



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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FEBRUARY 2015

SENIOR NCO COURSE

DF Canoe Polo
CAMBRIAN PATROL
Sniper Competition
EUTM MALI

ISSN 0010-9460



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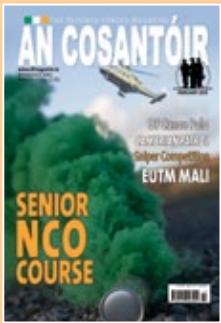
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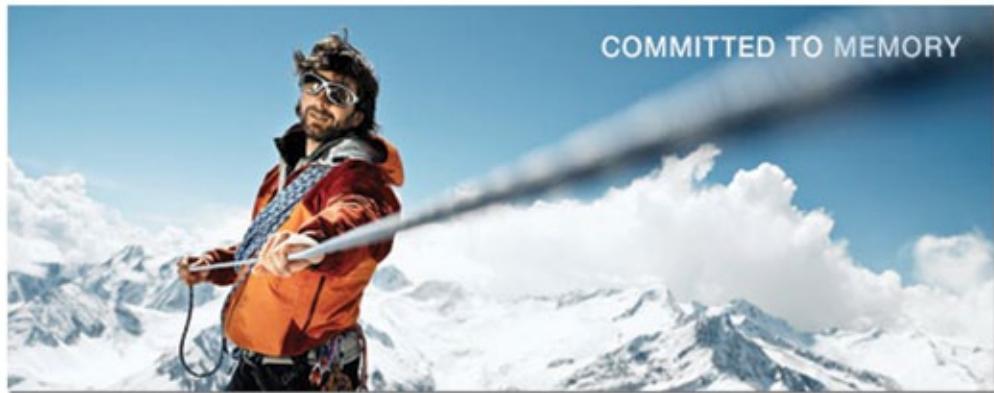
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Front Cover

An exercise during the recent Senior NCO Course by Sgt Karl Byrne.
For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout: www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the first issue of 2015 and our 75th volume. Thank you to all our readers', subscribers', advertisers' and contributors' for supporting us since December 1940 - We look forward to producing many more volumes...



This issue is 40-pages jammed with articles and hopefully satisfies your continued readership. We were completely over-subscribed to our *On Parade* pages, but that makes the final photos more special, so keep them coming! Our *In Focus* features a visit to the *National September 11 Memorial* by Lt Col Dan Harvey, and hopefully most of you can relate to Veteran Tpr Sean Campion's story in *Super Trooper*. In *Veteran's News* we have some recent updates from ONEt, IUNVA and other Veteran's groups. Next we bring you two small pieces on the *90th Anniversary of the Army Nursing Service (ANS)* and Capt Andy Whelan and the *AS365Fi Dauphin Helicopter*. Read how the Irish DF team fared in the *14th International Sniper Competition* by Capt Liam McDonnell, held in the US Army Sniper School, Fort Benning recently. In our first main article *EUTM Mali*, Lt James Mulderrig updates us on the UK and Irish Training Team deployed as part of the European Union Training Mission in Mali. In our front cover article, Lt Brian Kelly updates us on the recent *34th Senior NCO Course* conducted in the NCO Trg Wing. Next read how the 6 Inf Bn team performed in the *Cambrian Patrol*, the British Army's gruelling 48-hr test of patrolling and military skills exercise conducted in Wales late last year. Our *Strategic Review* feature by author and historian Paul O'Brien informs us about ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. In *Broken Ground*, we interview former Pte Paddy Doyle (3 Inf Bn) who was working in Haiti during the 2010 earthquake and has released a debut novel on his experiences. Our double *History* spread features a WWI story *A Time for Reflection* about Lt Vincent Fox a Veterinarian in the Great War and *Hercules Mulligan*, a US Revolutionary War hero in the 1770s by Maria Vann, the Director at Iroquois Indian Museum, Utica, New York. In *Sport*, we feature Canoe Polo in the Defence Forces by Pte Stephen Happe. We have two more interesting pieces to finish this issue: Sgt Donal O'Connor, writes about a recent training course in the *Military Detention Barracks* and finally read about the presidential *Rolls Royce ZJ5000* and its last military driver Coy Sgt Billy Myers. Plus all our regular features and reviews.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor



Reserve Recruitment Open Day

Pictured are members of 4 and 5 Bty Reserve from 2 Arty Regt at a recent Reserve Recruitment Open Day in Custume Bks, Athlone. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan, 2 Arty Regt

With Thanks

Pictured are members of 2 Bde Tpt Coy who raised €500 for the Clodagh Daly Trust by completing an 80km cycle. L/R: Pte Shane Doyle, Pte Anthony Morgan, Cpl John Daly (Clodagh's father) and Coy Sgt Tom Mullen. Photo: Cpl Lee Coyle, PR Branch



Defence Forces Review 2015

Papers are currently being invited for the Defence Forces Review 2015. If you wish to contribute, please contact Comdt Neil Nolan at Ext 5114 or neil.nolan@defenceforces.ie. The deadline for submissions is 26th March 2015.



**GAA
REPRESENTATIVE
SERIES**

On 28th November the DF Hurling Team beat an AIB selection in the representative series, where the DF went unbeaten throughout, with games against An Garda Síochána, BOI and AIB. Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC



GAA ALL STARS ▲

Pictured in Collins Bks, Cork after a Lunch Reception given for the GAA All Stars 2014, their awards being a remarkable achievement for both players and the Defence Forces. L/R: Pte Colin Fennelly (Kilkenny Hurling), Cpl Paul Murphy (Kilkenny Hurling), Cpl Gemma O'Connor (Cork Camogie), Brig Gen Kieran Brennan (GOC 1 Bde), Rec Kevi Dollard (Laois Junior Football) and Pte Patrick Maher (Tipperary Hurling). Photo: Cpl Christine O'Leary, HQ 1 Bde



WELL DONE! ▲

Capt Diarmuid O'Riordan, Air Corps recently completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and was awarded a number of honours by the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT). Capt O'Riordan was awarded the Gold Medal for Excellence of 2014 for graduating top of the MBA programme with first class honours, and for winning the National MBA Strategy Competition. He is pictured receiving the Excellence Award from DIT President Prof Brian Norton in St Patrick's Cathedral, last month. Photo: DIT Photographer & C/O Anne Peters

DECEASED MEMBERS REMEMBERED ▲

Members of B Coy, 27 Inf Bn conducted a Guard of Honour in memory of deceased members of the unit during the Deceased Members Commemoration Day on Friday 7th November at Gormanston Camp. Photo: Lt Hugh Forde, B Coy, 27 Inf Bn



GRADUATION

Pictured at their graduation on 30th October 2014 in NUI Maynooth are FQMS Ray Grange and RQMS Derek Mc Guinness who were conferred with an MSc Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management with first class honours. Photo: RQMS Derek Mc Guinness, No 3 Ops Wing



VOLLYBALL BLITZ ▲

Pictured are members of 2 Arty Regt who conducted a Vollyball Blitz in aid of the Society of St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal in the Custume Bks, Athlone recently. SVP Area President John Burke presented a trophy to the winning team and received a donation from the Regt. Pictured L/R: Gnr Cleary, Fitzpatrick, Quinn, Walsh, John Burke SVP, Gnr O'Neill, McGrath, Tone and McConnell. The event was organised by Gnr Fitzpatrick and the young soldiers of the Regt, who wanted to do something to help promote the SVP Annual Christmas Appeal and those in need at Christmas. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan, 2 AR



HANDBALL DOUBLES ▲

Pictured are the winning teams from the DF Handball Doubles, held in Custume Bks, Athlone on 4th December 2014. With the oldest perpetual trophy in the DF up for grabs, the General Sir Bryan Mahon Cup - first awarded in 1923. Jnr Champions were Sáir Eric O'Brien and SS Joe Doherty (1 Cn Cois) and the Snr Champions were O/Rec Adam Barry and O/Rec Robbie McCarthy (Rec Class O'Donoghue NS). O/Rec McCarthy is currently ranked No 2 in Ireland and is a great addition to the DF Handball Club! 2015 will see more handball starting in February, all players new and old are welcome. POC/ Photo: Sáir Eric O'Brien, 1 Cn Cois



DANNY BOY ▲

Cpl Danny Quinn recently left the DF after 12 years service. Col Joe MacDonough, D Inf presented Danny with a statue to mark his service in the IWW, Mil Col. Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC

POLAR PLUNGE ▲

Pictured are members of 27 Inf Bn who took part in the Polar Plunge in Clogherhead, Co Louth on Saturday 6th December 2014, along with colleagues from both Drogheda and Monaghan Garda Stations, who braved freezing temperatures to jump into the sea in full uniform in aid of Special Olympics Ireland. Photo: Capt Joseph Freeley, HQ 2 Bde



A GENERAL GATHERING ▲

Pictured during a recent General Staff and GOCs conference in McKee Bks on 18th December 2014, are four Generals from the 50th Cadet Class. They are L/R: Brig Gen Murray Piggott, Brig Gen Anthony Hanlon, Maj Gen Ralph James and Brig Gen Michael Beary. Photo: Captain Eoin Rochford, MA DFC, UNDOF



CURRAGH MILITARY ▲

SWIM TEAM

Pictured at the first swimming gala for the Curragh Military Swim Team in November 2014 at Castle Park, Dalkey. Everyone who took part received gold medals - a first for all our swimmers and everyone including all the parents had a great day out. Coach for the swim team is Johanna Tilley-Rock who was helped out by Molly Rasmussen. Photo: Sgt Johanna Tilley-Rock, DFTC

BATTLE OF THE BOYNE ▲

Pictured is Brig Gen Michael Beary, GOC 2 Bde, presenting a copy of the famous painting 'The Battle of the Boyne, Ireland' by Jan Wyck to Col Brian Reade, EO 2 Bde to mark his retirement from the Defence Forces on 27th January 2015 completing over 41-years distinguished service. The painting was presented to Col Reade after a battlefield tour of the Battle of the Boyne on 15th December 2014. Photo: Capt Paul O'Callaghan, HQ 2 Bde



ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND ▲

A presentation was made in Collins Bks recently by Brig Gen Kieran Brennan, GOC 1 Bde to recognise the contribution that Ford Ireland have made to the DF Army Benevolent Fund, they are the main sponsors to the Annual Army Massed Bands Concert. L/R: Col Patrick Flynn (EO 1 Bde), Mr Eddie Murphy (Chair & M/D Ford Irl), Ciaran McMahon (incoming Chair & M/D Ford Irl), Brig Gen Kieran Brennan (GOC 1 Bde) and Dave O'Driscoll (Dir of Sales Ford Irl). Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy, HQ 1 Bde



NATIONAL September 11 Memorial

BY LT COL DAN HARVEY, OSCE HQ VIENNA

Out of a crystal clear blue sky, early on Tuesday morning September 11, 2001, nineteen Islamist extremists associated with al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial aeroplanes with the intention of deliberately crashing them into carefully selected targets. The 'planes were to be used as weapons to destroy major landmarks symbolising America's economic (World Trade Centre), military (Pentagon) and political (Washington DC) way of life.

After passengers on the fourth hijacked 'plane learned about the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, their bold attempt to retake Flight 93 led to the 'plane crashing into an empty field in western Pennsylvania instead of its intended Washington DC target, which is believed to have been either the White House or the Capitol.

The 9/11 attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and of those more than 400 were first-responders who died in the line of duty. It is estimated that two billion people, nearly a third of the world's population, followed parts of the events of 9/11 as they were unfolding.

On the tenth anniversary of the attacks, on September 11, 2011, the National September 11 Memorial in New York was opened with a dedication ceremony for the families of those who died. The next day the memorial opened to the public, and it welcomed one million visitors before the end of 2011.

The memorial occupies half of the World Trade Centre site. Two reflecting pools sit in the footprints of the former twin towers - voids where those massive skyscrapers once stood. The entrance to the 9/11 Museum, opened in May 2014, is between the two pools.

Hugely impressive and moving to visit at any time of the day, at dusk the memorial is transformed by light shining up from the pools and reflecting on the names of the victims engraved on surrounding nameplates. The darkening sky is reflected in the glass facades of the museum and surrounding buildings.

The museum itself is located below ground where remnants of the original World Trade Centre buildings are still visible and preserved. Having entered on the museum's concourse level a ramp leads to the original foundation level of the Twin Towers where the exhibitions are located. An excavation reveals box-column remnants of the towers anchored to the bedrock. The exhibitions are comprised of three presentations: Part 1 presents the events of 9/11, showing how the normality of a beautiful day was overtaken by shock and increasing horror as Americans came to realise they were under attack; Part 2 chronicles the events leading up to 9/11, including the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing; Part 3 covers the immediate aftermath of the attacks through to the present.

The 9/11 Memorial and Museum is built on a huge scale but then 9/11 is a huge story, after all. It is a day that changed the world forever for our generation with the consequential increased airport security worldwide, the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the ongoing repercussions of these events, which continue to shape our world. Without the events of 9/11 would we have had the bombings in Madrid (2004) and London (2005), or even the recent outrages in Paris?

It is also a very human story. One of shock and sadness, certainly, but also of the strength of the human spirit. Visitors to 'ground zero' can see construction work in progress as the building continues of new towers, one already complete, which will, when finished, host many elements of the original complex, commercial, retail, and public transportation spaces. These buildings and the National September 11 Memorial and Museum will be welcoming millions of visitors for years to come, which is surely the best of all tributes to those who lost their lives. And if you are ever in New York and have only time to visit one location in this amazing city, this is it. ■

SUPER TROOPER

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

When Mick Hennessy, a former private with 2 Inf Bn, was admitted to Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, he struck up a conversation with his neighbour in the next bed. The other man, Sean Campion (68), then said: "I have to go shave, as I got used to shaving every day while in the army." When Mick told him he had served a few years himself a great camaraderie developed, as it generally does when any two ex-servicemen or women meet up - full of humour and plenty of slagging! Despite a 40-year age difference the two guys got on great and since Mick's release from hospital he has continued to visit Sean. After hearing the story, staff from An Cosantóir also visited Sean on a few occasions to hear his story and see how he was keeping.

