

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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November 2011



ADVENTURE
IN THE FRENCH
HAUTE ALPS
AN COSANTÓIR
10K

**Uachtarán
na hÉireann
PRESIDENT MARY McALEESE**

THE ARMED FORCES
OF MALTA

FROM STRIPES TO PIPS
(RDF POTENTIAL
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ISSN 0010-9460





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President's visit to Lebanon Oct 2011.
Photo by: Pte Ciaran Rooney (104 Inf Bn)

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EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to another well balanced feature rich edition of *An Cosantóir*. This month our regular reader's photos are *On Parade*, again we have focused in on two different types of soldier/airman for our *In Focus* pages. We had a chance to ask our *President Mary McAleese* a few questions and to give her the opportunity to say a fond farewell. In our *Strategic Review* this month Wesley Bourke made a visit to the Maltese Armed Forces and spoke to Col Attard (DCOM AFM) and to check up on some previous visitors to the Defence Forces. In our *centrespread* we have a photo montage of some of the participants and results of the An Cosantóir 10K. Our *History* article by Armn Michael Whelan is on a recent visit he made to Gallipoli as part of a GTI tour. In *Sport* we have a look at how some of our DF colleagues got on in the French Alps by Capt Maeve O'Grady, and our *RDF* feature by Cpl Neil Richardson about year one of his Potential Officers Course and finally we have our other regulars – *Noticeboard*, *Tac Aide*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.



Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor



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ON PARADE



FUN & GAMES ▲

On 4 Sept 2011, Sp Coy 65th Res Inf Bn hosted 'The Lucan Hedgehogs Club' for a day of fun and games in McKee Bks. A great day was had by all. *Photo courtesy of Capt L Fitzpatrick (A Coy 5 Inf Bn)*

WITH THANKS ▶

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny with Pte Robbie McAney on his last duty in Government Buildings 23 Sept 2011. *Photo courtesy of Pte R McAney (Gov Bldgs)*



IN THE SUN ▲

Seen here are ONE/IUNVA members pictured on a recent trip to Cyprus. *Photo courtesy of Conor Swords (Fr Gilmore Br of ONEt)*

IN MEMORY ▲

The 58 Res Inf Bn played a match against An Post recently, this is the 2nd year of the match in honour of the memory of Pte Alex Carolan who died in a traffic accident in 2009. Alex was a member of the Reserve and An Post. Pictured: 58 Inf Bn (front) and An Post (back) with Alex's son 'Alex Jr' front and centre. *Photo courtesy of Lt John Mc Candless (58 Res Inf Bn)*

FROM THE ARCHIVES ▼

On the 13 Oct members of the Patrick Sarsfeilds Br ONEt handed over an Armour Car Pennent from the 20 Inf Gp Cyprus to the Cav Sch, DFTC. Pictured L/R: Willie Fitzgerald, Maura McCormack, Kevin McCormack, Lt Col G Cooney (OC Cav Sch), Paul Sheehan and Wayne Fitzgerald. *Picture by Cpl Noel Coss (PR Sec)*



FOND FAREWELL ▲

CS Kevin Killeen making a presentation to Mr Brendan Westby, Groundsman at DFHQ Infirmary Road on the occasion of his retirement on 13 Oct 2011. Brendan had a total of 40yrs service, starting his career as groundsman in Clancy Bks, moving to St Bricin's and finally posted to Parkgate in the 1970's. A man who took great pride in his work and will be sorely missed. *Photo courtesy of Sgt Rena Kennedy (PR Sec)*

GUARD OF HONOUR

On 27/28 of Sept 2011, The Commander of the Finnish Defence Forces General Ari Puheloinen visited to Ireland, here he inspects a Guard of Honour drawn from the 5 Inf Bn. *Photo by Armn Neville Coughlan (PR Sec)*



SHARE THE LOAD ▲

Sgt Michael Devaney (4 FAR) will attempt to complete the Dublin City Marathon carrying a 40lb pack in military uniform in a new record time for the Guinness Book of Records. "Share the Load" by sponsoring Michael, or donating something to the charities involved. *Photo courtesy of RSM Noel O'Callaghan (4 FAR/104 Inf Bn)*

IN REMEMBRANCE ▼

Pictured at a wreath laying ceremony at the Mayo Peace Park by Commodore Mark Mellett (DSM) FOONS, on behalf of the Naval Service and all mariners who had died at sea. Pictured L/R: Ernest Sweeney (Asst Treasurer of the Mayo Peace Park Committee), Commodore Mark Mellet (DSM), WO Martin Doran (NS) and John Basquille (Mayo Peace Park Committee and former Coy Sgt in the British Army). *Photo by Pat Downes*



GAA STARS ▲

Pictured here are Kilkenny All Ireland winning hurlers (L/R) Pte Eoin Larkin (HQ Coy, 3 Inf Bn) and Pte Paul Murphy (A Coy, 3 Inf Bn) and centre Major General Tony Wall (Ret). *Photo by Armn Neville Coughlan*

IN REVIEW ▼

Pictured at the recent launch of the Defence Forces Review 2011 were L/R: Lt Col Richard Brennan, Comdt John Martin, Comdt Mark Hearns (editor), Lt Gen Sean McCann (COS), Lt Tom Egan, Coy Sgt Ben Lyndsay and Cadet Stephen Byrne. *Photo by Armn Neville Coughlan*

Contributions are now invited for the 2012 edition of the Defence Forces Review. Articles should be approx 3000 words long on any subject related to Defence. Work should be submitted to the editor by 1st March 2012 at mark.hearns@defenceforces.ie



IN FOCUS

TOP OF THE CLASS

SGT GERRY SETRIGHT (ORD SCH)

From 27 June to 8 July, 23 officers and NCOs from nine EU nations attended an EU course on different aspects of C-IED (counter-improvised explosive device) search, with the Defence Forces sending three NCOs, Sgt Gerry Setright (Ord Sch) Cpl Justin McDonald (DFTC) and Cpl John Keaney (D Ord Office, DFHQ).

The course, held in the Italian C-IED Centre of Excellence in Rome, was conducted by a UK defence and security company, staffed with experienced instructors of a very high standard. Students were instructed, practiced and tested in person and vehicle search; building and area rummage; vulnerable point and vulnerable area route check; compound search; planning search operations in the low-threat environment; and planning search training.

The first week of the course was spent receiving instruction in current TTPs regarding an operational environment where IED is the major threat. This included both defensive C-IED (the ability to operate effectively in the environment) and offensive C-IED (proactive IED). The second week focused on student teach-back covering all classroom and field lessons, drills and skills, taught the previous week. This was followed by the test phase, in which each student had to prepare and deliver a classroom-based theoretical lesson, a ground-based practical lesson, and undergo a general test. All three Irish students acquitted themselves extremely well in all tests.

The final phase of the course was a day-long, stand-type exercise, in which all areas of basic searching were demonstrated by the students. Selected students were chosen for key speaking roles, including all three Irish students.

The final exercise was observed by senior European military officers, military attaches, and EDA personnel. At the end of the course an awards ceremony was held, at which Sgt Gerry Setright received the award for Best Student, a fantastic achievement given the standard of the students on the course. This also represented two-in-a-row for Irish students, with Capt Dave O'Loughlin receiving the award in 2010.

Sgt Setright, a C-IED instructor in the Ordnance School, is a very experienced NCO, with over 30 years military experience, and has attended training courses in Afghanistan, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland and the UK. He has also served nine tours of duty overseas and in 2010 he was awarded NATO's Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) for 'Displaying outstanding leadership qualities and personal example.'

All three Irish students found the training to be extremely beneficial and it has now been integrated into DF training and most recently C-IED Instructors Course and the 2nd International C-IED/IEDD Course training, both held in the Ordnance School, DFTC. ■



Sgt Setright receiving his award in Rome



Brig Gen Conor O'Boyle congratulates Sgt Setright with Lt Col Desmond Donagh OC Ord Sch, DFTC



Instructors and students in Rome



Sgt Setright instructs at home

Technician to Poet

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD
PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE

Airman Michael Whelan MA, winner of the Paul Tissandier Diploma 2010 awarded by Federation Aeronautical Internationale and if that wasn't enough he came joint second in the Patrick Kavanagh International Poetry Award 2011 for a collection of unpublished work titled 'Against the Black Sky, We Listen: An Irish Peacekeepers Poems'.

Michael joined the Defence Forces in Feb 1990 with the 36th Rec Pln, CTD E. He was then posted to the Admin Wing of the Air Corps in Baldonnel from 1990-94. In 1994 he was posted to Air Spt Signals and served as a Radio Operator in South Lebanon with the 75th Inf Bn, he stayed in Signals until 1997. He was successful in gaining an apprenticeship as an Air Craft Technician in Spray Painting/Panel Beating with the Air Corps College and Bolton Street from

1997-02. When he finished his trade he was posted to Engr Wing (now No 4 Spt Wing). In 2000/01 Michael

served with the 3rd Tpt Coy KFOR as a Radio Operator, which was a busy time during the first free elections in Kosovo.

It was in 2001 that he indulged his interest in History and commenced a degree course in Local and Community Studies with NUI Maynooth. During his studies he asked the then CAS OPS – Col Paul Fry (now GOC AC) if he could start collecting pieces of Air Corps History. He began with a small pile of interesting artefacts in the corner of No 4 hanger and again Col Fry gave him permission to display the collection and it has grown to a now well respected and much visited collection of Air Corps aviation history.

In 2002 Michael received his Certificate in Local History, in 2003 he was awarded a Diploma in Local/Community Studies and in 2005 his BA in Local History. 2006 saw him awarded an MA in Modern History and in the same year he wrote his first book 'The Battle of Jadotville: Irish Soldiers in Combat in the Congo 1961' published by South Dublin Libraries (SDL) and is a well sought after publication. During 2009 he

self printed 'On Hurting Ground: Poetic Silhouettes on Soldiers, History, Love and Tragedy,' which is a collection of poems with all the proceeds split 50/50 between The Marie Keating Foundation and The Irish Heart Foundation. His latest offering titled 'Allegiances Compromised: Faith, Honour and Allegiance - Ex British Soldiers in the Irish Army 1913-1924' (2011) was also published by SDL.

