



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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SEPTEMBER 2014

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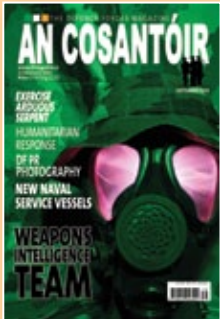
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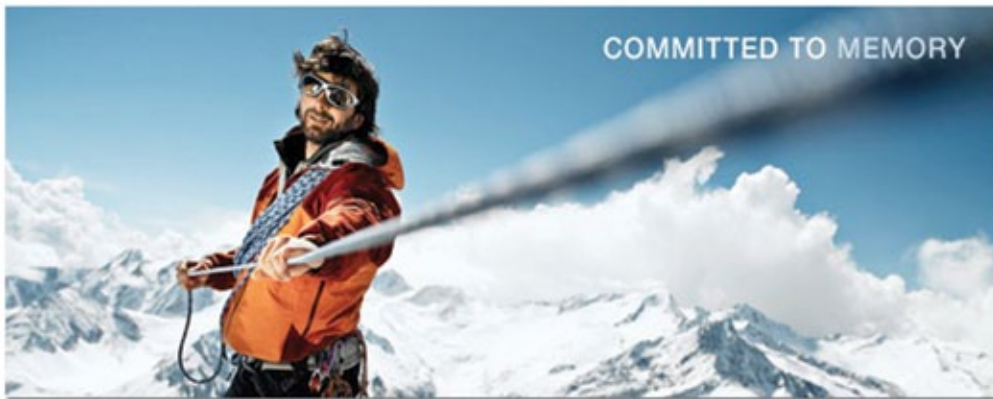
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Front Cover

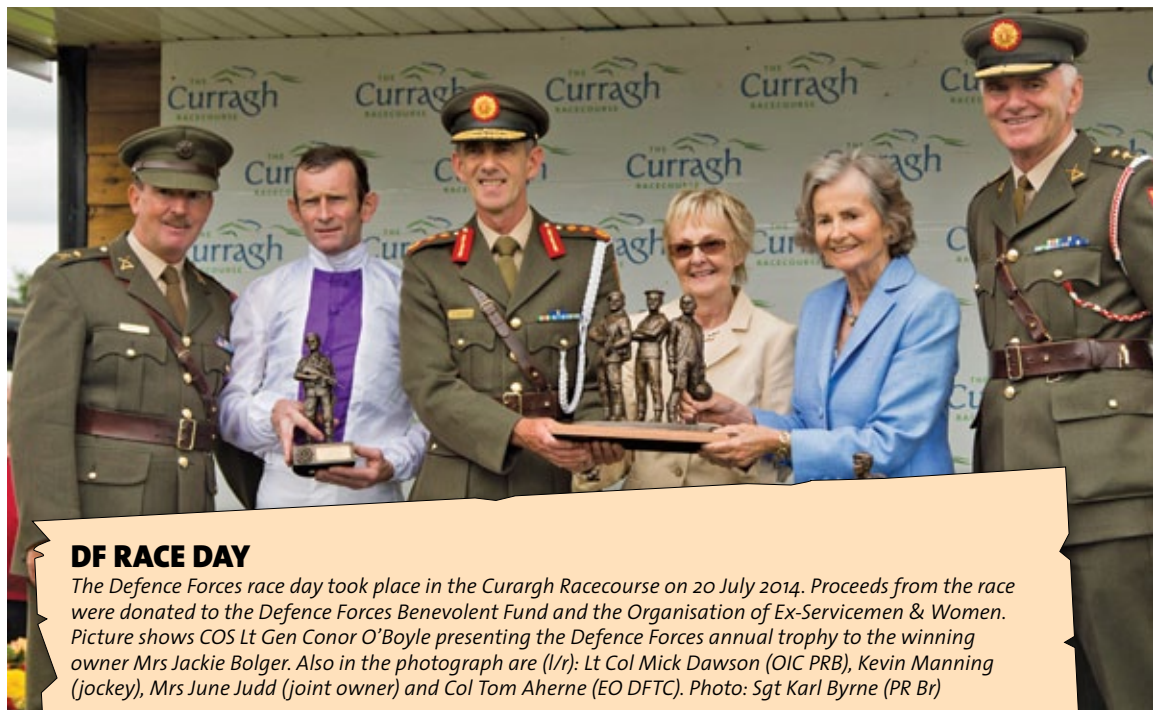
Photo by Cpl Colin Delany taken on the DF PR Photographers course showing the use of artificial light.

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

Welcome to our September issue, where we bring you a 40-pager and a pullout poster featuring LÉ Samuel Beckett (P61). This month's photos for *On Parade* come from the north and south of the country, Donegal to Cork. Our *In Focus* pages look at our Veterans, page 8 has a compilation of WWI and Remembrance Day photographs from around the country and across Europe, and page 9 features members of the Irish UN Veterans Association. Our first main feature by Lt Aoife Shanley is about her experiences at this year's Exercise 'Arduous Serpent', the British army's annual medical services tactical training competition. Next, Lt Cdr Tony O'Leary brings us up-to-date on the Naval Services latest addition LÉ Samuel Beckett (P61). In *Enhancing Force-Protection*, Capt Diarmuid O'Flynn looks at how the DF has developed our C-IED capability with the first Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) course. In *Humanitarian Response*, Cpl Paul Millar and myself met up with two retired DF members who in 2000 volunteered to work in Mozambique for the international humanitarian agency GOAL. In *Through the Lens*, read how and why 12 members of the DF were trained as Public Relations photographers - the fruit of which is this month's front cover. In our *In Reserve* feature The Baker's Dozen, we see how 1 CIS RDF provided exercise communications support to other units under the single-force concept. In the first of our extended *History* section this month, Terry McLaughlin continues on the 100th anniversary of WWI with his feature *The Meat Grinder*. Our second history piece is on USN Commander Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough and the War of 1812. In *Sport*, we have the DF Track & Field Championships 2014 held in the Watershed Stadium in Kilkenny in June and UNIFIL 5km Race held in Shama, Lebanon in July. On page 35 we have a small piece on the *Public Engagement and Access Plan* (PEAP), which is a Working Group convened to develop Defence Forces' engagement in civil society and communities throughout the state. Plus we have all our regular features – *Military Media Round-Up*, *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

**DF RACE DAY**

The Defence Forces race day took place in the Curragh Racecourse on 20 July 2014. Proceeds from the race were donated to the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund and the Organisation of Ex-Servicemen & Women. Picture shows COS Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle presenting the Defence Forces annual trophy to the winning owner Mrs Jackie Bolger. Also in the photograph are (l/r): Lt Col Mick Dawson (OIC PRB), Kevin Manning (jockey), Mrs June Judd (joint owner) and Col Tom Aherne (EO DFTC). Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne (PR Br)

**FOND FAREWELL**

On Tuesday 8th July in Ceannt NCOs Mess, DFTC a farewell function was held for three leaving members PR Branch. Pictured (l/r): Journalist Wesley Bourke (retd), Lt Col Mick Dawson (OIC PRB), Cpl Noel Coss (retd) and Comdt Denis Hanly (starting the C&S Cse). Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan



◆ DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM

Defence Force Personnel from 28 Inf Bn, who are based at Finner Camp recently visited the Donegal County Museum to view the First World War exhibition and film on the history of the war. *Photo: Caroline Carr, Donegal County Museum*



◆ CANADIAN FORCES TRAINING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Sgt Willie Fitzgerald (DJ7) was recently in Canada undergoing Advanced Instructional Techniques and Instructional Supervisor courses at Canadian Forces Training Development Centre. He is pictured here with the instructor staff. *Photo: Sgt Willie Fitzgerald*



◆ EMERGENCY TAG TOURNAMENT

Pictured is the Emergency TAG Tournament winning team who were a mixture of all ranks from 1 and 2 Bdes. The tournament took place in Westmanstown on the 18th July 2014. There were 12 teams in the tournament, representing the Gardai, Medical and Emergency Services Organisations and three DF teams: Team 1 (mainly 1 Bde and some 2 Bde), Team 2 (mainly DFTC and some 2 Bde) and 1 Cn Cois who were the beaten finalists by 1-0. Team 2 won the Plate. *Photo: Lt Emma Stanley 1 Bde BPEO*



◆ HAPPY RETIREMENT

Pte Tom McSweeney is pictured receiving a presentation from Comdt David O'Neill (OIC DF Printing Press), on his retirement after 33-years-service, with 30-years spent in the DF Printing Press. *Photo: Sgt Andrew O'Neill, DFPP*



◆ CHAPLIN'S CUP 2014

Pictured is the winning team from Collins Bks, Cork who beat the 3 Inf Bn in the final of the All Army Hurling Chaplin's Cup 2014. *Photo: Capt Stephen Molumphy*



◆ ON YOUR BIKE

Over 40 soldiers from Collins Bks, Cork participated in a charity cycle from Collins Bks to Youghal, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society raising €2,390 much needed funds. The event was organised by Sgt Paul Dee. *Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy (Press Office, HQ 1 Bde)*

◆ HEAT COURSE

A Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) Course took place in UNTSI, DFCT on 1st and 2nd July 2014. 14 students completed the course, 10 of which were from the Dept of Foreign Affairs and four were their spouses. Students who completed the training will soon be posted to high profile appointments in Kenya, Brazil, Indonesia, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Nigeria. The course is designed to bring a keen awareness of personal security to civilian personnel. *Photo: Armn Billy Doyle / Words: Capt Deirdre Carbery, UNTSI.*





SOCE COURSE ▲

Pictured (l/r) are Sgt Trevor Howard (MP 2 Bde) and Sgt Dave Harte (MP DFTC) who recently completed the Scenes of Crime Examiners Course (SOCE) in Garda HQ. They are pictured presenting a plaque of appreciation to Det Super John Nolan (l/c Garda Technical Bureau). *Photo: Sgt Trevor Howard*



HONOURS HISTORY ▲

FQMS Tony Farrell (ACHQ) was congratulated by Brig Gen Paul Fry, GOC AC on receiving a BA First Class Single Honours in History from NUI Maynooth. FQMS Farrell is to be awarded the John & Pat Hume Scholarship to study towards a Phd, this is the most prestigious scholarship in NUI Maynooth and possibly the whole NUI system. He is quite possibly the first PDF member to achieve this as a result of his studies, which is a really great achievement for the DF. *Photo: Armn Jamie Barrett*



PROMOTION OVERSEAS ▲

FQMS Charlie Hallows (Air Corps) was promoted to RQMS on the 1st August 2014 in UNIFIL, to mark the occasion, members of the 45 Inf Gp, UNIFIL held a special promotion parade in his honour. He was presented with his new rank markings by Lt Col Kevin Campion, OC 45 Inf Gp. *Photo: Lt Tom Mullarkey, PIO 45 Inf Gp*

Also pictured are members of 44th Inf Gp, UNDOF, who were promoted in the mission area in June 2014. Pictured (l/r): CQMS Tommy Campbell, Coy Sgt Liam Dunne, CQMS Adrian Kilroy and Sgt Brian Reid. *Photo: Sgt Diarmuid O'Dwyer, UNDOF*



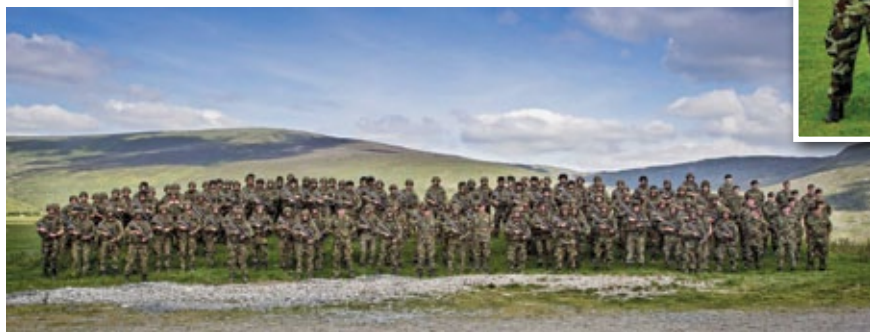
DF DUATHLON ▲

Pictured are the 3 Inf Bn Duathlon team that competed in this year's DF Duathlon in Baldonnel on 14th July. From L/R: Pte T Carew, Pte I Dunne, Sgt D O'Flaherty, Comdt D O'Shaughnessy and 2/Lt T Bell. *Photo: Comdt David O'Shaughnessy, 3 Inf Bn*



LAST SHOOT ▲

Two RQMSs from 2 AR (1 PDF & 1 RDF) with over 80-years-service between them fired their last round in the Glen of Imaal recently. Pictured (L/R): BQMS Olly Mahedy, RSM Eugene Stenson (RDF), RQMS Liam Rushe (RDF), RSM Noel O'Callaghan, Lt Col John McCrann (OC 2 AR), Col Seamus McDermott, BQMS Martin Clabby and RQMS Gerry Monaghan. *Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan*



2 BDE ENGR GROUP ▲

Pictured are members of 2 Bde Engr Group on their Corps Concentration Camp in the Glen of Imaal, Co Wicklow in June 2014. *Photo: Sgt Ken Duke, 2 Bde Engr Gp*