Sean enlisted with 4 Motor Sqn in Plunkett Bks, Curragh Camp, in January 1967; "on a wage of six pounds five shillings," he recalls.

During his time in the DF, Sean completed a Ranger's course (in 1969 with the late Lt Gen Dermot Early as one of his instructors), experienced the early days of the Troubles, and served in Cyprus with 23 Inf Gp, UNICYP.

In 1974 Sean emigrated to Australia for £25 pounds (borrowed from his sister), working for a few months in a Dunlop factory, before signing up to serve in the Australian Armoured Corps from 1975-78.

"There was a big difference from the Irish Defence Forces," Sean says, "and even getting used to drill orders in English wasn't as easy as it sounds." He was issued with an FN single-load rifle (SLR), which he kept by his bunk every night, signing out the bolt from the armoury every morning. He was stationed in Puckapunyal (Valley of the Seven Winds), central

Victoria and still has his passing-out parade on Super 8mm film.

Sean served as a tank gunner/radio operator on the Centurion and also trained on the Leopard, the first German-built tank since WWII. His regimental sergeant major was Gus Valentine, a German WWII veteran who Sean recalls as being "a real hard bastard!"

Returning to Ireland in 1978, he re-enlisted and after a short refresher course was posted to 2 Cav Sqn, Griffith Bks. He served with 48 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, and in 1982 he transferred to the cadre staff of 11 Cav Sqn, Griffith Bks where he served, first in Griffiths Bks and then Cathal Brugha Bks, until he retired in 1993.

Sean was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes a few years ago and deteriorating health led to his current stay in hospital where he is recovering from the amputation of the lower half of his right leg. Nevertheless, he is in good spirits, and says he is getting healthier and stronger every day with medication, physiotherapy and great care from the hospital staff. Although wheelchair-bound at present, he is looking forward to receiving a prosthetic limb so he can get walking again.

Sean keeps himself busy reading and watching movies, and has a large collection of books and DVDs, mostly military related. He takes particular inspiration from the film *Reach for the Sky* (1956), the true story of Douglas Bader, who overcame the loss of both legs to become a successful fighter pilot in World War II.

During his hospitalisation, Sean has been immensely cheered by visits from members of ONEt, IUNVA, and the IDFVA. He is still warmly remembered by former colleagues and we wish him well on his road to recovery. ■



Sean and Mick in Connolly Hospital



Irish troops being briefed prior to their departure for Cyprus in the 1960s. C/O www.curragh.info



Two Leopard MBTs cross the Mary River floodplain.
Artist: Barry Spicer © www.barryspicer.com



2 Cav Sqn renders the drive-past salute to Brig Gen 'Rinty' Monaghan (GOC E Comd), as they leave Griffiths Bks for Cathal Brugha Bks on 15th September 1988. Photo: Military Archives.

For information on diabetes contact: Diabetes Ireland (CHY 6906), 19 Northwood House, Northwood Business Campus, Santry, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 842 8118 or email: info@diabetes.ie - www.diabetes.ie

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

IN RECOGNITION

Domhnall Mac Cá尔thaigh, ONEt Cobh Branch was presented with a beautifully framed Naval Branch crest with a suitable inscription in recognition of his service to ONE, and his assistance to the Commander George Crosbie Naval Branch and to the office of PRO for the Southern Area Council (SAC). Branch President Derek Dawson made the presentation. *Photo: Domhnall Mac Cá尔thaigh FS (PRO SAC ONE)*



AUSTRALIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

A wreath was laid in memory of all those who died during WWI, and for Irish service men/women who lost their lives while in service. Patrick Armstrong of the United Irish Ex Services Association Australia laid the wreath during the Australian Remembrance Day on 11th November 2014. *Photo: Patrick Armstrong, UIESAA*

7 INF BN ASSOCIATION

Pictured are members of 7 Inf Bn Association at their annual dinner, which was held in McKee Bks on 9th December 2014. *Photo: Dessie O'Hara*



IUNVA NEWS

BY OLIVER HORGAN

On Sunday 17th August 2014, members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association's (IUNVA) Posts 9 (Athlone) and 20 (Mullingar) formed up in Coosan cemetery in Athlone in memory of their fallen comrades. The memorial in Coosan Cemetery was erected to honour the memory of Irish Defence Forces soldiers who lost their lives while serving overseas as peacekeepers with the UN. Every year the UN Veterans from Post 9 and Post 20 provide facilities for the Annual Mass in the Cemetery. The monument is just behind the altar and during the raising of the flag an army trumpeter sounded a salute. When the mass was finished there was a wreath laying ceremony with the Last Post and Reveille sounded in honour of fallen comrades as the National Flag was then lowered and raised again. The Parade Commander was Peter Phillips, and the three wreaths were laid by John Flanagan, President of Post 20, Jim Cleary and Michael Curtin. The National Flag officer was Geoffrey Cuffe. The musicians were piper Kevin Gilligan, drummer Jack Veale and trumpeter Paul Kiernan. The ceremony was finished on a musical rendition of "Oft in the Stilly Night" by the piper.



Military nursing for nearly a centenary

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS SGT MICK BURKE

In 1922, the emerging Irish Free State set up the Army Nursing Service (ANS) to take over the running of military hospitals from the withdrawing British army. The service continued on an ad hoc basis until it was formally established in 1924 as part of Óglaigh na hÉireann.

On 9th December 2014, an event to mark the 90th anniversary of that establishment was held in Ceannt NCOs Mess in the DFTC, Curragh Camp. This was attended by serving and retired members of the ANS, invited guests and members of the General Staff.

In his address to those present, DCOS SP Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, said that throughout the years, the health of members of the Defence Forces had been in good hands. Rear Admiral Mellett also launched 'Nursing the Forces', a commemorative booklet that was meticulously edited and put together by



Comdt Niall Donoghue (OC Med Sch).

The booklet, printed by the DF Printing Press, provides an enjoyable and informative look at the ANS's 90-year history, with plenty of colourful and interesting photographs and articles fondly looking back at the generations of nurses, sisters and matrons who have served us so well for every day of the last 90+ years. Limited copies of the booklet are available from the Information Office, PR Branch. Contact +353 (0)45 44 5308 or email admin@military.ie ■



AS365F i Dauphin Helicopter Remembered

BY BRIG GEN PAUL FRY, GOC AIR CORPS

Capt Andy Whelan (retd) recently presented me with a fine scale model of an AS365Fi Dauphin helicopter painted in Air Corps colours, which was donated by his brother David Whelan. Capt Whelan served in the Air Corps helicopter unit during his career and was a former student of mine during his Wings course in 1983 on the Gazelle helicopter. He subsequently flew the Dauphin extensively on 24-hour search-and-rescue (SAR) operations as well as the many other tasks that fall to the helicopter type. He is now enjoying his second career in Aer Lingus.

The Dauphin served the Air Corps from 1986 until 2004, when it was retired from service. All were capable of performing SAR, with two of them specifically engineered and equipped for embarked operations from LÉ Eithne.

The helicopter type was also very active in VIP flying, troop transport and case vac/medevac training and operations. The Dauphin was not equipped, however, for pilot night-vision equipment (NVE) use; hence it was limited when it came to night-time missions.

The Dauphins were sold back to Aerospatiale/Eurocopter-France for refurbishment to ship-borne specification with new cockpit instrumentation replacing the old equipment previously used by the Air Corps. The four surviving examples are currently being operated by the Chilean Navy, with the fifth having been lost tragically along with its crew during a SAR mission in Tramore in July 1999. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam. ■



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Cpl McKenna and Sgt Gallagher engage a target.



Foreign and domestic competitors under assessment from US Sniper School officials.



Team coach Sgt McColgan assists both Sgt Gallagher and Cpl McKenna in preparation for competition.



Competitors receive a brief.



14th

INTERNATIONAL Sniper Competition

BY CAPT LIAM MCDONNELL, 2 I/C SP COY, 28 INF BN

In October 2014 a team from the Defence Forces travelled to the United States to compete in the 14th International Sniper Competition, held by the US Army Sniper School, in Fort Benning, Georgia. Throughout the five-day competition the team, consisting of spotter Sgt Adam Gallagher and sniper Cpl Barry McKenna, both 27 Inf Bn, took part in a series of events specifically designed to test the skills of highly trained snipers. In total there were nine events, ranging from long-distant shooting, urban environments, and target interdiction, to a gruelling stalk through the unforgiving swamps of South Georgia.

Each day started at 0600hrs as the teams got up and got themselves ready for the 0730hrs brief on the day's activities. Following this, they had 30 minutes to prep their kit and mount the transport waiting to bring them to their unknown destination. Once in position the team received a short but comprehensive brief on the rules and general scenario of the upcoming event and with no time to spare went straight into it. All of the events were conducted under both physical and time pressure and at times the teams were split up with sniper and spotter being separated in order to assess their verbal communication skills and teamwork. This procedure continued for each event until it culminated in the sniper's bread and butter role, the stalk.

The stalk consisted of a 6.5km insertion on foot, at night while under time pressure, to an RV in which the team received additional information on their task. They then had to stalk through the thick savannah scrub, navigating through alligator-infested swamps, while avoiding enemy patrols, and advance into a suitable position from where they had to positively identify (PID) their target from a crowd and take the shot. With the sun at its height any incorrect movement by either sniper or spotter could have compromised their position by casting a shadow or from condensation evaporating from their clothing.

Out of the 39 teams who participated in the stalk the Irish team was one of only five to receive points; the 34 other teams, including teams from the USMC and Delta Forces, failed to score any points in the stalk.

By the end of the competition the Irish team had achieved second position in the international category, and 21st overall. The total points difference between the first-placed team and the last was less than one event's score, displaying how tight the overall competition was.

The sniper team were ably supported throughout the competition by team captain Capt Liam McDonnell (28 Inf Bn) and coach Sgt Stephen McColgan (1 Cn Cois).

The team wishes to express their thanks and gratitude for the support they received while competing and also to congratulate the 6 Inf Bn recce team who achieved gold in the British Army's Cambrian Patrol competition. ■

Deployment 'Sikasso'

BY LT JAMES MULDERRIG, EUTM MALI

Members of IRCON 4, 2 RGR and the Latvian training team during an EUTM shooting competition.



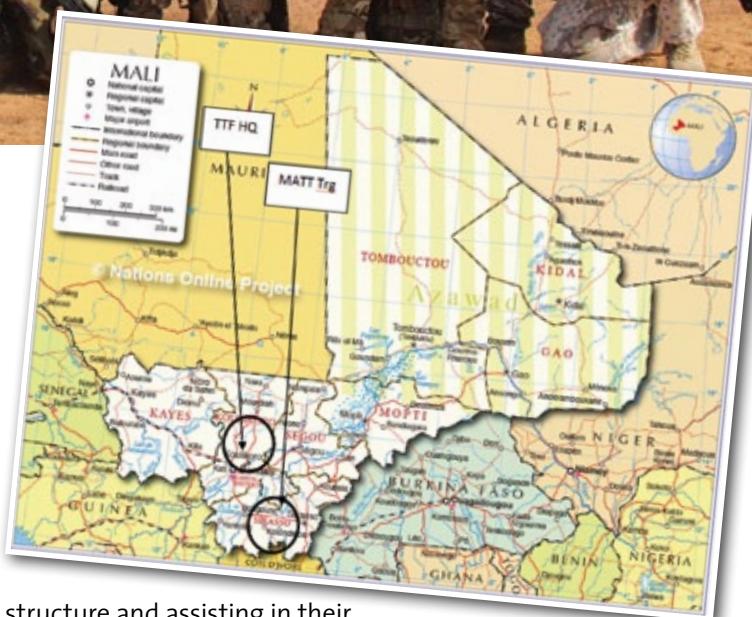
On 29th September 2014, approximately 180 EU trainers, including six Defence Forces personnel from the combined UK & Irish Training Team (UKITT), deployed to Sikasso in south-eastern Mali to conduct pre-planned, mobile, refresher training of a Malian GTIA (groupement tactique interarmes or combined arms battlegroup).

Travelling to Sikasso from Koulikoro was a difficult journey because of the poor roads and scorching temperature (38°C), so we were all glad to arrive there after a gruelling eight-hour journey in convoy.

Sikasso, one of eight Malian regions, is located roughly 450km south-east of our base in Koulikoro and 45km west of the border with Burkina Faso. Sikasso City is the second largest city in Mali, with a population of approximately 220,000.

The mission of the European Union Training Mission Mali (EUTM Mali) trainers was to conduct pre-planned refresher training for Elou (meaning 'the Elephants' in the local dialect), one of the previously trained-up GTIAs. This unit had deployed on operations to northern Mali during the summer, where it was badly defeated by the MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad). As a result, the morale and discipline of GTIA Elou was at a low ebb. Moreover, inadequate leadership was believed to be a contributing factor in the defeat.

Consequently, for our seven weeks we were tasked with focussing on re-establishing their basic soldiering skills, empowering and enabling their command

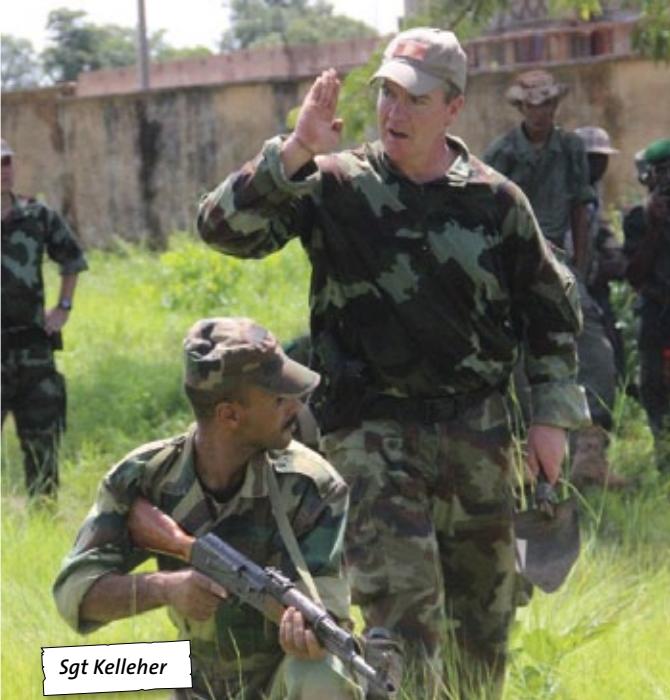


structure and assisting in their preparations for re-deployments to conflict areas of northern Mali in the future. No easy task!