Michael has had his work published in too many literary magazines to mention and is a constant contributor to An Cosantóir, his history article on Gallipoli is on page 26 this month. He is a member of the Military History Society of Ireland and the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust. He was involved in the South Dublin Heritage Plan (June 2011). He was appointed by the Defence Forces Chief of Staff to the Editorial Committee for the 1916 Anniversary Commemorations in 2006. United Nations 50th Anniversary of Peacekeeping publications June 2008, He also edited the 32 and 33 Irish Battalion Congo Histories (unpublished). ■



THE BATTLE OF JADOTVILLE

IRISH SOLDIERS IN COMBAT
IN THE CONGO 1961

by Michael Whelan



IRISH WINNER OF THE PAUL TISSANDIER DIPLOMA 2010:

Airman Michael Whelan, nominated by the National Aero Club of Ireland (NACI) and Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC AC) is awarded the Paul Tissandier Diploma 2010 by Federation Aeronautique Internationale.



Citation reads:

"Airman Michael Whelan, No 4 Spt Wing, Irish Air Corps through his curatorship of the Air Corps Military Aviation Museum, his contribution to the collation of Irish military history and his literary publications, has enhanced the standing of the Air Corps and the Defence Forces nationwide. The importance of his contribution to the preservation of aeronautical artefacts is deserving of great praise."

WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE

EUROPE

On 15 Oct, President Mary McAleese, visited our troops deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in South Lebanon. The President was welcomed at Camp Shamrock in the town of **Tibnin** by UNIFIL Head of Mission and FC Maj Gen Alberto Asarta Cuevas and the Irish Bn's OC Lt Col Frank Bolger. The President laid a wreath at the Memorial dedicated to the 47 Irish peacekeepers that died in the service of peace in south Lebanon. The FC thanked the Irish President for her country's support to UNIFIL. "Contributions to UNIFIL by Ireland and other nations are vital for us to effectively implement our mandate and to maintain peace and security in southern Lebanon," he said.



On 20 Oct, KFOR troops in northern **Kosovo** fired teargas to disperse hundreds of Serbs as they begin dismantling a barricade blocking contested border crossings into Serbia. Over the last several months Serbs in north of Kosovo have dug in their heels after customs officials were sent from Pristina to take over border crossings in that region. The Pristina authorities had also given instructions for the illegal crossing points from Kosovo to Serbia to be blocked off. K-Serbs asked Belgrade to send in security forces. Over the past number of weeks several Serbs and KFOR personnel have been injured in clashes.

AFRICA

This month the German frigate FGS KOELN, participating in EUNAVFOR **Somalia** – Operation Atalanta, has recently escorted M/V CAROLINE SCAN to the Kenyan port Mombasa. The ship is chartered by the World Food Programme and will be loaded with urgently needed food for the people in Somalia. A German Vessel Protection Detachment was embarked on the merchant vessel during the escort and optimised the safety of the merchant vessel. Earlier in the month FGS KOELN successfully disrupted a suspect Pirate Action Group's (PAG) supply boat, a whaler, operating in the Somali Basin about 200 nautical miles East of Tanzania.



Libya's National Transitional Council's acting PM Mahmoud Jibril, announced that the former Libyan President, Muammar Gaddafi died from a bullet wound to the head received in crossfire between government fighters and his own supporters in Sirte on Oct 20. A doctor present during Gaddafi's final moments said he died from two bullet wounds, one to the head and the other to the chest. With the fall of Bani Walid and Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown, the last major pockets of resistance to the NTC appear to have been overcome.

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas handed over a historic request to the UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon, to admit the state of Palestine as a full member. Abbas said he was ready to return to negotiations based on the 1967 borders, saying he did not want to isolate or de-legitimise Israel.



"Here I declare that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is ready to return immediately to the negotiating table on the basis of the adopted terms of reference... and a complete cessation of settlement activities." The move was met by consternation by Israel and the US. Other states had urged Palestine to seek observer status along the lines as the Vatican.

Captured **Israeli** soldier Sgt Gilad Shalit was handed over to Israeli authorities in the latest step of a prisoner exchange involving more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Sgt Shalit (25) was taken across the frontier from the Gaza Strip into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and driven to Israel's Vineyard of Peace border crossing, where a helicopter waited to fly him to an Israeli air base for a reunion with his parents. Simultaneously Israel freed 477 Palestinian prisoners, most of them to the Gaza Strip, where they were met by Hamas leaders.

ASIA

Vladimir Putin, **Russian** Prime Minister, formally declared his intention to re-enter the Kremlin. The intention is for Mr Putin to swap positions with the current President, Dmitry Medvedev, in elections to be held next March.

Hamid Karzai, President of **Afghanistan**, signed a strategic pact with India. The agreement is the first of its kind for the Afghan government. The move caused immediate alarm in Pakistan who is becoming increasingly at odds with the United States and Kabul.

Myanmar's government have been increasingly relaxing their hard line position. In a surprise announcement they granted amnesty to more than 6,300 prisoners; monks, former rebel fighters, and political prisoners.



The recent central figure in al-Qaeda since the death of Osama bin Laden, Anwar al-Awlaki, an American of Yemeni descent, was killed by an American drone in an ungoverned part of **Yemen**.

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Uachtarán na hÉireann

President Mary McAleese talks with An Cosantóir

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CPL GREG DORNEY & 105 SQN



After her recent visit to Lebanon and coming in to her last few weeks in office after her great tenure of service to our nation, the president spoke briefly to us about her memories of the Defence Forces.

Under the constitution, Supreme Command of the Defence Forces is vested in the President. What does this role entail, and how has it manifested itself during your 14 years in office?

Operational command of the Defence Forces is vested in the Minister and the Government but the Supreme Command of the Defence Forces is vested in the President – a role often referred to as Commander in Chief and one that I was anxious to signify by developing an active relationship with the Defence Forces both at home and abroad. The staff in the Aras ADC's office have become my friends and colleagues these past fourteen years and of course members of the Defence Forces have played a central role in all the ceremonial duties of the Presidency. I had regular meetings and briefings with various Chief's of Staff, visited many barracks, accompanied the troops twice on their Military Pilgrimages to Lourdes, invited retired members of the Defence Forces and families of serving soldiers to the Aras, took part in commemoration ceremonies, was transported safely to various destinations by the Air Corps and was particularly proud to be the first President to visit our troops serving overseas with the United Nations, of Ireland's most important national engagements with the wider world is our peacekeeping work with the United Nations. Ireland's Defence Forces have served for over fifty years with outstanding distinction and considerable sacrifice. I wanted to honour and draw attention to that work and so my first and last foreign visits as President were to Irish troops serving in Lebanon, where forty seven of our troops died in the service of peace, more



than any of the other foreign armies serving there. It has been an abiding theme of my Presidency to acknowledge the immense contribution of our Defence Forces since the foundation of the State.

You have visited many overseas missions during your time, is there any one that stands out the most?

Each visit abroad stands out in terms of the sheer professionalism of our soldiers and each carries very special images but there was something dreadfully poignant about Liberia, which I visited in late 2004. The place was a mess with virtually no infrastructure, a wickedly hot climate, with troops patrolling in temperatures that could soar to 50 degrees centigrade. They didn't complain, just got on with their work and in their spare time helped out at a hospice for people dying of Aids. In a country mired in chaos their positivity and simple decency were so needed and appreciated.

Both Ireland and the Defence Forces have changed substantially over the past 14 years. How important a contribution do you think the three services of the Defence Forces make to the State today?

The Defence Forces have been a rock solid centre of gravity since the foundation of the State, an essential element in Ireland's early pathway to stability and democracy and today they are part of the warp and weft of our civic life at home while abroad they are the outward expression of Ireland's commitment to global peace. The loyalty of our Army, Air Corps and Naval Service to Ireland and her values has been exemplary. They showcase to the highest level of professionalism and integrity what big things a small, militarily neutral country has to contribute to global peace. It was a proud moment for me, though no surprise, to hear General Asarta who is the current Commander of UNIFIL say that the people of South Lebanon

begged him to bring the Irish troops back to Lebanon because their experience of them had been so good.

What memories will you bring with you of the Defence Forces?

I have many great memories of our Defence Forces, some relating to events at home others to visits overseas. The enormous contribution of our Defence Forces during the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was particularly memorable and evoked pride across the entire land. I have loved the Guards of Honour, the Bands with their wonderful marching tunes, the Cadets at Garden of Remembrance, the Buglers, the Artillery, the Air Corps with the fly past, the care for one another when serving abroad, the shocking all consuming sadness when a member of the Defence Forces died and the camaraderie that was so evident at funerals and commemorations. I remember the combined Irish army and civilian medical relief teams that went to Honduras after Hurricane Mitch and that my husband Martin was so honoured to serve two rotations with. The stories of those days are regularly told and retold and always the core story is of Irish soldiers who can through sheer can-do determination and skill, work miracles in the most difficult of conditions.

"I take this opportunity to thank the Defence Forces and their families for their truly wonderful support and friendship during my time in office. I could never hope to repay them but hope they know the pride and respect they evoke in me, in every Irish person and in all whose paths they cross. Those who serve today are building on a very proud tradition and I know from direct experience that they will honour that tradition brilliantly."

Maire Whisely Higgins

THE ARMED FORCES OF MALTA

BY COLONEL DAVID P ATTARD, DEPUTY COMMANDER ARMED FORCES OF MALTA & HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/CSDP BRANCH WITH WESLEY BOURKE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LANCE BOMBARDIER JUSTIN GATT/AFM PRESS OFFICE

Colonel Attard with Wesley Bourke



The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), with a strength of just under 2,000 men and women, comprises a HQ, three land units, a Maritime Squadron and an Air Wing. Malta is a neutral country and for its first three decades the AFM were rather insular in homeland defence and security. However, being neutral does not mean Malta is neutralised and we are currently participating in EU and UN missions overseas.

Malta, although not a member of NATO, does participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Five-plus-Five defence initiative, which brings together five neutral southern Mediterranean and five neutral North African states to discuss military and security issues.

Malta, being an island nation in the middle of the Mediterranean's major sea lines of communications and adjacent to North Africa, has a great interest in maintaining the peace, security and stability of the region. Malta has followed the situation in Libya with interest and has contributed in its own way to humanitarian operations in that country, especially when Misrata was under siege. We will continue to contribute to the redevelopment of Libya as we consider it an important regional partner and we look forward to a stable and democratic Libya.