World War One Celebrations & In Memory



ST. ANNE'S CATHEDRAL, BELFAST

Pictured at the 100th year celebrations of WWI held on 4th August in St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast are (l/r): Kevin McCormack, Peter Robinson (First Minister MLA), Kieran Flynn, Moira McCormack, Finbar Rush, Jeffrey Donaldson MP and Andrew Rush members of the Irish UN Living History and Irish Military Vehicles Groups. Photo: Kevin McCormack



CHAMPS ÉLYSÉES, FRANCE

Pictured is the Irish DF delegation with their German and British compatriots who travelled to France for this year's 14th July Parade commemorating the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI. The parade saw 69 countries involved in the war marching down the Champs Élysées. Photo: Capt Stephen Mac Eoin



THE SOMME

Pictured on 1st July 2014 a wreath laying ceremony in memory of the Battle of the Somme at the 16th Irish Division memorial in Guillemont, France. Members of the Roger Casement Br ONet (Baldonnell), Brig Gen Murray Piggott, the Irish Ambassador, the NI secretary and Irish dignitaries were also in attendance. Photo: Armn Michael Whelan - Air Corps Museum



OGL/UNTSO

Pictured is Comdt Kevin Mc Donald at the OGL memorial service held on 25th July 2014 in Naqura, Lebanon held to remember UNTSO personnel who had died in service, including Comdt Mick Nestor who was killed by a land mine in 1982 and four friends of his who were killed in Patrol Base Khiam when he was last with UNTSO in 2006. Photo: Comdt Kevin Mc Donald, UNTSO



KOREAN WAR REMEMBERED

Members of the Lower Ormonde Br (Ne-nagh) ONet with his Excellency Mr Hae-yun Park, Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea, who unveiled a memorial to honour Irishmen who died in the Korean War on 25th June in Thurles, Co Tipperary. Pictured (l/r): S Lawlor (Chairman), T O'Neill (Treasurer), T Canning (Secretary), Mr Noel Coonan TD, His Excellency Mr Hae-yun Park, J Bourke, T Whelan and PJ Bourke. Photo: Seamus Lawlor



'LÁ NA BHFIANN'

Many groups were pictured at the Comdr George Crosbie Br ONet 'Lá na bhFiann' (Warriors Day), held in Haulbowline Naval Base, Cobh, Cork, 13th July 2014. After the

opening address and prayers by Capt Dave Barry and NS Chaplain, Rev Fr Des Campion, a minutes silence was observed, this was signalled by the traditional Naval Salute, the 'Still' and 'Carry-on', this was sounded on the 'Bosun's Pipe' by Larry Keating of the host branch. Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS PRO SAC of ONE



NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

Pictured are members of 2 Arty Regt, Custume Bks, Athlone who provided the first ceremonial 'minute' gun at the National Day of Commemoration, Kilmainham Hospital, on Sunday 13th July 2014. Photo (l/r): Capt Mick Kingston, Cpl David Byrne, Sgt Gerry Coyne, Gnrs Teri O'Hanlon, Alan O'Neill and Darren Garry. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan



CROSS OF SACRIFICE, DUBLIN

The dedication of the Cross Of Sacrifice - an Irish limestone cruciform structure to commemorate all those that died in WWI, was erected in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin on the 31st July 2014 by President Michael D Higgins and the President of the Commonwealth Graves Commission the Duke of Kent Prince Edward. Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan (PR Br, DFHQ)



COMBINED REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION PARADE, LONDON

The Combined Regiments Association held its Annual Commemorative Parade and Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in London, on Sunday 15th June 2014. As one of the invited inspecting officers, Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (retd), Chairman of the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust (Ltd), laid a wreath at the Cenotaph and addressed the Parade. Photo: Malcolm McNally (irishpost.co.uk)

IUNVA's SILVER JUBILEE

BY GEORGE KERWIN IUNVA PRO PHOTOS BY TONY KINSELLA

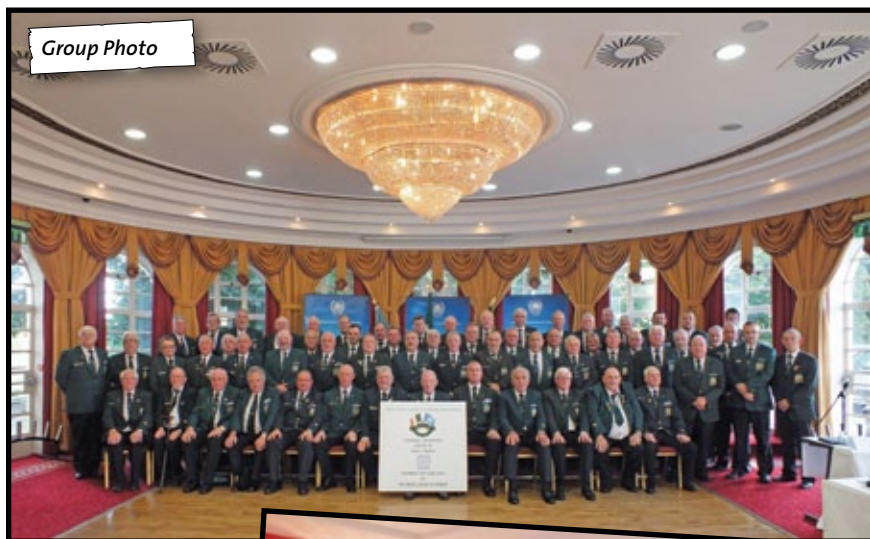
On Saturday 28th June IUNVA celebrated its Silver Jubilee in the Lucan Spa Hotel, Co Dublin hosted by Post 1, Dublin. The AGM was held in the hotel at which Brig Gen Michael Beary (GOC 2 Bde) delivered the opening address. On his arrival at the hotel General Beary was welcomed by the President of IUNVA Maj Gen Vincent Savino (retd). He then inspected a guard made up of the delegates representing the twenty-one IUNVA Posts throughout the country.

In his address General Beary congratulated IUNVA on reaching its silver jubilee. He said it was his honour and privilege to address an organisation that achieved so much in ensuring that the outstanding record of members of the Defence Forces in service with the United Nations would never be forgotten. Later that evening with the work of the convention completed, IUNVA members were joined by their partners for a wonderful meal. As they arrived in the banquet hall each lady was presented with a rose the official name of which is the Peace Keepers Rose. At the end of the meal the birthday cake was marched in led by piper Sgt Antony Byrne.

After the toast to IUNVA all members were presented with a special commemorative badge to mark the occasion, and then it was on with the music and a display of slick footwork that belied the

years of the young veterans. It was

an occasion when a late night pass was a must. ■



Group Photo



Pictured (l/r): Noel O'Neill Hon Treasurer Post 1, Maj Gen Vincent Savino (Retd) Nat President IUNVA, GOC 2nd Brigade Brig Gen Michael Beary, Dan Garland Nat Secretary IUNVA, William Gilbert Nat Vice President IUNVA.



MEMBERS OF IUNVA POST 27 CLEAN UP

Laois retired soldiers were again doing service for their country last week, when they enlisted to help Portlaoise tidy towns. Members of IUNVA post 27 Portlaoise engaged once more, but this time the battle was the cleaning up of the river Triogue in Portlaoise. The river was cleaned up by Fred O'Reilly, Paddy Harding, Walter Tobin and Richard O'Neill. *Photos: Alberto Candeias Post 27*

MILITARY MEDIA Round Up

MILITARY MEDIA Round Up

MILITARY MEDIA Round Up



"More than 1,000 personnel... have taken part in a huge parade in Germany to mark the renaming of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division to 1st (United Kingdom) Division... It signified the start of the division's departure from its Herford base after more than 50 years in the country."

Soldier August 2014

"The real promise going forward, as the Zumwalt class is both experimental and limited to only three ships, is the electromagnetic railgun (EMRG)... the EMRG relies on massive amounts of electrical force... some 64 mega-joules of energy will be available to propel a 40-pound kinetic energy round at Mach seven out to 200 or more nautical miles."

Proceedings, August 2014.

Picture: www.digitaltrends.com



"More details have emerged on the MoD review of the ban on women serving in front-line combat roles. The study, which is due to be completed by the end of this year, will look at whether females could join the Royal Marines, Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps, Household Cavalry and RAF Regiment."

Soldier, August 2014

"The current approach is apparently to deter China with the Air-Sea Battle concept... The proposed military-technical solution is to develop the offensive strike and cyber capabilities to destroy China's sensor, command and missile systems to 'break the kill chain' by striking hundreds of targets on the mainland."

Joint Force Quarterly, Issue 74, 2014

"Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki has described his country's need for helicopters as extremely urgent as it faces threat from radical Sunni Islamists during its transition to democracy. Tunisia's security forces are currently trying to suppress militants operating in remote and mountainous areas along the Algerian border; at least 17 soldiers were killed in July."

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, Issue 33, August 2014



"The cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on 1 July approved changes to its interpretation of the war-renouncing constitution to enable the Japan Self-Defense Forces to exercise the right to collective self-defence. The decision marks a major change in Japan's post-war security policy, which was almost unique for its constitutional commitment to pacifism."

IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, Issue 28, July 2014. Picture: AFP PHOTO / Yoshikazu TSUNO

"Vectronix and Safran-owned Sagem have combined their knowledge to design Moskito TI, a new multifunction, handheld device... The design incorporates eight essential features... a wide field of view thermal imager, imager for day/night identification, direct view optics, digital magnetic compass, inclinometer, global navigation satellite system, laser range finder. These functions are matched to each other and optimised for close and medium-range day/night viewing, measuring and geolocation up to 10,000 metres... with digital and video processing capabilities."

Military Technology, Issue 7, 2014. Picture: www.miltechmag.com



"Operation Corona mainly targets illegal crossing points at undesignated or gazzetted ports of entry, cross-border transgressors, smuggled goods, rhino poaching, stock theft and human trafficking... since Operation Corona was unveiled a year ago, there have been numerous successes as the cross-border transgressors have been channelled to ports of entry."

South African Soldier, Vol 21, No.2

"Exercise Merlin Warrior is an annual military skills competition set over one weekend which tests teams from 15 Brigade's Army Reserve Units. Teams compete over 12 stands with tasks based on the Military Annual Training Tests each soldier must undertake to qualify for their Certificate of Efficiency (and receive their training bounty). The weekend consisted of an 11 stand round robin, incorporating infantry bridge crossing, river crossing, search, media, anti-ambush, medical, IED, recovery OBUA, night activities and concluding with a march and shoot."

The Craftsman, Magazine of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, July 2014



"Conducting the Army's first large-scale joint force entry air assault in more than 11 years, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), ascended into the night to confront a hostile, mobile threat. Equipped with handheld smartphone-like devices, advanced radios, chat messaging, mission command software and other communications gear connected to the Army's tactical network, the brigade executed the assault mission as just one part of its training at the Joint Readiness Training Center, known as JRTC. In less than 28 hours, the unit quickly shifted focus to an advise-and-assist exercise, in preparation for the brigade's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan."

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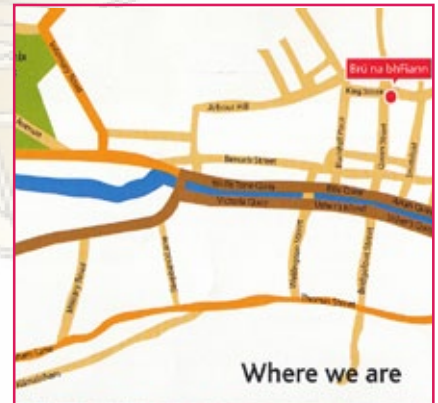
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DF Medics' Silver Standard

BY LT AOIFE SHANLEY, 3 INF BN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UK MOD AND DF STUDENTS

Ex 'Arduous Serpent', the British army's annual medical services tactical training competition took place in June 2014. The aim of the exercise is to provide a competitive format for "the demonstration of the leadership, command, control, military and medical special-to-arm skills required to succeed in the current and contingent operational environments." Eleven Defence Forces personnel, a team of ten and a coach, travelled to the Catterick military training area to participate in the event. This was an invaluable opportunity for members of the Medical Corps to gain a greater understanding of how their UK counterparts operate and to compare tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs).

The competition comprised 20 teams of ten, drawn from both regular and reserve units. Teams were required to have both males and females, and could not include more than three non-medical personnel.

The Defence Forces team comprised Capt Cathal Berry (DFTC HQ), Capt Cormac Brady (DFHQ CMU), Lt Lisa McMahon (Cdt Sch, DFTC), Lt Aoife Shanley (3 Inf Bn), Cpl Dominic Dempsey (2 LSB CMU), Cpl Philip Greene (CMU HQ), Cpl James Condon (2 LBH), Cpl Coran O'Reilly (1 Bde CMU), Cpl Des Kennedy (CMU), Pte Adam Boland (LBH), along with our team coach Coy Sgt David O'Connor (2 LSB CMU).

Although the Defence Forces were the only international team involved we were well prepared as having taken part previously, in 2012, had allowed us to develop a very worthwhile pre-deployment training programme. Numerous DFTC schools and external units were involved in the programme and their instruction proved invaluable throughout all stages of the competition. These included the Med Sch (medical skills); the Ord Sch (vehicle search, C-IED and other skills); the Engr Sch (mine awareness and CBRN drills); the Air Corps (heli landing-site marshalling); the DFPES (obstacle courses); and the DBO (tent erection).

Team members also worked on their personal fitness and basic military skills including: patrol drills, fieldcraft, care under fire, and casevac drills. Range practices were also carried out in Kilcoran with the Steyr, using the new ACOG (Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight).

