Doherty. The day culminated in a navigation exercise where the participants were tasked with navigating the group over difficult terrain.

Food was provided by ration packs, which the participants seemed to enjoy; particularly the chocolate brownie! The group rotated sentries throughout the night, with each participant getting the opportunity to occupy a sentry position.

The DF training element culminated with adventure training on Bere Island, which took a considerable amount of planning and assistance from other units, in particular 1 BAR and Gunner Pat Hurley.

The young people were extremely enthusiastic and had

been looking forward to this week since the course began, as they were going to experience rock climbing, sailing and kayaking; activities that most of the participants had never attempted before. This lack of experience didn't deter them and they got stuck in straight away, with the encouragement of the enthusiastic and exceptional instructors supplied by DFCAAT. While some of the participants had a fear of water, the assistance of the sailing and kayaking instructors saw the vast majority of participants take a full part in the week-long activities.

On their return from Bere Island the group was given a tour of the Naval Base by Lt (NS) Grace Fanning, where they gained a valuable insight into the roles and activities of the Naval Service. The NS Diving Section, in particular, captured the attention of the participants and sparked a serious interest. The group was then brought to the bridge simulator to experience what it is like to be on the bridge of a Naval Service ship and presented with various tasks and scenarios that required them to work as a team.

The programme ended on Friday 26 August with a graduation ceremony that drew the attention of RTÉ's *Drivetime* and Newstalk's *Breakfast Show* and other media outlets. This was an anxious and exciting day for the participants as their families were in attendance and would see their foot drill in action. At the same time there was a great sense of sadness among the group as the realisation had dawned on them that the programme was coming to an end. By now most of the participants had grown significantly in confidence, becoming a tight-knit group and forming strong bonds that will long outlast this programme.

A most rewarding moment came when two of the participants gave a heartfelt and emotional speech on behalf of the group, documenting their journey through the programme. It was even more impressive considering one of the participants had been too nervous to speak to instructors and fellow members of the group at the beginning of the course but was now comfortable speaking in front of 200 people.

Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath, gave words of encouragement and motivation to the young people as they embarked on a new journey - hopefully towards employment or further education - and spoke about the new skills they had developed through the course and the friendships they made.

Oiliúna generously supplied two mini I-pads and two Hewlett Packard laptops as awards over the course of the programme. The ceremony concluded with the families being invited to celebrate with the participants and enjoy this unique moment.

The success of the scheme owes a huge amount to the indispensable support that OIC ESS received from many units, and Bde and DFHQ staff, as well as the enthusiastic endeavours of the ESS instructional staff, whose hard work and open mindedness ensured the buy-in of the participants.

OIC ESS would also like to note that the excellent working relationship established with DDLETB and DSP was invaluable to the success of the scheme. ■



On A Wave **OF TERROR**



BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

Seifeddine Rezgui Yacoubi racked back the bolt on his automatic weapon, released the safety catch and opened fire indiscriminately into the crowd. The attack commenced at 1138hrs at the tourist resort of Port el Kantaoui, about 10 kilometres from Sousse, in Tunisia. Within minutes, 38 people lay dead and many more wounded in what was to be one of the worst attacks on foreign holiday makers in the region.

A rose lies on the beach of the Riu Imperial Marhaba Hotel in memory of those killed.
Photo: © Getty





This popular holiday resort has miles of golden beaches and is bordered by two hotels, the Imperial and the Belview, with large swimming pools and ornate gardens. Cheap flights and affordable accommodation in luxurious, five-star surroundings, as well as excellent weather and friendly locals, enticed many to take up holiday offers in the resort.

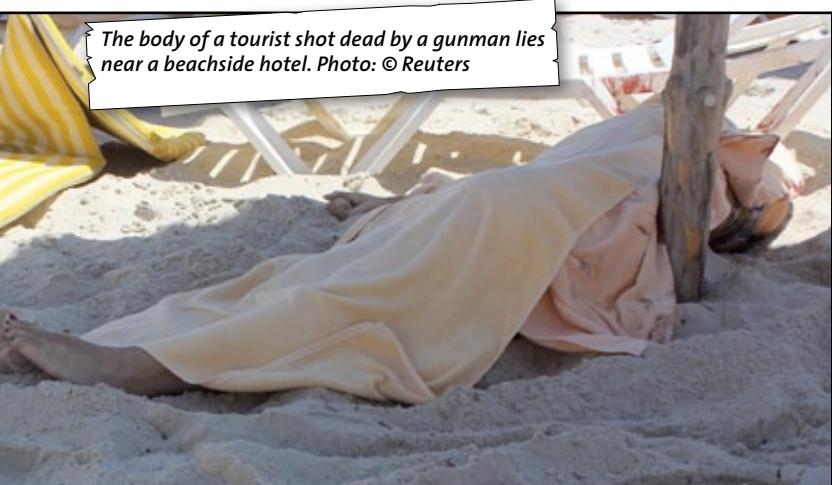
On the morning of 26th June 2015 many holiday makers were relaxing, sunbathing or taking a swim, while others enjoyed the gardens, some awaiting their transport to the airport as their break had come to an end.

Yacoubi, dressed in black and carrying a parasol, appeared on the beach. Dropping the parasol he produced a Kalashnikov assault rifle and opened fire. A woman slumped over, shot dead. Others, realising that an attack was taking place, ran for their lives towards the main hotel buildings. There were two minutes of continuous automatic fire and then silence. Survivors who hadn't run lay still and feigned death in the hope the gunman would walk by. However, clicking a fresh magazine into place, he reloaded and began moving forward again, opening fire. Eighteen people were shot dead on the beach before the gunman began moving towards the hotels.

Local beach workers, realising the gunman was only targeting foreigners, pleaded with him to stop shooting. They followed him along the beach but their pleas were ignored as he made his way off the shoreline and towards the hotels.

Twelve minutes after the first shots had been fired a police officer and coastguard official arrived on the scene. They were reluctant to engage the assailant, so a local beach boy took the officer's handgun and fired on the suspect. After two shots the weapon jammed, rendering it useless.

Inside the first hotel, Yacoubi once again started firing before



throwing a hand grenade into the lobby, where it exploded, sending shards of shrapnel through the air and cutting down many more holidaymakers. People ran and barricaded themselves in their rooms while others attempted to flee the gunman by running out into the streets, where local shopkeepers brought them inside, closed their shops and called the security services for assistance.

At 1206hrs, the assailant headed out of the hotel and back towards the beach. Realising that the gunman was about to target the next hotel, and with no regard for their own safety, young local men formed a human chain to prevent him progressing any further, forcing him into the street and away from the tourist areas.

At 1216hrs security forces arrived at the scene and engaged the gunman, shooting him dead 38 minutes after the attacks commenced.

Within that short period of time, 38 holidaymakers had been killed and 39 injured, many of them seriously. Among the dead were Lorna Carty from Robinstown, Co Meath, and Martina and Laurence Hayes from Westlodge, Athlone. Others killed came from the UK, Germany, Belgium, Russia and Portugal.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack but the initial investigation revealed that Yacoubi was not your typical terrorist. The 23-year-old electrical engineering student was popular, enjoyed music and dancing, and socialised with friends regularly. However, the young man had become radicalised over issues such as the Libyan Civil War and the failure of many Western countries to condemn Assad's brutal, repressive regime in the Syrian Civil War.