Malta is prepared to support EU initiatives in Libya. For example, we have nominated experts in security sector reform, should the Libyan government request such assistance

from the EU, and we look forward to building military-to-military co-operation to the mutual benefit of the two countries and the region.

Following Malta's accession into the EU, the AFM began looking outwards with a desire to contribute to international peace and security. This started in 2000 when Malta pledged a platoon and a national HQ element for a year as part of the EU's military headline goals. We have built on this and today we are contributing troops in support of EUFOR BiH, EUFOR Atalanta, EU Training Mission (Somalia), EU Monitoring Mission Georgia, and EUFOR Libya.

As part of EUFOR Atalanta, we have 12 men from our Maritime Squadron on board a Dutch Navy vessel carrying out anti-piracy and maritime security duties. We also hold one of the key staff positions in the FHQ at RAF Northwood, in the UK.

Malta was one of the first countries to have troops on the ground in Georgia when EUMM was set up in 2008, and we are now rotating our two monitors, including our first ever female deployment on an EU mission. As part of EUTM (Somalia), Malta is part of a combined team, along with Ireland, training Somali officers and NCOs in Uganda. This mission has recently been extended, with Ireland heading the mission, and I am pleased that a Maltese captain will be the ATC to the Mission Commander.

Malta is not a member of an EU battle-group at present although we have

obtained political approval to participate. Studies are currently being done to see in what manner or form we can contribute given the limitations of our forces and our domestic commitments.

From the PFP toolbox we are utilising the areas of peace-support operations, civil/military cooperation, maritime search-and-rescue, and humanitarian operations.

Malta and Ireland share a common approach to defence and security. We are both neutral and our militaries are structured in similar ways to meet both the requirements of the state and assisting in international peace and security.

AFM officers regularly attend staff courses in Ireland and for us this is very important, since we do not have our own academies. It also helps from an interoperability point of view, as we now have personnel serving on UN-mandated missions, such as UNIFIL and EUTM (Somalia). I would also like to highlight the collaboration between the AFM and the Irish Defence Forces last spring during the evacuation of foreign nationals from Libya, where Malta served as a forward operating base for Defence Forces assets. Approximately 21,000 foreign nationals were evacuated through Malta.

We value the partnership that has been established with the Irish Defence Forces. We have a lot to learn from your Defence Forces as you have a vast experience in overseas peacekeeping and peace-support operations. ■

TUTELA BELLICAE VIRTUTIS

Custodians of Military Prowess

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LANCE BOMBARDIER JUSTIN GATT/AFM PRESS OFFICE



In recent years several members of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) have attended courses in Ireland with the Defence Forces. On a visit to Malta I met with four of these: Capt Joseph Pisani (22 Jnr C&S Course), and 2/Lts Chrisian Grech, Matthew 'Max' Agius, and Rene Aquilina (all 86th Cadet Class).

The Maltese archipelago, with only 316kms² of land surface and a population of 417,608, is strategically situated in the heart of the Mediterranean's sea lines of communication. There are some interesting parallels between Malta and Ireland. The Normans conquered Malta in 1091, using it as their southern stronghold, and Malta had its own 1798 rebellion; although in their case it was against French rule. After the French were driven out Britain claimed Malta as a colony.

For many, Malta's finest hour came during World War Two when the island, cut off from relief convoys by sea, held out in the face of relentless bombardment from the

German and Italian air forces. In recognition of their bravery during the siege, King George VI awarded the Maltese people the George Cross, which is still displayed on the Maltese flag. Gaining independence in 1964, and becoming a republic in 1974, Malta declared neutrality in 1980 and joined the EU in 2004.

The AFM, established in 1970 and structured on brigade lines, has a strength of just under 2,000 personnel and is comprised of AFM HQ, three regiments, an air wing, a maritime squadron, and an emergency volunteer reserve force. Its roles include territorial defence and security, aid to the civil power, and projecting Malta's foreign policy by serving in peacekeeping and peace-building missions overseas. At present, there are 12 Maltese soldiers conducting anti-piracy operations with the Dutch Navy off the Somali coast as part of Operation 'Atalanta', and several in Uganda serving alongside Irish personnel as part of the EU Training Mission to Somalia. ▶

The AFM's highest rank is brigadier general, and their ranks, while generally similar to ours, include lance corporal, major, and warrant officer. Malta is restricted in terms of training areas and facilities but as part of the EU, the UN, and NATO's PfP, uses overseas courses to enhance its military training. This training helps interoperability while also gaining the leadership, management and logistics skills necessary to improve the whole organisation. Officer cadets in Malta undergo basic training at home before attending further training abroad. Three such young officers came to the Defence Forces as members of 86 Cadet Class in the Military College.

The AFM HQ in Luqa has an International Relations/CSDP Branch, Operations & Training Branch, Administration & Personnel Branch, Logistics Branch, Public Information Cell, and Intelligence Cell. Capt Joseph Pisani, SO2 Ops & Trg Branch at HQ AFM, who attended the Defence Forces' 22 Junior C&S course, told me about his background. "I've been in the army for 18 years, spending four years as an enlisted man before I did my officer training at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in the UK. After that I served with the infantry until completing my JCSC in Ireland this year. "Apart from serving with a weapons inspections team in Serbia for a few weeks I haven't served overseas yet, as overseas service is only new to Malta, but I am one of many who are looking forward to the opportunity to do so.

"Training Branch is responsible for domestic and overseas courses, setting out doctrine, guidance, and policies on how courses should be run. We make sure that all courses are of the same standard as our international counterparts, and we also run trade-testing and educational training for our personnel.

"I was very lucky to do the JCSC in Ireland and found the course very challenging. My main disadvantage was that even though I speak English, I don't speak 'Irish English' and some of your instructors speak very fast! "The Defence Forces and the AFM have a lot in common and I was very impressed with how you have overcome similar disadvantages, such as a small budget and never enough men or equipment, to still do a professional job at home and overseas. "The main benefit for me was that all the instructors and students had served overseas and I was able to share their knowledge. Learning how they overcame problems will help me if I ever find myself in a similar situation."

Of the AFM's three regiments, 1st Regt is the main infantry unit; 3rd Regt is the main support unit, and includes engineer and ordnance elements; and 4th Regt comprises the Army Band, the Revenue Security Corps, and a CIS company. The Maltese use Type 56 and Type 81 assault rifles, Chinese versions of the AK47 that are very reliable and work in any conditions. While the GPMG is on the inventory, infantry sections use the FN Minimi. Other weapons familiar to us are the Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun and the L16 81mm mortar. Although the AFM have no cavalry corps, they do use several light tactical vehicles, including the Iveco VM90 and the Humber Pig.



2nd Lt Chrisian Grech at work



Lt Mark Agius briefs his troops

'A' Company, 1st Regt, is responsible for airport security at Malta International Airport, and that is where I caught up with 2/Lt 'Max' Agius. "I'm a platoon commander with the Airport Security Company. Our company is responsible for controlling access to restricted areas, which we do by providing armed guards at terminal access points and airfield perimeter gates. Along with patrolling these areas, we also enforce the access-pass system and control visitor movement. We also man a CCTV command centre monitoring 300 CCTV cameras in the airport. In addition, we conduct spot checks, and provide security for VVIPs.

"The gunners, or privates, as you'd call them, carry out sentry duties on the gates, including metal detection, checking passes and permits, as well as vehicle checks. The lance corporals (section 2i/cs) conduct perimeter fence patrols, making sure the sentries are doing their jobs. The corporals carry out VVIP and valuables escorts, and spot checks on vehicles and employees on the airfield.

"I enlisted in 2006 as a gunner and served as a combat engineer. When I was selected as an officer-cadet in 2008 I was delighted as my grandfather was a major and I always wanted to be an officer. Our initial training was seven months and then we were sent to Ireland. "You will notice we use eight-man sections, with two FN Minimis' instead of a GPMG. And of course, our weather and terrain are much different. Unlike in Ireland, when you 'dash, down, cover, crawl' in Malta you are dealing with a hard, dry surface and sharp rocks; the typical garigue landscape of the Mediterranean. "I really enjoyed my time in Ireland, apart from the cold, dark winter. We learned much about military history, logistics, man management, mind mapping and, of course, the Glen of Imaal. There are huge benefits to working with foreign militaries. For us particularly, being able to carry out

live-fire tactical training was brilliant. We do not have the space for it in Malta."

Maritime Squadron (AFM), based in Floriana, has a wide range of duties, including coast guard, customs, marine police, fisheries protection and search-and-rescue (SAR). Malta's territorial waters extend to 12nm, its economic exclusion zone to 25nm, and its SAR area of responsibility is 250,000nm². 2/Lt Rene Aquilina is I/C of a rapid deployment team (RDT). The squadron has recently undergone a modernisation phase and now operates one modified Diciotti-class offshore patrol vessel, two Protector-class coastal patrol boats, two CP800 Vittoria Melita-class SAR launches, and four Austal-class inshore patrol craft. The vessels are purposely designed for operating in the Mediterranean and around the Maltese archipelago, where the coastline, with huge sea caves and secluded bays, provides plenty of opportunity for smugglers. While the off-shore patrol vessel is not too dissimilar to our own, the four Austal-class vessels are fast interceptor craft that can deploy rigid-hull inflatable boats (RHIBs). Helicopters can also land on these craft.

"The RDT is tasked with maritime law enforcement operations and counter-terrorism interventions at sea," Lt Aquilina told me. "It's very much a maritime police role, which also includes anti-narcotics and anti-contraband. At present, members of the RDT, including three of my team, are taking part in anti-piracy duties with EU NAVFOR's Operation 'Atalanta', providing protection for cargo vessels. "Members of the RDT are seamen first but are specially trained in vessel boarding, search-and-seizure (VBSS) operations. We use fast PO1-class RHIBs and we are also trained to fast-rope from helicopters. My men spend a lot of time on the ranges as they have to be excellent marksmen. There is a certain element of risk with this job; most of the time crews are compliant but sometimes they are not.

"Our duties also extend onshore, where we check for registration and cargo documentation. RDT operators are also trained in SAR, so if a vessel is in distress and our SAR boat is not in the area we are able to assist. "Members of my team have also taken part in the EU mission 'Frontex', a rule-of-law mission in the Mediterranean aimed at stopping illegal immigration. Missions like this help us in terms of interoperability and in playing our part in the EU. I learned a lot about the importance of interoperability during my deployment to Ireland."