We were aware of the high standard set by the previous Defence Forces team in 2012, who had finished 3rd of the regular units and 8th overall, and we were determined to represent the Defence Forces in a professional, highly motivated and proficient manner.

Phase 1 of the exercise dealt with reception, staging and onward integration. This included a kit inspection and exercise and safety briefings. Failure to have kit and equipment as per the warning order would result in teams being penalised. Once we had completed this phase, and passed without any penalties, we were deployed on the ground by TCV into one of three large multi-team patrol harbours. Other teams arrived throughout the evening as they completed Phase 1. Team captains were briefed that night back in barracks and grid references for the following



day's stands were issued. On their return to the patrol harbours the captains briefed their teams.

Phase 2 began at first light the next morning, with each team navigating to the grid reference they had received. All movement had to be conducted in accordance with the tactical situation and timelines strictly adhered to. We had been briefed that teams would be assessed on their patrolling proficiency and would be observed both covertly and overtly throughout the exercise. Each team navigates routes of approximately 20km on foot, completing tasks at ten stands along the way. Each task consisted of an independent 45-minute exercise in which teams were assessed on a broad range of scenarios designed to test basic soldiering and medical skills, and the team captains' leadership skills. An additional element of competition was introduced by having two teams arriving at each stand at the same time.

Scenarios included the occupation of a Role 1 medical facility and management of a casualty; handover and treatment of captured persons; dealing with a road traffic collision, incorporating the delivery of medical treatment while under small-arms fire; locating casualties in a CBRN environment while wearing Dress Cat



4; the treatment and evacuation of a friendly-forces casualty to a suitable heli landing site; a C-IED incident; carrying out a combat estimate and recce of a suitable site for a Role 1 medical facility; camouflaging a Role 1 hospital and marking a heli landing site for a Chinook; and a section-in-attack where the team was tasked with collecting casualties left behind after a friendly-forces advance, with orders to take out any isolated enemy positions that may have been missed.

For Phase 3 the teams were transported back to Catterick Bks for a march-and-shoot competition in which each team was split into two fire teams; Charlie Fire Team underwent a 2km timed battle march, followed immediately by a falling plates shoot, while Delta Fire Team carried out a timed battle PT session involving stretcher carries, log runs and a combat run.

Scores and points from all three phases were correlated, with the top five to compete in the grand finale, an 'It's a Knockout' challenge. To our delight the Defence Forces team made it to the final event, having finished as the second highest scoring team!

This site for the deciding event was filled with spectators. The energy in the air was palpable and the atmosphere was

electric. For the final challenge the teams competed against one another in another timed battle PT session involving fireman's lifts, stretcher carries and paintball shooting, in order to determine the final order of merit. Teams received a time advantage relative to their positions after the end of Phase 3, with the highest scoring team setting out first followed 30 seconds later by the Defence Forces team and the remaining three teams at further 30-second intervals.

The spectators roared encouragement and cheered the five competing finalists throughout the challenge. Teamwork was essential in carrying out the tasks and also after the battle PT circuit was completed there was a final sprint to the finish line, which all members of the team had to cross before their time was stopped.

At the end of the event we had managed to hold on to our second place and we received tremendous applause as we mounted the podium at the prize-giving ceremony. We held our podium position and placed second overall. As well as receiving a perpetual trophy for second place, the Defence Forces team also received the Best Officer award. These accolades are testament to the professionalism, competency and demeanour of the team, which acted as a composed and cohesive unit throughout.

During the exercise, we made a number of observations about our counterparts. The most important was that it was almost impossible to differentiate between their regular and reserve personnel on the exercise. Both groups appeared to work seamlessly together and the single-force concept appears to work very well for the Royal Army Medical Corps, with many of their teams comprising doctors, nurses, dentists and paramedics from the NHS, who operated very competently throughout the tactical scenarios they faced.

Exercise 'Arduous Serpent' was an immensely worthwhile experience from which our personnel have benefitted substantially. It afforded the opportunity to develop and hone skill sets and exposed the Defence Forces to different methods of operation, as well as providing us with a platform to affirm the high standard of instruction and training in the Defence Forces.

The success that we achieved was a consequence of the superb instruction and preparation that was conducted prior to the exercise, and we are very grateful to all those concerned. Involvement in this major training exercise provides a beneficial and rewarding opportunity for the Medical Corps and I'm sure our continued participation in the future will prove to be of great value. ■



NEW VESSELS FOR NAVAL SERVICE

BY LT CDR TONY O'LEARY
PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN &
A/SEAMAN DAVID JONES



The Naval Service, as the maritime element of the Defence Forces, is the state's principle sea-going agency. As an island nation, 99% of our trade is transported by sea. To exercise and uphold the state's sovereignty and obligations, the Naval Service patrols Ireland's 220 million maritime acres, an area 12 times larger than the island of Ireland.

Due to the age profile of the current fleet (six of the eight vessels are over 30 years old) and to fulfil the roles assigned by government, approval was given in 2007 to initiate a tender competition to purchase two new off-shore patrol vessels (OPVs), with an option to purchase a third such vessel (government recently confirmed that this option will be exercised).

Following this decision, a new vessel project team comprised of subject matter experts from all branches of the Naval Service was established. After developing a detailed concept-of-operations for the vessel, a comprehensive specification running to some 400 pages, was written and issued to prospective candidates as part of the invitation-to-tender process. This process culminated in 2010 with the signing of a contract with Babcock Marine for the provision of two gom OPVs. The vessels were to be built in Appledore Shipyard in Devon to a proven hull design produced by STX Marine (Canada). The new OPVs, although similar in appearance to LÉ Roisín, will feature a number of substantial improvements to the tried and tested long-range patrol vessel (LPV) class used by the Naval Service since 1999.

Following an in-depth analysis of prevailing and predicted weather patterns in the Naval Service's area of operations it was decided to lengthen the vessels by approximately 10m to an overall length of 90m and increase displacement to approximately 2,000 tonnes. This will improve overall operational effectiveness, efficiency, durability and overall crew comfort.

The new vessels are to be longitudinally framed rather than the transverse framing used in the previous class. This will have

the effect of strengthening the vessels and making them more resistant to the structural damage associated with operating in the heavy North Atlantic seas.

Another first for the Naval Service is the inclusion of passive roll-reduction tanks in addition to the active fin-stabilisation system fitted to previous vessels. These passively controlled U-shaped tanks will reduce the ships' roll profile at low speed (below 10kts), which will allow for safer launch and recovery of the ships' rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs).

A new propulsion system, allowing for speeds of 23kts, is provided by two medium-speed, Wartsila engines capable of developing 5,400Kw each via reduction gearboxes and two five-bladed, controllable-pitch propellers. The vessels are also capable of low-speed operation (approximately 8kts) through a power take-in electric motor driven from the ships' electrical alternators, and connected to both shaft lines via a dedicated clutching system. This option will improve fuel efficiency, reduce main engine maintenance and enhance the vessels' 'green' profile and carbon footprint.

Another change is in the introduction of dynamic positioning, a computer-controlled system that will automatically maintain heading or position by utilising the ships' 450Kw Bowthruster main engines and two independently controlled rudders. This system will greatly assist navigational watch-keepers in operations involving remotely-operated underwater vehicles, and operations involving unmanned aerial vehicles.

On the bridge, a completely integrated mission system suite is being added, comprising an integrated navigation bridge system; internal and external communications outfit; and an electro-optical surveillance/gunfire control system, which provides control and prediction for the Oto Melara 76mm main armament in the surface- and air-engagement role. Access to engine room monitoring and alarm system and the ships' extensive CCTV system

is also available from the bridge, which will aid damage control and fire-fighting ops. Other new bridge equipment includes a 3-D echo sounder, which allows for limited seabed mapping; a voyage data recorder; a Raytheon Mins 4000 laser gyro-compass; and an extensive array of direction-finding equipment.

Containers - The after deck has been redesigned and enlarged to enable deployment of three 20ft ISO standard containers. Power supplies are provided for standard, refrigeration or specialised Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) containers depending on mission profile. Independent movement of containers is

representative/ project manager Lieutenant Commander Tony O'Leary followed some months later by Lieutenant Donncha O'Brien, designated Marine Engineering Officer (MEO) for Vessel 1. Both Officers were fully integrated with the Babcock design and production team and were tasked with scrutinising every aspect of vessel build so as to ensure value for money and a high quality end product built to specific ship class requirements (Lloyds Special Service Craft).

LÉ Samuel Beckett arrived home to Ireland in April 2014 and was commissioned into the Naval Service on 17th May. The



possible utilising vessels hydraulic crane rated to lift 5 tonne at maximum extension.

RIBs - Vessels will carry two MST 8m inboard diesel RIBs and also be fitted with a cradle above the after deck for a third RIB. RIBs will be deployed from single point davits and will be capable of operating at speeds of up to 30 knots in moderate sea conditions. These RIBs are a variant of those in operation with the Dutch Marines and are capable of tactical "over-the-horizon" operations for force protection, identification, surveillance and interception operations.

Accommodation - The vessel has been designed for a complement of 54 personnel + 1 VIP (44 Crew and 10 trainees). Officers and senior NCOs will have single berths, with double berths for Junior Ratings, and two four berth cabins for trainees. Two gymnasiums containing a range of commercial fitness equipment and an internet room are provided for use by ships crews.

Medical Facilities - The vessels will be provided with sick bays fitted out to provide primary medical care, resuscitation, stabilisation and holding capability for two persons for both own-crew needs and Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations. The sick bays will also be fitted with equipment to allow for a Tele Medicine Communications Link to land via Ku Band satellite communications system.

Mast - Vessels will be fitted with a newly designed steel mast allowing for internal access to Radar platforms and yardarms. New variant masts have been designed to allow for the fitting of further equipment at a future date as newer, more improved technology is developed.

Construction of the first of the new vessels began in December 2011, with the keel being laid on the 18th May 2012 by Commodore Mark Mellett, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Service. The keel laying ceremony was attended by senior representatives of the Naval Service and the Department of Defence, as well as Naval Service members involved in the project. This date also marked the arrival on site of the Naval Service permanent on-site

commissioning ceremony was held at Sir John Rogerson's Quay with the spectacular Samuel Beckett Bridge in the background. In attendance were An Taoiseach and then Minister for Defence Mr Enda Kenny TD and the niece of Samuel Beckett Ms Caroline Murphy. Following this event the Lord Mayor of Cork City Mary Shields welcomed LÉ Samuel Beckett to Cork City for the official twinning ceremony. The ship is now fully operational and has completed her first patrol protecting Ireland's maritime jurisdiction.

The cutting of steel for the second vessel commenced in March 2013, with the modular unit construction on-going. Forecast delivery date for Vessel 2 (LÉ James Joyce) is March 2015 and it is anticipated Vessel 3 will be delivered early in 2016. ■

The LÉ before the ships names means Long Éireannach or Irish Ship.



The commissioning ceremony for LÉ Samuel Beckett at Sir John Rogerson's Quay with An Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny TD, reviewing a guard of honour drawn from the Naval Service on May 17th.





Enhancing Force-Protection

BY CAPT DIARMUID O'FLYNN, GP ASST OPS OFFR ISTAR TF HQ

Since 2008 the Defence Forces has been developing its C-IED capability through enhanced ground-sign awareness and situational awareness training and the introduction of new courses, such as the C-IED Instructors course. The latest development came with the running of the first Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) course in the Ordnance School, DFTC, in April. The three-week course, which was attended by 20 students, was aimed at C-IED instructors, military police, and operational EOD personnel.

The objective of the WIT course is to develop a capability to respond efficiently to incidents involving the use of IEDs, and train personnel to provide tactical, technical and forensic intelligence at an attack site. It is designed to provide students with the knowledge required to work as part of a team to conduct post-blast scene examination, to recover evidence, and to use the evidence to provide analysis of terrorist/insurgent methodology. The course ensures that the student is able to conduct Level 1 WIT tasks as a component of counter-insurgency/ C-IED operations and to support the protection of deployed forces and the civilian population.

C-IED training coupled with this WIT capability will assist in defeating or countering IEDs used by subversive, which translates into a reduction in casualties and collateral damage.

Subject matter on the course included recognition of the component parts of an IED; recognition of munitions; types of explosives used and their characteristics; basic electronics; photography; blast effects; current terrorist methods; forensic recovery equipment and its use; forensic recovery and documentation; collection of evidence; and the WIT process. The student is also trained in how best to obtain information from a scene through observations and questioning of witnesses.

A weapons intelligence team consists of four members: team leader, scribe, photographer and evidence gatherer. The role of the team leader is to gather as much information as possible from a scene using the team members' various skills. Having a WIT team with varying backgrounds helps to view a scene from multiple perspectives and prevents the kind of tunnel vision that can lead to missing a key piece of information.

While a civilian police team may get hours to investigate a crime scene, the WIT team, due to the dangers of the operational environment, may be very restricted for time. Therefore, it is essential that WIT teams are highly trained, enabling them to gather as much evidence as possible from a scene in as little time as possible. Once collected, the evidence can be passed on to laboratories for more complex investigation, including DNA testing and fingerprint analysis.

IEDs are a major threat to peacekeepers all over the world. For example, they have caused nearly 70% of the casualties to ISAF forces in Afghanistan, which is why most modern armies, including the Defence Forces, have made C-IED training a priority.

