

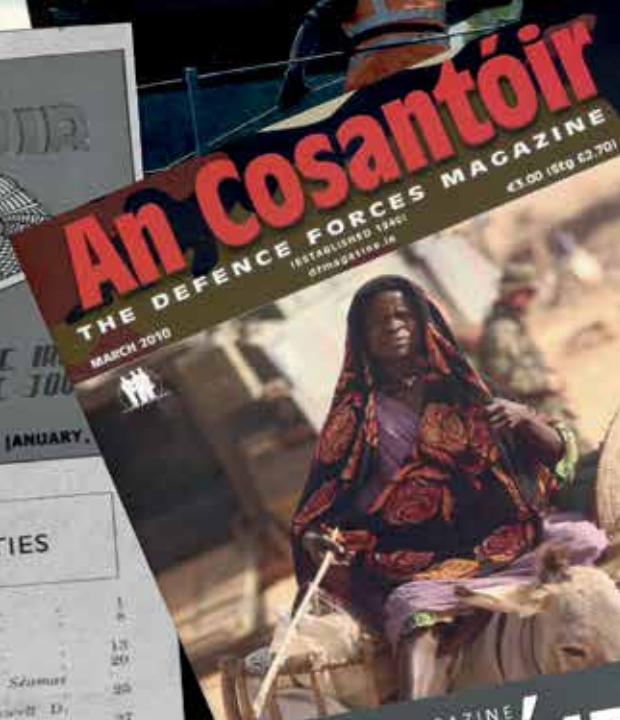
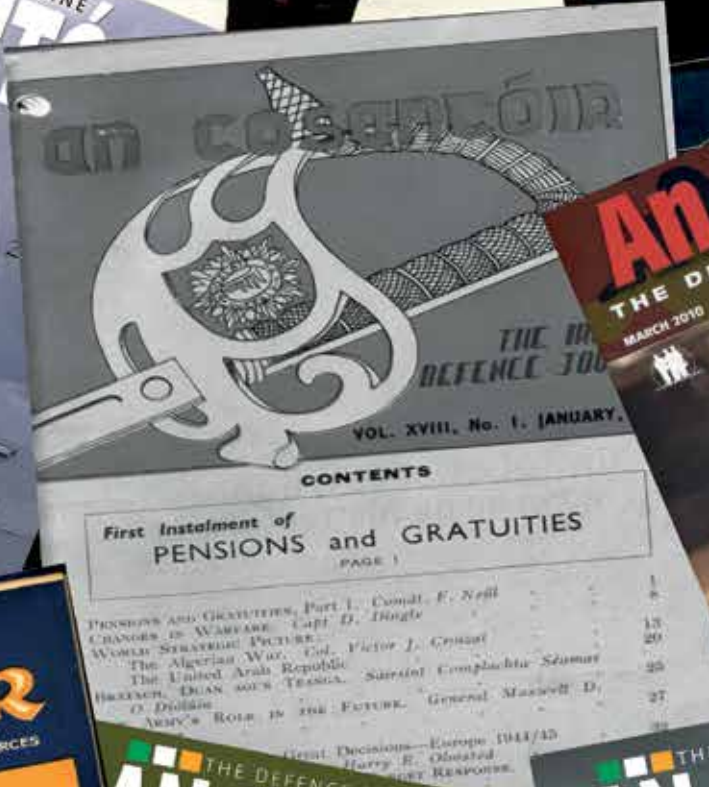
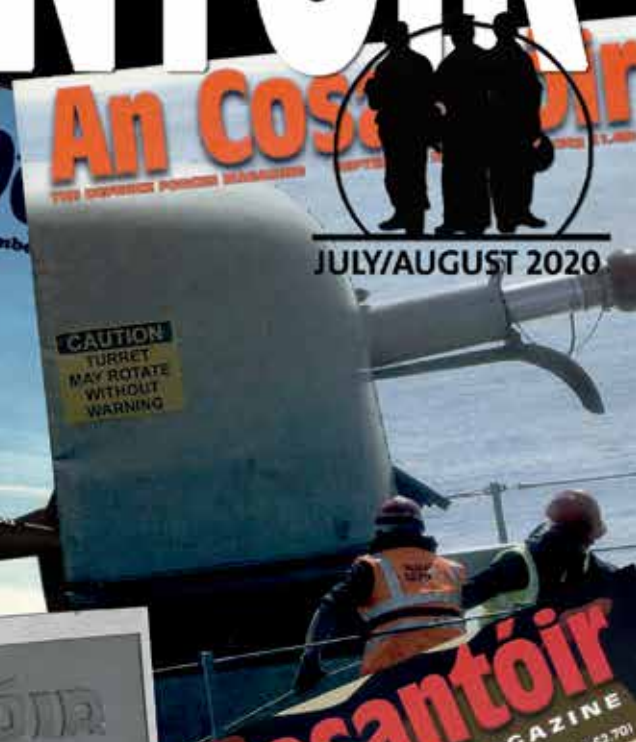
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Volume
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Contents