2/Lt Christian Grech is an aircraft engineering officer based at Luqa international airport. The AFM Air Wing has responsibility for the security of Maltese airspace, maritime patrolling, SAR, and the provision of military assistance to other government departments. Two Britten-Norman BN-2B-26 Islanders used for maritime patrol are currently being replaced by two Beechcraft B200 King Airs. Three Scottish Aviation Bulldog T1s are used for pilot training and three Aerospatiale SA 316B Alouette IIIIs make up the rotary fleet providing SAR, army co-operation and aid to the civil

power. The Italian government provide a military mission to assist the Maltese and as part of this mission two Italian Air Force Agusta-Bell AB212 helicopters are attached to the Air Wing on SAR duties.

"Before I joined the AFM, I did four years training as an aircraft engineer," Lt Grech told me. "The Air Wing is starting to undergo a replacement programme with our two Islanders being replaced. Our Alouettes are old and have limited SAR range and will have to be replaced eventually. "I miss Ireland - not the weather - and I made some very good friends there. I learnt a lot on my course. As well as learning how the Defence Forces go about their job I also picked up skills I can use every day in my job, like man management and leadership."

***We would like to thank Major Ivan M Consiglio (Public Information and Press Officer) and his Public Relations team, for allowing us access to the AFM; Staff Sergeant Mario Borg (mass communications specialist); Lance Bombardier Michael Formosa (videographer); and Lance Bombardier Justin Gatt (photographer). ■**



Lt Gen Sean McCann (COS) visits Malta



AN COSANTÓIR 10K

BY CPL PAUL MILLAR
PHOTOS BY 105 SQN

This event was held in Baldonnel on the 5th October 2011. There were a total of 956 entries in the various categories, some for fun and others to compete. Thanks very much to all participants, PTIs, event co-ordinators and especially to the GOC Air Corps, and all his staff. A great day was had by all.



Listed below are the results in each category.

Senior Male

1 Pte Kenneth Rogers	12 Bn	33:16
2 Cpl Stephen McKeigue	6 Bn	34:50
3 Pte Ian Ward	6 Bn	36:46



Senior Female

1 Cpl Mary Molloy	1 MPC	42:52
2 Capt Maeve O'Grady	DFAA	44:46
3 Pte Lorraine Carr	12 Bn	45:01



Male Over 35 Category

1 Pte Paul Buckley	6 Bn	33:53
2 Capt Noel Conway	DFHQ	39:54
3 Cpl John Buchanan	58 Bn	42:07



Male Over 40 Category

1 Sgt Declan Madden	6 Bn	37:56
2 Pte Tom Thompson	4 LSB	38:43
3 Sgt Eamonn Casey	HQ S Bde	39:18



Male Over 45 Category

1 Pte John Blenheim	51 Bn	41:04
2 Sgt Raymond Smith	56 Bn	42:09



Male Over 55 Category

1 C/S Willie O'Riordan	HQ Sbde	41:02
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Female Over 35 Category

1 Sgt Lesley Walsh	DFHQ	65:10
2 Sgt Rowena Gillespie	54 CavSqn	74:26

Female Over 40 Category

1 Comdt Finola McNamara	DFLB	53:25
2 Sgt Siobhan Boyle	DFSM	57:15

Guest Male Category

1 Mr Pat Mitchell	Maint Engrs	40:42
2 Mr Barry Potts	Retired	41:13
3 Mr Stephen Hall	DOD	42:15

Guest Female Category

1 Ms Aileen Nolan	DOD	51:49
2 Ms Gillian Dennehy	DOD	52:17
3 Ms Fiona Smith	Retired	52:51

Team Category

1 6 Infantry Battalion	4 W Bde
2 4 CIS Company	4 W Bde
3 Southern Brigade HQ	1 S Bde

Block PDF

1 ARW	39:05
2 5 Infantry Battalion	39:55
3 Cadet School	40:20

Money Matters

BY NOEL O'GRADY BA MBA QFA

In my article last March I stressed the importance of evaluating ones outgoings and expenditure to ascertain where one could save money during this 'belt-tightening period'. The reality is consumers have changed their shopping habits in the post Celtic tiger years. There has been a seismic shift in the number of consumers who have moved from Superquinn to alternative stores such as Lidl and Aldi. The fundamental reason for this is price. Consumers are able to draw direct price comparisons between one product in Superquinn and the exact same product in Lidl. In financial services the reality is somewhat different. The reason being is the perception that financial services products are complex or difficult to compare, this is true with some products such as pensions. However, on close examination, products such as Life cover can be reviewed and the particulars of it can be analysed. Unfortunately, many consumers shy away from this because of the perceived complexity of it. It would be fair to say that most consumers do not understand the type of cover they have, the extent of the cover, or the length of the term of the cover.

Life cover in its simplest form pays out a lump sum benefit in

the event of a policyholder's death. There are various types of life cover. **Mortgage protection** is the cheapest form of cover as the benefit decreases over time in line with a mortgage. The policy is designed to ensure there will always be sufficient cover to clear the outstanding mortgage balance should the policyholder pass away at any stage during the term of the mortgage. With level term cover the benefit remains the same for the term of the policy. Both of these types of cover are for set periods which are clearly defined when the policy is set up.

Whole of life cover has no fixed term and premiums continue to be made by the policyholder up until a claim is made. There is often a savings element to this cover. In my view this type of policy is archaic. The main problem with these policies is that they tend to become very expensive as one gets older and reviewing them is imperative before premiums become unaffordable.

Why review mortgage protection policies?

It is important to note that the cost of Life cover has decreased in recent years. Policies that were activated a number of years ago should be re-examined. Although the policy holder is older now than at the time of taking out the policy, the balance has decreased and the cost of insurance has also decreased. In addition, Financial Institutions such as AIB is tied to the Life assurance Company Ark Life, and Permanent tsb is tied to Irish life. Therefore, consumers who took out mortgages through AIB and Permanent tsb are likely to have their mortgage protection policies with Ark Life and Irish Life respectively. These insurers may not have offered the most competitive premiums at the time. However, as tied agents of AIB and Permanent tsb were unable to offer mortgage protection from any insurer other than Ark Life and Irish Life. For this reason alone, consumers should re-examine their policies.

"A person only has to refrain from smoking for twelve months to qualify for non-smoker insurance rates"



They may have affected a life cover policy as a smoker and paid into the policy for a number of years. Once they give up cigarettes for twelve consecutive months, they can approach their insurer and now qualify as a non-smoker.

Why review whole of life policies?

Many of these policies were set up and paid by the policyholder by way of salary deduction. This was ideal for the insurers and convenient for the policyholders. We have seen recently where insurers such as New Ireland have ceased to accept premiums by salary deduction. It is only now that policyholders are realising the real cost and poor value of these policies. Many employees in the CIE Group and members of the Defence Forces subscribed to these policies. Indeed, the excessive cost of these was highlighted recently by numerous callers to the Joe Duffy show on Radio 1. The disadvantages of these policies are numerous.

Firstly, they are reviewed every ten years initially, then every five years and in later years every year. At review stage, the policyholder can have the option of maintaining the same level of cover and the premium increases, or maintaining the same premium but the level of cover decreases. In some cases, the cost of maintaining the same level of cover has increased by 100%. Secondly, there is often a savings element attached to this cover. The insurers argue the purpose of this fund is to help pay for the huge cost of these policies in later years. It is important to point out that if a claim is made the value in the fund is deducted from the claim amount. For example, a policyholder who has €50,000 life cover and €8,000 in the fund, if he/she makes a claim for life cover, the insurer will deduct the amount in the fund and his/her estate will only receive in this case €42,000.

An alternative to this type of policy is a term policy. This type of policy is never reviewed so the premium never increases, albeit the maximum age at completion is 80. A convertible option can be a very valuable addition to a term policy, as it allows the policyholder the option to convert into a new policy without any medical underwriting. It is imperative for whole of life policyholders to review their policies immediately, as if they contract an illness they may be ineligible to affect a term policy. They can also apply for a full encashment of the policy, thus giving them immediate access to the money in the fund.

"The Life assurance industry is operating in a "soft" market at present... premiums are being reduced as Life insurance companies compete for business"

The amount of Life cover you require changes throughout your lifetime as your circumstances change. It is important to review your cover on a regular basis to ensure you are getting good value. This represents an opportunity to shop around for cover to try and improve on your existing insurers offering. For example, a reduction of €20 per month on a 25 year policy will save you €6,000 over the term. The savings from switching from a whole of life policy to a term policy tend to be greatest. Indeed, in many instances you don't even have to switch insurers as your existing provider may offer you better terms.

The process is very simple and it is imperative to contact an independent broker rather than a tied agent, who can only offer you the insurance products from the company where he/she works.

Noel O'Grady (BA MBA QFA) is MD of Eolas Finance Ltd and you can contact him at (01) 6190232 or noel.ogrady@eolasfinance.ie for a free financial review. ■

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FROM STRIPES TO PIPS

Year One of the 2011/2012 RDF Potential Officer Course

BY CPL NEIL RICHARDSON (56 RES INF BN)

For all of us, the process began long before the first weekend of training. It began with an interview in front of a panel that comprised our respective Brigade EOs and BTC OCs (RDF) and a PDF officer. To be honest, most of us found it a bit daunting - try to get across in a couple of minutes why we should be the ones to be selected - but when the word finally came back that we had made it onto the course, we were all delighted. Everyone knew that they would be undertaking one of the hardest courses that the RDF has to offer - the process of turning an NCO into a commissioned officer - but we were all up for the challenge.

And it was certainly challenging. The 2011/2012 RDF Potential Officer Course differed from previous potential officer courses in that, with this intake, the course was attached to the Military College and the Cadet School from the start (previously, only year two of RDF potential officer courses were attached to them). This meant that from the word go we would be expected to meet the standards laid down by these military institutions. It also meant that we benefited from greater integration with our PDF counterparts. In many ways we were treated like RDF cadets - we had the same privileges and restrictions placed on us as the cadets had on them, we were billeted in cadet lines, we often had to undertake cadet tasks (discovering, one evening, just how much brass there is in the vicinity of the Military College that needs polishing!), and most significantly, we got to parade with the 87th Cadet Class as one body of troops on several occasions. This brought home to all of us just how important this course was to the RDF in general. We had been given the opportunity to 'fly the flag' for the Reserve alongside the cadets, to prove that the RDF was a professional and competent force, and so we quickly realised that we had to live up to the high standards expected of us.