Devices come in a variety of different forms including command IEDs, radio controlled IEDs and victim operated IEDs. The type of IED used, its parts, and the way it has been assembled can all prove vital in the effort to trace those responsible for planting the device.

The use of IEDs requires an entire network of bomb-makers, emplacements, financiers and recruiters. If this network can be disrupted then the IED threat can be reduced. One of the ways to attack the network is to gather evidence and intelligence at the site of an IED.

There are two aspects to WIT, tactical and technical.



Students and instructors of the first WIT course



Tactically in the event of an IED attack we must analyse why it happened; why were our personnel targeted; what mistakes did our forces make; and what changes can be made to our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) to reduce future threats. The technical side of the investigation looks at what evidence we can gather from the scene; what type of device was used; and what forensic evidence might assist us in a court of law.

The final week of the course included Exercise 'Sand Box' in which the students were exercised in all of the roles within a WIT. The students were run through a series of realistic scenarios that required them to analyse a scene, interview on-scene commanders and witnesses, draw conclusions on the nature of the device, collect evidence, and take on-scene photos. The overall exercise scenario was based on the ISAF mission where the IED threat is very high.

The training culminated in the Glen of Imaal where a number of explosions were set off to simulate vehicle borne, suicide borne, victim operated, command, and radio controlled IEDs. Operating as five WITs, the students were deployed to liaise with the ICP commander, EOD officer, patrol commander, and any other witnesses, again creating realistic scenarios for them to investigate: gathering intelligence, submitting reports, and presenting findings to the commander.

The first WIT course was fortunate to have the presence of Maj Jose Chamorro, the lead for WIT in the NATO/PfP C-IED Centre of Excellence in Madrid. His knowledge and expertise was welcomed by all of the students as he got heavily involved, providing excellent feedback on all of the student presentations.

The WIT course is a very important one for the Defence Forces because it means we are going beyond the simple reactive mode by developing a deeper level of intelligence and device analysis capability, thus providing our commanders with a clearer picture of the operational environment. Through this analysis we begin to understand the enemy's TTPs, resulting in better force protection.

WITs operating around the world have uncovered and captured weapons caches, denying the enemy access to munitions. In addition, they have also made hundreds of positive identifications of bomb-makers and facilitators, thereby helping to get these individuals off the streets. ■

LT RONAN LAMBE, 7 INF BN

"Applying for the WIT course was a natural progression for me, having completed the C-IED Instructor course in 2010. I found the skills brought to each syndicate by the MPs, ordnance and infantry personnel complemented each other very well. The skills I gained on the course were garnered not only from the instruction but from operating in exercise environments with fellow syndicate members. It was an enjoyable course that highlighted the interoperability of the various corps. I believe the course will enhance the standard of C-IED instruction in the Defence Forces as all the C-IED instructors who do the course will be able to pass on their knowledge to make the soldier on the ground more forensically aware when operating in an IED environment."

SGT CONOR KELLEHER, 1 FD CIS COY

"A WIT qualification brings greater awareness of the bigger C-IED picture as WITs are an important part of the process of gathering relevant information, intelligence and evidence to counter IED networks at all levels. It is also a qualification that could fill specific vacancies on overseas missions. The practical part of going to a scene as a member of a WIT, gathering as much information and evidence as possible, and then seeing the reports and presentation the team would produce was very satisfying."

✓ox Pops

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

In February 2000 heavy rainfall in Mozambique caused enormous flooding, with water rising to 12ft in many places. International aid was urgently needed to help the country and its people. At the time the Irish aid agency GOAL had personnel based in Mozambique and nearby in South Sudan, dealing with displaced persons as a result of civil war, which meant they could get people in on the ground as soon as the floods happened. However, the agency required more people to deal with the situation in Mozambique. They also needed people who could hit the ground running and accordingly turned to the Defence Forces to look for volunteers as many, if not most, Irish soldiers have developed valuable skills while serving at home and, particularly, overseas.

An Cosantóir met up with former members of the Defence Forces who volunteered for secondment to GOAL to help out with the humanitarian crisis in Mozambique. Sgt Noel Tuohy (ret'd) was serving with Gormanston Camp Coy when he answered the GOAL advertisement. He was selected and told to report for a briefing at GOAL HQ in Dun Laoghaire, where he met another fellow DF volunteer, Sgt Ronnie Palmer (ret'd), who was serving in the Air Corps as Base Provost Sgt when he got the 'Do you want to go to Mozambique?' call.

Mozambican family stranded on a small island on the flooded banks of the Save river in February 2000.

Sgt Ronnie Palmer instructing in Baldonnel (circa 1990s).





Sgts ret'd Ronnie Palmer and Noel Tuohy in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Bks, Dublin. Photo by Cpl Paul Millar (PR Br)



Marracuene food distribution



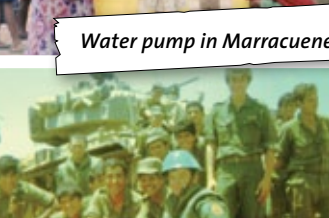
Goal storage containers at Magoanine Barios



Local market outskirts of Maputo



Water pump in Marracuene



Pte Noel Tuohy (blue helmet) in June 1978 (aged 18), with A Coy, 43 Inf Bn, the first Irish unit to serve with UNIFIL in South Lebanon pictured with IDF soldiers during the handover.

After meeting with GOAL's then national director, John O'Shea, the two lads underwent two weeks of personality assessments, interviews and briefs by Maura Lennon (GOAL) who later joined them in Mozambique. They received numerous injections and inoculations before they set off.

Despite plenty of overseas experience both men found it difficult to acclimatise at first. While the working day was from 6am-6pm (daylight hours) Noel says "you also worked when it needed to be done".

On the ground there was a small team of seven ex-pat aid workers and about 70 local staff, spread throughout a number of different locations, feeding around 75,000 people every 14 days, in partnership with the UN agency World Food Programme (WFP), as well as in Maputo providing shelter materials or family kits, which contained canvas for shelter and a paraffin cooker. As Noel was based in the capital, Maputo, while Ronnie was in Chokwe, a distance of approx 250km the two NCOs kept in contact by mobile phone.

While both of the lads had been sent as logisticians initially they quickly had to become 'jack-of-all-trades'. They also became familiar with each other's jobs so that they were able to cover for each other whenever the need arose.

Noel remembers Mozambique as being a very dangerous place at the time. It was also a severe place for malaria, and some NGO staff had died working in the country.

GOAL's main focus was on health and food aid (which included maize, rice, sugar and cooking oil). In Maputo the agency provided a food-for-work programme, HIV clinics, a street children project, and a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programme. In Chokwe Goal also engaged in school rehabilitation projects.

One example of GOAL's WASH programme was the construction of concrete covers for latrines for people outside the capital who mainly lived in huts without plumbing.

Noel told us: "We bought a second hand mini-bus so the children from the street children project could be brought to the seaside, which was their first time ever! What we did then was similar to

today's CIMIC (civil-military co-operation); we could go to remote villages and assess schools, water, latrines, food distribution, etc, to see what aid we could provide and what their priority was.

"GOAL operates on a best-bang-for-your-buck policy, and even when purchasing the simplest things, like ten buckets, we would have to get three quotes and barter for the best price; treating it as if it was our own money so as not to be wasteful."

One thing the two men found out was that they were the start, middle and end of most projects, and so success or failure stopped with them. That's a tough challenge, even for experienced members of the DF, but one they took to all the same.

Noel hired locals to load the food onto the trucks in the port and then deliver the food aid to its destination. Finding out exactly how much food aid was arriving in port was important in order to make sure it was all accounted for and distributed. Ronnie says: "Sadly, like most countries after a civil war or natural disaster there were some unscrupulous people who would try to make a profit by dubious means – we had to be aware of that!"

"On one occasion food tickets were stolen, leading to a food riot as frantic people thought they weren't going to be fed. For our own safety we had to drop everything off the truck and go. However, GOAL's name is its bond so we had to act quickly to preserve the agency's reputation. We arranged an urgent meeting with the village chiefs/elders to identify and expel the culprits who had stolen the tickets. This quick action helped to rebuild our relationship with the locals and regain their trust."

There were also many good times. "We would drive to Nelspruit in South Africa for vehicle parts," Noel says. "While on these runs we would purchase skipping ropes and balls out of our per diem (a daily personal allowance for expenses) to bring back to the kids. We would let the air out of the balls and sit on them in order to hide them as we went back across the border so we wouldn't have to pay a tax or bribe the border guards!"

Ronnie added: "A lot of schools and other projects were built or repaired under GOAL. Although we didn't get to see many of them finished, we left the villages in a better condition than we found them."

"We don't think we did anything special: we just gave the people what was theirs. It was their aid, we just acted as brokers – and we were trusted by them to do this fairly."

The mission in Mozambique is just one example of the countless humanitarian activities carried out by units and individuals from the Defence Forces over the years at home and abroad; activities that have been, and continue to be, the hallmark of Irish peacekeeping units serving with the UN throughout the world.

Noel Tuohy served 31 years in the Defence Forces (1977 to 2008) with 27 Inf Bn and Gormonston Camp Coy. He served on four trips to Lebanon with 43, 55, 61 and 70 Inf Bns. He also served in East Timor, Eritrea and Liberia. He now drives for a private bus company.

Ronnie Palmer served 28 years (1976 to 2004) with 2 Inf Bn and the Air Corps. He served overseas twice with 9 Ir Comp and 76 Inf Bn in Lebanon. After leaving the DF he worked for a telecoms company as a safety training and logistics manager. He has since set up his own company providing work at height safety training to the telecoms industry as a result of his Defence Forces' CTI and rock-climbing experience and training. ■



THROUGH *the* LENS

BY CAPT ANDY BRADY,
2I/C MP SCH, DFTC &
CAPT DECLAN BARRETT,
INFO OFFICER, PR BR
**PHOTOS BY COURSE
STUDENTS**

One of the main objectives of Public Relations Branch is to portray the Defence Forces in the best possible light and to achieve this objective a key weapon at our disposal is the trained photographer - where the adage of a picture painting a thousand words has never been more appropriate. To meet a pressing requirement to provide qualified, formation-based photographers throughout the Defence Forces, PR Branch, in conjunction with the MP School, conducted the inaugural PR Photography course in the DFTC. Twelve students attended the course of intensive instruction, which ran for two weeks in July.

As the first course of its kind it presented inherent challenges, as the skill set of the PR photographer is different to that of other Defence Forces photographers, such as the crime scene or ISTAR photographer.

When faced with designing the syllabus and running the course, PR Branch availed of the experience of the MP School and one of the most qualified photographers in the

Defence Forces, Sgt Mick McGrath (D MP Office), who has a BA in photographic media from Griffith College, Dublin.

The first week of the course consisted mainly of lectures with the second week concentrating on practical activities. Cpl Neville Coughlan (PR Branch) provided invaluable instruction to the course in the area of the tasks of a PR photographer in the Defence Forces. This experience proved hugely beneficial.

An exercise titled 'Last minute.com' was designed to give the students an appreciation and understanding of the multiple tasks that a PR photographer can expect to face on a daily basis, often with the minimum of preparation time available. These tasks range from covering ceremonial events to tactical exercises, and from sporting events to taking photos of new vehicles or equipment. Each task requires a different approach but ultimately must yield the same result; a useable image that portrays the DF in a positive manner.

As a result of the commitment and enthusiasm of the students and instructors, the Defence Forces now has 12 qualified PR photographers who will return to their respective brigades/formations equipped with the knowledge and skill to undertake the various tasks allotted to them by PR Branch and their own press and information officers (PIOs).

If your unit has an upcoming event that it wishes to have photographed you should contact your formation PIO or email info@military.ie. ■





The BAKER'S Dozen

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD
PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE & SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

On 24th June, *An Cosantóir* visited the Glen of Imaal to see how the RDF members of 1 CIS Coy were getting on during the infantry company group exercise, which tests infantry tactics and training including OPs, patrolling, a loaded march and LFTT. The inclusion of the RDF element into 1 CIS is a result of the introduction of the Single-Force concept, with most of the RDF personnel coming from the recently disbanded 34 Inf Bn.

Coy Sgt Darren Foley explained to us that Comdt Ian Travers (OC 1 CIS Coy) was tasked with providing CIS support to this year's exercise, and that he had assessed the RDF element of the company as being up to the tasking due to their earlier participation in Exercise 'Viking' in the Curragh in May.

RDF officers Capt Peter Hayles and Capt Seán Murphy were given a warning order to check which of the company's RDF personnel were available for the exercise.

"Initially we were to deploy with 15 personnel," Coy Sgt Foley told us, "however, sadly one of our signalmen had to return home due to a death in the family and an NCO started a new job.

"With 13 personnel (a baker's dozen) we are operating on a minimum level for this type of exercise considering the amount of hours involved, but RDF personnel have to manage their private and professional commitments with their RDF ones. For example we have two NCOs who are full-time farmers and getting time to attend RDF commitments presents a major challenge; one of them had to hire in staff to manage his dairy farm – at a substantial financial cost to himself."

The RDF element deployed with a self-contained detachment trailer that has enough fuel to power its diesel generator for an initial 72-hour period. There are currently only three RDF drivers qualified to tow the trailer at present, but the unit



CPL MICK CROWLEY

"I am a captain with Stobart Air (formally Air Arran), having recently passed my command upgrade. I have 20 years' RDF service with a two-year break while working abroad. I started with 23 Inf Bn, which became 34 Inf Bn in 2005, and in the last re-org I joined 1 CIS RDF element. I previously worked as a ship's radio operator with BP and as a power generator engineer in civvie street, so I brought my own knowledge and experience to my new unit."