VOLUME 80
Number 06
July/Aug 2020



CONTENTS

It's your magazine | 3

FEATURES



14 **'Stepping together':
The Defence Forces in 1940**
By Lar Joye



16 **Mullingar to Monrovia –
A Soldiers Memoir Part 1**
By Lar McKevitt



20 **EUFOR Tchad/RCA: A Review**
By Professor Ben Tonra



24 **Lord Carbery**
By Guy Warner

REGULARS

- 6** On Parade
- 8** In Focus
- 10** Vets News
- 27** Tac-Aide
- 35** Notice-Board
- 36** Reviews
- 38** What I Do

30 **Contact Call Centre**
By Cpl Lee Coyle

32 **Lt General MJ Costello/An Cosantóir**
By Brian Costello



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Front Cover

Front Cover: Past issues

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

Editorial

Hello, and welcome our sixth issue of 2020, continuing with our 80th volume – of the historic milestone the *An Cosantóir* magazine has reached.

As you are all aware, the magazine has decided to move to a digital only format. Your messages of support and also it must be said disappointment for some readers have been taken on board and we thank you for your feedback on this matter.

Our first main feature, 'Psychological Medicine and COVID19' by Dr Matthew McCauley (Capt. AR), from the Medical Corps, speaks to us about the psychological aspects of dealing with an infectious disease such as COVID19. Matthew is the first consultant clinical psychologist to serve in the Army Reserve.

In 'Stepping together, The Defence Forces in 1940', Lar Joye looks back at how the Irish Defence forces looked in 1940, and how WWII shaped the Defence Forces 80 years ago.

Part 1 of 'Mullingar to Monrovia - A Soldiers Memoir' Lar McKeivitt takes us back to one of his overseas missions, the one in question was to the 88th Inf Bn UNMIL, Liberia. This 2 parter gives a personal insight into Lar's trip to Africa and what he encountered along the way.

Part 3 of our *EUFOR Tchad/RCA Review*, by Professor Ben Tonra, continues to look back at the African mission and the political and military aspects that effected the mission, this final piece completes the series.

Guy Warner introduces us to the life of Lord Carbery in the first of 2 articles by Guy in this issue. Lord Carbery lived an interesting life from boyhood right

through to serving in WWI and his final years in America and Africa.

Our *Tac-Aide* features a moneylenders measures piece. Which gives consumers information on the regulation changes around money lending specifically for high cost loans.

Guy Warner Features again with his 2nd piece about Edward Mannock, a First World War fighter pilot, Mannock eventually becoming the leader of 85 squadron, but sadly died in combat.

Our own, Cpl Lee Coyle gives us an incite into how the Contact Call Centre for the Covid19 was set up, working in the DFTC and carried out by the 96th Cadet Class, Lee went and met with some of the staff to talk about the Centre.

Our final article, 'LT General MJ Costello / An Cosantóir', poignantly is by Brian Costello, grandson of MJ Costello. Looking back on his grandfathers life and how he came about to start *An Cosantóir* 80 years ago.