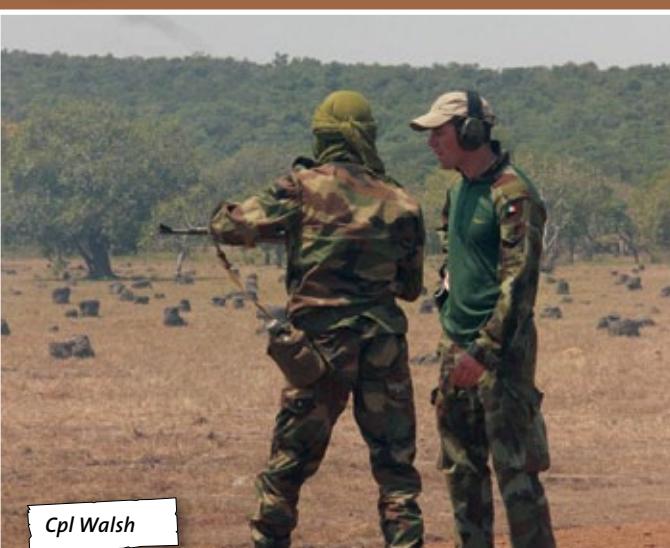
The UKITT comprised six members of the Defence Forces and 27 members of the British Army's, 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles (2 RGR). Together we were responsible for training and developing one infantry company within GTIA Elou.

Our training focused on areas that would be relevant to the GTIA's future deployment to northern Mali, with particular emphasis placed on C-IED, weapons handling, reconnaissance, defensive operations and vehicle checkpoints.

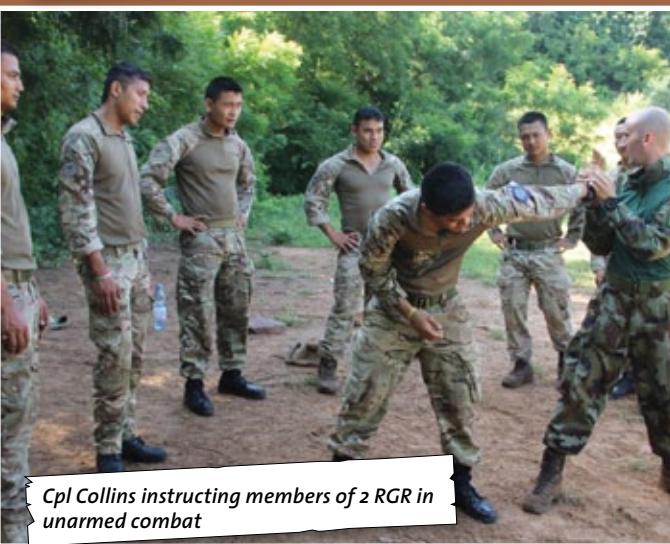
The enhancement of leadership within the GTIA was also an integral part of the training and, accordingly, we devised a two-week programme that established a framework for training all commanders at all levels within the GTIA. Utilising our own leadership experience and background, we



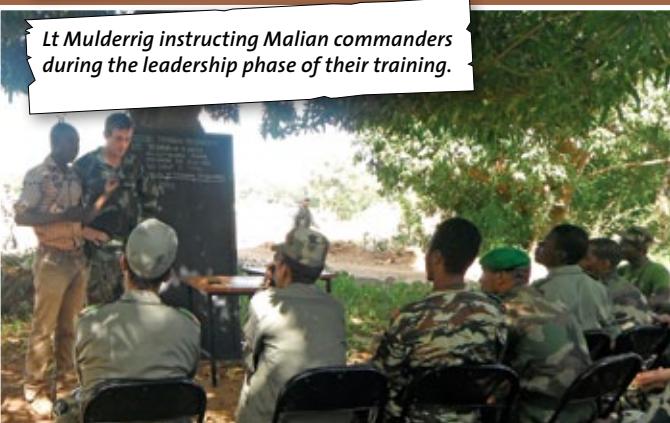
Sgt Kelleher



Cpl Walsh



Cpl Collins instructing members of 2 RGR in unarmed combat



Lt Mulderrig instructing Malian commanders during the leadership phase of their training.

assisted and enabled the Malian commanders in their decision-making process in accordance with Malian military doctrine.

At the outset the EU had identified providing practical instruction on international humanitarian law (IHL) as being a key supporting pillar for GTIA training, and therefore it also became an important subject in retraining GTIA Elou.

During their deployment to the north, Elou often had to engage in conflict in densely populated civilian areas. Therefore, by incorporating IHL instruction into all facets of our training, including focussing in detail on the Malian rules-of-engagement and on treating civilians in accordance with IHL, we were addressing an important area for them.

Throughout the seven-week period, we encountered many challenges that required high levels of professionalism, fitness and patience from all our trainers in order to guarantee success. Relentless high temperatures, averaging 38°C, high humidity, and the unforgiving, hostile terrain of southern Mali, added to the challenge of the mission. All trainers were required to be self-sufficient in the field for long periods, while maintaining high standards in the delivery of their allotted subject matter. Communication and language barriers added to the challenge. While French is widely spoken throughout Mali, Tamasheq is spoken by many soldiers from the north and Bambara by soldiers from the south. This added to the complexity of the task, as trainers were required to continuously work with interpreters while also relying on their own ability to communicate through French, and ensuring that the delivery of training was simple, understandable and tailored to our audience.

One of the key assets that I relied upon was the wealth of operational and training experience that my small team possessed. Each member of the Irish contingent utilised their combined experiences for the benefit of our Malian comrades. Indeed, because of the excellent work of preceding Irish contingents, we benefitted from strong friendships among the 21 other EUTM contributing nations and the Malians. Interestingly the soldiers of GTIA Elou had previously been trained by members of IRCON 2 in 2013, and we were able to build on their foundations.

Despite their awful experience in northern Mali, the soldiers of Elou retain fond memories of their training in Koulikoro and, in particular, the strong relationships they formed with our predecessors.

I firmly believe that the DF has made, and is continuing to make, an important contribution in restoring the Malian Armed Forces' military capacity, which in turn will allow them to defend Mali's territorial integrity. ■

About the author: Lt James Mulderrig, a native of Bohola, Co Mayo, is on his first overseas deployment, serving a six-month tour with IRCON 4 as part of the UKITT. Prior to this, he served with 1 Cn Cois in Dún Uí Mhaolíosa, Galway.



34th Senior NCO COURSE

BY LT BRIAN KELLY, INSTRUCTOR, NCO TRG WING
PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE & CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

34th Senior NCO Course was conducted over eleven weeks from 15th September to 28th November 2014 in the NCO Training Wing, Inf Sch, DFTC. The aim of the Senior NCO Course is to further develop the qualities of leadership and supervision and to provide the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to qualify sergeants of the Defence Forces to execute the tasks and duties of a senior NCO in national and multinational forces.

Students study a variety of subjects ranging from training management to staff duties to leadership and of course tactical training. Examinations are held regularly throughout the course to ensure instruction is being assimilated. A large amount of time on the course is dedicated to briefs from various directorates.

Of course, not all the instruction is left to the classroom and students follow an exacting physical training programme, including battle PT, in order to prepare them for the final exercise.

As part of the course the students are afforded the opportunity to undertake a level-7 qualification in leadership, management and defence studies through IT Carlow. This is an optional programme but one that has had a 100% uptake to date. It requires a considerable amount of extra-curricular work but lecturers from IT Carlow offer assistance throughout and each student is assigned a supervisor from their home unit who has completed a similar dissertation.

The successful students from 34th Senior NCO Course are due to graduate with their degrees in November 2015. This is a significant step for NCOs and a huge investment into education within the Defence Forces.

The penultimate exercise on this course was Exercise Anaconda. This exercise was aimed primarily at combat service support during battalion-level operations and focused on the senior NCO role from battalion sergeant major to company sergeant. The exercise was fast forwarded to the reorg and consolidation phase, so from the students point of view the fighting had already taken place and it was up to those in senior NCO appointments to collect casualty figures, prioritise and casevac casualties, and resupply ammo and water. Based in Kilworth Camp, this was a large-scale exercise with 244 people involved. It also included a day in Fort Davis conducting combat service support in an urban environment.

Along with the huge commitment of personnel, there was also a significant commitment of Defence Forces assets including the AW139 helicopter, MOWAG Piranha, BAE systems LTAV and John Deere Gator 6x4 all-terrain vehicle. These assisted the students throughout the week in completing the required caseevacs with the 'golden hour'. An exercise of this scale is only possible without the co-operation of all supporting units throughout the Defence Forces.

Overall, the course challenged students and instructors, developing both groups through interaction and discussion. The 34th Senior NCO Course proved to be an engaging and challenging group and the NCO Training Wing would like to wish them the best of luck in their dissertations and in their future careers. ■



Vox Pops

Sgt John Galvin - BTC, 1 Bde



"The course was very good, and was challenging in a lot of areas. It is very beneficial and has put me in good stead for going forward with my career in the Defence Forces."

Sgt Mark Lane - BTC, 1 Bde



"It was an absolutely great course: I really enjoyed it. I learnt a lot about management and leadership on a different scale and it has given me the tools to go forward in my career."

Sgt Stephen Carr - 7 Inf Bn, 2 Bde



"With the outline of the school to educate and train the future NCOs and Senior NCOs of the Defence Forces, this course definitely achieves that. It was very good and gave us the knowledge we need to go forward. The skills and info I gained will be very beneficial to my career."

Sgt Alan O'Reilly - 27 Inf Bn, 2 Bde



"The students on the course corresponded very well together, living up to the course motto which was 'Strength through Unity'. We received excellent briefs at strategic levels which helped our understanding from a managerial level. The exercises were realistic, with timelines for casevac, resupplies and use of supporting arms being put to plan perfectly. The option of a 3rd level degree is a great progression for NCOs, addressing middle-management issues."

Sgt Mick Ahern - Air Corps College



"It's definitely been a robust course in academic and tactical terms. The camaraderie on the course and integration with others were the strong points for me. I'd definitely recommend the course, but not for the faint hearted."

CAMBRIAN PATROL

BY LT JOE GLENNON, 6 INF BN



In the Defence Forces, the reconnaissance role is primarily assigned to infantry recce platoons and cavalry squadrons. To progress standards, the Infantry Weapons Wing (IWW) began conducting an annual All-Army Recce Competition in 2011.

Since 2013 the winning unit also gets to send a team to represent the Defence Forces in the prestigious Cambrian Patrol, the British Army's gruelling 48-hr test of patrolling and military skills.

Cambrian Patrol is a long-range (50km+) patrolling exercise conducted in Wales, the completion of which requires physical fitness, endurance, teamwork and determination, combined with excellent infantry skills. Teams that manage to cross the finish line, and many do not, are awarded a certificate, while teams who have impressed may be awarded a gold, silver or bronze medal.

In 2013 a team from 27 Inf Bn set the bar very high, returning with a hard-earned, well-deserved silver medal.

Having won the 2014 All-Army competition, 6 Inf Bn had the privilege of representing the Defence Forces in Cambrian Patrol 2014, alongside 118 other teams, mainly British but also from the military forces of Brazil, Kazakhstan, Oman, Georgia, Nepal, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Pakistan, Czech Republic, France, Denmark, Australia, Italy, Holland, India, Canada and Estonia.

With the assistance of the IWW, Sp Coy, 6 Inf Bn, developed a five-month training plan to ensure that the team was trained to the highest possible level, under the tutelage of Sgt Derek Hussey (6 Inf Bn). The team consisted of myself (Lt Glennon), Sgt Ryan, Cpl Pilkington, recently promoted Cpl Ward, and Ptes Moriarty, Dunne, Sherrif, and Loonam. Pte Maloney and Cpl Glynn travelled as subs while also providing logistical support. Lt Gordon (IWW) travelled as team captain.

At 0230hrs on 23rd October we were in a mini-bus navigating through a torrential downpour to a remote, isolated farmyard to begin one of the toughest exercises any soldier could encounter in their military career.

With kit and comms checks completed and orders received, we were ushered into a forested area to begin our battle prep. As I began to prepare my orders, Sgt Ryan divided up our additional equipment, Cpl Pilkington worked on a detailed route card, and the rest of the team constructed a detailed model of the vast Brecon Beacons.

At 0930hrs orders were issued for the next 12-14 hours. Our initial task was to conduct a close-target reconnaissance (CTR) of an enemy location followed by a link-up with a friendly forces agent to submit our report and receive further instructions.

We gladly hoisted our 80-100lb backpacks, eager to get going. After 15km of boggy, steep terrain we arrived at our FRV from where we launched our CTR teams. With sketches drawn, bearings taken and information obtained, we made our way back to the FRV and then on to a lay-up point to complete our patrol report and have some well-earned food.

We met our agent, who debriefed us and directed us towards four vehicles that were going to transport us to a forward operating base (FOB) for a shura (Arabic for 'consultation') with the local militia commander. We arrived at 0200hrs and met 'Major Zukov' who required a CBRN lesson for his troops; Cpl Ward and Pte Moriarty gladly obliged. Meanwhile, Sgt Ryan had been called away to receive orders for the next leg of our patrol.