With regards to the training, it was a mixture of both classroom instruction followed up by practical field exercises. Central to developing our leadership skills as junior

officers was the Troop Leadership and Preparation Process (TLPP), which we were quickly using to prepare ourselves for any tactical exercises. Alongside this, we learned about the seven questions of the Platoon Combat Estimate (a detailed estimate process that has superseded the likes of 'METTS' in platoon commander's considerations), as well as platoon-level orders, and the roles of both the platoon sergeant and platoon commander within the platoon. Other lessons also covered logs, unit admin, map reading, training management, and method of instruction - the latter three of which we had written exams on during the two weeks fulltime training.

A high level of fitness was also essential to secure a place on the course (and to survive it!), and all students were required to have their ITs completed to Grade 3 minimum. Then, in order to 'look the part' when doing PT, we bought matching orange t-shirts in time for the two weeks fulltime training - we were proudly permitted to have the cadet school logo on the front, and we decided on the slogan 'Dul Chun Chinn, Ní Céim Siar' for the back. The Cadet School placed a strong emphasis on progression during our course, so the slogan seemed apt. Roughly translated it means, 'Progress is forward, not backwards.' Of course, we only had our clean new t-shirts for a couple of days before we went on a No 1 Platoon versus No 2 Platoon race through knee-deep muddy-water-filled tank tracks on the Curragh plains. By the end of it our t-shirts were more brown than orange, but it was good fun!

Another benefit of being attached to the Military College and to the Cadet School from the beginning of year one was that our training included the latest developments in military doctrine. When we started making daily marches to our training area out beyond Flagstaff Hill - in order to revise and develop our section- and platoon-in-attack drills - everyone, even the experienced infantry NCOs on the course, were learning new and up-to-date ways of doing things. Under the hot summer sun, fully laden with kit and with the pace of training always high, we also covered

forming a baseline of fire, withdrawing tactically from contact, the importance of siting an FSG correctly, how to read terrain in order to gain maximum tactical advantage over the enemy, cover and concealment, and the need to keep up the tempo during an attack in order to gain and retain the initiative. Command appointments were regularly rotated to give students a chance to experience the various levels of command within a platoon, with the students not in command appointments adopting the role of riflemen as needed.

Of course, as with all RDF career courses, our training during the two weeks fulltime training was building up towards a tactical exercise to be held during the last few days of the course. This year's exercise was to cover defensive warfare (while next year will cover offensive warfare), and so we prepared to construct trenches for a 72 hour dig in on nearby Semaphore Hill. Along with lectures on the subject, we were shown a trench, previously dug by the cadets, and then informed that we would have to dig twenty-two such trenches (enough for two platoons) within a twelve hour period once we deployed. Given how well-constructed the cadets' trench was, the mission timeframe really started to worry a few of us!

However, we had help. On Tues 19 July, we received forty exercise troops drawn from the Eastern Brigade RDF. Their job would be to act as private soldiers within the two platoons for the 72 hour exercise, in order to free us students up to inhabit command appointments only, and thereby have a proper experience of command. And so, two platoon commanders and two platoon sergeants were appointed, along with six section commanders, six section 2 I/Cs, and finally two CQMS and two Coy Sgts (these positions were again rotated during the exercise).

We left the Curragh Camp at 0400 on 20 July and commenced digging in on Semaphore Hill by 0600. We had

to be dug in by 1800, and so the day was one of hard work, frantic picking and shovelling, and short breaks for meals. But by 1800 we had deployed our defensive stores – barbed wires spools, razor wire coils, and anti-tank mines had been set up beyond our lines – and we were all below ground in our proudly dug trenches, students and exercise troops both tired after a long day.

The day that followed was one of defensive routine - attending to personal admin and hygiene, improving the cover on and around our trenches, and adding to or repairing our defences as needed. However, throughout the day both platoons were attacked by enemy forces that were probing our lines for weaknesses, while the Sergeant Major periodically shouted 'Incoming! Take Cover!' to test our reactions to enemy fire. Everyone would just drop what they were doing and sprint as fast as their legs would carry them back to their trenches, with a few enthusiastic soldiers literally diving head first into cover!

At 0300 the next morning - 22 July - the mission required us to tactically withdraw from our defensive position on Semaphore Hill back to the Curragh Camp. When we returned to the Curragh, it was end ex and job well done, before we had to return to Semaphore Hill to fill in the trenches, in order to make the ground safe to train on again. Once this was done, the students thanked the exercise troops for their assistance, effort and hard work over the previous 72 hours, before they all set off to return to their units. Soon enough, it was time for us students to finish up too, and we all headed for home feeling a mixture of great personal achievement and a tinge of sadness at having to leave the Military College and the Cadet School which had been so welcoming, supportive and encouraging during our stay. To be honest, a lot of us are already looking forward to coming back next year. ■

The twenty students who completed year one of the 2011/2012 RDF Potential Officer Course were drawn from all three brigades, with the infantry, artillery, cavalry, transport, medical, and MP corps being represented. Civilian professions include IT professional, management, sales, barrister, teacher, aircraft mechanic, safety officer, postman, filmmaker, and writer.





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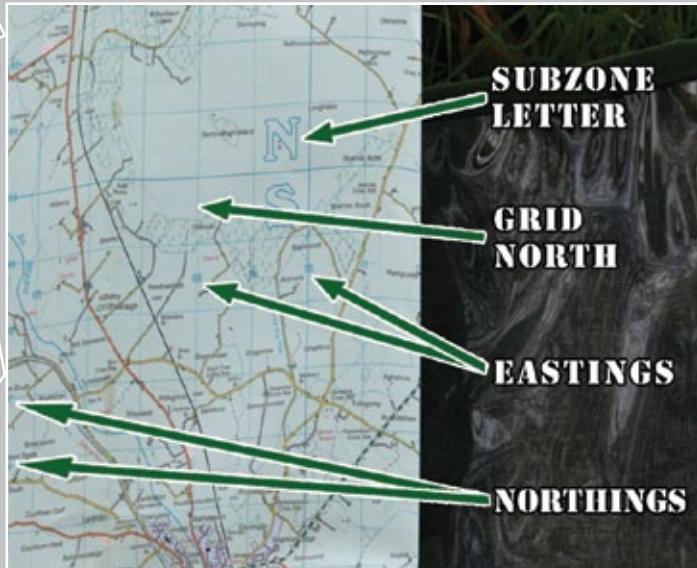
NAVIGATION PART 1

HOW TO GET TO YOUR RV.

You must know and be familiar with:

- Your location
- Your map
- Your compass

Over the next three issues, we will have some tips to improve and refresh your navigation skills. Part one is about getting from A to B, using a map and compass. Parts two and three deal with finding your location, grid references and additional planning tips.



TAKING A BEARING

1. Place the compass edge along your route with the direction of travel arrow pointing in the right direction!
2. Rotate the bezel so that the housing orientating lines are parallel to grid north on your map.
3. Add magnetic variation by adjusting the bezel reading where the direction of travel arrow meets the bezel; remember this changes from year to year and in different parts of the world.
4. Take up your compass. Hold it flat. Rotate your body so that the needle (magnetic north) fits in the arrow in the housing orientating lines.
5. Pick a point that's along the direction of travel arrow. Walk to it. Repeat this step until you get to your RV.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

GALLIPOLI: IRISH LANDSCAPES IN A DISTANT WAR

BY AIRMAN MICHAEL J. WHELAN MA (AIR CORPS)

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours... You the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. Having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well”

Mustafa Kemel Ataturk, 1934 (Memorial at Ariburnu Cemetery)

Almost 96 years to the day of the anniversary of the initial amphibious landings of 1915 and one month prior to the annual ANZAC Day (Australian-New Zealand Army Corps) commemorations, I toured the battlefields and cemeteries of the Gallipoli Peninsula and its famous nine month conflict. The peninsula, which incorporates many legendary sites in the historiography and national identities of Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and Turkey, is still a landscape virtually untouched by modernity, though it is still a landscape of the conflict that ravaged it and this is no more evident than in its place names. ANZAC Cove, the Spinks, Lone Pine Memorial, the Nek, Walker's Ridge, Plugges Plateau and Chunuk Bair are only some of those place names that have always had a special place in my imagination since I was a boy, but also and much more instinctively Suvla Bay, where the Irish poet Francis Ledwidge fought and was wounded under the banner of the 10th (Irish) Division and 'V' Beach Cape Helles, where Irish soldiers came ashore as part of the regular British 29th Divi-

sion on the morning of 25 April 1915 into well defended Turkish positions and suffering very heavy casualties in the process.

The objectives during the planning of the Gallipoli operations included the capture of the Ottoman capital of Constantinople (now modern Istanbul), securing sea supply routes through the Dardanelle Straits, the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea to and from Russia. The occupation thereby breaking the deadlock on the Western Front and hopefully forcing Greece and other Balkan area territorial states to join the war on the Allied side, but the operation was a failure. Those battles fought and the place names that resonate in the consciousness of the peoples of Australia and New Zealand ever since have helped forge distinct national identities in those countries through commemoration and remembrance of those events and the trials and losses incurred by their soldiers, even though they were part of the invading Allied armies in a conflict which saw them shipped to Turkey during the First World War. Indeed many other



Green Hill Cemetery



Canakkale Diorama



'V' Beach



Model of 'V' Beach

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

nationalities fought here including French, British, Indians, Irish and not forgetting the Turkish Soldiers of the then Ottoman Empire who fiercely defended their homeland. Gallipoli and the struggles encountered here resonate still in the collective memories of most of those countries but in Ireland, because of our own troubled history, it has until quite recently been forgotten and to a great extent written out of the national record of this countries part in the Great War. It has been described by some historians as being the victim of a national selective amnesia.