SGMN SEAN 'MAVERICK' MULQUEEN

"In 1987 I was working as a prison officer when I joined 23 Inf Bn. I have always loved orienteering and I've won a number of all-army titles over the years. I previously served with 34 Inf Bn before joining 1 CIS Coy. I've been flying since 1988 and hold both a private helicopter pilot's licence and a commercial fixed-wing licence. In Civvie Street I'm a flight training instructor with Atlantic Flight Training Academy."



SGT KIARAN PHELAN

"I'm a carpenter by trade and have 21 years' service with the RDF. This is the second exercise we have taken part of this year. During Exercise 'Viking' we operated a 'wash station' in the G6 cell, where we electronically cleaned all memory sticks coming into the exercise HQ. It was a large exercise and a great experience for us; this exercise also provides valuable experience, especially working alongside PDF troops."

hopes to get additional drivers trained up later this year.

The trailer is equipped with VHF SINCGARS and HF Harris radio equipment and it can also be used to power laptops that enable use of the Tactical Battlefield Management Systems (TBMS), which provide HF wide-band capability. Coy Sgt Foley explained that the Nordic Battle Group are currently using HF wide-band to send data home through the TBMS and that the RDF element of 1 CIS are the only RDF unit trained in HF wide-band at present.

The CIS detachment was on duty 24/7 from Sunday to Friday, with three teams of four operating four-hours-on and eight-hours-off throughout the week. The only logistical support they needed was fuel for the generator and rations.

Coy Sgt Foley introduced us to his baker's dozen, who hailed from a variety of backgrounds and held a wide range of skills. Team Two, who were on duty when we visited the CIS trailer, consisted of Sgt Mick Fitzgerald, a tillage and livestock farmer; Sgt Denis Kelleher, a dairy farmer who holds a BSc from UCC; Sgt Ian Black, a lecturer with the National Maritime College of Ireland who holds an MA in telecommunications and engineering; and Sgt Tom Williams who has a security industry degree and also a degree in motor mechanics.

Coy Sgt Foley says that at this time last year they couldn't have participated in this exercise, as they spent 2013 training everyone up and testing them as CIS comms operators. The successful participation of many of these RDF personnel in Exercise 'Viking' in May testifies to the success of this training and is a tribute to both the PDF and RDF elements of the company fully buying into the Single-Force concept. ■



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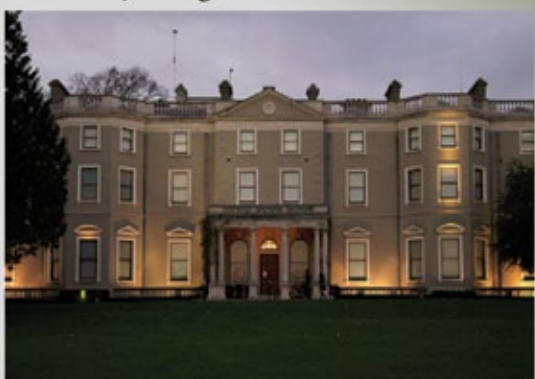
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Hosted by J4 Branch

**Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin
2/3 September 2014**

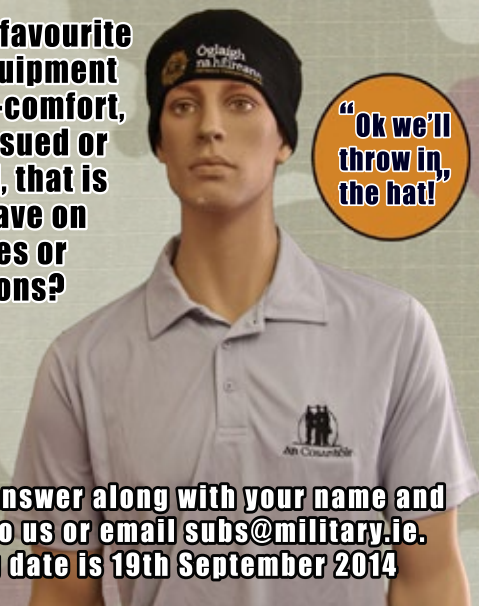
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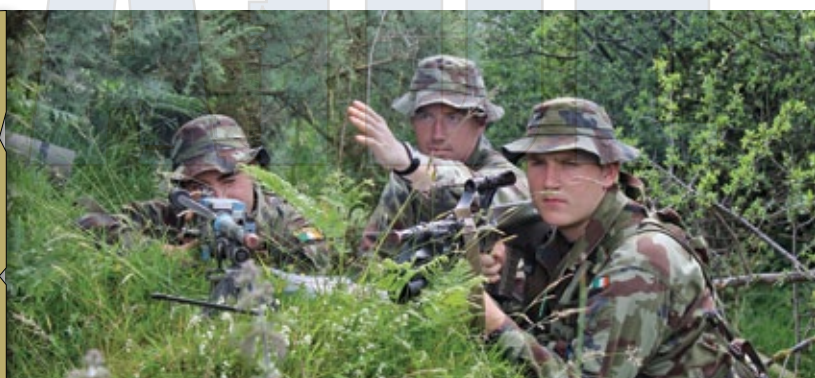


**Post your answer along with your name and address to us or email subs@military.ie.
Closing date is 19th September 2014**



FIELD CRAFT – PART 1

Fieldcraft is an integral part of weapon training and must not be separated from it. Unless the soldier learns marksmanship, technical handling and fieldcraft 'hand-in-hand', their progress towards becoming a proficient battle-shot suffers. Individual fieldcraft training is an excellent way to develop character.



Every soldier must become an expert in fieldcraft. They must be able to by night and day:

- Use their eyes and ears to find the enemy without being seen.
- Always make the best use of ground and cover.
- Estimate distances and ranges accurately.
- Indicate and recognise targets, obey fire control orders and understand fire discipline.
- Move silently with or without weapons, stores or equipment.
- Act aggressively on their own, out of sight and earshot of their comrades.

WHY THINGS ARE SEEN

Explain and demonstrate each in turn whether an object is easy or difficult to see depends upon several factors, the chief of which are:

Shape: Some things can be recognised instantly by their shape, particularly if it contrasts with the surroundings. Easily distinguishing shapes, which require disguise for concealment, are: The shape of a soldier's outline and the smooth round top of a helmet.

Shadow: In sunlight, an object casts a shadow, which gives away its presence. For concealment, keep in the shade if possible. The shade affords cover and there are no tell-tale shadows. Remember that as the sun moves, so does the shadow.

Silhouette: Any object silhouetted against a contrasting background is conspicuous. Smooth, flat backgrounds such as water, a field or, worst of all, the sky should be considered dangerous. An object may be silhouetted if it is against the background of another colour. For concealment, choose an uneven background such as a hedge, bush, trees or broken ground.

Surface: If an object has a surface that contrasts with its surroundings, it is conspicuous. Shiny helmets and white skin contrast violently with most backgrounds and need to be disguised to assist concealment.

Spacing: Natural objects are never regularly spaced. Regular spacing means man-made objects. For concealment, avoid regular spacing.

Movement: The eye is attracted to movement, especially to sudden movement. If movement is essential, it should be slow and cautious.

Aircraft: An upturned face is easily spotted by an airborne observer. To assist concealment when being searched for by spotter aircraft/helicopters, resist the desire to look directly upwards.

VISUAL TRAINING

Position some equipment in the training area in such a way to demonstrate the factors of 'why things are seen'. Be aware of daylight conditions changing and the demonstration losing effect. Position a number of demonstrators to illustrate the factors of 'why things are seen'. Where possible there should be at least two of each item of equipment; one to be used at the section position to explain the factor (shape, shadow, etc.) and the other located in the open at a suitable range to demonstrate it.

Visual training is training to observe coupled with a knowledge of how to conceal. To observe is to see through the enemy's concealment; to conceal is to defeat his observation. Once trained in both, the soldier can locate and kill the enemy without being seen.

The important things are: See without being seen, notice details and learn to understand the meaning of what you see, and make the right deductions.



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



The MEAT GRINDER

BY TERRY MCLOUGHLIN

After the German attempt to implement the Schlieffen Plan stuttered to a halt at the Battle of the Marne the Kaiser's armies withdrew to a line to the north of the River Aisne where they began to dig defensive positions along the Chemin des Dames Ridge, terrain ideally suited to defence.

The pursuing Allies attacked the German lines on September 12th but after initial gains the superiority of modern weaponry employed by sheltered defenders against attacking troops quickly established itself. Heavy shelling and intense machine-gun fire halted the Allied offensive and German counter-attacks soon regained lost ground.

By the 18th of September Allied attacks had dwindled significantly as both sides began manoeuvring to try to turn the other's northern flank, leading to the Race to the Sea, which by October 19th saw the line of defensive positions on both sides stretch all the way to the English Channel. Thus began the era of trench warfare for which the Great War became synonymous in the minds of later generations.

The use of trenches occupied by troops rather than just as an obstacle to slow an enemy advance was becoming increasingly used in conflicts such as the American Civil War (1861-1865) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), mainly in response to the increased lethality of weapons in the industrial age.

Technical innovations such as breech-loading rifles and artillery, machine-guns, new explosives and barbed wire, were all ideally suited to defensive operations and lethal to troops in the open, particularly at a time when troops did not even have metal helmets, which were only introduced in 1915 in response to horrendous number of casualties from head wounds.

In addition, industrial methods of mass production, allied to the vast wealth and access to natural resources of European states, meant armies could be supplied with an almost unlimited supply of weapons and ammunition.

At the same time, hugely increased populations meant that access to manpower for armies was also nearly unlimited, relative to times past. It is estimated that the population of Europe doubled in the 19th Century. In Germany the population rose from 41 million in 1871 to 65 million in 1911 (+58%), while in Great Britain it rose from 17 million in 1850 to 31 million by 1901 (+82%).

The terrible collision that took place in the Great War between unlimited firepower and unlimited manpower combined to produce dreadful carnage.

The early days of the war were even worse in terms of casualties than during the subsequent trench warfare. Huge German and French armies of over 1 million men each, augmented by the smaller, professional British Expeditionary Force, clashed in the open and in the forests of the Ardennes during the Battle of the Frontiers and in the Battle of the Marne, in which casualties are estimated at 500,000 (the heaviest daily toll of any battle of the war).

As both sides dug in following the Race to the Sea the conflict settled into a pattern of offensive and counter-offensive. At the outset the effectiveness of trenches varied from army to army, with the German trenches being regarded as the best, many constructed with concrete, in some cases extending three levels underground.

The French trenches were considered the worst, in most cases being little more than extended shell-scrapes. There were a number of reasons for this: as the Germans were occupying French territory the French were determined to

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maintain an offensive stance rather than a defensive one; French military doctrine to a great extent still assumed the superiority of élan and fighting spirit to carry the day, neither of which they believed would be fostered by establishing permanent defensive positions; some generals believed that if their troops were safe and protected by strong fortifications they wouldn't want to leave them to fight the enemy. British trenches fell somewhere between the two.

As time progressed, both sides extended their trench systems. A typical trench system comprised a front line, fire trench, with a support trench some hundreds of yards to the rear, and a reserve trench further back. The three lines of trenches would be connected by a series of communication trenches, which allowed troops and equipment to pass between them. Masses of barbed wire were placed forward of the fire trench to delay or disrupt an enemy advance across no-man's land, the area between the opposing armies, which varied greatly along the line, from little more than 50 metres in some places to hundreds of metres in others.

The idea of strength-in-depth was taken most seriously by the Germans. In many positions they constructed another complete series of trenches some distance to the rear so that in the event of their original positions being taken they could fall back to the pre-prepared system, making it extremely difficult for the enemy to press home any advantage.

Life in the trenches quickly became hellish. Heavy rains flooded trench systems, particularly on the Allied side where positions were generally on lower ground than their German opponents. Living in wet, cold conditions and often spending hours on end standing knee deep in water caused several health problems for the troops, one of the worst of which was trench foot, a fungal disease that in untreated cases could lead to gangrene and amputation.

Unsanitary conditions led to many other problems, such as fleas, lice and tics, the latter of which spread the very serious trench fever. The stench of putrefied flesh from unrecovered bodies or body parts, combined with the smell of stagnant mud and water, uncovered latrines, unwashed bodies, cordite and rotting vegetation, led to conditions in which rats and vermin thrived and which most found almost unbearable on their first experience of the trenches.

Regular shelling and snipers made random death an everyday occurrence even in 'quiet' areas of the Front. (Around 107,000 British casualties occurred in the six months leading up to the Battle of the Somme despite not being involved in any offensive operations.)

While attacks were carried out to try to break the enemy line or gain ground, they were also believed to be important in maintaining a fighting spirit among the troops, for whom long periods of just sheltering and enduring constant shelling were deemed detrimental to morale.

Attacks followed a similar blueprint. Assaulting troops packed into their forward trench while artillery shelled enemy positions, concentrating particularly on their forward trench. When the barrage lifted the signal would be given to 'go over the top', at which point the assaulting force would clamber out of their trenches with fixed bayonets and dash across no-man's land.

Ironically, the pre-assault barrage often did more harm than good. Shells falling short in no-man's land left churned-up mud and water-filled craters, slowing down the attackers. Artillery fire also usually did little to destroy barbed wire, or the defenders for that matter who had often withdrawn deep underground until the barrage lifted, before returning to the surface with their machine-guns to mow down the advancing troops.