With the possibility of more attacks in the region, many tour operators cancelled flights to Tunisia and offered holiday makers alternative destinations. With tourism the main source of income for many Tunisians, the local economy suffered greatly.

The Tunisian government was condemned as its intelligence services had not identified the threat. Also, there was a serious lack of armed security personnel on duty in or around the hotels, rendering them as soft targets. Tour operators and the local authorities were questioned as to why tourists were not warned that a threat of a terrorist attack existed. (Many holiday makers were not aware that only two months before, on 18th March 2015, three insurgents attacked tourists at the Bardo Museum in the Tunisian capital, Tunis, with the loss of 22 lives.

Tunisian authorities acknowledged that there were security lapses and began stepping up security, with armed guards at hotels, regular patrols and a heightened presence on the streets.

As these attacks were taking place, other terrorist incidents were taking place throughout the world, resulting in the deaths of innocent people. Governments condemned these attacks and in the months that followed, there was an increase in bombing raids against ISIS positions in Syria.

In Ireland there was a minute's silence in the Dáil as the government stopped proceedings to remember those that had lost their lives in the attack in Tunisia and the national flag flew at half mast on public buildings as a sign of respect.

These types of 'lone-wolf' attacks are set to continue even with increased security measures, prompting many to ask how such terrorist organisations can be stopped. Intelligence agencies throughout the world are thwarting many attacks but there are still enough getting through to cause chaos, carnage and the massacre of innocents. ■



Recce Techniques

BY SGT CIARAN HUGHES, RDF LIAISON SGT, 1 BDE CAV SQN
PHOTOS BY ARMN ADAM MURPHY AND COURSE STUDENTS

An Introduction to Reconnaissance Techniques course for RDF personnel was run in 1 Bde Cav Sqn from 16th-29th July. I have been working as RDF Liason Sgt for over a year now and was well aware of the enthusiasm within the RDF for personnel to undergo robust training such as a reconnaissance course.

Once the course was announced there was great interest and the take up within 1 Bde was good, leading to a wide range of personnel from different corps attending the course. It was clear from the beginning that the students who arrived were highly motivated and here to learn as many skills as possible with the training time available - with many giving up their holidays to attend.

Before the course I sat down with all the instructors to ascertain what training outcomes we would like to achieve within the course syllabus. It was clear that this should be pitched as an entry-level course to build on when students returned to their units.

The first day of the course was for assessment, with the students being tested in many areas, such as map reading, signals and combat fitness. This was to give the students and instructors an idea of where the students stood in military skills and physical fitness and to decide what was expected of the students from different ranks throughout the course.

During week one the students attended lectures in recce knowledge, including OPs, patrolling, and hide harbours. There was also a good amount of practical, 'walk through-talk through' lessons. From the outset all instructors want to create a learning environment and these lessons helped the students to prepare

for the first 24-hr FTX, 'Dark Knight', a practice FTX where the students were guided through the selection and occupation of a patrol harbour and the orders phase for an OP.

Again the students were walked through selecting, occupying and constructing an OP. The student were encouraged to ask questions and in order to help break down the nuts and bolts of each phase all ranks were given periods in command appointments, which gave them an appreciation of different roles within the recce troop.

It was clear to the instructors that there was a very mixed experience level and different skill sets within the group, but common to all was an eagerness to learn.

Week one also included a one-day navigation exercise and two night navigation exercises. The level of map reading was good but there was room to build on students' skills, especially at night where some of the students were surprised at the difference from daytime navigation. There was also a full day of medical lectures by Cpl O'Sullivan, 1 Bde CMU, a member of the RDF who works with the Ambulance Service. With a wealth of first-hand experience from working at the coal face every day, Cpl O'Sullivan tailored a medical package for the students that was informative and realistic.

Week two of the course saw a definite ramp up in tempo as at this stage the students had done all their walk-through talk-throughs and were now eager to be tested to see if they could put their newly found skill to the test.

An add-on to the course was survive, evade, resist and extract





(SERE) training. SERE-qualified instructors with the course gave the students a brief introduction to the subject, which included field food preparation, cooking, shelter and fire construction. These lessons were good for the students, as they were broken into groups different to their detachments, allowing for greater cohesion within the group.

The main focus of this week was the prep and execution for 'Keep Close', a 72-hr FTX in which the scenario involved working in an ATCP role to conduct recon and surveillance tasks for the Garda Síochána.

For the exercise the students were dropped off in the Knockmealdown area, where they were given an area to locate a hide from which to operate. As an added difficulty target personnel were operating in the vicinity, which led to a covert tab-in to the hide location.

The FTX serials played out over the next three days included inserting an OP, conducting close target recce (CTRs), and meeting with informants.

Working from Garda intelligence the students had to piece together an intelligence picture to turn the ATCP role into a green role.

The students also had to perform a raid during a hostage situation.

Overall, the effort level of the students was immense, and while many were pushed to their limits they all came through and showed that their initial interest and enthusiasm hadn't waned.

As course sergeant, I was very pleased with the learning outcomes and felt that all students, regardless of rank, could go back

Tpr Pratt instructing on SERE training



Sgt McLoughlin, 1 Inf Bn (RDF)

to their units and pass on the skills and knowledge they had learned.

I was also very fortunate to have a highly skilled, dedicated group of instructors and staff, who I relied on throughout the course. It also helped that I had great support staff from within 1 Cav Sqn RDF because without good support staff these courses would not happen.

Finally I would like to encourage any RDF personnel thinking of doing this course to look out for it on the annual training diary next year and put their name down. This is how we can build on the skills within the reserves. ■

Vox Pops



CPL SEÁN MORRISSEY (INSTRUCTOR), 1 CAV SQN, COLLINS BKS, CORK

"I have 15 years' service in 1 Cav Sqn and completed my own recce course four years ago and my recce commander's course a year later. The students have shown how interested they are and that they are fast learners. It's great to see the RDF getting more integrated through courses like this."



CPL ADRIAN CORKERY, 1 BAR, COLLINS BKS, CORK

"I was looking forward to this course and found it an excellent experience. It gave me a chance to brush up on some navigation skills, especially night navigation, which I would have been unsure of before. We have a good group on the course with high skill levels, which helps a lot with the pressure of setting up an OP. I would definitely encourage other RDF members to put their names forward for the course."



SGT EAMONN MCLOUGHLIN, 1 INF BN, DUN UI MHAOILIOSA, GALWAY

"The course is sold as being tough, and rightly so, but it's very good and also enjoyable. The instruction is good and it is being run very well, which is important, with some tasks being complicated and demanding. It is one of the best courses I have done so far in the RDF and is very applicable to members of the infantry. It gave me a chance to work with a small group with high standards, which improved my infantry skills and fitness level."



TPR BRENDAN MCCARTHY, 2 CAV SQN, CATHAL BRUGHA BKS, DUBLIN

"The course is very challenging and physically tough. I am an avid orienteer, and came first in the male over-40s DF championships this year, which helped me with the navigation side of the course. But the night navigation was completely different and took me a bit to get used to it. The group on the course are very enthusiastic, which helps with tasks like the model building because everyone just gets stuck in. I would recommend the course to all RDF members."

25 Years of Representation PDFORRA Conference 2016

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE

PDFORRA, which is celebrating its 25th year, held its annual delegate conference in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Cork, from 4th-6th October.

In attendance was Minister of State for Defence Paul Kehoe TD; Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM; ACOS Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran; and military and civilian guests from DFHQ and the DoD.