My one week journey in Turkey visiting Istanbul and Gallipoli was organised by Irish tour company Group Travel International (GTI) who specialise in heritage and cultural excursions. Our group of about thirty people visiting historical locations in the greater Istanbul City area including Taxim Square, the ancient and wonderful Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace the former private residence of the Ottoman Sultans with our guide Salem from Gemini Tours (Turkey) for three days. One of the highlights of this part of the tour was a cruise down the Bosphorus River. Some of the group had military service with members from ONE and IUNVA, while I was the only current serving member of the DF, but there was enough contrast between military and cultural heritage for everyone's taste.

By day four, we had arrived at Cannakale, the part that I had been looking forward to most of all (Cannakale and Gelibolu are Turkish terms for Gallipoli). As a student of history the crossing of the strategic Dardanelle Straits by ferry, (or Hellespont as it was known throughout classical and later periods) in the mornings and evenings from our accommodation on the Asian side to the battlefields on the European side only added to the feeling of discovery and how I was to read this beautiful landscape. Over the next two days we visited the ANZAC Sector commencing with Beach Cemetery, Brighton Beach, Shrapnel Valley, ANZAC Cove, Ariburnu Cemetery, Lone Pine Australian Memorial and the 57th Regiment Turkish Memorial. On the Helles sector we visited the massive Turkish memorial, 'V' Beach

Cemetery, the Cape Helles Memorial and Lancashire Landings Cemetery also the Kiretepe Ridge, Asmak Hill 10 and Green Hill Cemetery.

Wreaths were laid at the 10th (Irish) Division Memorial at Green Hill Cemetery (President Mary McAleese had visited here in 2010). Irish names could be found on graves in all cemeteries except the Turkish ones. The significance of these locations was not lost on the group as Mr Tony Roe (PDF Comdt Retd) and I explained that the cemetery place names denoted that they were positioned directly upon former trenches. Although the weather was inclement for most of the trip, very cold in Istanbul and the famous blustery winds and rains of Gallipoli had hit us through spots of drizzle, the sun also shone and illuminated the magnificent and peaceful landscape and it was at those moments that I reflected most on the soldiers and events that tore them and the peninsula apart in 1915. As I toured the cemeteries I thought about those who have no known graves, Cannakale/Gallipoli is now a protected heritage park and for want of a better, a mass grave. The official casualty figures for the battle in the table below are today thought to be very conservative. Only a small percentage of the many victims on both sides are buried in marked graves and the remains of those lost on the landscape continue to be washed down from gullies or disturbed by machinery to this day, many coming to the surface at official tourist and memorial sites and being damaged by traffic. The problem of human remains at Gallipoli has been highlighted by archaeologists and academics in recent years, Dr Peter Dowling, Heritage Officer, ACT Trust, lectured on 'The Problem of Human Remains in the ANZAC Battlefields Area' to the Canberra Archaeological Society in 2008.

Other than reading aloud Ledwidge's poem 'The Irish at Gallipoli' and one of my own titled 'Fallen Friends' at the memorial to the 10th (Irish) Division the highlight of this leg of the tour for me was visiting locations linked to the Irish participation in the battle especially 'V' Beach, where reminiscent of the D Day landings of June 1944, soldiers

GALLIPOLI CASUALTIES 25 APRIL 1915 - 9 JAN 1916

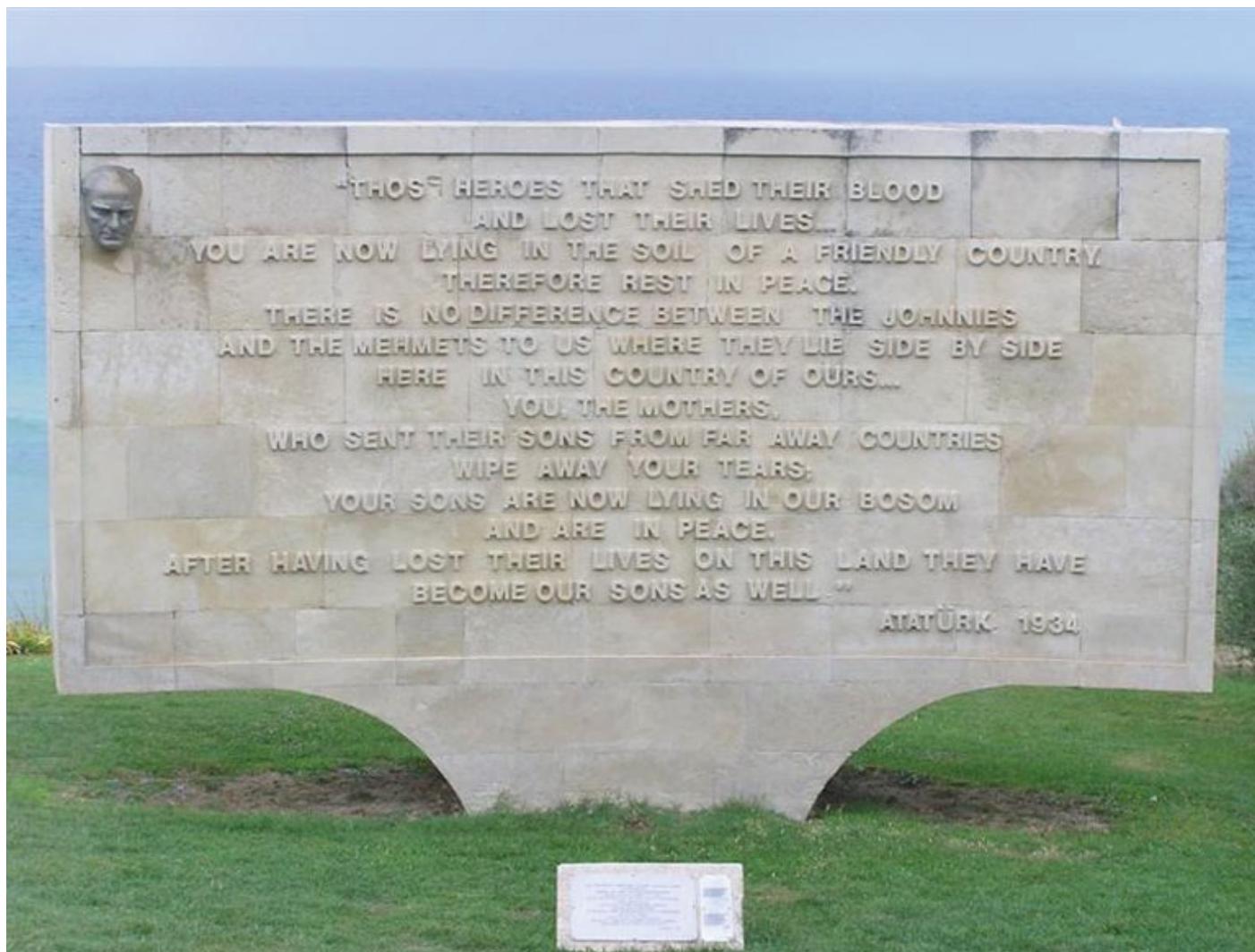
PERCENTAGES ARE OF TOTAL WWI CASUALTIES

NATION	DIED	WOUNDED	TOTAL
AUSTRALIAN	8,709 (15%)	19,441 (13%)	28,150 (13%)
NEWZEALAND	2,701 (17%)	4,852 (12%)	7,553 (13%)
BRITAIN	21,255 (3%)	52,230 (3%)	73,485 (3%)
FRANCE (EST)	10,000	17,000	27,000
INDIA	1,358	3,421	4,779
NEWFOUNDLAND	49	93	142
TOTAL ALLIES	86,072	97,037	141,109
TURKEY	86,000 (?)		

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of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Hampshire Regiment being part of a larger force from the British 29th Division came ashore from the converted collier River Clyde, which beached itself allowing troops to disembark through cut sally points in her hull, down along gangways and across lighters acting as a form of bridge to the sand and into the jaws of Turkish machineguns, artillery and mined kill zones over looking barbed wire obstacles on the beach. I stood in the water here, walked along the stone pier jutting in to the sea and crouched behind the shingle wall where they hid and died in the hundreds. I walked through the battle step by step and saw where Corporal Cosgrove earned his VC for

pulling mined barbed wire stanchions out of the ground under intense fire to allow a channel of advance off the beach and I saw where his friends are resting now. Of the 1,100 Dublin Fusiliers who fought at Gallipoli only 11 would survive unscathed. The surviving Dublin and Munster's from the landings would eventually be combined temporarily to form the Dubster's. The landscape that haunted the survivors of Gallipoli has stuck with me too albeit for different and at the same similar reasons and like Francis Ledwidge I too put my thoughts to words in a poem after returning home. I would like to thank Tony Roe and those other people involved for making possible my tour of Istanbul & Gallipoli. ■



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HIS

GALLIPOLI

BY MICHAEL J. WHELAN

Today I stood above the Aegean Sea
listening for echoes I could not hear.
The silent tempo of the ground
resonates still on unnatural landscapes.
The zig-zag lines where dead men toil
dug deep into blood smeared soil,
buried now with their bones
on beaches and gullies where once
they fought the Turk,
stormed the shores and hills as if thrown
against the wind by Agamemnon himself.

The silence bade me look towards Troy
across the Straits from Helles.
I still could hear no voice, nor thunder in the sky
except the launching waves pushing ancient
pebbles up the beach to rest,
where once they drowned the hearts of men.

Then behind me I could feel it,
the noise of peace and echoes of war
in a thousand monuments to the dead,
stretched out in marching order.

And there, watching me my shadow
took on the spectre of a ghost and spoke,

'Like Hector I was the defender
brave and virtuous - but of Irish stock,
I am the soldier my country forsook.'

And in response I said
'I have come at last to pay my respects,
I have come to take you home!'