The appalling death toll and apparent futility of waves of attacking troops being slaughtered by artillery and machine-gun fire led to many people seeing the Western Front metaphorically as a dreadful 'meat grinder'.

The Great War was the first major conflict in which fighting killed more soldiers than disease. The death rate of 10% in the trenches was twice as high as that experienced by combat troops in the Second World War. Overall 56% of those who served in the trenches were killed, wounded, deemed missing in action, or captured. Artillery was the biggest culprit, accounting for an estimated 75% of all casualties.

Although tactics did develop throughout the war, they did so slowly and the first two years saw the greatest casualties. It was not until the last year of the war when mobility was restored, in large part due to innovative tactics and weapons as well as the use of massed tanks. But more about that in a later issue... ■

“The almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory...”

BY LIAM MURPHY

The War of 1812 also known as America's second War for Independence, was a military conflict that lasted two-and-a-half years between the United States of America and the United Kingdom, including its North American colonies and its American Indian allies.

The United States had declared war in 1812 for several reasons, including trade restrictions brought about by the British war with France amongst other issues which remained from the first American War of Independence (1775-1783), but involved no boundary changes.

After the victory over Napoleon in 1814, the British turned their attention to the re-establishment of their dominance over the new Republic of the United States. In essence, their war aims were similar to those of 1775-1783; an attempt to partition the United States by driving down the Champlain and Hudson Valleys to cut off New England from the rest of the country, and to control both sides of the Great Lakes.

The Duke of Wellington, in planning the campaign, had determined that the British invasion force would not march south along the Champlain and Hudson Valleys without waterborne communications and logistical support. A similar campaign by Burgoyne had come to a disastrous end with British defeat and surrender at Saratoga on 17th October 1777. Wellington recognised that any invasion force from Canada required control of Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Therefore the “Crown” forces in Canada built a fleet of vessels armed with 24-pounder guns (which could fire over a mile) at the north end of Lake Champlain.

Less than a hundred miles to the south, on the Otter Creek near Vergennes, Vermont, the Americans built their own

squadron of vessels to defend the Lake from invasion. They were armed mostly with carronades - shorter range, but firing heavier shot. In command of the American activity was an officer described by The Harper Encyclopedia of Military Biography (Edison, NJ: Castle Books, 1995) as an “aggressive, thorough and dedicated naval commander,” Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough.

Thomas Macdonough (1783-1825) was born in New Castle County, Delaware, 31st December 1783. He was the grandson of James Macdonough, who had emigrated from Kildare to Delaware about 1730. His father, Thomas McDonough, was a physician, and had served as a major in the Delaware Regiment in Washington's Continental Army.

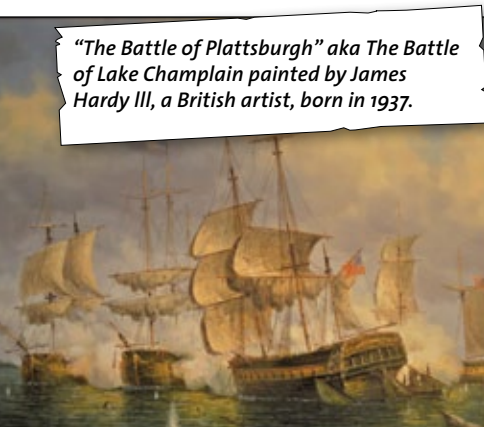
In 1798, after the death on active naval service of his older brother, Thomas Macdonough joined the United States Navy of Commodore John Barry (the founder of the US Navy and a native of Wexford). Macdonough saw action in the quasi-War with France (1798-1800) and in the Tripolitan War (1801-1805). One of the bones of contention between the United States and the British Empire during the great conflict between Britain and France was the impressment of American seamen into the Royal Navy; Britain never recognised that anyone born a British subject could become an American citizen, immune from their law, nor could they tolerate the American doctrine of Freedom of the Seas. As a young naval lieutenant, Thomas Macdonough had distinguished himself by recovering a seized neutral American merchant seaman from under the guns of a Royal Navy frigate at Gibraltar.

Decisive Naval Battle on Lake Champlain

For the northern invasion of the United States, Wellington



Commodore Thomas Macdonough, USN “The Hero of Lake Champlain”, as painted by Gilbert Stuart (1755 – 1828).



“The Battle of Plattsburgh” aka The Battle of Lake Champlain painted by James Hardy III, a British artist, born in 1937.

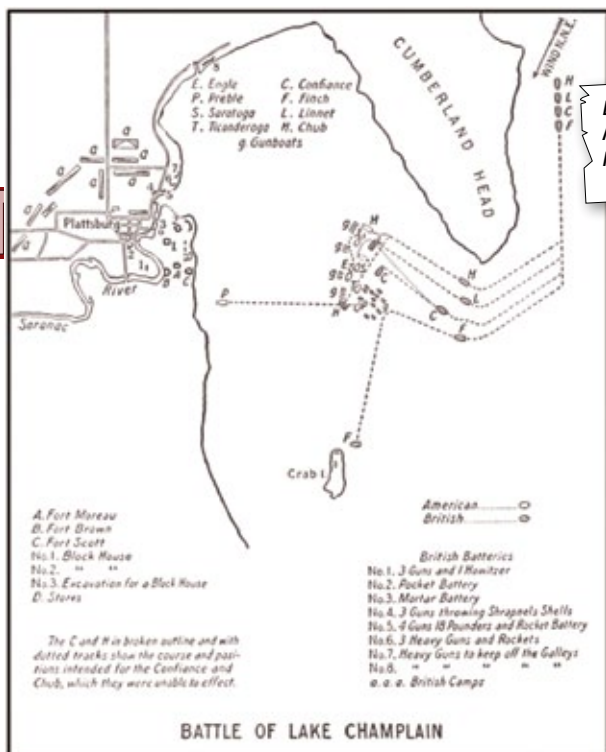


An example of a Carronade on the main deck of the USS Constitution.



“Macdonough's Victory on Lake Champlain, 1814”, watercolour by Edward Tufnell, depicting the US Sloop Saratoga (left centre) and the US Brig Eagle (right) engaging the British flagship Confiance (centre) off Plattsburgh, New York, 11th September 1814. Saratoga was flagship of the American commander, Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough. US Naval History and Heritage Command photograph courtesy of the Navy Art Collection, Washington, DC.

Battle of Lake Champlain Sketch, credit to David McComb, via Dr. David Winkler, Ph.D., Naval Historical Foundation, Washington Navy Yard (Public Domain)



sent a force of veterans fresh from victory in Europe, sixteen of the best veteran infantry regiments plus cavalry and artillery, for the North America campaign.

Both as a strategic diversion and as part of an attempt to control the Chesapeake Bay, British forces attacked and burned Washington, and on 11th September 1814, were moving on Baltimore, where Francis Scott Key would write of seeing the "Star Spangled Banner" through the dawn's early light after Fort McHenry survived a major bombardment and rocket attack. Similar operations were underway in the west near Lakes Erie and Ontario and in raids along the Atlantic seaboard.

The British main attack force was focused on up-state New York and the Champlain Valley. The decisive encounter of the war was the simultaneous battles of Plattsburg and Lake Champlain. On the 11th of September 1814, outnumbered and outgunned American land and naval forces fought the invaders to a standstill. At the crucial point of the battle Macdonough carried out a brilliant manoeuvre, rotating his ships using kedge anchors and spring lines to expose the enemy to fire from fresh batteries. This sudden fire superiority devastated the Royal Navy ships (with winds, unanticipated by the English commander, but known to Macdonough, had placed them within range of the American carronades), resulting in their defeat. Theodore Roosevelt maintained that Macdonough's victory, though dearly gained after a hard fight, was brilliant and complete. His conduct of the battle was a model of tactical preparation and execution.

Having been denied control of the waterways, the English could not continue their invasion. David Fitz-Enz, in "11 September 1814" (Military Illustrated, Number 172), points out that because of the American victory at Plattsburg/Lake Champlain, and the failure of the strategic diversionary attempt to capture Baltimore, the British negotiators were unable to acquire any land south of the existing Canadian border, or to gain control of the Great Lakes, and so sued for the status quo ante of 1812. This case is also made by David Curtis Skaggs, "More important than Perry's Victory," Naval History, Octo-

ber 2013. Consequently the Peace of Ghent was signed on 24 December 1814.

Thomas Macdonough was rewarded with promotion to captain, with the honorary title of 'Commodore', and subsequently commanded the USS Ohio, a ship-of-the-line. Always the sailor, Macdonough later insisted on returning to a more active sea duty; his last command was the USS Constitution ('Old Ironsides'). While on a Mediterranean patrol Thomas Macdonough died passing Gibraltar on 10th November 1825. After a state funeral in New York, he was buried in his late wife's family plot in the Riverside Cemetery in Middletown, Connecticut.

The War of 1812 was a contest to see if a free and republican form of government could survive. Macdonough's victory on Lake Champlain was crucial to the outcome of the war. Colonel David Fitz-Enz points out that there were no other regular US Army troops between the garrison at Plattsburg (which had been depleted to send troops to face the threat in the west) and Baltimore. Having lost the naval component of their invasion plan, the British land forces withdrew to Canada, ending the threat to the Hudson and Champlain valleys and the threat to partition the United States.

"The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain in the capture of one Frigate, one Brig and two sloops of war of the enemy."

(Commodore Thomas Macdonough, US Ship Saratoga, off Plattsburg, 11th September, 1814, to Secretary of the Navy)

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Liam Murphy is a retired naval officer, a Vietnam veteran, and a 1965 graduate of The Virginia Military Institute, with a Master of Arts in American History from Fordham, the Jesuit University of New York City (including a graduate term at the School of Irish Studies in Dublin). A Strategy & Policy alumnus of the US Naval War College, he is currently an adjunct member of the faculty of the State University of New York Maritime College at Fort Schuyler. ■

DF TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

BY COMDT NOEL CONWAY, DFHQ & CHAIRMAN DF ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
PHOTOS BY CPL PAUL MILLAR

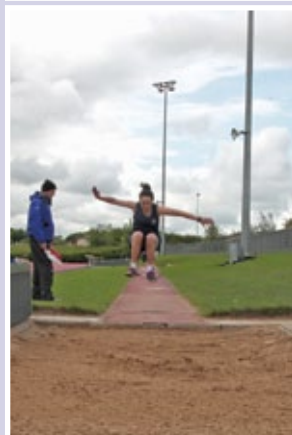
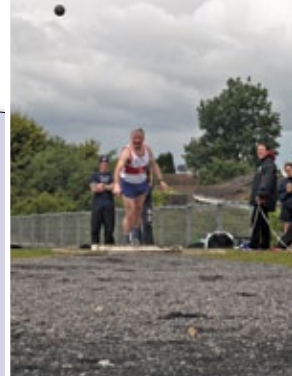
The DF Track and Field Championships were held in cool and windy conditions in the Watershed Stadium in Kilkenny on 4th June 2014. The event was organised by the DF Athletics Committee with support provided by both 1 and 2 Bdes. The programme of events for senior men included all track events from 100 meters to 5,000 meters, with 3 women's track events and a 3,000 meters event for masters men. Field event titles competed for included the discus, shot putt and long jump.

Despite the smaller attendance at this year's championship, the standard of athletic competition was very high with a number of excellent times recorded in weather conditions that were less than ideal. Capt James Ledingham, 3 Inf Bn, posted an excellent time of 2 minutes and 2 seconds in the 800 meters and Pte Kenny Rogers of 12 Inf Bn, gave a fine demonstration of strong front running in the senior men's 5,000 meters completing the 12 and a half lap event in an excellent time of 15 minutes 32 seconds. The sprint events were hotly contested with Pte Fennelly 3 Inf Bn posting an excellent time of 11.33 seconds in the 100 meters and also placed

second behind Pte Morris 7 Inf Bn in the 200m. Lt Grainne Kinneally 3 Inf Bn produced a superb performance in the women's 100m, 1500m, long jump and shot putt events and took the Mulcahy trophy for the best overall athlete.

In recent years it has been difficult to ensure high attendance levels at outdoor track and field events – this is mainly due to significant operational and training activity throughout the DF during the summer months. As with all sports, the support of the chain of command is a key factor in maintaining vitality and viability. The Athletics Committee will be examining how best to maintain and increase participation levels at future events.