In a press release prior to the opening of the conference, PDFORRA General Secretary Gerry Rooney addressed the Larium issue, which said: *'We are surprised and somewhat concerned that the advice of UN medical experts is being ignored on the use of Larium. On all the United Nations peace-support missions in Africa that Irish troops have served on in recent years, Lariam has been, and remains, the main*

anti-malaria drug distributed. It is a controversial drug which is well recognised as having severe side effects that affect a significant number of those who take it. While many who take it do not suffer side effects, it has a bad reputation that means most of those who are scheduled to take it would rather not. However, the fact remains it is very effective and efficient at ensuring those who take it do not develop malaria, which of course is a most serious condition.'

There was quite an angry mood at the conference, and some of the delegates' frustration was clearly visible as they heckled speakers from the floor.

Deputy General Secretary Gerard Guinan spoke to the delegates on current negotiations with the department on items including a review of security duty allowance; the Working Time Act 1997; a claim for carry-over leave for 106 and 108 Inf Bns, as a result of travelling overseas without availing of annual leave; a review of marriage, annual and sick leave, with 28 days annual leave based on a five-day not a seven-day working week; a claim for a national minimum wage relating to the Working Time Act; subsistence, ARW, and border duty allowances; technical pay; and rations and accommodation.

Gerard took many questions from the floor to do with the Working Time Directive and Working Time Act and the delay in getting an answer from the DoD. (PDFORRA say they have been waiting since 2010 for an answer).

Many delegates expressed their frustration on the length of time some of these negotiations and claims were taking. Gerard quoted former PDFORRA President John Lucy (RIP) who said the Defence Forces ethos was being used against us. Finishing on his own frustration he said: *"I trust the people across the table to work hard on these issues...but if that trust is lost it's hard to get back, and I'm close to losing that trust."*

Minister Kehoe addressed the delegates, stating he was deeply honoured that the Taoiseach had devolved full responsibility for defence to him. He then paid tribute to the members of Defence Forces, acknowledging their high profile throughout the 1916 celebrations and thanking them for their contribution and for *"lending honour, dignity and respect to all the commemorative ceremonies this year."*

Turning to the issue of pay, Minister Kehoe said: *"I am committed to ensuring that members of the PDF are fully compensated, fairly and transparently, in the same manner as the members of all other associations who have signed up to the Lansdown Road Agreement (LRA). While I understand that your association has not to date signed up to the LRA, I cannot stress enough the need to sign up to the agreement so as to avail of its protections and the programmed restora-*



Minister Kehoe addressing the congress.



PDFORRA General Secretary Gerry Rooney.



DF COS Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM.



tion of pay cuts. The LRA provides the vehicle whereby the terms and conditions of your members can be restored in a sustainable and ongoing manner."

The Minister said that he respected the fact that PDFORRA members are fully compliant with all of the provisions of the agreements reached to date, and also referred to the "positive engagement" by PDFORRA in ongoing discussions on an agreement to be put to a vote of its members.

On recruitment, the minister said that 282 general service recruits have been enlisted to date, with a further 320 due by year's end and an Air Corps apprentice aircraft technician competition to enlist 25 candidates later this year. Minister Kehoe added: "There are plans in place to continue this phased general service recruitment in 2017, in a manner designed to reach the established strength figure."

He finished by paying tribute to outgoing PDFORRA General Secretary Gerry Rooney, acknowledging: "Gerry has defined how the Association conducts itself and how highly it is perceived within the industrial relations community. Much of your Association's achievements can be directly linked to Gerry's style and way of doing business. He will be a real loss to Ireland's defence community".

Gerry Rooney then addressed the floor, starting with a brief look back on the last 25 years of representation with the main objective of providing the best possible welfare to members of the Defence Forces.

On the subject of negotiating for improvements for its members Gerry said that PDFORRA had secured hundreds

of agreements over those 25 years, but ended by posing the question: "The Defence Forces Conciliation and Arbitration scheme works at some level, but does it work the same as other public service schemes?"

He called on the minister and the DoD to allow PDFORRA join the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) under Article 5/6, with a view to the right of collective bargaining being a civil right of members of the Defence Forces.

Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM took to the podium next. He told the delegates that he and the General Staff are humble in their appreciation for the loyalty to the state displayed by members of the Defence Forces. He commended their willingness to put themselves in harm's way at home and overseas.

Vice Admiral Mellett also quoted former Defence Forces chief of staff, General Richard Mulcahy: "Óglaigh na hÉireann has been the people, is the people and will be the people." He also told the conference that on a recent visit to Lebanon the outgoing UNIFIL force commander, Maj Gen Luciano Portolano (Italy), told him that the Irish troops were "the best of the best!"

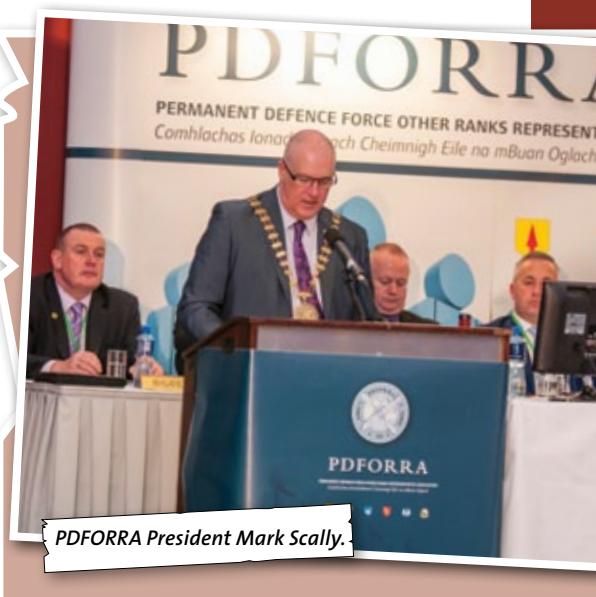
Last up was PDFORRA President Mark Scally, who said this was his fourth speech to congress and he was still addressing the same old issues. He thanked those who served in the humanitarian mission Operation Pontus and told conference: "It is unbelievable that it

has taken 16 months to get to adjudication on the payment of duty money."

He also asked the minister and his department to support privates, airmen and seamen who didn't have the opportunity to gain qualifications due to their rank, by introducing a new education policy.

Speaking on the redress-of-wrongs complaints procedures Mark said: "There have been no reports since 2014 and I ask the minister to re-introduce the position of Ombudsman to the Defence Forces to a full-time position."

Mark finished by thanking Gerry Rooney, the delegates, barrack representatives, and those not present for the sometimes thankless job they do representing members of PDFORRA at a local level. ■



PDFORRA President Mark Scally.

ESSC Engineer Exercise

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE

The autumn Engineer Specialist Search & Clearance (ESSC) exercise took place from 26th-30th September in the areas of Gormanston Camp and Dundalk. This was the seventeenth such exercise over the last eight years and involved ESSC teams from all brigades.

During the exercise a briefing was given to members of the general staff, senior military personnel and personnel from the Dept of Foreign Affairs and An Garda Síochána at Gormanston Camp.

In his introduction to the briefing, Director of Engineering, Col Jim Burke, broke the ESSC teams' tasks into offensive, defensive, and incident operations, and on-island or off-island (overseas) scenarios. He said at present the Defence Forces could deploy up to eight ESSC teams, two in each Brigade, one in the DFTC, one in UNDOF, one formed up for deployment to UNIFIL and one training for deployment to UNDOF.