We moved off, under the command of Sgt Ryan, into the darkness and rain heading for our next RV. En route we were to carry out another CTR to confirm the presence or not of enemy. We walked throughout the night across extremely demanding terrain and arrived at our next RV at 0800hrs having confirmed enemy equipment in the target area but no troop movements.



simulate casualties, which made it shockingly realistic.) Under the eye of Cpl Ward, the patrol medic, we treated the casualties, clearing around one who was located in a minefield just off the track, compiled and called in 9-liner and ATMIST reports, and extracted the casualties to a safe location for pick-up.

We then moved heading for our next grid reference, which was beside a reservoir so we all knew what was coming next.

On reaching the RV we were briefed before securing the location, constructing rafts with our backpacks, donning life-vests, and crossing the 120m freezing cold reservoir in two four-man detachments. On exiting the reservoir and putting on our now extremely heavy backpacks, we were informed that the area was compromised and that we had to move ASAP to a secure RV 4km away.

When we arrived at the new location the heavy rain meant that any dry gear would be soaked within minutes, so we just changed our socks and headed for our next RV, another 8km away.

There another militia man directed us a further 5km over a hill. By this point we had been on the move for almost 30 hours straight, with very little rest.

Reaching our next RV we were given three 35kg ammunition boxes to bring to the front line, which was 2km away and all uphill, where militia forces were running low on ammunition. This back-breaking and utterly gruelling 2km was the most severe part of the entire exercise.

On handing over the ammunition we were immediately tasked with supplying two men for an AFV test (Pte Moriarty and I) and two others (Sgt Ryan and Cpl Pilkington) to call in artillery fire on a number of targets.

After this we were transported with a British team to a location where we were issued body armour and given a brief for a combined assault on a number of enemy locations. As we

We were met by a local militia leader who was to transport us to another base. As his vehicles approached, one struck a landmine. (The exercise utilised amputees to

crossed the start line, live HMG fire and 60mm mortar rounds zipped over our heads. Summoned our remaining energy reserves, we completed the assault in a matter of minutes.

From there we were given a grid reference for the FIBUA training area near Sennybridge Camp. We set out hopeful that this was to be the finishing point but not allowing our concentration to drop, just in case...

On arrival we were ushered into a large warm barn where other patrols sat around and, to our great relief, a colour sergeant told us that was it!

After a quick kit inspection and the nicest egg sandwich and cup of tea that anyone could ever taste, we were on our way to another barn where a British colonel and major debriefed us on every detail of the previous 48hrs. After one hour and 10 minutes of intense questioning on everything from the overall scenario, to the CTR, to the shura, to all our RVs and timings, the colonel congratulated us for reaching the end of Cambrian Patrol.

We got our bags and made the short trip to Sennybridge Camp for a shower and some proper food.

At 1000hrs with plasters on blisters, tired and sore, we made our way to the prize-giving ceremony. After a short wait, which seemed like an eternity, we were called front and centre to receive our result. We couldn't believe our ears when the announcement came: "The Irish Defence Forces are awarded... a gold medal." We tried our best to maintain our composure as we accepted our award from Brigadier Gamble, OC 160 (Wales) Bde.

After five months of hard training, enduring 55km of arduous terrain, and having our military skills tested to the limits, not only had we successfully completed Cambrian Patrol 2014, but had been awarded a coveted gold medal.

To put this achievement in perspective, almost one-third of the 119 teams failed to finish the course and only five (4%) received gold: the others were 1st Battalion, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment; Gurkha Sittang Company; 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles; and 8th Battalion, Garwhal Rifles (India).

Our team's performance is a testament to the skill-set, physical fitness, determination, robustness and resilient nature of the Irish soldier and proves that we can compete against the best in the world.

We are extremely grateful to the many people who assisted us along the way and without whose tireless hard work and effort it would have been impossible for us to perform to such a high standard. ■



This map shows the growth of ISIS throughout northern Iraq and western Syria. This map is current as of 6/12/2014.

IN A STATE



BY PAUL O'BRIEN

During the summer months of 2014, a lightning strike by Islamic militants in northern Iraq forced the country's armed forces into a retreat that soon became a rout. Thousands of soldiers and civilians fled the onslaught and evacuated Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, as the army of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known by the acronyms ISIS, ISIL, and IS, seized the area in a vicious assault.

The hardline Sunni jihadist group, which formerly had connections with al Qaeda, has occupied large swathes of Iraq and Syria, plundering across borders and occupying strategic towns and villages. As the armed insurgents swept through the region they announced their intention to re-establish an Islamic caliphate, and declaring Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as the caliph. This declaration has huge significance as it asserts Abu Bakr as the rightful successor to the prophet Muhammed (caliph comes from 'kalifah', meaning 'successor') and the spiritual leader of all Muslims, wherever they live. It also highlights the group's aim of uniting all Muslims into one nation, ruled in accordance with their strict definition of Sharia law.

During the 2003 to 2011 conflict in Iraq, ISIS 'liberated' large stockpiles of weapons from the armories of former dictator, Saddam Hussein. These included armoured vehicles, guns, surface-to-air missiles and explosives. Using these weapons in their recent advances into Iraq and Syria, the ISIS fighters have managed to seize even more up-to-date weapons and equipment that had been supplied by the US to the new Iraqi state.

The ISIS forces clearly value the importance of mobility, with pick-up trucks ferrying soldiers into the war zone and with vehicle-mounted heavy and medium machine-guns supplying some anti-aircraft cover as they advance.

Estimates of the size of ISIS's forces in the region vary widely, from tens of thousands to 500,000. Intelligence reports state that experienced former Iraqi army officers are working with the group, giving them a military advantage over Kurdish fighters and the newly established Iraqi armed forces.

All reports agree that there are thousands of foreign fighters within the ranks of ISIS, a state of affairs that is prompting many countries to implement stricter laws in relation to their own nationals who travel to Syria or Iraq to join the group.

ISIS's rapid advance through northern and central Iraq, which has also encroached on Kurdish territory, has sent the region's non-Sunni minorities, including Shia, Christians and Yazidis, fleeing as reports of fierce fighting and massacres emerge. This has created an enormous humanitarian crisis as thousands of men, women and children seek safety.

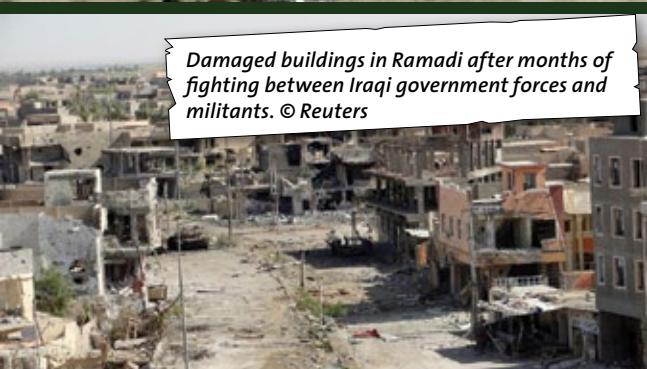




ISIS militants



Iraqi army tanks in Ramadi. © Reuters



Damaged buildings in Ramadi after months of fighting between Iraqi government forces and militants. © Reuters

The widespread ethnic cleansing of minority groups by ISIS has prompted the United Nations to accuse the group of human rights abuses. Many other members of the international community also criticised the group's actions, particularly after a series of beheadings of journalists and humanitarian workers. The brutal deaths of James Foley, Alan Henning, Steven Sotloff, and others, have provoked outrage throughout the world, from all communities and across all religious divides. These actions also led to the UN sanctioning air strikes against ISIS targets.

Iraq, like most Arab countries, is tribal, but unlike most has a Shia majority, even though the country's Sunni minority held power under Saddam Hussein's reign. ISIS, which is a Sunni movement, has consolidated its power in areas it has occupied by creating strong alliances with the dominant Sunni tribes in the region, sometimes buying their loyalty, and leaving them in charge of local administration. This tactic allows fighters who would otherwise be needed to defend the occupied areas to continue their advance. The policy also ensures that local populations have little motivation to rise up against it, particularly in the absence of a viable and acceptable alternative. Outside forces find it almost impossible to compete with this approach due to the difficulty of filling the void and forming new alliances with the local communities. The area currently under ISIS control stretches from Minbij, in eastern Aleppo, and Uqayribat, to the east of Hama, in Syria, to the Iraqi town of Jalawla in Diyala province.

Intelligence agencies believe that the aim of ISIS is not only to create a hardline Sunni Islamic state in Iraq and Syria, but also in other regions of the Middle East and North Africa. As allied leaders examine the long term effects of ISIS on the world, they have agreed to air strikes against the group's positions. Hundreds of sorties have been flown and bombing missions have killed a large number of fighters. However, according to those on the ground, ISIS has a strategy that it has been employing for over a decade, and they believe that the group can only be challenged through an effective counter strategy that takes into consideration the complexities of the situation on the ground and the inter-tribal warfare that has existed for centuries.

In Iraq ISIS, or similar groups, will continue to thrive as long as the formerly dominant Sunni population feel alienated and marginalised by successive Shia-led Iraqi governments. However, the ethnic cleansing of Kurds and Shias will not bring Sunni equality but will in fact develop a lasting legacy of hatred between the various factions.

As air strikes continue and world leaders enforce embargos on the region, the humanitarian crisis is continuing to spiral out of control, as hundreds of thousands of men, women and children die, not only from the fighting but also from starvation and disease. ■



Shakir Wahib (Abu Wahib), an ISIS leader, standing (left) next to burning cars, at an undisclosed location in Iraq. © AFP Photo/HO

Two minutes after the quake with Digicel building

“BROKEN GROUND”

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

Paddy Doyle grew up in Waterford and served with the Naval Service Reserve there (then called No 3 Coy, An Slua Muirí) before enlisting in the Defence Forces in December 1999. Paddy underwent his recruit and three-star training with 1 Flt Arty Regt in Collins Bks, Cork, after which he was posted to Sp Coy, 3 Inf Bn, in the Curragh Camp. “The first time I’d seen a barracks without walls!” he recalls.

Within his first year he was trained on a variety of support weapons while also, like most units at that time, rotating in and out of Portlaoise Prison for security duties.

In 2001 he served overseas with B Coy, 89 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, the last Irish battalion to serve in the old area of operations that was headquartered in Camp Shamrock in Tibnine. He found peacekeeping to be challenging but very rewarding, and enjoyed his time in South Lebanon.

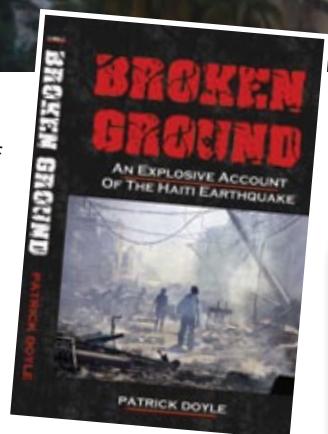
On his return to Ireland he rejoined his unit and underwent further training, most notably the highly sought-after Basic Snipers course.

The intensity of the sniper course and the skills of sniping, such as stalking, observation and navigation, required

a high level of physical fitness and fieldcraft. Such was the difficulty of the course that Paddy was one of only five of the original 16 students to pass the course.

Just short of completing four years’ service, Paddy decided to leave the Defence Forces in July 2003, as he wanted to see the world. By the end of the year he was in New York working for a moving company for a short while. “It was a great way to see New York”, he says.

After he came back to Ireland, another former member of the DF told Paddy how he had supported himself on his foreign travels by teaching English. So Paddy took a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course over a number of months, and within a fortnight of its completion headed straight for China, where he started teaching English, firstly at kindergarten level before working his way up through primary and secondary school levels, before finishing with college students.





Paddy Doyle

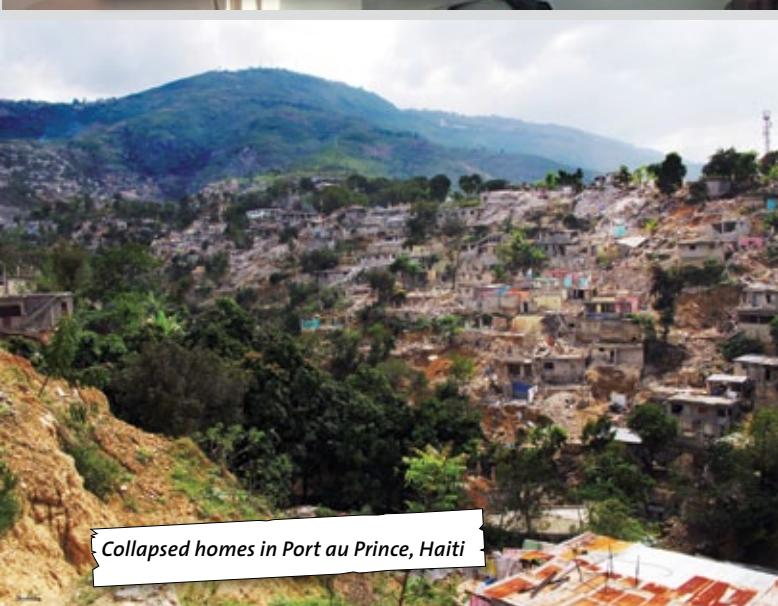
While in China Paddy became aware of how private security companies were starting to work in hostile environments like Iraq and thought it would be something he would like to try. However, due to a deterioration in his father's health, Paddy came home to Waterford to help to look after him for nearly two years. "Even though it was completely different from what I had planned, I'm glad I did it as my father's doing great now," he says.

In 2005 Paddy took an approved close-protection Officers course. The two-month course was based in Denmark, with some time spent in Bosnia. The training included, mission preparation and planning, defensive driving, combat medicine, with a lot of physical fitness and live-firing exercises. The course is designed to qualify and licence personnel to work in hostile environments, with plenty of emphasis on Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We were trained to work as individuals and as small teams," Paddy says, "and it was here that my previous Defence Forces training helped me come to the fore amongst other European ex-military personnel."