EO 2 Bde Col Brian Reade attended the full day of competitions and presented well-deserved perpetual trophies to the winners of each track event. ■



Results

MEN:

100 meters

1st: Pte Fennelly, 3 Inf Bn (11.33 secs)
2nd: Pte S Morris, 7 Inf Bn
3rd: Capt R Kedney, 7 Inf Bn

200 meters

1st: Pte S Morris, 7 Inf Bn (23.01 secs)
2nd: Pte Fennelly, 3 Inf Bn
3rd: Capt R Kedney, 7 Inf Bn

400 meters

1st: Capt J Ledingham, 3 Inf Bn (51.92 secs)
2nd: Capt M Conway, DFHQ
3rd: Pte Brosnan, 1 Inf Bn

800 meters

1st: Capt J Ledingham, 3 Inf Bn (2mins 2 secs)
2nd: Capt M Conway, DFHQ
3rd: Cadet Sheahan, Cadet Sch

1500 meters

1st: Capt J Ledingham, 3 Inf Bn (4mins 37 secs)
2nd: Capt M Conway, DFHQ
3rd: Sgt A Connolly, Air Corps

5,000 meters

1st: Pte K Rogers, 12 Inf Bn (15mins 32 secs)
2nd: A/Sea P Roche, Naval Service
3rd: Pte N Kelly, 6 Inf Bn

3,000 meters (Masters)

Over 40:
1st: Pte A Devaney, 6 Inf Bn (10mins 36 secs)
2nd: Comdt N Conway, DFHQ

Over 45:

1st: Pte T Thompson, 28 Inf Bn
2nd: Sgt B Harte, 1 Inf Bn

Over 50:

1st: RSM J. Murray, CIS Sch

Discus

1st: Cpl Reddy, DFHQ
2nd: Pte Brennan, 3 Inf Bn
3rd: Cpl Kilkenny, 1 Inf Bn

Shot Putt

1st: Cpl Reddy, DFHQ (11.25m)
2nd: Pte Brennan, 3 Inf Bn
3rd: Cpl Kilkenny, 1 Inf Bn

Long Jump

1st: Pte Fennelly, 3 Inf Bn (5.64m)
2nd: Pte Brennan, 3 Inf Bn
3rd: Cpl Flood DFTC

Medley Relay

1st: 2 Bde (3mins 44secs)
2nd: 1 Bde
3rd: Cadet School

4 x 100m relay

1st: 7 Inf Bn (A)
2nd: Cadet School
3rd: 7 Inf Bn (B)

WOMEN:

100 meters

1st: Lt Kenneally, 3 Inf Bn
2nd: Cdt Bedair, Cadet School

1500 meters

1st: Lt Kenneally, 3 Inf Bn
2nd: Cpl Molloy, 3 Inf Bn
3rd: Cdt Bedair, Cadet School

3,000 meters

1st: Cpl Molloy, 3 Inf Bn (12mins 7 secs)
2nd: Cdt Bedair, Cadet School
3rd: Pte McDonald, DFTC

Long Jump

1st: Lt Kenneally, 3 Inf Bn
2nd: Cdt Bedair, Cadet School

Shot Putt

1st: Lt Kenneally, 3 Inf Bn
2nd: Cdt Bedair, Cadet School

Inter Brigade Shield Winner: 1 Bde
Mulcahy Trophy (best individual athlete): Lt Grainne Kenneally, 3 Inf Bn

SPORT

UNIFIL 5KM RACE Shama

BY LT TOM MULLARKEY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

It was an early start on Sunday 6th July, for the runners of FINIRISHBATT and the 45 Inf Gp who made their way to UN Post 2-3 in Shama, South Lebanon for the annual UNIFIL 5km road race. The Irish team were in good spirits as they, along with nearly 120 other competitors, received a comprehensive race brief by chief steward Comdt Martin Coffey. The race

route, consisting of two laps of the undulating Camp 2-3, would provide a challenging test for even the experienced runner and the numerous water stations provided a hint of the exertions to follow.

OC 45 Inf Gp, Lt Col Kevin Campion, himself a competitor in the Over 40's category, was rightly confident in 'Team Ireland' as the assembled squad represented some of the best runners the Defence Forces had to offer.

Mercifully for the competitors, the otherwise relentless sun remained stifled by early morning cloud as the competitors made their way to the starting line. The 'Under 40s' category were the first to set off and the quality of the field became apparent immediately. Despite a daunting early pace, Sgt Eddie O'Neill (DFTC) blazed an early lead followed closely in pursuit by Lt Diarmuid Collins (7 Inf Bn). The remainder of the elite competitors congealed into three to four main groups, each one locked in their own individual battle. Despite the quality of running on display, nobody could touch the remarkable Sgt O'Neill

who simply blitzed the field with a winning time of 15mins 47secs. Lt Collins finished second in an impressive time of 16mins and 41secs.

The Over 40's category race proved to be an equally fascinating event with the lead changing hands between Sgt Sean Doyle (DFTC) and his Finnish colleague Capt Juha-Matti Hinkkuri many times over the demanding course. In the end, the experience and sheer determination of Sgt Doyle prevailed as he took gold in a time of 19mins and 21secs.

The number of Irish competitors who scaled the winner's podium during the prize giving ceremony was testament to the remarkable success of the relatively small Irish contingent. In addition to winning both individual events, the Irish also won the team gold medal to make it a hat-trick of momentous victories on the day. As Brig Gen Fabio Polli looked on, other UNIFIL contingents marvelled at the Irish performance, a performance made all the more remarkable in the context of the talent of the field that included runners from Tanzania, Ghana, Italy, South Korea and Spain.

As the Irish team made their way back to UNP 2-45, for some to prepare for another patrol that evening, they could rightly claim to have done the 45 Infantry Group, FINIRISHBATT and the Defence Forces proud. ■





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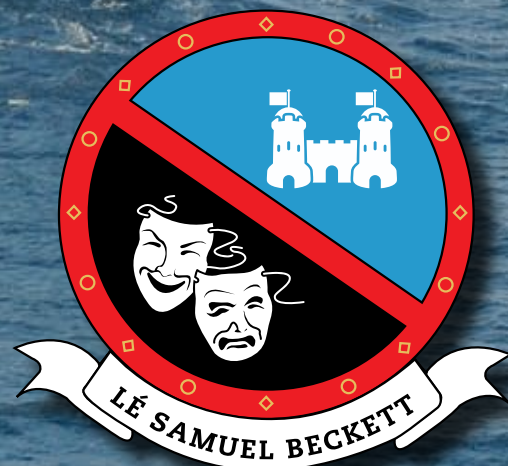
THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTOIR

September 2014 Poster

L.É. SAMUEL BECKETT

Builder:	Babcock Marine Appledore
Laid Down:	May 2012
Float Out:	November 2013
Class of Ship:	Offshore Patrol Vessel
Displacement:	2,226 tonnes
Length:	90.0m
Beam:	14.0m
Draught:	3.8m
Propulsion:	2 x Wärtsilä diesel engines and Power Take In 2 x shafts, 10000kw
Speed:	23kts (Max Speed)
Complement:	44 personnel
Armament:	1 x 76mm OTO Melara 2 x 20mm RH 202 Rhienmetall Cannon 2 x 12.7mm Browning HMG's 4 x 7.62mm GPMG's



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTOIR 10K 2014

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 Deadline 01 October
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GEAR REVIEW



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

5.11 TACTICAL MEDICAL POUCH

PRICE: €26.95

COLOUR: TAC OLIVE DRAB

The manufacturer says...

The 6.6 Medic Pouch meshes seamlessly with 5.11 bags, packs, and duffels, providing a quick and efficient first aid solution for any application or environment. Ideal for both tactical and recreational use, the Medic Pouch offers multiple internal mesh pockets that keep your emergency accessories in plain sight. SlickStick™ and MOLLE web platform compatibility allows easy integration into your tactical kit, a prominent first aid cross at the front ensures quick ID in a crisis, and a molded zipper grip provides quick and reliable action. If you need a fast and efficient SlickStick/MOLLE medic pouch, look no further than the 6.6.

With the same dimensions and MOLLE attachment system compatibility as the 6.6 pouch, the Med Pouch adds mesh interior pockets and an external Medical Cross for quick ID. It will always be clear where the medical supplies are located.



Our reviewer Sgt Martin Moules (CMU, DFTC) says...

I found the 5.11 Tactical Medical Pouch to be a good quality pouch, I used it on the last Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) and it stood up well to all that I put it through. The Molle attachment system worked well with my issued kit. I filled the pouch with everything I needed for my own personnel medical use and it all fitted in. From a medical Sgt's point of view, I think the pouch would suit the individual soldier for his 'self-aid' use rather than for section/platoon use. Although not too expensive, I feel the pouch could have come with a haemorrhaging control dressing or tourniquet. It's a good piece of kit.

Durability 8 - Molle Attachment 9 - Easy Access 8 - Value 6 - Secure 7

ASP INVESTIGATOR HANDCUFF CASE

PRICE: €35.00

COLOUR: BLACK
LEATHER



The manufacturer says...

ASP Handcuff Cases are a benchmark blend of the finest materials in a series of clean, functional designs. Each case incorporates an integral back pocket and auxiliary handcuff key. Centurion, Duty, Federal and Double cuff carriers are available in Black, Basketweave, Ballistic and ASPtec®.

Investigator and Combination cases in Black and Ballistic are concealable and attach rapidly to the belt with one-direction snaps.

Leather Finish 7 - Attachment 8 - Durability 9 - Value 8 - Concealable 9 - Fit 8 - Ease of access 9

ASP FEDERAL BATON SCABBARD

PRICE: €34.00

The manufacturer says...

Each carrier must define a compromise between security and speed of presentation. It must provide a level of protection without compromising access. The case must secure the baton without hindering rapid deployment. Under the most severe tactical conditions, ASP Scabbards do not fail. They combine protection with access. They secure the baton during transport. They allow a firm grip and rapid presentation. ASP Scabbards excel. Under the most severe tactical conditions, they have no equal. A compact, reduced form carrier for the Tactical Baton®. The Federal® Scabbard is designed for those officers who prefer a closed front ASP case. The carrier adjusts to a variety of belt widths. It rotates to 12 distinct positions and will retain a retracted or extended ASP Baton.



Fit 8 - Durability 9 - Rotation 8 - Compact 8 - Ease of access 9 - Value 7

Our reviewer Sgt Gary Carroll (MP Coy DFTC) says...

After reviewing the ASP Holder and handcuff Case the following are my findings; both pieces of equipment are excellent in that they are very comfortable and discreet, the fact that the scabbard rotates to 12 different positions allows the user to sit comfortably either at a desk or seated in a Service Vehicle. While worn under an outer garment they are not visible which allows the users to carry both as a form of discreet protection as well as a means of restraint if the need arises. They are made from a very durable material, which would withstand the constant wear and tear from personnel within the Military Police Corps. Both items are very secure on the person but also allow for easy removal and easy access when needed in confrontations. The handcuff case also comes with a housing that holds an emergency key. Overall I would have no hesitation in recommending both pieces of equipment.

COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha is offering a 5.11 Polo Shirt and 5.11 Watch Cap. www.team-alpha.ie

For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: How much is the Marom Dolphin Side-Trip Satchel on the team-alpha website?

Answer along with your name & address to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 19th September 2014. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Eddie Carr, Co Galway

NOTICEBOARD

GREAT WAR MEMORIAL, KILGOBBIN CO DUBLIN

On Saturday 13th September a commemoration ceremony and parade will take place at the Great War Memorial, Kilgobbin Co Dublin at 11am. The Great

War Memorial is situated on the south-west of the ruined church and old cemetery and may be accessed from the Rectory estate on the Stepside to Lambs Cross road. Apart from the National Monument at Islandbridge the memorial at Kilgobbin is one of the few monuments in Dublin City and county erected by a local community to commemorate our Great War dead. This year's guest speaker is Tom Burke MBE. The ceremony will commemorate the men from Barnacullia, Carrickmines, Dundrum, Golden Ball, Kilgobbin, Kilternan, Sandyford and Stepside, who gave their lives in the Great War of 1914-1918.

www.irishwarmemorials.ie/Memorials-Detail?memold=47

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WORD SEARCH

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

World War One Medals

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

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BADGE
BLUE
CROSS
FRIEDRICH
HANSEATIC
MARINE
MAX
MEDAL
MERCANTILE
ORDER
SILVER
STAR
VICTORY
WAR

Q&A SEPTEMBER

1. WHAT YEAR DID THE LONG-RANGE PATROL VESSEL (LPV) CLASS ENTER SERVICE (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 'Goody Bag' was Dylan Morgan, Dublin 24. Closing date is 19th September 2014.



Can You Help?

Hello, I am looking for any photos of Eddie Giles who served in the Defence Forces for many years, and was a chef in Cathal Brugha Bks. He sadly passed away on Christmas Eve 1967. Family members don't have any photos so it would be great if we got any. Kind regards Bernice Maher (nee Giles) bernicemaher@yahoo.co.uk

The Old Guard

A stand down parade for 824735 CQMS James (Tony) Fitzgerald ('Fitzer') will take place on Friday 26th September in Cathal Brugha Bks at 1530hrs. Fitzer served in 5 Inf Bn from April 72', and is currently with 7 Inf Bn. Tony has 11 overseas trips from 26 Inf Gp (UNEF) Sinai in 1974 to 43 Inf Bn (UNDOF) 2014 in the Golan Heights,.



Engaging with the Public

BY LT COL MICHAEL P DAWSON, OIC PR BRANCH, DFHQ, & BOARD PRESIDENT, PEAP WORKING GROUP

The public's perception of the Defence Forces is of vital importance to the reputation of the organisation. As part of the strategic objective to offer the public the opportunity to improve their knowledge and understanding of the Defence Forces, the General Staff intends to open our garrisons, posts and ships to visitors on a more regular basis. During these structured visits, commanders will take the opportunity to promote the Defence Forces as a loyal, efficient organisation that delivers flexible, effective military outputs. They should also highlight our relevance in society by representing the Defence Forces as a modern, capable military organisation, comprising highly skilled members furnished with modern equipment.

These objectives will be achieved through a number of initiatives, including planned open days, scheduled visits, participation in appropriate regional events and the distribution of promotional material to visiting groups. All such information exchange must include strategic, national and local perspectives.