Col Burke said: "We learn a lot from these exercises. They provide different challenges in very different scenarios, enabling us to benchmark our doctrine, training and equipment and to develop our tactics and procedures."

The Exercise Director Lt Col Kevin Higgins and Assistant Exercise Director Comdt Robert Downey then briefed on the five exercise tasks, two of which were similar to recent real events: a garda request to search an isolated area of bogland in Kerry for a man who had disappeared in 1991, and an incident in UNIFIL where a Spanish armoured vehicle had reversed over an old anti-tank mine.

Our hosts then brought us to visit all the exercise areas except for Dundalk Racecourse, where Comdt Downey told us that a successful offensive search had been carried out the previous day.



SCENARIO 1 (GORMANSTON AREA)

On arrival we met the 1 Bde Engr Gp ESSCO (Engineer Specialist Search and Clearance Officer), Capt Fergus Twomey, who said his team was conducting a humanitarian demining operation, based on UNIFIL experiences. While the search area was only 50m x 50m we were told this would normally take around three days to clear and if a find was made this could stretch out to three months. Capt Twomey showed us the €400,000 Mine-wolf mine-clearance machine that was being used to flail the area in order to detonate and disrupt buried mines. The Mine-wolf has many other uses, and its robotic arm and other add-ons were on show. The other mine clearance vehicle employed on the site was the Croatian-made Doking Mk4, which has been upgraded in Ireland with specialist camera equipment to allow it to be also used as a robust recce vehicle.

"After the mechanical clearance is completed," Capt Twomey told us, "the ESSC team move in and conduct a detailed manual search in 10m x 10m areas, wearing level-1 protection and searching for mainly-plastic, low-metal-content mines."

SCENARIO 2 (GORMANSTON CAMP)

Capt Donal McCann, Engr Platoon Commander, 109 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, told us about this scenario, where a vehicle had accidentally crossed into a minefield, detonating a mine and suffering two casualties. This was based on an incident that happened on 14th September 2016, where a Spanish UNIFIL vehicle drove over a Tm46 anti-tank mine. Fortunately there were no fatalities, due to the design of the Iveco vehicle whose doors automatically open to release the pressure inside after an explosion.

"The reason it was described as a 'mine incident' and not a 'mine

strike'," Lt McCann explained, "is that it is believed the mine was not purposely placed there to attack the peacekeepers but was left over from the 1970s and 1980s when the PLO laid the mines to prevent Israeli advances into the area."

At the exercise site, the ESSC team had cleared a route from the hard stand (the road) to the vehicle and this was marked as a safe lane. Other Engineer Corps personnel, trained as fire-fighters, also took part in this scenario, with the fire NCO moving forward with the ESSC team to make the vehicle safe, starting with disconnecting the battery. Medics were also on hand and were called forward to assess the casualties.

Hydraulic jaws were used to cut away the side of the vehicle to extract the driver and the roof was cut off to allow the passenger, who had a spinal injury, to be taken out on a stretcher board.

This scenario required swift, co-ordinated action from the three different elements to get the casualties out speedily. The scenario was specially designed for the UNIFIL-bound engineer platoon as they will have both ESSC and fire-fighting responsibilities in addition in Lebanon along with its camp maintenance and force protection roles.

SCENARIO 3: DUNDALK AREA

This scenario involved an offensive search requested by the gardaí as a result of a tip off about a weapons cache. Here Capt Peter Kellegher (27 Inf Bn) gave us a short brief in the Incident Control Point (ICP) about the security cordon being conducted

Lt Grace brought us to a find, where an ESSC pair had detected and recovered two deeply-buried ammunition boxes. He told us that a Garda forensic team would come in to assess and catalogue the find and a DF EOD team would be tasked if any IEDs or suspect devices were found.

SCENARIO 4: ST PETER'S CHURCH, DUNDALK

The ESSCO on this site was Capt Tarlach Doorley, who delivered the initial brief in the ICP where he explained that they had received an ATCP task to conduct a defensive search of a church in advance of a funeral that was due to be attended by a prominent Northern Ireland politician who could be the subject of an attack.

Capt Doorley said: "*The search of the church and grounds has been broken down by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) method. Red areas are where the VIP will be or are adjacent to his route, and, being of the highest importance, are cleared first; Amber includes areas where a detonation might not be fatal to the target but could cause serious damage to other personnel and to the event; Green areas are more remote from the event and the target but would still be cleared, time permitting, to prevent detonation of devices that could cause severe disruption and embarrassment.*"

Inside the church we were shown how the ESSC team was searching using state-of-the-art equipment that could detect the silicon in microchips or circuit boards. There were also telescopic cameras used to look into hard-to-reach areas like under floors, within and behind walls, and within and behind pipes and



by troops from 27 Inf Bn before the ESSCO, Lt Liam Grace, told us about the search operation, which was for a suspected quartermaster (QM) weapons cache.

Lt Grace went on to explain that a QM-level weapons cache would contain the main weapons and ordnance for a subversive unit or a criminal gang. Similar structures, we were told, might include operational hides, set up to facilitate a specific operation; transit hides, to facilitate movement of material; and depot hides, which would contain a large quantity of weapons and other items of ordnance. Most of the latter are believed to have been eliminated as part of the peace process.

Col Burke told us: "We still teach this doctrine, which was developed during 'the Troubles', as it still relates to on-island operations and is also relevant to current overseas missions."

The ESSC team used a Vallon VMR3 dual-sensor detector, combining a metal detector with ground-penetrating radar to conduct a systematic sweep for both metal and low-metal-content items.

electrical conduit.

The MMT multipurpose detector being used on the exercise to detect particles and vapours actually found a real narcotics stash, to the great interest of the gardaí present.

Back in the exercise scenario, an incendiary device was found in a book on the balcony and made safe.

Responding to a question at the end of our visit, Col Burke said: "*It takes eight weeks to train an ESSC team: six weeks learning the tactics and procedures and how to use the equipment, and two weeks of assessments. All students have prior knowledge of explosives and booby-traps as privates and NCOs would have completed their 12-week Combat Engineer course and officers would have completed explosives and mine-warfare modules on their YOs course.*"

DCOS Sp, Maj Gen Kevin Cotter, thanked Col Burke and the exercise staff for the briefings and congratulated them on the realistic scenarios and the level of skill witnessed during the exercise by the participating personnel. He also thanked 27 Inf Bn for the support they provided to the exercise. ■

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THE LESSON of Jadotville

BY DR JAMES MCCAFFERTY DSM, BA (HONS), PHD

*When there are strongholds to your rear,
And narrow passes in front,
You are on enclosed terrain.
And when there is no way out,
You are on Death terrain.*

'The Art of War', by Sun Tzu.