There's plenty more to read in the magazine so please enjoy and of course we have our regulars, *Noticeboard*, *What I Do* and our competition which is running for a limited time and could see you win 1 of 5 unique handcrafted pens kindly provided to us by Bill Dooley of Curragh Pens, see page 4 for further details.

Many thanks to all our contributors, not only for this current magazine but through the years, and we hope to continue producing the magazine as we change format.

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change" - Wayne W. Dyer

Sgt Karl Byrne – (Stand-in) Editor

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Pictured left to right, Libby Downes & Marie Byrne at the PDFORRA Conference Oct 2019

COVID-19 ARMY RESERVE RESPONSE



▲ LIMERICK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Dr. Hugh O'Callaghan (3rd left) & nursing staff, who made up a proning team in the ICU, Limerick University Hospital. Dr. O'Callaghan is also a serving DF Reserve member, where he serves as a Comdt (AR) with 2BDE Central Medical Unit.
Photo: Provided by Dr. Hugh O'Callaghan



▲ UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL GALWAY

Cpl (AR) Lisa O'Halloran (2nd left) works as a Staff Midwife on labour ward in UCH Galway. Recently, both complex & infectious diseases have become part of the everyday challenge. Lisa is a Cpl with the Army Reserve. *Photo: Provided by Cpl Lisa O'Halloran*



▲ DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE

Sgt (AR) Brian O'Keeffe is a paramedic with the Dublin Fire Brigade. He is pictured checking equipment in Finglas Fire Station earlier in the week & outside Blanchardstown Hospital yesterday. Brian is a Sgt in the Army Reserve with 2 BTC. *Photo: Dublin Fire*

▲ CORK CITY FIRE SERVICE

Cpl (AR) Ruben O'Leary is a firefighter with Cork City Fire Service, which provides cardiac first response in the city. Ruben is also a Cpl in the Army Reserve with 1 Brigade Engineers based in Collins Bks, Cork. He has been a reservist since 1992. *Photo: Cork City Fire Service*

ON PARADE



IRISH RED CROSS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL GALWAY

Pte (AR) Eoin O'Shea is an EMT undertaking duties & developing an online system of wellbeing support for fellow members. He is also a civilian Chartered Psychologist with the Irish Red Cross. Eoin is a Pte in the Army Reserve with D Coy, 7 Inf Bn. *Photo: Pte Eoin O'Shea*



PATIENT TRANSPORTATION

Cpl (AR) Orla Culhane, 1 Bde Cavalry Corps, & Sgt (AR) Sean Sullivan, 1 Bde Medics, assisting in preparation for patient transportation during the COVID 19 pandemic. Both are based in Collins Bks, Cork.

Photo: Provided by Cpl Culhane & Sgt Sullivan



BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

Capt Eoghan O'Sullivan is a patient flow manager at Beaumont Hospital, pictured here beside drive-through testing facility erected at the hospital by 7 Inf Bn from Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin. Eoghan is a Capt (AR) in the same unit *Photo: Capt Eoghan O'Sullivan*



COMMUNITY HOSPITAL WEST CORK

Pte Mary Teresa Crowley is a staff nurse in a community hospital in west Cork. She cares for the elderly and those requiring palliative care. Mary Teresa is a Pte (AR) 12 Inf Bn F Coy based in Skibbereen.

Photo: Provided by Pte Mary Teresa Crowley

PENSIONS INFORMATION NOTE

There are a number of different pension schemes in operation for members of the PDF.

Unless you have prior pensionable employment in the Public Service, membership generally depends on your rank and the date you joined the PDF.

KEY DATES AND SCHEMES

- Joined before 1 April 2004 (there are different terms for officers pre and post April 1995),
- Joined between 1 April 2004 and 31 December 2012,
- Joined on or after 1 Jan 2013.

WHERE DO I GET INFORMATION ON MY SCHEME?

Serving members of the Permanent Defence Force are reminded that they can access information regarding their military pension entitlements (including scheme booklets) on the Department of Defence website at: <https://www.defence.ie/what-we-do/defence-forces-pension-information>. This information is also available on IKON.