The new policy will be driven and shaped by the Public Engagement and Access Plan (PEAP).

On 6th May 2014, a PEAP working group convened to develop the Defence Forces' engagement in civil society and communities throughout the state in a co-ordinated and controlled manner. The group, comprising officers and senior NCOs from throughout the organisation, concentrated its efforts on identifying the conditions necessary to implement a successful PEAP Working Group for the Defence Forces.

The group also promoted the principle that the maintenance and enhancement of the relationship between the public and the Defence Forces is the responsibility of all members of the organisation. Engagement by the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps, at formation-, barracks-, unit-, and ship-level by granting public access will remove the barrack wall as a barrier to public understanding and knowledge of the Defence Forces. This, in turn, will reinforce our reputation as a professional, dedicated, trans-

parent, loyal force with the capabilities to contribute to the communities in which we are based.

The working group report comprised several recommendations, including the establishment of brigade/formation PEAP teams to plan and conduct PEAP activities; a twin-track approach, incorporating access to barracks, installations and ships, and the projection of the Defence Forces into the community; the compilation of a public engagement events list at DFHQ; public engagement modules to be incorporated into all career courses; PEAP activities to be closely co-ordinated with barracks security officers; the use of the term 'Veteran' to be adopted when describing former personnel; to investigate the possibility of issuing an ID card to former enlisted personnel; the introduction of formal, co-ordinated open days at brigade/formation-level; the possibility of conducting a national Military Tattoo in 2016; to continue and develop the policy of pre-deployment reviews of overseas units being held in public; possible changes to current public liability requirements; D Eng and Property Branch, DoD, to liaise with civil authorities regarding the erection of external signage directing the public to military installations; and Defence Forces' logo and emblems to be registered as trademarks to facilitate official merchandising.

The Working Group also concluded that while Ireland has a rich military heritage, the Irish public is *not* militaristic by nature.

The members of the Working Group believe that the comprehensive list of recommendations outlined in its final report provides a way forward that ensures balance and perspective, and should also facilitate a co-ordinated plan of action to enhance mutual understanding between the public and the Defence Forces.

On 31st July, the group submitted the PEAP report to the Chief of Staff and the General Staff are currently reviewing its recommendations. ■



Photos show members of the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service performing ceremonial drill at the National Memorial at Merrion Square, Dublin.



PEAP Working Group, back row (l/r): Capt Brendan O'Dowd, RSM Johnny Murray, Capt Mark Tormey, RSM Seasca Murphy, Capt Donal Gallagher. Front row (l/r): Comdt Declan Sheridan, RSM John McCormack, Lt Col Michael Dawson, Capt Declan Barrett and RSM Dave Galvin.

BOOKS

IN A TIME OF WAR:

KILDARE 1914-1918

Author: James Durney

Publisher: Irish Academic Press (Merrion) (September 2014) (<http://iap.ie/>)

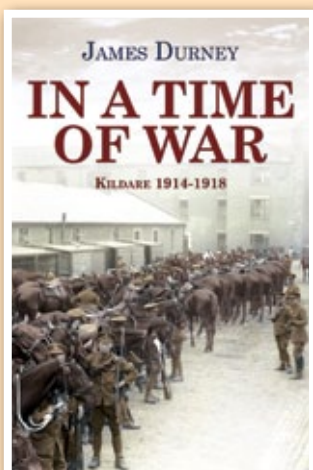
ISBN: 978-190892886

Price: €17.95 PB / €39.95 HB

Pages: 212

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN

James Durney, a native of Co Kildare, has now compiled a thorough collection of historical documents, letters about how the Great War affected the lives of the local populace in Co Kildare. The book looks at the recruitment and losses that affected Co Kildare during the war years, covering stories from the military depot in Naas, the cavalry barracks in Newbridge and the artillery in Kildare Town, to the vast space of the Curragh Camp where over 700 soldiers never returned. The chapters are broken down in easy to follow periods in Ireland's history like: 1916 Rising, 1918 influenza pandemic and the 1918 general election – focusing mainly on Kildare. This book is highly recommended for military and local historians alike. **WF**



IRISH VOICES FROM THE GREAT WAR (NEW EDITION)

Author: Myles Dungan

Publisher: Merrion (Irish Academic Press) (1st ed January 1995 / July 2014)

ISBN: 978-1908928801

Price: €17.95 PB / €45.00 HB

Pages: 302

TO COINCIDE WITH the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War is the hugely popular revamped edition of Irish Voices from the Great War after nearly 20 years. The now well-known broadcaster (the history show, RTÉ Radio), author and historian Myles Dungan has compiled the memoirs, diaries and letters of the Irishmen who went to war in the first large scale war involving many nations. On its original release in 1995, Irish Voices from the Great War was considered a ground-breaking study of a forgotten history. The book covers the major battles with Irish involvement starting with the 1914 British Expeditionary Force, the 1915 Gallipoli campaign, the 1916 Somme offensive and finally ending with Messines in 1917. The book is a fine tribute to the forgotten stories of Ireland's heroic soldiers. **WF**



OUT OF THE DARK 1914-1918:

SOUTH DUBLINERS WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR

Author: Ken Kinsella

Publisher: Merrion (May 2014) (<http://iap.ie/>)

ISBN: 978-1908928603

Price: €22.45 PB / €41.00 HB

Pages: 430

KEN KINSELLA HAS painstakingly researched the Great War over a long period; he has written numerous articles on this subject, with many published in the *Southside People*, *Blue Cap Journal*, *Irish Medal Society Journal* and the *Panorama magazine*. Ken's opening chapter on Enlistment, gave me a lump in my throat and I'm proud to say brought a tear to my eye as I read how many Irishmen joined Irish Regiments in the British Army to fight a common enemy; from the out of work catholic farmer to the protestant merchant their stories are similar – were the 'pal's factor' kicked in and friend, neighbour and family followed each other off on the adventure of the Great War. The book extensively covers the main districts of South Dublin like: Stepside, Killiney, Dundrum and Sandymount plus many more.

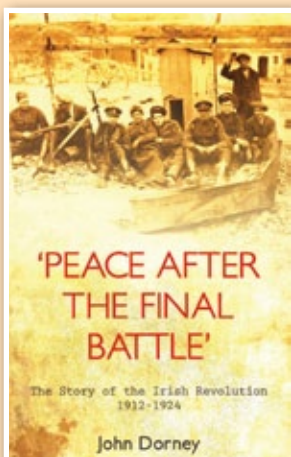
I think Maj Gen (retd) David Nial Creagh, The O'Morchoe CB, CBE and President of Royal British Legion in Ireland sums it up nicely in the foreword, "it's about bringing back the memory of those Irish ...of the Great War..." **WF**



PEACE AFTER THE FINAL BATTLE:
THE STORY OF THE IRISH
REVOLUTION, 1912-1924

Author: John Dorney
Publisher: New Island Books
(March 2014)
ISBN: 978-1848402720 /
ASIN: B00J4WB0L8
Price: €19.99 HB / €7.70 eBook
Pages: 376

JOHN DORNEY'S DEBUT book, 'Peace After The Final Battle' covers the turbulent times of Ireland's revolutionary period starting in 1912 with the lead up to the 1913 Lockout, then on to the struggle for Home Rule, then outbreak of World War One, and the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the Treaty and finally the Civil War. The book also covers some great human interest stories like how Sean O'Casey recruited Ernest Blythe into the IRB. John's book is one of many coming out as we celebrate our decade of centenaries, but one I would highly recommend for a concise collection on this period as the book says "how did Ireland go from welcoming royalty in 1912 to independence in 1922?" **WF**



THE JACK NOBLE SERIES BY L.T. RYAN
NOBLE BEGINNINGS (#1)

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent
Publishing Platform (April 2013)
ISBN: 978-1484009291
Price: €6.73 PB / €0.99 eBook
Pages: 224

WRITTEN WITH THE same character strength and style of Lee Child, Stephen Leather, Chris Allen and Andrew Peterson along with their respective leads; Jack Reacher, Spider Shepherd, Alex Morgan and Nathan McBride comes another to stand amongst them - Jack Noble.

Selected while still undergoing US Marine Corps recruit training, he is one of a few assigned to a CIA special operations team operating in Iraq in 2002. Jack along with his recruit training buddy Bear, have a run-in with their CIA team over the mistreatment of an Iraqi family who eventually end up dead. Framed and returned to US soil to face charges, Jack and Bear discover their betrayal is only the start of a conspiracy that goes all the way to the top of the US Government. **WF**



A DEADLY DISTANCE (#2)

ISBN: 978-1483995038
Price: €8.75 PB / €3.00 eBook
Pages: 276

AFTER A LONG vacation, Jack is now working in a secretive US Government agency involved in homeland security. Having saved a group of children and in particular a young boy from a blazing fire during a raid on a paedophile ring, Jack makes the TV news.

And so starts the next conspiracy for Jack Noble and his partner Frank Skinner, only this time Jack's made a powerful enemy who will stop at nothing to exact his revenge in ...37 hours and counting. **WF**



GAME
DESTINY



FROM BUNGIE THE creators of Halo® and the publisher of Call of Duty® Activision Blizzard comes Destiny, the next evolution in interactive entertainment and an epic adventure unlike anything players have experienced. In Destiny you are a guardian of the last city on Earth, able to wield incredible power. Explore the ancient ruins of our solar system, from the red dunes of Mars to the lush jungles of Venus. Defeat Earth's enemies. Discover all that we have lost. Become legend. Destiny delivers a new way to experience first-person action games. A sweeping adventure set within a bold, new universe, Destiny features an unprecedented combination of cooperative, competitive, public, and personal activities seamlessly woven into an expansive, persistent online world. An internet connection is required to play Destiny. www.destinythegame.com

Genre: Action - **Platforms:** Xbox 360, One, PS3/4 - **Price:** €64.99 - €74.99 (gamestop.ie) - **Release:** 9 Sept 2014.

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NAME

MICHELLE DUNNE

RANK

CORPORAL (RETD)

UNIT

12TH INF BN

My life prior to the army revolved around rowing. I was a member of Cobh Fisherman's Rowing Club, and for years I couldn't think of anything else I'd rather do 5 evenings a week and most Sundays. As a result I accumulated 2 silver and 7 gold County Championship medals, and 2 All-Ireland medals (silver and gold). I'd been considering the Defence Forces for a while at that stage so I joined the FCA with 4th AD Bty in Cobh. I was with them for 1½ years, but I knew within a week that I wanted the full-time army.

In September 1997 I joined the 82nd Rec Pln at the Command Training Depot, Collin's Bks, Cork. I suppose everyone is biased when it comes to their own recruit platoon, but I genuinely believe that I landed in one of the best. As tough as the training was, someone in that platoon gave me something to laugh about every day, whether I felt like laughing or not! After we passed out, I was posted to A Coy, 12th Inf Bn, Sarsfield Bks, Limerick. At that time, myself and one of my female colleagues were the first women to be posted there. We probably stuck out like sore thumbs for the first few days, but it took us no time at all to settle in. I'm very proud to be able to say that I served with them.

In October 1998 I joined the 84th Irish Batt, UNIFIL where I was assigned to the comcen with B Coy. As far as platoons and companies go, once again I landed on my feet with B Coy. The male to female ratio didn't matter because they were great to work with and I loved my job there.

In September 1999 I joined the 2nd Pot NCOs course, in the BTC, Collin's Bks, Cork. That was the most physically and mentally demanding 19-weeks of my life. So much so that I think I slept through most of the millennium celebrations, but the highlight for me was the confidence building exercise in

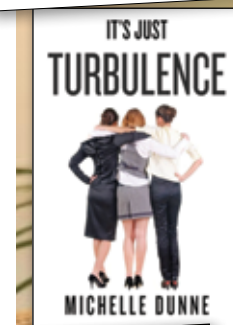
Fort Davis the week before we passed out in February 2000. The

following year I started training new recruits in Sarsfield Bks.

Coming towards the end of my contract, I found myself with a growing interest in the area of physical therapy and finally decided to leave the army and return to college to pursue that new career. I've been working as a physical therapist for nearly 10-years now. I still really enjoy that work, but my big passion is for writing. To get anywhere in the publishing industry, you need endless patience, determination and a very thick skin, which I think I was born with. But I have no doubt that all of those things were strengthened by the Defence Forces. After countless rejections, I was finally signed by a small agency in 2012 and so far I've had two books published in the area of Women's Fiction. My new book 'Playing the Game' is another work of fiction and will hopefully be out sometime next year. Just this week I signed with one of the largest literary agencies in the UK who have also represented Salman Rushdie (*Midnight's Children*) and Anthony Burgess (*A Clockwork Orange*) to name just two, so the pressure's really on now! But I look forward to the challenge.

There's a saying for writers – "Write what you know." Although 'Playing the Game' isn't a book about the army, the army does feature prominently in it, and what I know about the army is that it was one of the most positive experiences of my life and that's how it's reflected in this book. I couldn't write it any other way. www.facebook.com/MichelleDunneAuthor ■

"It's Just Turbulence" (*The Turbulent Series, Book 2*) - "A great read, funny, sad and apprehension contained within the pages. Truly a 5 star read."



"Did Someone Order Cactus?" (*The Turbulent Series, Book 1*) - "Funny and thought provoking I couldn't put it down - 5 star read"

"The thing with life in the army is that you're never in the same place with the same people for very long. You're always moving around doing different things."



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