Paddy Doyle on Maritime Security



Collapsed homes in Port au Prince, Haiti



Members of 89 Inf Bn, UNIFIL (2001) Paddy is bottom right

A few months later Paddy saw an advert in a national newspaper seeking ex-military personnel, trained in close-protection, to work abroad for Irish telecommunications company Digicell. "A week later I was on my way to Port au Prince in Haiti," Paddy recalls, "which at the time was prone to high-level kidnappings. All kinds of crime were rife in city due to the extremes of overcrowding and poverty in a city built for around 400,000 people but occupied by an estimated two million: there were shanty towns everywhere and the heat and living conditions in them were dreadful."

Paddy was in and out of Haiti over the next three years and in August 2009 he started to work as a project manager for a small Irish tax consulting firm trying to establish itself in Haiti.

Paddy was going about his normal daily routine on 12th January 2010, when at 4.53pm a massive earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, struck Haiti, killing 250,000 people in the first 40 seconds of the initial quake, with more tremors occurring hourly for the next few days and a few more over the coming weeks. The country quickly descended into chaos, with all its infrastructures failing.

"My Defence Forces training kicked in straight away," Paddy says, "and I kept calm, assessed the situation and then helped as many as I could while trying to make my way back home."

Wanting to share his experiences of surviving the earthquake and dealing with the aftermath, Paddy decided to write a book about it. The result of this decision is 'Broken Ground' which was recently published to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the earthquake. It is well worth a read and is available in Easons and other good book stores, priced €15.99, and also on amazon.com in Kindle and paperback.

For the last four years Paddy has continued to work in the security industry, both on land and at sea. And with the successful publication of 'Broken Ground' we can now also expect another book or two from our former colleague. ■

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FIELDCRAFT – PART 5

Aids To Judging Distance

Accurate judgment of distance is a skill which the soldier must develop if he/she is to engage the enemy effectively without wasting ammunition. The two methods of judging distance previously taught are fundamental skills which, when used with certain aids, can produce accurate ranges. It is important, therefore, that every soldier is skilled in the use of the methods of judging distance and familiar with the aids that can improve a soldier's accuracy.



Recce and select an area with prominent features, both natural and artificial, the true ranges of which are known to the instructor and recorded on a range card. Select the objects to be used and the sequence of use during practice. After initial practice, encourage soldiers to use either of the methods and all of the aids as appropriate, to assist in the accurate judging of the distances to targets. Indicate targets using aiming rests if available.

Bracketing: The bracketing technique is a useful aid under most conditions. It requires the soldier to use the appearance or unit of-measure method to estimate the maximum distance to the object and then the minimum possible distance. The estimate of the actual distance should be set midway between the two extremes, e.g. maximum distance 800m; minimum distance 500m; therefore, estimated distance – 650m.

Halving: Up to distances of about 1000 metres it should be possible to select an area or object about midway between the position and the target and in direct line with it. Since it is generally easier to judge distance to closer objects, use the appearance or unit-of-measure method to judge the distance to the midway area or object. Double this estimation to produce a reasonably accurate judgment of the range to the intended target. Take care when judging the distance to the half-way point as any error at this stage will be doubled in the final solution.

Key Ranges: If you already know the range to any area or object in your arc, it is possible to use that known range to judge the distance to nearby areas or objects. Key ranges may have been obtained using either of the methods of judging distance, by laser range finder, by maps or from targets that have already been successfully engaged with specific sight settings.

Unit Average: When a group of soldiers are together, it is possible to get each soldier, as an individual, to judge the distance to an object using either the appearance or unit-of-measure method. They may also use any of the aids to judging distance that they are familiar with, but the judged distance must be an individual effort. Because some men will overestimate and other underestimate, they will tend to cancel out each others' errors and, by taking an average of the estimates, an accurate range can often be produced.

Other Devices: Certain other devices can be used to assist in judging distance but they are not generally available to all soldiers.

Binoculars: Most officers and NCOs carry binoculars inside of which is a graticule pattern. In much the same way that the appearance of an object can be compared with the size of a weapon foresight, so it can be compared with the lines on the graticule pattern. Practice will be needed to understand and relate the size of the lines in relation to objects at different distances.

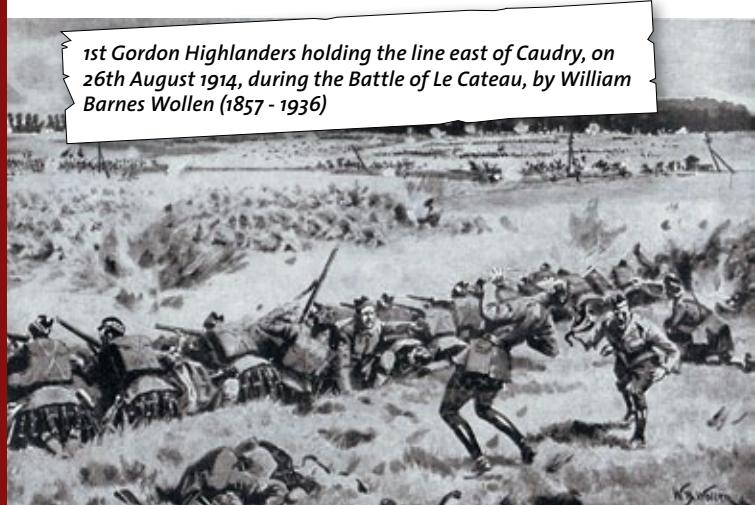
Ranging Fire: When the tactical situation allows it, take advantage of the opportunity to fire at specific objects within the arc. Adjust the strike until fire is correctly applied and then note the sight setting used.



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A Time for Reflection

BY DR PAUL WATKINS



Visitors to Belgravia House, Horseferry Road, London, may care to spend a few minutes studying the impressive, carved oak memorial commemorating those members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) who lost their lives in World War I. Sited on the stairwell leading to the lower ground floor, there is significant history attached to the memorial, described in *Veterinary History* (Volume 16, No 2, 2012), and which was unveiled on 7th April 1921 by the then president of the college, Professor O Charnock Bradley.

The memorial commemorates the 67 veterinary surgeons that died whilst serving with British and Empire forces during the conflict. As we reflect on the centenary of the outbreak of the 'war to end all wars' it is a fitting tribute to the profession to describe the stories behind some of the names that appear on the memorial.

A closer examination of the 67 men on the memorial reveals that 34 died of disease, 24 died of wounds and nine were killed in action. Of the latter group, the first to die was Lieutenant Vincent Fox MRCVS, whose obituary appeared in the *Veterinary Record*, 3rd October 1914, and simply read: Vincent Fox, MRCVS, Lieut AVC, Dublin: December 1911.

It is only recently that the full story of this veterinary surgeon's life, and the circumstances of his death, have come to light. Vincent Richard James Fox was an Irishman, who after his death was described as a man 'of the kindest and sunniest nature.' He was born at Hacksballscross, Carrickastuck, County Louth, some six miles west of Dundalk, on 9th

December 1889, the youngest of 10 children born to Patrick James Fox, a farmer, and his wife, Anne (née Cummisky). Vincent's father died in 1890, his mother in 1908, and the 1911 census identifies that the family, now headed by the eldest son, Patrick (born 1871), had left Carrickastuck and were residing at 25 Quay Street, Dundalk.

Vincent entered the Royal Veterinary College in Ireland in 1907, and graduated MRCVS in December 1911. He initially worked in Dundalk but in May 1912 he sailed to Calcutta, where he worked for RS Hart Bros, described as a 'Royal Horse Repository and Veterinary Infirmary' by its owner, Robert Spooner-Hart MRCVS. The work was varied, ranging from veterinary surgery to horse breeding and dealing, but the company also acted as consulting veterinary surgeons to the Calcutta Turf Club and HE Viceroy (Lord Hardinge).

Spooner-Hart died from cholera in March 1914, and about that time Vincent Fox returned to Ireland where he worked for the Department of Agriculture. Although it was predicted he would have done well in the department, he was keen to pursue a military career.

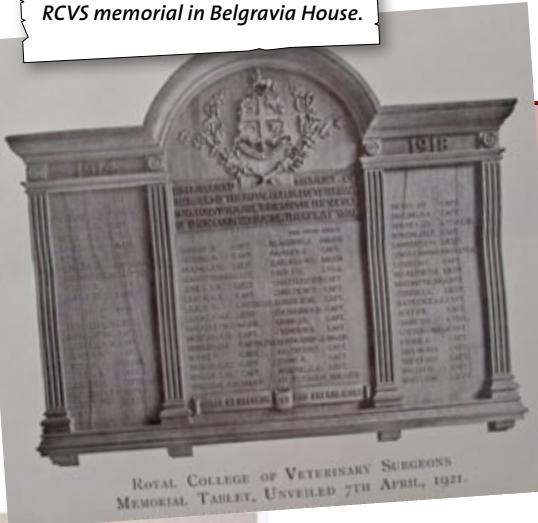
As the storm clouds of war gathered over Europe in the summer of 1914, Fox received his commission, in the rank of lieutenant, on probation, in the Army Veterinary Corps, on 31st July 1914. He was one of four veterinary surgeons whose commission was listed in the *London Gazette* of 14th August. He obtained his uniform from W T Castle, Military Outfitters, of 23 Saville Row, London, for which he was invoiced a total of £22 18/-.

Vincent Fox was one of the very first veterinary surgeons to depart to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), serving as brigade veterinary officer to 8 Infantry Brigade, 3 Division, II Corps, commanded by General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien).

Fox's brigade was based at Devonport, Plymouth, in August 1914 when orders were received to mobilise for war. One of Fox's first duties may have related to the horses supplied to the brigade as it was recorded that: 'Some of the heavy draught horses supplied were three years old and appeared never to have been broken to harness. The unsuitable horses were exchanged.'

The brigade arrived in Boulogne on 14th August and deployed north into Belgium. By 22nd August they were at Mons, facing the advancing German army. The position

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Lt Vincent Fox MRCVS



Drawing of Lt Fox, by Dave Gleeson

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of British troops was such that there was a real risk of their being cut off by the two-pronged advance of the Germans. Therefore, the commander-in-chief of the BEF, Field Marshal Sir John French, ordered a retreat. Over the following days the British forces attempted to withdraw and by 25th August 8 Brigade were positioned in the town of Audencourt, to the east of Le Cateau. Here Smith-Dorrien deployed the bulk of his troops around Le Cateau to provide support for the men of I Corps as they retreated on his eastern flank. He was 'advised' by the French to withdraw but informed the commander-in-chief that he was unable to move any men, and that he had decided to stand and fight. In many regiments the order was repeated: 'Gentlemen, we will stand and fight.'

The Battle of Le Cateau took place on Wednesday 26th August, and the headquarters of 8 Brigade were initially sited in a farm in Audencourt, with their vehicles parked in the farmyard. The brigade diary reported that: 'No field ambulance and no medical officers being available, the wounded were taken into a church, a very solid stone structure, and here Lt V Fox AVC took charge and dressed the wounded.'

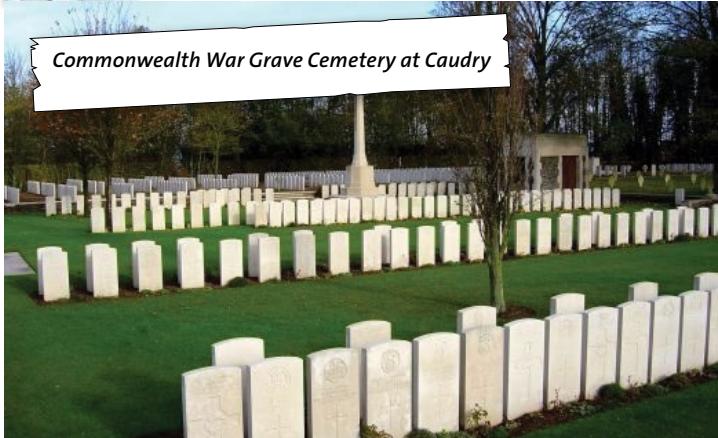
At about noon the brigade headquarters came under a sustained artillery barrage and it was decided to move south, moving the horses to a nearby orchard. The wounded, being treated by Lt Fox were to be left in the church, since it was believed the Germans would not fire on the building, and even if they did it was deemed strong enough to withstand shellfire.

At 2.30pm the Germans commenced to vigorously shelling the town, with disastrous consequences. Shelling of the orchard led to the death of all the horses held there. The order was given to start to retreat, but in the late afternoon the church was shelled. Witnesses described how the spire was hit, followed by an explosion and the building caught fire. At least one high-explosive shell entered the building, causing substantial damage and destruction, and resulting in the death of Lt Fox. His family were later to receive reports that his body was found, 'without a mark or scar on it', indicating that he died as a result of primary blast injury.

Lt Fox was buried in the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery at Caudry (British Cemetery) which contains the remains of many other men who died at the Battle of Le Cateau, including 2/Lt Ronald Ross (the son of Nobel Laureate, Sir Ronald Ross), who was serving with 2 Bn, Royal Scots Regiment.

Lt Vincent Fox died whilst treating human, not animal, patients, clearly demonstrating his commitment to the treatment of the sick, regardless of circumstance or species. Although so little was written about his actions at the time in the veterinary press, an obituary in his local paper, the *Dundalk Democrat*, described that he was 'Killed whilst in pursuit of his humane duty behind the British firing line. A man could not well die a nobler death.'