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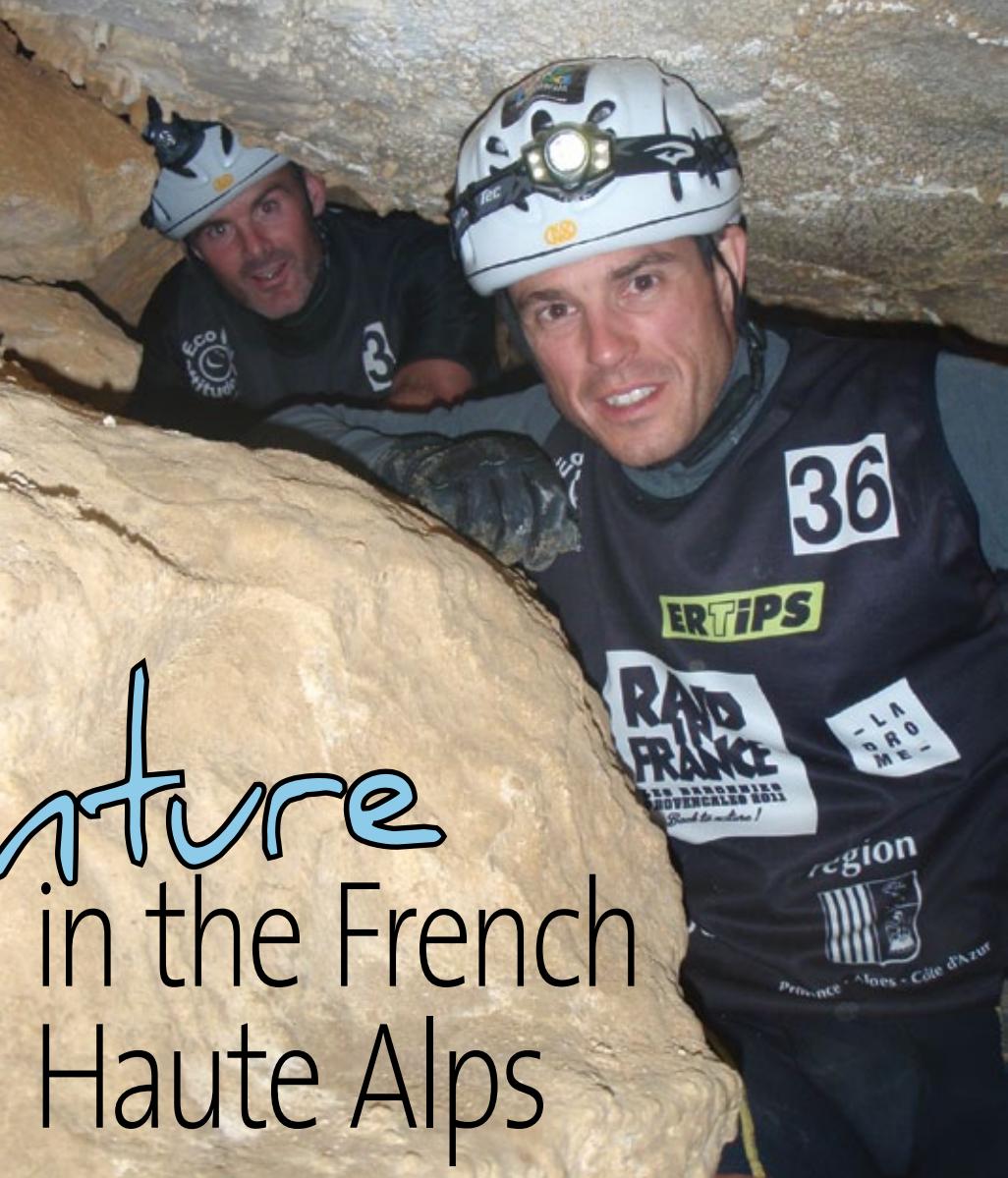
HIS

Adventure in the French Haute Alps

BY CAPT MAEVE O'GRADY (DFAA)

ON THE 25TH of August 2011, a four-man DF team made up of Comdt Cathal Keohane, Capt Maeve O'Grady, Lt Diarmaid Collins and Lt Dan Morrogh travelled to France to compete in the five day Raid in France Adventure Race. This is the first time a DF team has competed in a World Series adventure race. The World Series comprises eight of the hardest and longest adventure races across the globe. It aims to attract the top endurance athletes in the world, so we knew from the start that we would have a tough job if we were to meet our goal of making it into the top half of the fifty strong field (and beating the team from the French Army!).

The race consisted of 5 days non-stop racing in the French Alps, 14000m of ascending (and a similar amount of descending!) and included the disciplines of mountain-biking, trekking,



climbing, kayaking, caving and canyoning. We had a 36hr warm up race 'The Beast of Ballyhoura' during the August Bank Holiday weekend and we felt ready as we boarded the plane to head to France. As soon as we arrived, we were struck by the warmth of the welcome as we were met at the airport and transported to our base in Buis-les-Baronnies in the Drôme region. We were also struck by the warmth of the weather, landing into 36 degree heat, and we realised that finding enough water was going to be a big issue during the race.

The two days before the race were a rush of kit checks, skills checks, sorting equipment, race briefs and of course plenty of carbo loading at the local pizza/pasta place! Finally, Saturday night came and we headed to bed early in preparation for our 0530 bus to the start on Sunday morning.

We estimated that it would be up to 50hrs until we had access to our resupply boxes, so our race packs were heavy with energy bars, gels, nuts, freeze dried food packets and even the old reliable All Day Breakfast, as well as our mandatory kit and three litres of water.

The race began on Sunday morning with a kayaking stage. There was chaos from the outset as 100 boats tried to squeeze through a narrow bridge and get through an 800m kayak carrying section on a narrow trail around a hydroelectric dam. We discovered that politeness gets you nowhere as we ended up second last after this early mayhem! At least we could only move up the field (we hoped!).

After a short trek up a steam, we started out on a mammoth mountain bike stage which would take us 26hrs to complete. The terrain was incredibly



difficult, with punishing climbs spent pushing, pulling, dragging and lifting our bikes up very steep trails covered in rocks and vegetation in an activity known as hike-a-bike, or more simply 'The Grief'. The rule book required us to stay off all roads so we climbed col after col through the first night and into the second day. These climbs were followed by incredible descents down to the valley

floor on superb single track. We regularly dropped 800m to 1000m in two or three kilometres and reached the bottom with big smiles, arms aching and brakes burning, before starting the slow climb up the next col. We reached the end of this bike stage on the second day, very tired, hot and very dehydrated as most of the streams marked on the map were dry.

We were grateful that the transition was beside a river and we soaked our feet for a few minutes while we gulped as much water as we could and refilled our bottles before quickly heading out on a trekking stage. We reached the top of yet another col to start a caving section, which required quite a bit of contortion and kitten crawling to get through. Then, as darkness fell on the second night, we descended to complete a canyoning section, which proved to be more dramatic and demanding than we had expected. We checked in with the marshal, put on our wetsuits and climbing gear and headed down the canyon. After negotiating many abseils down gushing waterfalls and leaps into pools, we finally reached the end of the trekking stage at around 0200 on the second night.

We were completely exhausted, not having even sat down for five minutes in the last 40 hours, and took the

opportunity to sleep for two hours, get a brew of hot food and replenish our food supplies for the remainder of the race, before heading on a short cycle to the next transition area.

From here we began a kayak on some exciting white-water. We finished the kayak towards afternoon on the third day and began another trek into the high mountains. Morale was high as we hit our checkpoints and began climbing upwards, wearing our climbing helmets due to the risk of rock fall from team mates and other teams. As night fell on the third night, we could see thousands of stars above us in the clear sky as we trekked along a ridge at over 1600m. In the darkness, we reached an abseiling section and after making our way along a cliff face with an enormous drop down below us, we reached the zoom abseil which seemed never ending as we slid down the ropes into the dark abyss. Some of us were sweating more from fear than exertion as we reached the bottom and followed a via ferrata of fixed ropes to the next transition!

Again we were exhausted and decided to sleep for three hours, however, due to our shivering in the cold night we didn't sleep much and got up still feeling weary to begin another long biking stage, which was to take us another 25hrs. Although the days were very hot, at night the temperature dropped to around zero. Dawn of the forth morning broke and we warmed up and started to feel a bit better as we continued our pattern of slowly climbing up steep mountainous trails, before plunging down the other side. We continued this throughout the day and as darkness fell on the forth night we were delighted to reach a checkpoint in a beautiful walled town where there was a hall where we could get some sleep in the warmth. We brewed up a hot meal and lay down on the floor to sleep for two and a half hours and awoke, tired, but ready to face the last phase of the race. We pushed on through the rest of the night and kept our progress up as the sun rose and the day got hotter. We finally finished the biking leg towards midday on the fifth day with an exhilarating descent down some wonderful mountain bike tracks. We were almost too exhausted to enjoy it as we were all feeling the effects of the exhaustion, the heat and the lack of food.

We picked up, however, as we realised that all we had left was a final trek down through a gully, across a river and into Buis-Les-Baronnies to finish in the main square! We felt very tired, but very proud of our efforts, and proud to represent the DF as we jogged in and were met by champagne being sprayed to celebrate our finish!

We will keep many memories of the race; the stunning terrain, the friendliness of the marshals, and the knowledge that we pushed ourselves to our limits and beyond for five days and four nights of constant racing. We finished 20th in the end, so we were happy that we had achieved our goals of finishing in the top half and proudly representing the Defence Forces at this level. We look forward to showing what Irish Defence Forces personnel can do at future events on the world series next year!

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Oct comp winner of a €100 voucher kindly sponsored by the Great Outdoors: Marcella Keogh, Limerick

NOTICEBOARD

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

Green Knights Ireland - Military Motor-cycle Association - Chapter 59 (GKIMMA)

Over the last few years the green knights, (GKIMMA), formerly the 'DFMA'). Have toured across England, Wales, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy at Military and Civilian events across Ireland and as of the end of 2010, we gained recognition from the DFAA as an Official Military Association. Membership is open to all serving and ex-members of PDF/RDF personnel.

'Join the GKIMMA and go places' - For further information contact:

SQMS T. O'Connell Ext 6440 (Dublin)
CQMS S. Clarke Ph: 0949021275 (Castlebar/Galway)
Sgt M. Twomey Ext 4242 (Cork)
Sgt M. Flanagan Ext 1272 (Athlone)

ONE Information:

Niomba Memorial Mass, in Cathal Brugha Bks on Saturday November 5th.

UNVA Information:

Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, UNVA Memorial Garden on Sunday November 6th.

Niomba Wreath Laying Ceremony, Glasnevin on Tuesday November 8th.