The Personnel Support Service can also help you access the information.

Note: Single Pension Scheme members have been issued Scheme information with their Annual Benefit Statements; also general information on the Single Scheme is available on a Department of Public Expenditure and Reform website dedicated to the Single Scheme <https://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/>

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUERY?

Members are requested to read the pensions information provided.

Having done this, if you have a query, you can contact the Department of Defence:

- by e-mail to pensions.admin@defence.ie; or
- by phone at 091—743900 or Lo-Call 1890-426444 extension 3900; or
- by writing to:

Pensions Administration Section Finance Branch
Department of Defence
Áras an tSáile
Renmore
Galway
H91 AN2E.

N.B. Please quote your service number on any correspondence.



SUMMARY OF RETIREMENT BENEFIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL PDF MEMBERS

Joined before April 2004:

Main Features:

Benefits are payable immediately on retirement after relatively short periods of service, and regardless of age. There is no preservation of benefits.

Officers

- Pension and gratuity payable on retirement after 12 years' service.
- Maximum pension ($\frac{1}{2}$ pay*) payable from 23 – 30 years' service depending on rank, service in rank, overall service etc.
- Maximum gratuity ($1\frac{1}{2}$ times pensionable pay) is payable within 4 years of normal retirement age for the rank.
- Pre-6 April 1995 officers (insured for modified PRSI 'Class C') pay $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ contribution towards spouses' & children's pensions, but no 'main scheme' contribution.
- Post-5 April 1995 officers (full PRSI 'Class A') pay standard public service $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ pension contributions. *Their pensions are subject to standard integration with the Social Insurance system. In effect, maximum retirement pension = 50% of pensionable pay less the annual maximum personal rate of State Pension Contributory (SPC).

Enlisted Personnel

- Pension and gratuity are payable on discharge after 21 years' service, with maximum benefits payable after 31 years' service.
- Pension is subject to a partial form of integration with Social Insurance system.
- Maximum pension is approx. 50% of reckonable pay,

PENSIONS INFORMATION NOTE



- while maximum gratuity is 65 weeks' pensionable pay.
- 1½% spouses' and children's contribution; but no 'main scheme' contribution.

Joined between April 2004 and December 2012

Main Features:

'Minimum pension age' is 50 regardless of rank. This means that pension and gratuity are payable immediately on retirement only if you serve to age 50. Otherwise, where retirement is before age 50, pension and gratuity are preserved, i.e. payable from age 60.

Officers and Enlisted Personnel:

- Benefits are fully pay-related and based on overall qualifying service and pensionable pay.
- Maximum benefits accrue over 30 years (rather than 40).
- In effect, maximum retirement pension = ½ pensionable pay less the annual maximum personal rate of State Pension Contributory (SPC).
- Maximum retirement gratuity = 1½ times pensionable pay.
- Pension is subject to standard integration with Social Insurance system, as in public service pension schemes generally.
- Officers pay standard 6½% contribution, while enlisted personnel pay 1½% to spouses' and children's scheme only.

Joining from 1st January 2013 onwards Members of Single Public Service Pension Scheme

Officers and Enlisted Personnel:

- Retirement benefits are based on 'career average earnings', rather than 'final salary' as applies generally. Benefits to be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- 'Minimum pension age' is age 50; otherwise, where leaving before age 50, pension and gratuity will be preserved.
- Pensions, integrated with the Social Insurance system, accrue at a 'fast accrual' rate of 1/70th a year (instead of a standard 1/80th in other public service areas), but with a higher contribution rate of 7.5% (instead of standard 6.5% for new entrants generally).
- Where compulsorily retired on HR policy grounds from the PDF before age 50, preserved benefits will, exceptionally, be payable from age 60 rather than State Pension age (68) generally.

DEFENCE FORCES DISABILITY PENSIONS

Who can apply?

Any former member of the Permanent Defence Force, regardless of length of service or date of joining.

When to apply?

You can apply once you have left the Permanent Defence Force.

Where to apply?