An inspection of the memorial at Belgravia House reminds us that many veterinary surgeons paid the ultimate price of service for King and Country over the four years that followed Vincent Fox's death, and for several their stories remain largely untold. ■



Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery at Caudry



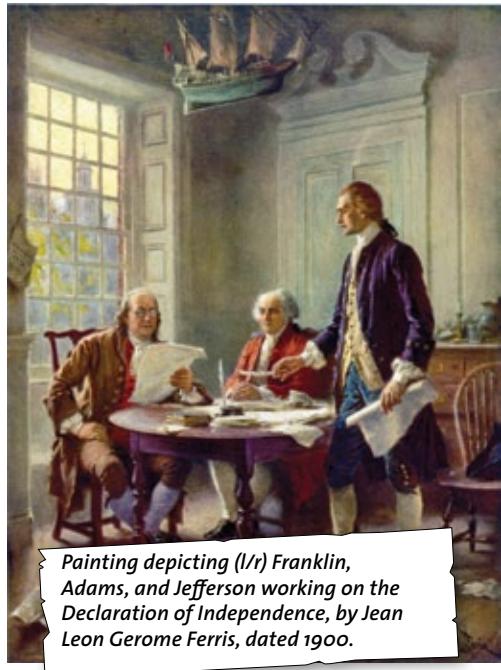
A group picture from the OTC, Royal Veterinarian College, Dublin, dated 1915

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HERCULES MULLIGAN A Hero of the Revolution

BY MARIA VANN, DIRECTOR, IROQUOIS INDIAN MUSEUM, UTICA, NEW YORK



While the names of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin are forever linked with the foundation of the United States, many lesser known figures played important parts. One such person was Hercules Mulligan, a man whose beginnings were very different from those of many other founding fathers.

Born in Coleraine, County Antrim, on 25th September

1740, Mulligan immigrated to New York with his family when he was six. While not attaining a college education, Mulligan received a good education under an Irish schoolmaster named James O'Brien.

As a young man, Mulligan worked for an importing house on New York's waterfront, where he likely developed his business skills as well as making important connections in the city. He became a skilled tailor and in 1774 he opened a tailor shop on

Queen Street that later served as an important location for collecting vital information during the Colonial War.

During the 1770s, Mulligan befriended a new West Indian-born immigrant, Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers best known as Washington's aide-de-camp and first Secretary of the US Treasury. Hamilton boarded with Mulligan and remained a lifelong friend.

Mulligan's revolutionary credentials were established from an early stage. He was a member of the Sons of Liberty and a participant in the 1770 Battle of Golden Hill where British soldiers and colonists clashed. Occurring six weeks prior to the Boston Massacre, the Battle of Golden Hill was arguably the first bloodshed of the Revolution.

In 1775 he was appointed to the Revolutionary Committee of Correspondence of the City of New York and also named to the Committee of One Hundred, along with revolutionaries such as John Jay, Alexander McDougall, Francis Lewis, and Philip Livingston.

The Irishman was also at the Battery with Hamilton in 1775 when it was bombarded by HMS Asia.

Eventually the city was taken over by the British and Mulligan found himself living in the middle of a loyalist stronghold. In a complete failure of intelligence the British and the loyalists failed to connect Mulligan with his previous high-profile revolutionary activities and he continued with his tailor business, the clientele of which included a large number of British officers. Mulligan's likeable personality and the fact that he was friends with prominent loyalists and married to the niece of an admiral in the Royal Navy probably deflected much suspicion.

His links with Hamilton soon led to Mulligan becoming one of Washington's key 'confidential correspondents' in New York, passing on information that he gleaned from conversations in his shop.

Mulligan regularly sent important information from within British controlled Manhattan, including a planned Brit-



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



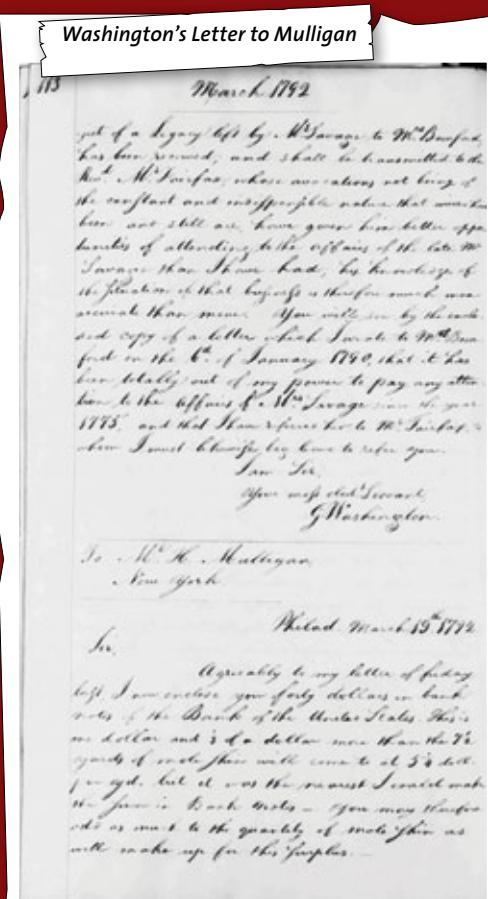
Alexander Hamilton



Hercules Mulligan

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Mr. H. Mulligan,
New York

Philad. March 19th 1792.

Sir,

Agreeably to my letter of Friday last I now enclose you forty dollars in bank notes of the Bank of the United States. This is one dollar and $\frac{1}{3}$ of a dollar more than the 7½ yards of mole skin will come to at 5½ doll. per yd. but it was the nearest I could make the sum in Bank notes - you may therefore add as much to the quantity of mole skin as will make up for this surplus.

George Washington



ish attack on Rochambeau's French force in 1780, allowing the revolutionaries to avoid the potentially deadly assault. (The tipoff was mentioned in one of Washington's letters to the Marquis de Lafayette in 1780.)

On another occasion, Mulligan probably saved Washington's life. A British officer came into his shop and Mulligan pressed him about the abrupt visit so late at night at which point the officer said he was setting out on a mission very early, and telling Mulligan: "We will have the rebel general in our hands tomorrow." Mulligan immediately sent his slave Cato (who he referred to as "a willing accomplice") with a dispatch and Washington escaped capture.

Mulligan's own life was in great danger throughout these years, particularly when the infamous traitor Benedict Arnold arrived in New York and was highly suspicious of Mulligan as a possible patriot informant.

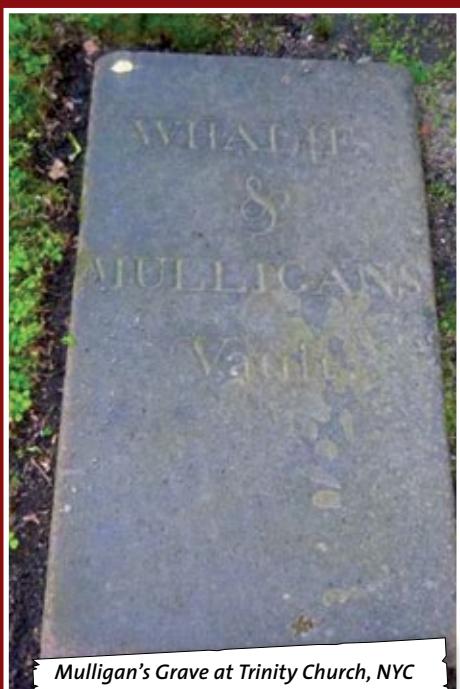
Arnold placed Mulligan under surveillance and following the execution of British spymaster, Major John Andre, by the Continental Army, he was one of scores of people who were arrested and accused of treason by Arnold. In addition to mounting a spirited defence it was perhaps Mulligan's familial connection to Admiral Sanders that kept him safe.

When the war was over, on Evacuation Day 1783, Washington's first action in New York after leading a triumphal parade to the Battery was to visit Hercules Mulligan on Queen Street for breakfast. Few people were aware of the role he had played throughout the war and as collaborators were being singled out for punishment Washington wanted to publicly demonstrate his appreciation to Mulligan for his service and dispel any doubts of his loyalty.

After independence was achieved Mulligan turned his attention to another struggle, becoming a member of the Society for the Manumission of Slaves of the City of New York. This shows Mulligan's progressive ideas, coupled with his action-oriented attitude.

Additionally, Mulligan also became a chartered member of the Tammany Society, with his close friend William Mooney, the society's founder. The Tammany Society became the power behind the New York Democratic Party and was a mover and shaker well into the late 1800s, most notably under the leadership of Boss Tweed.

Hercules Mulligan died at the age of 85 in 1825. He was laid to rest in Trinity Church on Wall Street, just steps away from his long-time friend Hamilton. Barely mentioned in history, no monuments were erected to his memory and no likeness of him exists. Yet Hercules Mulligan undoubtedly left his mark on US history. He was a man of action, endurance and personal courage, and his quiet contributions to the creation of his adopted homeland serve as his monument. ■



Mulligan's Grave at Trinity Church, NYC

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CANOE POLO

in the Defence Forces

BY PTE STEPHEN HAPPE PHOTOS DARREN CLARKE

In July 2013 the Defence Forces Kayak Club set up a canoe polo team and the appointed coaches, myself (Pte Stephen Happe, 3 Inf Bn) and Capt Mark Brogan (1 Mech Coy) organised the team's first training session in the Curragh swimming pool.

Canoe polo, also known as kayak polo, is one of the competitive disciplines of canoeing. It combines canoeing and ball-handling skills into an exciting team game, where tactics and positional play are as important as the speed and fitness of the individual athletes. The game requires excellent teamwork and promotes general canoeing skills and a range of other techniques unique to the sport. In a match each team has five players on the pitch and up to three substitutes. The aim is to score by getting the ball into their opponent's goal, which is suspended two metres above the water. The ball can be thrown by hand, or flicked with the paddle to pass between players and shoot at the goal. Pitches can be set up in swimming pools or any stretch of flat water.

Canoes specifically designed for polo are faster and lighter than typical kayaks, which gives them fantastic manoeuvrability. Paddles are very lightweight and designed with both pulling power and ball control in mind. Nose and tail boat bumpers, body protection, helmets and face-guards are all compulsory.

The fledgling DF team, comprising six players from all over the DF, entered their first competition in August 2013 finishing in 12th place. Training hard for the next few months they came second in the next competition they entered, losing out by just one goal in an action-packed final.

The team has gone from strength to strength in the intervening period, gaining respect from teams all over the country and winning the club championships in Longford. In the short time they have been competing the team has been promoted twice and now play in the top flight in Division One, something that takes most teams years to reach. It's a massive achievement by the team and shows the commitment and hard work they have put in. They are currently placed fourth with six matches left in the current season.

The DF Kayak Club believes the development of canoe polo within the DF can benefit all who take part and not just on the water.

In canoe polo you must control your aggression. Any cheating will be immediately punished by one of the two referees (one on either side of the pitch), which teaches self discipline. If you have the ball you have five seconds to use it or lose it, which makes it a quick-thinking action game and very much a team sport. If you are within three meters of the ball the opposition will try to ram you or capsize you, so you must think under pressure, be situationally aware, be decisive, operate as a team, have excellent personal skills and be extremely fit. The contact element of the sport, such as being rammed at full speed, certainly takes its toll so you also need to be physically and mentally fit. These skills are useful for all Defence Forces operations as much as they are on the water to win games. This is why we believe development of canoe polo in the Defence Forces would be of great benefit to all of its members.

The DF Kayak Club are actively recruiting new people for the sport, so if you would like to try it out you can contact Pte Happe on ext 5675 or stephen.happe@defenceforces.ie or Capt Brogan on mark.brogan@defenceforces.ie. ■

"On the water I feel I have developed my personal skills, improved my paddling fitness and have a better understanding of the game and the tactics needed to win."



Pte Stephen Happe collecting the second place, Division 2, trophy in Galway.



Winning team and medal at the club championships in Longford



Capt Mark Brogan (white boat) fighting for the ball

SPORT

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MILITARY DETENTION BARRACKS STAFF

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT DONAL O'CONNOR, MP GP DFTC

The 6th Military Detention Barracks Staff Course took place in the Military Police School and the Military Detention Barracks (MDB), DFTC from 28th October to 7th November 2014. Students applying for this course must be qualified Military Police personnel with prior training in baton and restraints and unarmed combat as per the MP Probationers course syllabus.

The objective of the course, which is open to all officers and NCOs of the MP Corps, is to train personnel to staff a fully operational military detention facility and enable them to deal with any possible situation that could arise in that environment.

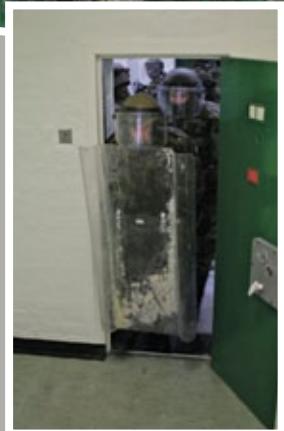
The Detention Barracks has its own staff establishment within DFTC MP Group and is under the command of the Governor. It also draws additional staff support from other MP units including Air Corps and Naval Service MP personnel, if and when required. Instructors on the course are trained and certified to instructor level by the Irish Prison Service (IPS) in their latest control and restraint techniques and practices.

The first half of the course is predominantly theory based and deals with areas relating to detainee administration and welfare, admission and discharge procedures, security of the facility, standing orders, statutory instructions, and various other daily routine matters, in addition to basic life saving and fire fighting. Detainee escort procedure is also covered using the purpose-built, six-cell prison van.

The more robust second half of the course trains students to deal with situations where control has to be regained in both confined and open spaces. Students are exercised and evaluated in barricade and obstacle clearance, yard clearance, cell and landing clearance, and cell landing clearance by fast entry. Students are also exercised in techniques involving the removal of both compliant and violent, armed, non-compliant detainees.

The equipment in use for this phase of the training is the latest personal protective equipment (PPE) available, and includes full body armour, fire-retardant undergarments, a fire-retardant DPM overall, helmet, and standard public order visor, baton and shield.