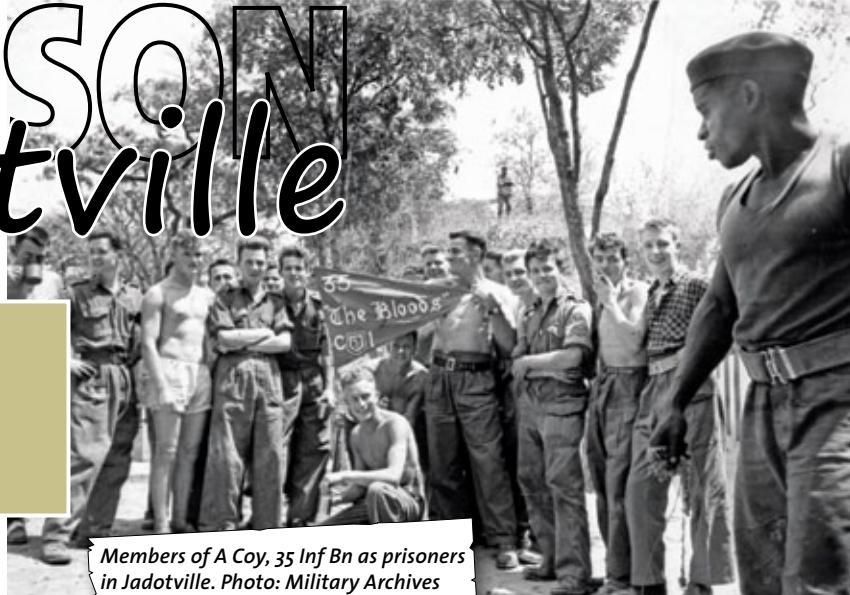
The defensive action known as the Siege of Jadotville, fought over a period of five days in September 1961, has recently been the subject of renewed media interest and a recently released film, as well as having been the subject of several books, journal articles and newspaper features over the years.

The following analysis is based on primary source material at the Irish Defence Forces Military Archives and Belgian Military Archives, and on interviews with Congo veterans who served in Katanga at that time. The purpose is to extrapolate and comment upon the essentials of the action; the efforts to relieve the garrison at Jadotville; the outcome for the men involved; and the lessons to be learned. Contemporaneous military actions by Irish troops in Elisabethville and Kamina are not discussed, except where directly relevant.

A Company, 35 Infantry Battalion (35 Inf Bn), had been posted to Jadotville on 3rd September 1961, some ten days before hostilities with Katangese forces recommenced. The company of about 155 all-ranks was supported by two Ford armoured cars. Available logistical information does not detail food, water, fuel, or ammunition supplies carried. The 35 Inf Bn transport schedule records that A Coy's assigned transport comprised two buses, two trucks, three jeeps and two cars – all of which were subsequently destroyed in action or captured at Jadotville.

A Coy had been detached from its parent unit at Elisabethville, some 120kms south, crossing the river Lufira on the journey. A sole road bridge and a single-track rail bridge, some 12kms distant, traversed this deep and fast river. The nearest UN unit was a composite force of 1 Irish Infantry Group and a Swedish infantry company at Kamina air-base, some 200kms north of Jadotville: this force was actively engaged in defending the air-base from attacking Katangese forces at the same time as A Coy was under siege in Jadotville.

Katangese forces had several - possibly up to five - Fouga Magister jet fighter/trainers as air support. UN forces had only



Members of A Coy, 35 Inf Bn as prisoners in Jadotville. Photo: Military Archives

fixed-wing transport aircraft and helicopters available: no fighters or helicopter gun-ships.

Neither the unit history nor OC A Coy's action report make any mention of the preparation of precautionary defences at the Irish camp, but the action report clearly indicates that trenches had been dug about the Irish position. As there had been earlier offensive action by Irish and other UN troops against Katangese forces in August, digging-in at the Irish position in Jadotville suggests prudent defensive deployment – "dig-in or die!"

To summarise, before the attacks by Katangese forces on the morning of 13 September 1961 A Coy was established in a defended position at Jadotville, with nearest support elements 120kms south and 200kms north; and as both elements were themselves engaged with Katangese forces, relief or support from either force was, to say the least, problematic or unlikely. In addition, the company's assigned transport at Jadotville was insufficient to enable a withdrawal, which suggests that additional transport vehicles were used in the movement to Jadotville, and then returned to Elisabethville.

A Coy was without air-support, and the river Lufira presented a major obstacle if the bridges were defended or destroyed by Katangese. Before the assault began the road-bridge was blocked by Katangese, who also established strong defensive positions about the northern side of the bridge, and two days later, the rail-bridge was destroyed. The total strength of Irish troops at Jadotville, when the crews of the armoured cars were factored in, was about 170 men, armed with FN SL rifles, Vickers MMGs, Bren LMGs, 81mm mortars and 84mm Carl-Gustav anti-tank recoilless rifles. The two Ford armoured cars were equipped with Vickers MMGs.

OC A Coy estimated the Katangese forces at between 4,000 and 5,000 men, equipped with FN SL rifles, MMGs, LMGs and

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Members of A Coy, 35 Inf Bn beside a UN helicopter. Photo: Military Archives



After the Battle, Purfina Garage Jadotville, Congo 1961. L/R: Kelly, Heffernan, Neville, Prendergast, Donnelly, Williams, Cuffe, Byrne & Donnelly. Photo: John Gorman

a strategically untenable position to withstand sustained, prolonged assaults.

In the period between the first assault and the inevitable capitulation by A Coy on 18th September, two attempts were made to relieve the company by Irish and Indian forces from UN brigade HQ in Elisabethville. These attempts, known as Force Kane, were first assayed by one infantry company and then, at the second attempt, by two infantry companies plus one section of armoured cars in support. Robust defence of the road bridge and the destroyed rail bridge foiled both relief attempts to cross the otherwise impassable Lufira. There is no record of an attempt to co-ordinate a fighting breakout by A Coy with the relief efforts.

One attempt to re-supply the besieged company by helicopter ended in the destruction, by a Fouga jet, of the aircraft on the ground at Jadotville. 35 Inf Bn signals log records that during the siege airdrop resupply by Douglas DC 3 or DC 4 was mooted on two occasions, but not executed.

When, inevitably, A Coy's commander decided on 18th September that his troops could no longer resist the sustained assaults by Katangese ground and air forces and that capitulation was the best course open to him, it was because his troops' food, water and ammunition were virtually exhausted and the realisation that further resistance would lead to loss of life of members of his command. (At this point, it is salient to observe that despite five days of alternating fighting and temporary cease-fires, not a single Irish soldier had been killed while the post-action report of OC A Coy estimated Katangese losses of some 150 killed and 80 wounded.)

In circumstances such as those obtaining at Jadotville at the time, a commander is faced with the dichotomy of 'fighting to the last man' or 'capitulating with honour'. The course chosen by OC A Coy ensured that his men survived and 'lived to fight another day' as the Irish troops that went into captivity on 18th Septem-

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81mm mortars. Additionally, the Katangese had control of the road to Elisabethville, the Lufira, the road north, and, crucially, the water supply to the Irish position, which was cut-off during the siege.

As the offensive action by Katangese forces against the Irish troops began on the morning of 13th September, A Coy were faced by vastly superior forces and were in

ber, were released in prisoner exchange on 24th October and took part in renewed fighting with Katangese forces in December 1961.