50th Anniversary Deployment of 'A' Coy 36 Inf Bn (Congo) December 1961

Wed 16 Nov - Reception hosted by Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Andrew Montague, Mansion House

Sun 11 Dec - 09:45 Wreath Laying Ceremony United Nations Plot, Glasnevin Cemetery, 11:00 Mass McKee Bks, 13:00 Re-union Dinner Dining Complex, 15:00 NCO's Mess. These events are strictly Ticket and Invite only: *For more info contact during normal working hours: Jim Clarke on 086 3523614 or jimmyclarke9@gmail.com*

SUDOKU

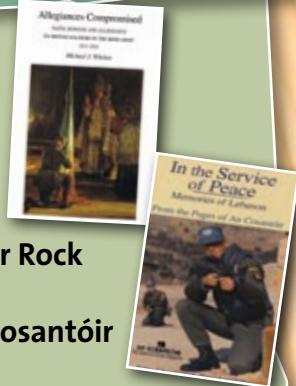
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SUDOKU IS THE LATEST PUZZLE CRAZE TO COME FROM JAPAN; IT'S A NUMBERS GAME THAT'S DRIVING EVERYBODY MAD!

NOV Q&A COMPETITION

1. What famous Manchester Rock Band reformed in Oct 2011?
2. Who won this years An Cosantóir 10K (Senior Male)?
3. What BIG insurance Firm announced it is to cut 950 jobs in the next 2½ yrs?



Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email to subs@military.ie for a chance to win a signed copy of Airman Michael Whelan's latest book *Allegiances Compromised – Faith, Honor and Allegiance Ex British Soldiers in the Irish Army 1913-1924*, and *In The Service of Peace – Memories of Lebanon – From the Pages of*

Last months winner of Niamh O'Connor's 'Taken' is Bryan Duggan, Co Sligo.

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

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

- Each of the nine vertical columns
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6	4	3	8	5	9	2	7	1
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REVIEWS

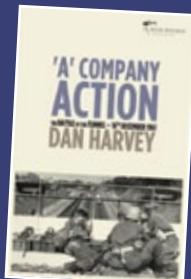
reviews

35

BOOK

'A' COMPANY ACTION THE BATTLE OF THE TUNNEL - 16TH DECEMBER 1961

By: Dan Harvey
Format: Hardback
Publisher: Book Republic (September 2011)
www.bookrepublic.ie
ISBN: 9781907221255
Price: €19.99



AT DAWN, in pouring rain on December 16th 1961 the army of the Irish Republic under a UN flag went into action. A sharp and bloody engagement followed, as the men of the 36th Inf Bn undertook a vital seize and hold operation. The objective was a railway tunnel, a crucial approach to Elizabethville held by mercenaries and Katangese Gendarmerie. Irishmen under Irish command under a United Nation's mandate on foreign soil went on the offensive. Intensive fighting followed.

Fatalities were inflicted and suffered. The Irish assault was met with heavy machine-guns and fierce mortar fire. The Irish were severely tested but triumphed. 'A' Company 36th Battalion served with the United Nations' forces in the Congo, Central Africa, during the period of December 1961 to May 1962. Following the hostilities of December, including the famous Battle of the Tunnel, 14 members were awarded Distinguished Service Medals, including two posthumously. As a result 'A' Company 36th Battalion became the most decorated company in the history of the Irish Defence Forces. This is their remarkable story.

Comdt Dan Harvey, also the author of *Peace Enforcers* (2010), has 30 years service to date. His service has seen him involved in a variety of operations both at home and overseas. A highly experienced and respected press officer, he has also pioneered many Defence Forces historical and heritage projects, most notably a number of museum collections. Dan is a constant contributor to *An Cosantóir*. He has a keen interest in rugby, and is a former senior player at representative level and now also coaches. He is currently stationed in Defence Forces Headquarters in Dublin. Paperback to be released in November 2011.

DVD

STAKE LAND

Director: Jim Mickle

Genre: Horror

Cinema Release Date: 17 Jun 2011

Rental Release Date: 30 Sep 2011

Certification: 15

Starring: Danielle Harris, Kelly McGillis, Connor Paolo, Bonnie Dennison, Michael Cerveris, Sean Nelson, Chance Kelly, Adam Scrimbolo, Marianne Hagan, Nick Damici, Stuart Rudin, Lou Sumrall

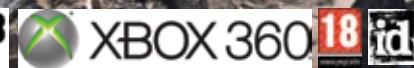


HORROR SET in a post-apocalyptic America that has been taken over by an ever-increasing army of vampires. Connor Paolo stars as Martin, a teenager who joins forces with vampire hunter Mister (Nick Damici) after his parents are killed by the marauding vampire forces. Together, the two set out to find a town where they have heard they will be safe - but does such a place really exist?

GAME

RAGE

RELEASE DATE: 07 OCTOBER 2011



RAGE IS a groundbreaking first-person shooter set in the not-too-distant future after an asteroid impacts Earth, leaving a ravaged world behind. You emerge into this vast wasteland to discover humanity working to rebuild itself against such forces as bandit gangs, mutants, and the Authority – an oppressive government regime that has a special interest in you in particular. Featuring intense first-person shooter action, breakneck vehicle combat, an expansive world to explore and jaw-dropping graphics, RAGE promises an experience like no other. id Software make great shooters. We all know they invented the first person genre with *Wolfenstein*, and the gaming world has never looked back.

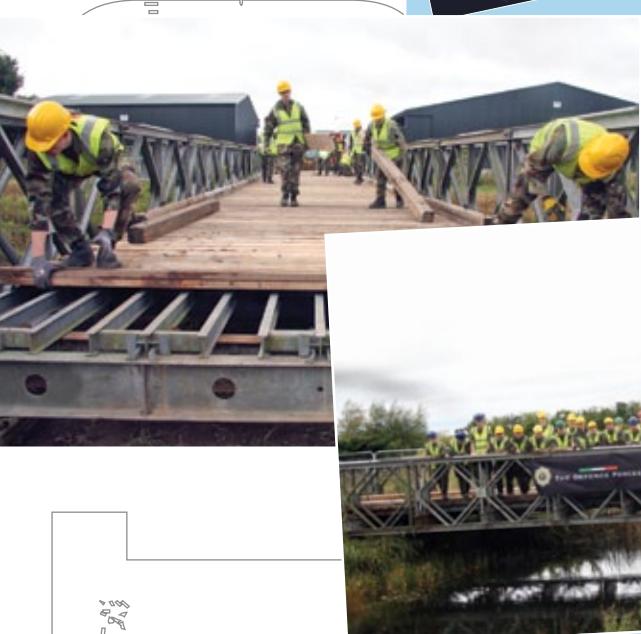
Platform: (PC, Xbox 360 & PS3) **Price:** €41.97 – PEGI: 18

For more info see: www.rage.com/en © 2011 id Software LLC, a ZeniMax Media company, Bethesda and related logos are registered trademarks of ZeniMax Media Inc.

WHAT I DO

NAME
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UNIT

STEVEN COFFEY
SERGEANT
2 FIELD ENGINEERS



Amongst all the other engineering tasks we do; such as Specialist Search Teams,

mine clearance, bridging, maintenance and construction of barracks and camps, we also have another specialist task: watermanship.

There are several aspects to this job. In a combat situation the enemy will try their best to disrupt your lines of communication. To do this they will blow up bridges. It is up to the engineers to make sure our lines of communication are kept open across waterways and free movement of troops. In Ireland you have rivers, lakes, bogs, dykes, canals, and estuaries. RIB's (Ridged Inflatable Boat) are used for reconnaissance of bridging areas and crossing points. We then use a larger Flat-bottomed boat for transporting troops. The boats are also used for transporting demolition teams or stores to the opposite bank to repair or for construction of a bailey bridge for example. The engineers also have a multi-purpose modular floating pontoon system. These are interlocking cubes that can float 80kgs each. By interlocking these cubes you can either build a bridge, a raft, or a driveway. You need boats to help in the construction of this.

At home we use the boats not just on an exercise in the combat engineering role but also by providing safety during water crossing of troops, confidence training, bridge building, and also during Defence Forces sporting events involving water.

All our crews are trained under the Irish Sailing Association syllabus which has been adopted by the Director of Training and Director of Engineers. They are the governing body in Ireland of the use of small boats. Our engineers are trained to a minimum Level 2 Coxswain or boat operator. There are also advanced courses that allow you to operate out at sea. The sea of course is the domain of the Naval Service but we may have to operate in large estuary such as the Shannon for example. The course teaches our crews how to handle the boats in different conditions and speeds. The RIB for example can give you up to 35knots while the Flat-bottomed boat 12-15knots.

The engineers have also been called out in the Aid to Civil Power and Aid to Civil Authority role. Over the last number of years we have been called out around the country to help stranded people during the bad flooding. And on more than one occasion we have rescued people in distress and in need of immediate hospital attention. Our Flat-bottomed boats are ideal for this as they can operate in shallower waters than the RIBs and they can take up to 12 people or a ton and half of stores.

Sgt Coffey who has 40 years service is well known and highly respected throughout the Defence Forces. ■

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Results Sheet for 28th September 2011

1st Prize, €10,000: Eric Gormley, Letterkenny, Co Donegal

2nd Prize, €5,000: William Whelan, Navan Road, Dublin 7

3rd Prize, €2,500: Colm Slattery, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare

4th Prize, €1,500: Stephen Maxwell, Strabane, Co Tyrone

€500 Prize: James Scanlon, Newbridge, Co Kildare; John Mack, Rath Iomghain Co Cill Dara; Terence Lynch, Cabra West, Dublin 7; John Waters, Carrick-On-Suir, Co Tipperary

€100 Prize: Keith Grady, Westport, Co Mayo; Noel Mulcahy, Raheen, Co Limerick; Edward Lacey, Newbridge, Co Kildare; James Devaney, Athlone, Co Roscommon; William Byrne, Dundrum, Dublin 16; Ian Brennan, Blakeshaw, Dublin 15; Patrick Rooney, Renmore, Co Galway; Dermot Gibney, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10; Frank Dunleavy, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15; William Lawlor, Ballymun, Dublin 11; Darragh Tierney, Donegal Town, Co Donegal; William Cullagh, Portlaoise, Co Laois; Stephen Donnelly, Tallaght, Dublin 24; Paul Burke, Letterkenny, Co Donegal; Jason Donnelly, Newbridge, Co Kildare

Congratulations to all our winners

The next draw will take place on the 27th October 2011

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Defence Forces Tri-Services Trading

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Competition for Charity

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- ▶ Selected teams can benefit of trading education from CMC Markets.
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Competition will run for 1 week in November. Winning team announced in December issue.

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