The MP school maintains close links with the Irish Prison Service and regularly sends MP personnel on IPS-run courses so that training is current and in keeping with best practice. Upon successful completion of the course students return to their respective units and can be recalled periodically at the request of the governor MDB, for staffing or refresher training as and when required. ■



GEAR UP



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

5.11 COVRT 18 BACKPACK

PRICE: €119.99

COLOUR: BLACK, ASPHALT/BLACK, BLUE DEPTH, FOLIAGE, ICE, MANTIS GREEN/DARK OAK & STORM

Purpose built and designed to appear subtle and inconspicuous, the COVRT 18 is a full-sized covert backpack that provides superior tactical utility and efficiency in a wide range of environments. Also perfect for off duty CCW use, the COVRT 18 features a Backup Belt System™ compatible hidden pistol pocket and a concealed Roll-down Assault Compartment (RAC) that can house a full sized firearm. QuickTact™ accessory straps at the shoulder integrate with other 5.11 Tactical Gear, a padded sunglass pocket keeps your eyewear protected, and a flip down ID panel allows you to go from covert to overt instantly. The main compartment provides a padded laptop sleeve and roomy main and secondary storage areas, while adjustable yoke shoulders, compression straps, and a reinforced grab handle ensure easy carry.

Overview: Full-featured covert backpack, Ambidextrous side-entry Back-Up Belt System® compartment, RAC conceals a full-sized firearm, Roomy main and secondary storage areas

Reinforced grab handle, QuickTact™ accessory straps, Sunglass pocket, Flip-down ID panel and Padded internal laptop sleeve.

Specifications: Durable, water-resistant 500D nylon, 19" H x 12.25" L x 6.5" D main storage area, 11" H x 9.25" L x 2.5" D secondary storage area, Comfortable compression straps, Adjustable sternum strap, Yoke-style shoulder straps, YKK® zippers and Duraflex® hardware.



5.11 ALWAYS BE READY.

5.11 A.T.A.C SIDE ZIP - 8"
BLACK €109.99



5.11 TACLITE BOOT - 8"
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5.11 TACTICAL RECON
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€30.00



RAPID ASSAULT SHIRT
MULTICAM
€89.99



5.11 TACLITE PRO PANTS
- TUNDRA
€59.95



COMPETITION

For a chance to win the Backpack featured above worth €119.99, kindly sponsored by www.team-alpha.ie, answer the following question:

How much is a 5.11 TDU Belt - Black (1.5") on team-alpha.ie?

Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 21st January 2015. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Marcus J Copley, Waterford City

DF HILL RUNNING SERIES

2015

25FEB15 Hellfire 6.25km
Registration from 0930hrs at Hellfire Woods, Kilkee, Rathfarnham (0 121 237)
Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

25MAR15 Tworock 9.6km
Registration from 0930hrs at Kilmashogue Carpark (0 1510 2450)
Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

21MAY15 Djouce 10.4km
Registration from 0930hrs at Ballinastoe Woods Carpark (0 194 078)
Race start: 1100hrs
Walkers: 1000hrs

24JUN15 Spinks 14km
'DF King of the Mountains'
Registration from 0930hrs at Glendalough Visitor centre (0 127 968).
Race start: 1200hrs
Walkers: 1030hrs

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL EVENTS:
Trail shoes recommended particularly in wet weather conditions.
Rations not provided, bring packed lunch; Tea/Coffee/Scones provided at finish.
Walkers are welcome to all events with earlier start.
€2 race fee (to fund prizes & raffle).
Registration from 09.30hrs at all.

New for 2015: Team of 3 Competition
Register a team of three runners. When ranked at finish, lowest collective ranking score wins. Teams can be mixed and does not need to be of same Unit / Brigade.

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

Ronan McCormack Challenge

Friday 6th & Saturday 7th
March 2015



ENTRY
€20

Friday 6th
at 8.15pm
Moon Light
10k Run/Walk

ENTRY
€30

Saturday 7th
at 8.45am
Ronans Challenge
60km, 100km
& 160km Cycle

Email: ronanschallenge@eircom.net
086 1721181

ENTRY
€10

**Social Night & Darts Competition in Foxes Bar
Roscommon on Saturday 7th at 7pm sharp**

In aid of The Jack & Jill Foundation, Pieta House West & Special Needs Services



DEFENCE FORCES INDOOR ATHLETICS

Athlone Institute of Technology, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Monday 16th February 2015

Timings: Reg 1000hrs - First Event 1115hrs

**Full range of track and field events
plus Inter unit relays**



Hosted By



60m
Men/Women/Veterans

200m
Men

800m
Men/Women

Relay (Inter Unit)
Men/Women

3000m
Men/Women/Veterans

Long Jump
Men/Women

Shot Putt
Men/Women

ATHLETES OF ALL LEVELS WELCOME + COACHING ADVICE ON THE DAY

NOTICEBOARD

PALS: THE IRISH AT GALLIPOLI

Presented by ANU Productions and the National Museum of Ireland, the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and in association with the National Archives of Ireland.

Award-winning innovators ANU Productions present an immersive World War I experience based on the events surrounding the campaign at Gallipoli in Turkey and inspired by the previously untold stories of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the everyday lives of the Irish people who were affected by the Great War. Amidst the heat and smell of the trenches, with No Man's Land on the horizon, the men of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers stand shoulder to shoulder. At home, thousands of Irish women

lend their support by taking up employment in munitions factories, supplying much-needed materials for the manufacture of bandages and other medical equipment, or preparing packages for soldiers in prisoner of war camps.

More details about the production, which starts on 4th February and to book visit: www.pals-theirishatgallipoli.com

Performances: 4 February – 30 April / Wednesday – Sunday. **Times:** Wednesday – Saturday: 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm Sunday: 2pm, 3pm & 4pm.

Cost: €5.00.

Location: National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7.

UNIFORM SERVICES:

Medal Mounting Service:

Competitive prices, contact Murty Quinn 087 9394680

Lanyards made to order:

Competitive prices, contact Brian on 087 2971982

WORD SEARCH

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

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

Q&A FEBRUARY

WHAT IRISH TOWN WAS LT VINCENT FOX, BORN (THIS ISSUE)?

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

Last month's winner of the An Cosantóir T-shirt and 'Goody Bag' was Rowan Murray, Athgarvan, Co Kildare. Closing date is 20th February 2015.

TEAM-ALPHA.IE

L	N	E	P	I	M	Z	G	A	W	X	E	M
E	Z	H	D	P	B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K
F	Q	S	G	Z	S	E	X	X	R	L	D	Q
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ALPHA
BACKPACK
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TACTICAL
TEAM

UNITED IRISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (UIESAA)

Mr Patrick Armstrong, President of the United Irish Ex-Services Association of Australia (UIESAA), extends an invitation to former associations of servicemen/women, in the police, fire brigade, prisons, customs, ambulance service, and the civil service generally. UIESAA celebrate St. Patrick's and ANZAC day, on 15th March, 25th April 2015 respectively and that they are all welcome to attend and participate. UIESAA are a 32 county association so the invite applies to northern as well as southern associations.

For more information on UIESAA and to contact Patrick visit their website: <http://uiesaa.wordpress.com/>



WOMEN OF THE IRISH REVOLUTION

Author: Liz Gillis

Publisher: Mercier Press,
(October 2014) www.mercierpress.ie

ISBN: 978-1781172056

Price: €25.00

Pages: 240

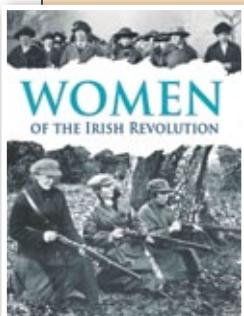
“Women of the Irish Revolution” by author, historian and researcher Liz Gillis recounts the story of the vital role that women played in the fight for Irish freedom

from 1900-23. The author trawled through archives and museums to gather photographs of these women, and contacted families and discovered many never seen before photographs of the women during this turbulent period in Irish history. Piecing together the lives of these women, matching names

to faces, the author uses a photograph of each woman and details her involvement in the struggle for independence.

Teacher and revolutionary, Margaret Skinnider travelled to Dublin during the 1916 Easter Rising and took part in the action around the area of St. Stephen's Green where she was seriously wounded. She survived and lived to the age of 78. The book also recounts the stories of those indirectly involved, the wives, girlfriends, mothers and sisters of those fighting for independence. Childhood friends, Margaret Craven and Agnes Brady, risked their lives hiding weapons and assisting republican operatives. After the ceasefire, both women married and settled down into domestic life. With many black and white photographs, this is an invaluable book for those interested in this period of Irish history. This authoritative study will prove invaluable in the coming years as we travel through the decade of centenaries.

PC



WOMEN
OF THE IRISH REVOLUTION

EMMET DALTON:

SOMME SOLDIER, IRISH GENERAL, FILM PIONEER

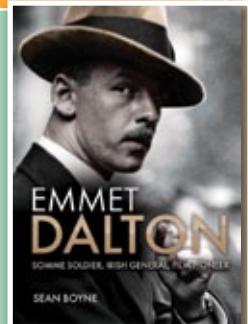
Author: Sean Boyne

Publisher: Irish Academic Press
(November 2014)
www.iap.ie

ISBN: 978-1908928955

Price: €23.40

Pages: 464



Major General Emmet Dalton was one of the pivotal characters involved in the formation of The Free State and yet most people are unaware of his important role. Sean Boyne's excellent book sheds light on Dalton's military career spanning World War 1, The War of Independence, and Civil War. It covers also a career as a film maker/producer who was instrumental in creating the highly regarded film industry that Ireland now enjoys.

Born in the USA March 8th 1898 Emmet moved to Drumcondra in the Dublin suburbs at an early age with his parents. Educated at O'Connell Schools and latterly at St. Josephs in Roscrea he grew up in a staunchly Nationalist family. Despite this he joined The Royal Dublin Fusiliers as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1915 at the age of 17. Awarded the Military Cross at Ginchy, Dalton returned to Dublin in 1919 where his younger brother, Charlie was involved with the IRA.

Initially involved in training Volunteers Dalton accompanied the Irish Delegation to the Treaty Talks in London in 1922. Promoted Major General at the age of twenty four he was with Michael Collins on that fateful in Beal na Blath. Despite being one of the most successful generals in the Free State Army Emmet resigned in late 1922. He was appointed Clerk of the Seanad a role he fulfilled for several years.

In the following period Emmet was involved in many diverse businesses but found his metier in film distribution. Horse racing was also a huge hobby of his. While living in London he became fascinated with the production side and founded Ardmore Studios in Bray in the late '50s. This would set the groundwork for the very successful industry that Ireland now enjoys. He died on his eightieth birthday in 1978. MB

TERRORISM – ALL THAT MATTERS

Author: Andrew Silke

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (June 2014)

www.hodder.co.uk

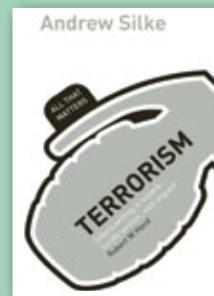
ISBN: 978-1444163315

Price: €11.40 PB / €6.45 eBook

Pages: 160

Terrorism and its effects is an issue that continues to dominate international affairs, as evidenced by the rise of the so called Islamic state (IS) or ISIS and the extraordinarily ruthless manner in which they have sought to establish a self-imposed 'caliphate' in Iraq and Syria. Therefore this book by Professor Andrew Silke is both timely and prescient in trying to come to grips with this fraught and contentious term. Silke, an Irishman who is the Director of Terrorism Studies at the University of East London and who has lectured by invitation to the Senior Command & Staff Course has managed to produce a work that is highly accessible and gives the reader an excellent overview of terrorism through the millennia. Silke's work is groundbreaking in that he consciously tries to steer the reader away from supposedly accepted shibboleths in this area. Indeed he makes a persuasive case that much of the argument and debate on the subject is surrounded by myths and half-truths and argues that controversially in certain specific circumstances terrorism can succeed.

There is a truly bewildering array of literature on the subject but Silke has managed to distil in this short easily accessible work the debate around the key issues and themes that are to the fore in terrorism studies. This is not to dismiss this work as a mere *aidé memoir*, in time it will become a key reference document for students of terrorism studies. Its strength is its easy accessibility for the reader addressing the issue of terrorism under thematic headings and guiding the reader through this contentious field. It is intuitive of Silke's own background and indicative of the history of terrorism that the evolution and impact of Irish terrorists is a recurring watermark throughout the pages of this work. **RF**



PRIMAL RECKONING (THE PRIMAL SERIES BOOK 5)

Author: Jack Silkstone

Publisher: Amazon Digital Services, Inc. (December 2014)

ASIN: B00OEOF882

Price: €5.00 eBook

Pages: 310

PRIMAL, a team of elite international operatives put together by a rich benefactor to interdict around the world when governments won't or can't. PRIMAL Reckoning follows on from PRIMAL Fury, where the team went up against the Yakuza and although the mission was successful - it wasn't without suffering heavy losses and left the team shattered and broken.

Now the PRIMAL team come up against a CIA-backed private military contractor who is involved in gold mining in Chihuahua Mexico. Bishop is tasked with checking out a New York based journalist who has been blogging about a privately funded 'A' Team styled Ops Unit operating illegally within the US and around the globe. Under this ruse of a UN Investigator, Bishop agrees to visit Mexico with her and like all real operatives he can't just sit and watch and intervenes on behalf of

some ranchers who are been evicted or killed to allow the mining operation expand. After Bishop kicks the hornets nest and comes up against Pershing an ex-CIA agent who is involved drug smuggling deals on the side too – what ensues is an out an out war of Bishop and his PRIMAL team against the CIA controlled and financed Chaquetas Negras (Black Jackets) cartel who are operating as an army for hire against the local populace of Chihuahua.

This is the first in a trilogy of the PRIMAL team going up against CIA backed private military contractors.