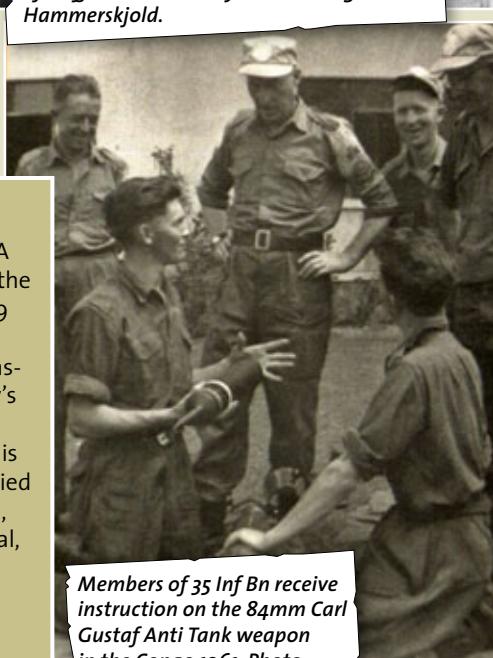
In total, 65 Distinguished Service Medals (DSMs) were awarded to Irish soldiers for service in the Congo. Of these, three were awarded to personnel involved in the Jadotville action. However, only one of these can positively be linked to Jadotville: the award to an NCO who took part in Force Kane relief efforts. The citations for the other two DSMs, awarded to an officer (a platoon commander at Jadotville) and an NCO (a platoon sergeant at Jadotville), merely state that they were awarded for 'distinguished service in the Republic of the Congo, during September and December 1961.'

In September 2016, 55 years after the events, presidential citations were awarded for the action by A Company at Jadotville in September 1961.

The details of the siege, the fighting and the attendant temporary cease-fires, have been exhaustively analysed and discussed. This article did not set out to repeat those exercises, but to take a holistic overview of the siege and to extrapolate lessons. The most significant lesson from the Siege of Jadotville is that a unit should never be placed in a position where it cannot be withdrawn, relieved, resupplied or reinforced.



Lt Gen S Mac Eoin, Commander in Chief of UN Force in the Congo, presents senior members of staff to UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold.



Members of 35 Inf Bn receive instruction on the 84mm Carl Gustaf Anti Tank weapon in the Congo 1961. Photo: Bernie Sweeney

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CPL LIAM DOUGAN

An Appreciation

BY HARRY HAVELIN

Every November my thoughts go back to 1960 when Cpl Liam Dougan and seven of his colleagues were killed in the Niemba Ambush in Northern Katanga. Liam was a member of 33 Infantry Battalion, which had deployed to the Congo in August 1960 as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force sent to the vast central African country, which was in turmoil following the departure of its former colonial master, Belgium.

I was 13 years old and had come to know Liam Dougan over the previous couple of years through my aunt, Mrs Nora Creed, who lived on Quarry Road, Cabra, Dublin, and who was a close friend of Liam's mother, Susan.

At that time, Mrs Dougan lived just across the road from my aunt beside the Grand Cinema in a top-floor flat over the surgery of local GP, Dr Samuel Davis, for whom she performed caretaker duties.

Mrs Dougan hailed from Northern Ireland and had four sons, Noel, Michael, Patrick and Liam. At the time I first got to know her, she was already widowed for a few years and suffering from very painful arthritis. Despite her crippling disability she loved baking and produced excellent cakes and scones almost every day. Susan used lots of jam and marmalade in her baking, which resulted in an accumulation of glass jars, which I used to bring down to Heagney's grocery shop, where Mr Heagney would give a halfpenny for each one – an early example of re-cycling.

Liam joined the Irish Army's Engineer Corps at Portobello Barracks in 1944 but after three years' service he left and joined the British Army, serving for a period in Malaya. He rejoined the Irish Army in 1952, serving with 5 Inf Bn, in Collins Bks, Dublin.

Aged 34, Liam deployed to the Congo in August 1960 with 2 Platoon, A Coy, 33 Inf Bn. I remember going out by taxi to Baldonnel with his mother and my aunt to see him off. Tables and chairs had been placed in one of the hangars and tea and sandwiches were provided for the relatives of the departing soldiers.

Liam spent some time chatting with us before the time came to



No 2 Platoon A Coy, 33 Inf Bn (Niemba)

say goodbye. Understandably, his mother was very concerned but he put her mind at ease by telling her there was no real danger. "It's only policeman's work," he stressed.

Before Liam left I asked him to send me postcards, as I collected stamps, and during the short time he was in the Congo he sent me three, the last dated 24th October 1960 – just two weeks before Niemba. Two of the cards carried an address at Kamina, Katanga. I was delighted to get the postcards, but disappointed that they didn't have colourful Congo postage stamps on them – only the UN rubber stamp: 'Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo'. I still treasure these three postcards, which have survived in my possession for 56 years.

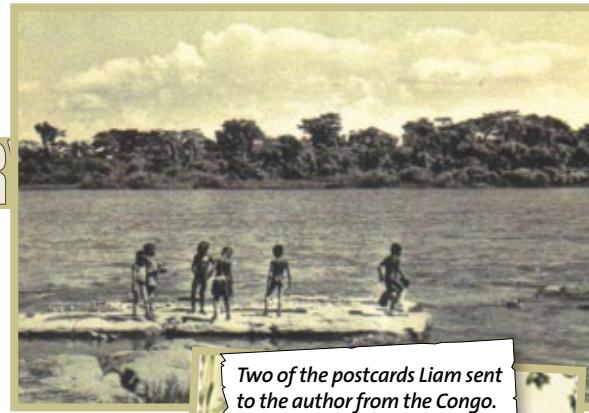
If memory serves me right, the first report I heard of the deaths of the Irish soldiers was on the Radio Éireann news on Friday, November 10th. The early reports didn't give any names as the ambush had taken place in a remote area.

The 11-man Irish patrol had been sent to carry out repair work on a damaged bridge over the Luweyeye River. Near the bridge they were ambushed by upwards of 100 Baluba tribesmen. The Irish soldiers, under Lt Kevin Gleeson, fought bravely against their attackers but were overwhelmed. Eight died in the ambush, one was killed later, one was wounded and one escaped.

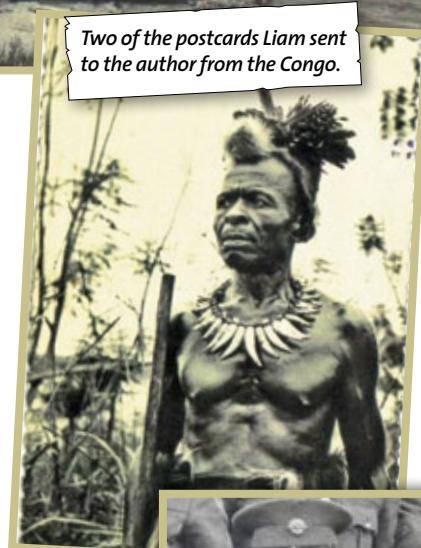
I was there with Mrs Dougan and the other heartbroken families on the freezing cold night of Saturday 19th November, when the remains of the eight soldiers were brought home to Baldonnel on a US Air Force Globemaster plane.

The funeral took place on the following Tuesday after Solemn Requiem Mass in the Pro-Cathedral, attended by President De Valera, the Taoiseach and members of the government. I was in one of the mourning coaches as the cortège made its way from Baldonnel to the city centre, which was at a standstill with crowds ten-deep on the pavements.

Liam's death took a terrible toll on his poor mother and she died less than a year later. ■



Two of the postcards Liam sent to the author from the Congo.



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



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AN COSANTÓIR

10K Road Race

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS AIRMEN ADAM MURPHY, DILLON LACEY-BYRNE AND DENIS FOX, 105 SQN

The An Cosantóir 10K Road Race, which is a highpoint of the Defence Forces competitive sporting calendar took place in the Phoenix Park on Wednesday 12th October 2016. Over 1,000 competitors from the Defence Forces along with invited guests took to the roads for the 37th annual An Cosantóir 10K Road Race and 5K Walk.