WF



EASTER WIDOWS

Seven Irish women who lived in the shadow of the 1916 Rising

Author: Sinead McCoole

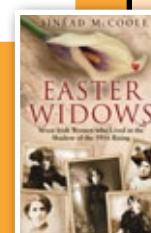
Publisher: Doubleday Ireland (October 2014) www.transworldireland.ie

ISBN: 978-1781620229

Price: €29.24 H/B / €17.79 eBook

Pages: 464

"One week in May 1916, seven Irish women became widows". McCoole introduces the 1916 widows to the reader with vibrancy, familiarity, affection and admiration. McCoole's knowledge of the time period and a demonstrated flair for storytelling makes this book a well rounded read, it's not meant to be an academic exercise nor do I feel it has an academic purpose. McCoole means to introduce the women as real women who had a life before, during and after their famous marriages, and she achieves this aim to a large degree. Their stories are presented in three sections, Romance, speaking of the courtships, nuptials and family lives, e.g. 'Kathleen and Tom' (Clarke), 'Maud and John' (MacBride), 'Lillie and James' (Connolly), 'Fanny and Edward' (Ceannnt); Parting, providing an intimate and tragic glimpse of the lives of the courting couple 'Grace and Joe' (Plunkett) and the married couples in the days and hours before the executions of their men in May 1916 and finally Mourning, the closing chapter which reveals how the women coped throughout the 1920's and 1930's. The book's closing tells us that many of the women remained politically active; a number were also committed to bringing about positive social changes and such endeavors were often balanced with a determination to raise their children well. There are multiple references to records contained in the Military Service Pensions collection which was released online in January 2014 (see www.militaryarchives.ie). The modernity of research, its accessible structure, and the timeliness of the book's release in the run up to the centenary of 1916, will most likely appeal to readers that are particularly gripped by the personal stories. As an added bonus, the book contains photographs sourced privately by McCoole via her network that includes living descendants of some of the women featured. **LD**



ODE TO BILLY AND THE ROLLS ROYCE ZJ5000

BY COMS JIM CLARKE (RETD) &
COY SGT HARRY MULHERN (RETD)



Coy Sgt Billy Myers (retd) in 2009

between driver's cab and passenger area. It also had a radio (a rare object in vehicles at that time) and an excellent toolkit, with battery charger included. The engine could not be maintained in the normal way as most of its components consisted of sealed units that had to be worked on by specialist Rolls Royce-trained fitters.

Coy Sgt William (Billy) Myers, who sadly passed away in October 2014, was the last military driver of the state Rolls Royce. A profile of Billy, published in ONE's Connect newsletter in 2010, is reproduced here with their kind permission.

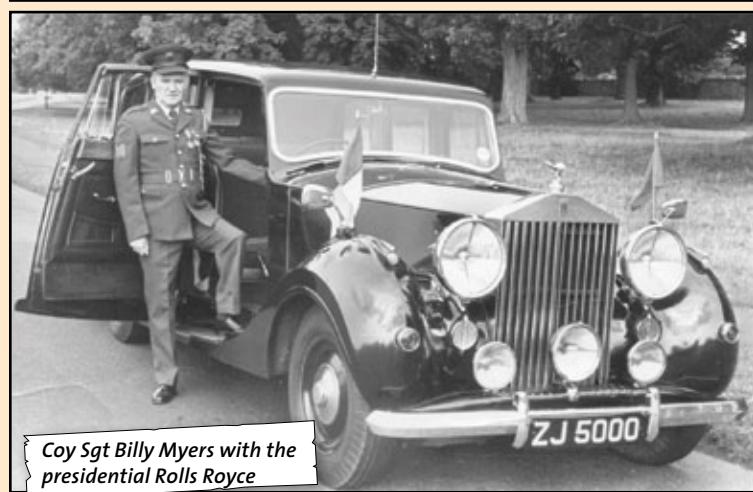
Billy Myers was born in Bunclody, Co Wexford, on 7th September 1920. On completion of his education he enlisted in the Permanent Defence Forces in June 1940 and following his recruit training in Stephens Bks, Kilkenny, he was assigned to the S Comd, where he served with 13 Inf Bn and 1 Fd S&T Coy. He later transferred to E Comd and served with 2 Grn S&T Coy, Base Workshops S&T, and finally with Directorate S&T Corps. While serving with 2 Grn S&T Coy in McKee Bks, Dublin, he was appointed the official driver of the presidential Rolls Royce ZJ5000, a position he held for 13 years (1960-1973), during the presidency of Eamon De Valera.

Since its purchase (early 1940s) the Rolls Royce was used to convey many dignitaries on state visits. Those included: King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium; Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands; Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco; King Juan Carlos of Spain; US presidents Dwight D Eisenhower and John F Kennedy; the presidents of India, Pakistan, and Zambia; and UN Secretary General U Thant.

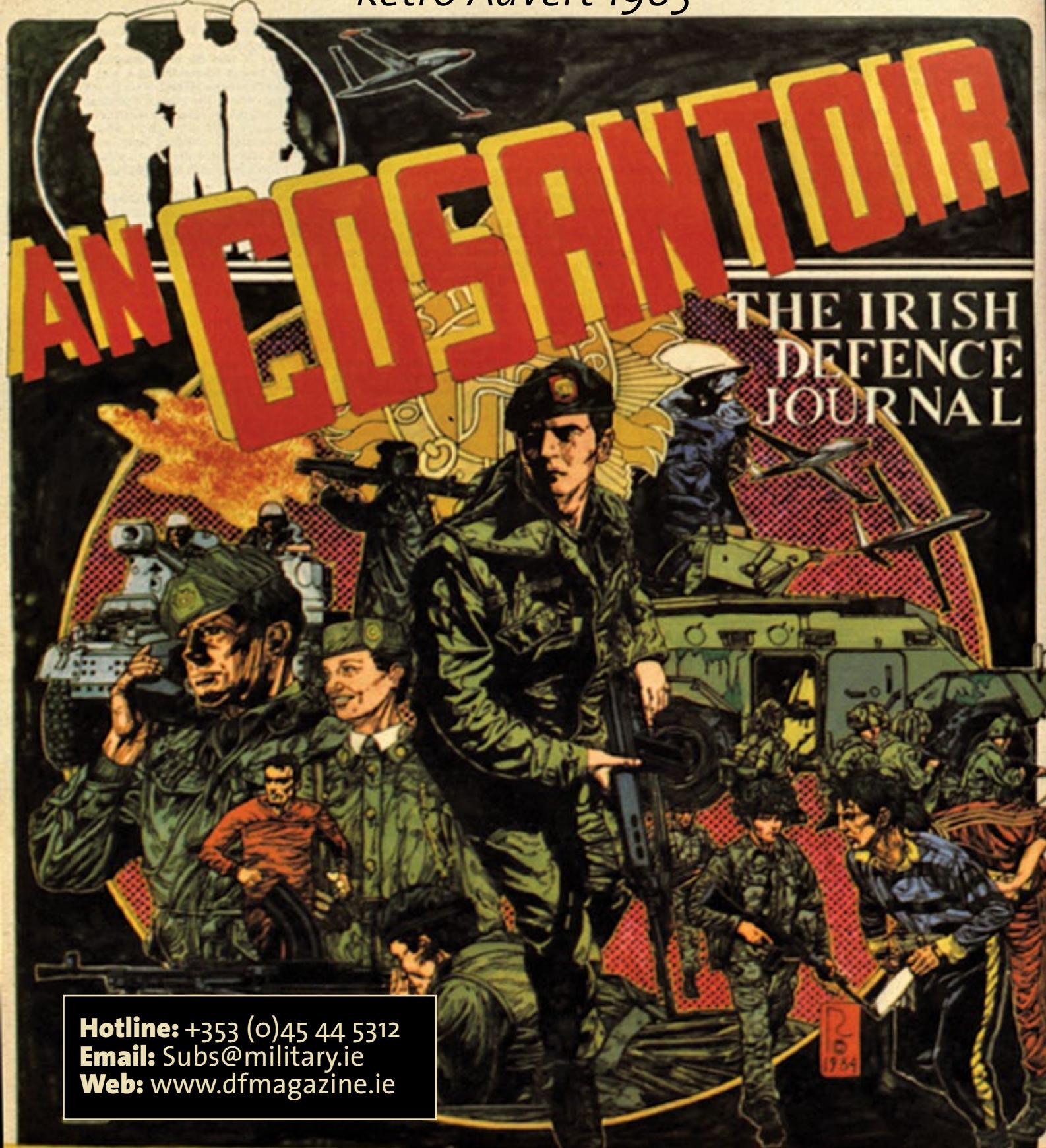
In 1973 the car was taken over by An Garda Siochana.

Billy, who retired from the Defence Forces in 1979 after 39 years of loyal and devoted service, was awarded the Medal of the Royal House of Belgium after the visit of Prince Bernhard, and was presented with a mounted Rolls Royce emblem by the legendary car manufacturers, which is now on permanent display in the ONE soldier's home Brú na bhFiann.

Rolls Royce ZJ5000 is presently undergoing restoration and is located in Áras an Uachtaráin. ■



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IN THE DIGITAL AGE, SOME FUNDAMENTALS NEVER CHANGE

On a practical level the Law Society advise that “ Probate takes around three months for a simple estate, whilst the average length is six months and for more complicated estates where property is involved or inheritance tax, it could take a year or more”. This is why the Friendly Society Insurance Plan is so important to CAOGA members. Its run by the CAOGA Committee, and this means that we can get benefits to bereaved members almost immediately, ensuring that they have no financial worries around burial and funeral arrangements.

The Friendly Society Benefit is a bereavement grant which caters for the immediate aftermath of the death of a member only; this is why it is essential that members also join the ***Group Life Assurance Scheme*** which caters for the family's needs into the future.

When setting up the scheme in 1949, Bill Carroll intuitively stated that the Friendly Society Benefit should not be a replacement for other insurance. His words came to pass with the setting up of the Group Insurance Scheme in 1979. The Group Scheme benefit caters for the long-term financial security of the family in the event of the death of a key family member. Research by the Insurance Association of Ireland confirms that only 4% of public sector workers who have employee assisted policies are covered for more than two years earnings. Sixty percent have the equivalent of just 1 year's earnings. ***The rule of thumb among insurers, financial planners and customer advocates is that one needs enough to replace at least 5 years of the income of a member.*** It is important to stress that this is separate from mortgage protection and that the Group Plan cannot be used as protection on a mortgage. In the post Celtic Tiger years, members are aware of the need to place their money on deposit with minimal risk, so that it will be available for education and other important life events so as to enhance the welfare and security of the bereaved family.

It is imperative that bereaved members seek independent legal advice in relation to the prudent investment of their loved one's life insurance benefits.

It is for this reason that members require to be in both the Friendly Society Scheme from which they will receive an a benefit of €20,000 within a month of the death of a member or spouse member (€10,000 within 48hrs) and the Group Scheme which pays a maximum benefit of €350,000, which requires a valid will and a Grant of Probate.

Central to the financial planning of any family is the production of a will which is geared to the current circumstances of the family.

The CAOGA Benevolent Fund

CAOGA operates a Benevolent Fund reflecting our interest in the wellbeing of our members and their families.

CAOGA is about Officer Welfare and in that regard we pride ourselves on providing confidential assistance to Officer and their families through our Benevolent Fund to which serving members contribute €2.00 per month. Applications are processed on a strictly confidential basis and this year for the first time we have opened up applications to retired members of CAOGA, in recognition of their contribution to CAOGA and the Defence Forces during their years of service.

Admission of Partners

The CAOGA Committee is very aware of the importance of responding to the needs of officers and is conscious of the need to ensure that the rules of CAOGA are reflective of the way we live our lives today. With this in mind, in 2013 we made changes to the rules of CAOGA to admit the **partners of members**, either same or opposite sex to the CAOGA Friendly Society and Group Life Assurance Plan. Admission is on foot of a written declaration by the member that they are cohabiting with their partner for a period of one year. ***Eligibility is conditional on both cohabiting members being legally free to marry.*** (This is not to be confused with the admission of Civil Partners; under the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligation of Cohabitants Act 2010 Act which was adopted by CAOGA in 2011.) It should be noted that retired Defence Forces Officers may also, since our 2014 AGM, join their spouses and partners to CAOGA once they fall within the eligibility criteria of the scheme.

The admission of partners is designed to cater for members living in common law type relationships. Rules are similar to those adopted in relation to spouses and Civil Partners of members. The response to this initiative has been considerable and it has yielded many new members to CAOGA.



Mortgage Protection Review Service

In line with the focus on the welfare of younger members CAOGA had launched a free to members Mortgage Protection Review Service in particular for younger members who in some cases have been sold costly level term mortgage protection. Penpro, our broker is paid brokerage for the placing of the insurance but there is no charge to members.

For Free Mortgage and Mortgage Protection advice for CAOGA members, contact our insurance broker, Mr Martin Sheehan of Penpro at 01-2000100. (Martin was selected as our insurance broker after a competitive tendering process. His other clients include such diverse groups as the Garda Representative Association, the Law Society and University College, Dublin.)

While the environment in which we find ourselves may have changed dramatically in the past few years. The tenets governing CAOGA remain essentially the same. It is an organization dedicated to the collective welfare of the officer body and their families both now and in the future.

COAGA - A LONGTERM COMMITMENT

When should I check my CAOGA cover and make contact with the CAOGA office in order to review my benefits and Nominations Forms:

- Travelling Overseas
- On buying a home (to review your finances)
- Getting married (to join your spouse)
- Entering a Civil Partnership
- To join your Cohabiting partner
- Having a family (to join your children, who are covered free of charge)
- On separation Divorce to review your nomination form
- On retiring (to arrange pension deductions so as to continue cover in retirement)
- On the death of a loved one
- On making a will to check on your entitlements



For queries or concerns or if your are considering joining CAOGA, please contact Comdt Manus Ward who has now assumed the role of Secretary/ Treasurer at 01-8042785/2786 or Ms Judy Farrell, CAOGA Administrative Officer at 01-8042785/2786, or visit: www.caoga.net or e mail info@caoga.net

The office has recently relocated to McKee Bks, Dublin and you can call in and check your personal records at any time.

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