The Senior Male category was won by Pte Kenneth Rodgers (12 Inf Bn) in an impressive time of 31:52; his name is now etched into the trophy yet again. Pte Paul Buckley (6 Inf Bn) was 2nd (33.35) with Cpl Paul Mitchell (MP Gp DFTC) coming home in 3rd (33.40). The Senior Female category was won for a 3rd time by Sgt Tara Kennedy (DFHQ) in a time of 39:24, she was closely followed by Pte Maeve Fenton (12 Inf Bn) in 2nd place (39.53) and Sgt Jackie Wykes (EUBG) was 3rd (41.35).

The 6 Inf Bn Team won the Team Event for a very impressive 8th consecutive year, they were represented by: Pte Paul Buckley (33:35), Capt Paul Conlon (35:00), Cpl Peter Walsh (35:12), Pte Noel Kelly (35:25), Pte Niall Kelly (35:41) and Sgt Declan Madden (36:59), they took the team event with a total time of 3:31:52. They were followed by 28 Inf Bn (3:41:47) and 2 Cav Sqn (3:54:24) respectively. This year the Winning Block bragging rights were earned by 27 Inf Bn (40.03), followed by BTC Athlone 'A' (41.52) and 1 Cn Cois 'B' (44.08) respectively.



SPORT

A minute of silence was observed at the prize giving in respect of Col Frank Lawless, Dir Trg & Ed Br (J7), and for two other members of the DF who had sadly passed away that week. Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM addressed those gathered for the prize giving, *"I congratulate you all for taking part, all those involved for organising another successful event and for the support provided by: DF Fitness & Sports Policy Training & Education Branch (J7), DF Physical Education School, OC McKee Bks, Catering Staff, MPs, medics, CIS staff, An Garda Síochána and to everyone whose efforts made the race possible. I am reminded that it is not only a competitive race; but it is an opportunity for DF personnel to make new friends and catch up with old friends and colleagues that they may have served with either at home or overseas. It is one of the few occasions where a mix of competitors, from all services, ranks and ages come together. Where we open our doors to our colleagues from the Dept. of Defence, An Garda Síochána Athletic Club, the Office of Public Works, visiting diplomats and military attachés."*

The COS also gave a special mention to the Bands of the DF who had over 40 competitors on the day. He finished: *"I place a strong emphasis on fitness and participation in sport in the DF, as I believe that soldiering and participation in sports go hand in hand. Physical exercise is an essential part of mental and psychological well-being and it helps us to release stress, think clearly and perform our duty better. I agree with the proverb 'Mens sana in corpore sano' (a sound mind in a sound body). Congratulations to you all for taking part, keep up the good work at whatever level you aim for, be it: walker, fun runner, jogger or elite athlete."*

We kindly thank our two main sponsors for their continued support Friends First and ANSAC Credit Union, and also Druid Craft for the wonderful plaques. Well done to all those who took part and a big thank you for making the event what it is, in particular the organising committee, the An Cosantóir/Information Office, the Defence Forces Athletics Association (DFAA), and all those who gave a hand on the day like PTI course, engineers, logistics, catering centre and the 7 Inf Bn work party.

For the full results visit: www.myrunresults.com



33



Snr Male Winner Pte Rogers with Derek Nesbitt of ANSAC CU, and Snr Female Winner Sgt Kennedy with COS Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM.





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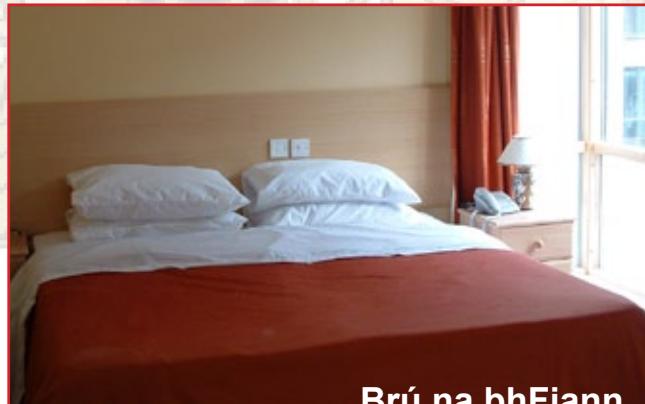
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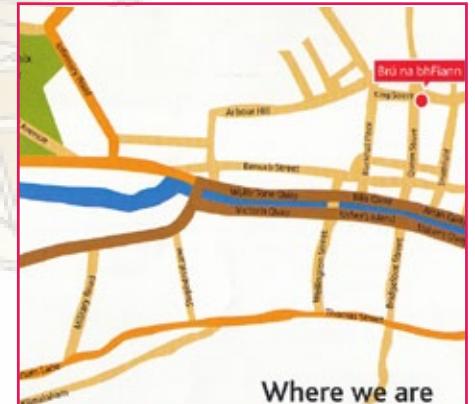
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Friday 4th November: "Nothing venture nothing have" Art MacMurchadha Caomhanach at war with Richard II, 1394 and 1399 by Dr Darren McGettigan

Friday 2nd December: The Easter Rising and the beginnings of Modern Irregular Warfare by Prof Timothy D. Hoyt

Friday 13th January 2017: "Unshaken loyalty": the Catholic Irish Brigade in British service, 1793-1798 by Dr Ciaran McDonnell

The Military History Society of Ireland, C/O Newman House, University College Dublin, 86 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 – Visit www.mhsie.ie for more information or email: info@mhsie.ie

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Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Patrick Darby, Co Westmeath. Closing date is 18th November 2016.

AFTER THE RISING;

Soldiers, Lawyers and Trials of the Irish Revolution

Author: Seán Enright
Publisher: Irish Academic Press (April 2016)
www.irishacademicpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1-78537-051-9
Price: €17.50 PB / €45 HB
Pages: 272



Captain William Lorraine King of the Auxiliary Division of the Royal Irish Constabulary was implicated in the murders of two suspects who were taken from custody and shot. One of the victims lived long enough to implicate King in the killings. However, King was acquitted as at that time a dying declaration was considered inadmissible.

Seán Enright's latest book is a follow up to his excellent work *Easter Rising 1916: The Trials*.

In this sequel the author not only puts great legal cases of the period into context but also explains in detail the changing judiciary from 1916 up to and including the Irish War of Independence. As Ireland descended into turmoil, law and order broke down forcing Westminster to pass a number of emergency laws. Martial law was introduced, an action that abandoned jury by trial in favour of trial by court martial.

As well as Captain King the book also examines individual cases such as those of MacSwiney, Markievicz, Maher and Foley, and the Bloody Sunday Court Martials.

An indispensable inclusion in the work is that of a chapter on Dramatis Personae that gives mini biographies of prominent Generals, Soldiers and Lawyers and the Policy Makers that were prevalent in Ireland at that time.

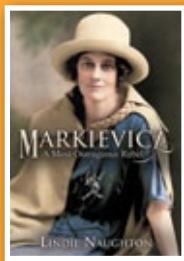
The book is well researched and well written and easily accessible either as a volume to read or for reference. PC

MARKIEVICZ:

A Most Outrageous Rebel

Author: Lindie Naughton
Publisher: Merrion Press (September 2016) www.merrionpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1785370816
Price: €17.99 PB & €39.99 HB
Pages: 330

Dublin based journalist Lindie Naughton's, *'Markievicz, A most outrageous rebel'* is the lively telling of Markievicz's life story. It leaves the reader on an expectant note at the end of each chapter and makes the reading of this biography both easy and enjoyable. It is clear that Naughton has keen story telling abilities and she expertly weaves deeply personal and illuminating facts about Markievicz with astute and necessary social and historical commentary. She acknowledges from the outset that she is the latest in a line of biographers to study "Madame" and remarks



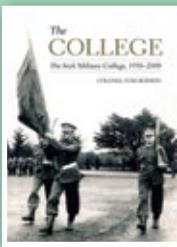
on the fortunate position she had in carrying out her timely research in the modern age whereby "treasure trove" archives held in the Bureau of Military History (Military Archives) and Markievicz's personal letters held in the National Library of Ireland were at her disposal. She further asserts that such access made it possible for her to bring *"Constance to life as a warm, witty and kind hearted woman"*, and has further acknowledged that she took particular delight in handling and seeing the paper used by Markievicz in the writing of her deeply moving and revealing letters during periods of incarceration. In the most vivid part of the book, Naughton takes the reader on a journey from Markievicz's carefree childhood in Sligo, her entry to society and her art student days in London and Paris which led to her meeting *"handsome Byronic beauty"*, Count Casmir de Markievicz and the modification of her political and socialist ideals. Most of the book however, is dedicated to Markievicz's years in Dublin and her moves within Irish labour and political circles at a critical time in Ireland's history. Naughton simplifies the historical narrative without compromising its quality meaning that her work succeeds as both an in-depth character study and a history lesson of the most enjoyable kind.

LD

THE COLLEGE: THE IRISH MILITARY COLLEGE, 1930 - 2000

Author: Col Tom Hodson Retd
Publisher: The History Press Ireland (September 2016) www.thehistorypress.ie
ISBN: 978-1845888992
Price: €18.00
Pages: 288

Since its establishment in 1930 the Irish Military College has had a vital influence on not only the Defence Forces but on the nation. It has formed all of the nation's commissioned officers, many of whom have achieved distinction both within and outside of the Defence Forces. The story of this relatively unknown national institution



is intriguing as it has attempted to fulfill the roles laid down for it in 1923 in training and instructing officers and officer candidates. The task has not been easy, as the Military College has inevitably been subject to the many changes and fluctuations in the duties, roles and fortunes of the wider Defence Forces.

In this book Colonel Tom Hodson, a former instructor in the Military College and a graduate of École de Guerre, Paris, charts its history. He recounts how from its early predecessor, the Army School of Instruction, the Military College has repeatedly re-invented itself, culminating in the requirement for today's modern institution to embrace and impart instruction based on the needs of the Irish Defence Forces and the procedures of European and NATO armies.

NAME
CIAN HARTE

RANK
CADET

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CADET SCHOOL

BY SGT KARL BYRNE

versity I wrote my first book, 'Soldiers of Sligo', which was published in 2014.

My initial plan to apply for the Defence Forces was derailed by a cruciate ligament injury in my knee, suffered while playing for my local team, Arrow Harps. While this was a great disappointment, on the positive side it gave me free time to start researching for my second book, 'The Lost Tales, Riverstown's Great War 1914 - 1918', which is the first of a series of books I plan to write. The second in this series, 'Riverstown's Troubles', was published in August this year.

Researching and studying military history kept my hunger to join up alive and in the summer of 2014 I joined the RDF, serving with 28 Inf Bn, in Sligo Town. Although my injury limited my involvement, I still got involved in exercises and this taste of military life sharpened my desire to join the PDF.

I finally got accepted into the PDF with 59 Recruit Platoon in Cathal Brugha Bks in February 2016. Recruit training was hard, especially the PT, but having lads from all over the country was positive, with so many different characters. The food was excellent, which was a surprise as you hear horror stories before you join.

Cpl Dunne from 7 Inf Bn was one of the standout training NCOs for me: highly respected and someone

I grew up in Riverstown, Co Sligo, and I always had an interest in joining the Defence Forces even though the only family member I know of that served in the military was a cousin, Capt Charlie Lyons, who served in what was the FCÁ at the time in Athlone.

After finishing school in 2010 I went to Queen's University in Belfast to study history, a subject that gave me an even bigger interest in the military. While at uni-

you could always turn to for help and advice.

After recruit training our platoon was split between Athlone and Finner Camp for three-star training. I was sent to Finner, which was good as it was closer to home. The three-star course had a huge emphasis on PT, which was hard but also very rewarding. I enjoyed the weapons training too, but for me the most enjoyable part was the riot training.

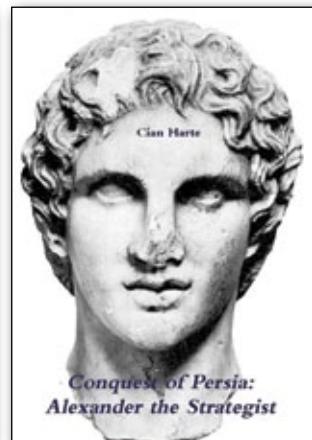
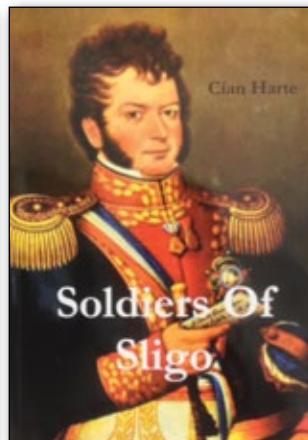
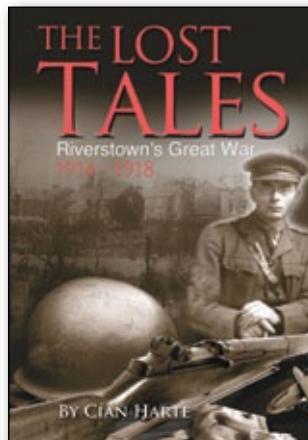
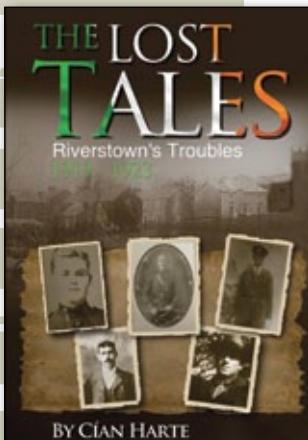
Compared to recruit training we seemed to have more freedom, yet more responsibility, and it felt like sometimes we were given just enough rope to hang ourselves! Our platoon sergeant, Sgt McMenamin, was very inspirational and his talks always gave us the drive to keep going.

Finishing the three-star course was a huge achievement and I have to say that I enjoyed it more than recruit training because of the variation.

I have now moved into a new phase of my career as I successfully applied for a cadetship, which I started in September in the Military College. I was in the Glen doing Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) all day when I got the email. I was afraid to look at first but when I did I was delighted to find I had been successful.

This is a very exciting time for me as my previous training means I'm a step ahead in many ways with the basic training and I'll use my experience as best I can to help my comrades. While I'm looking forward to taking up any role in the Defence Forces, my dream job in the long term would be to work in Military Archives, as I developed a real interest in this area while researching for my books.

You can follow Cian on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cianhartehistorian or visit www.cianharte.com to purchase his books. ■





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