You must contact Pensions Administration Section, Department of Defence to request an application form. The details are across.

What are the time limits?

Applications must be made within the following time limits;

- Wound/injury attributable to military service - 1 year from date of retirement/discharge
- Disease secondary to wound/injury attributable to military service - 1 year from date of retirement/discharge
- Disease attributable to or aggravated by overseas service with the United Nations - 8 years from date of retirement/discharge

There are no exceptions to these time limits.

Apply to: Pensions administration section, Department of Defence, Aras an tSaile, Renmore, Galway H91 AN2E

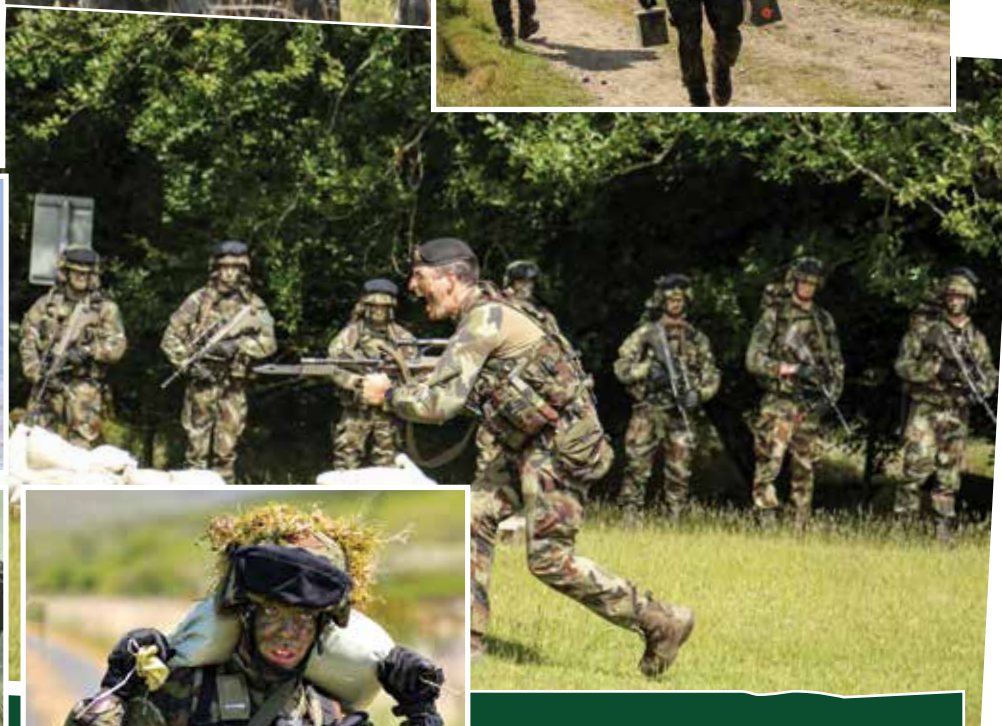
Email: pensions.admin@defence.ie

Telephone: 091-743846/743844

Online: <https://www.defence.ie/what-we-do/defence-forces-pension-information>

96TH CADETS CLASS

PHOTOS BY MARK POLLOCK



Back in June, the 96th Cadet Class were introduced to the exercise widely known as scratch. This introductory tactical exercise is design to push a soldier to their limits, testing not only physical strength and toughness but the soldiers mental ability to carry out instructions under pressure. This type of exercise also has a different purpose that isn't directly engaged with during the exercise, and that is to create comradeship between the students. This is done by giving a section tasks in which they must complete together. Struggling physically and mentally whilst under constant pressure alone can be tough enough but when you are doing it with friends and comrades it helps to seal the bond between soldiers, making them into a unit that will do all it can to overcome the adversity that is SCRATCH. Well done to the 96th Cadet Class. ■

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The Ombudsman for the Defence Forces, Mr. Alan Mahon, extends his sincere thanks to all in our Defence Forces for their valuable contribution in tackling the COVID-19 crisis.

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Psychological Medicine and Covid19

BY DR MATTHEW MCCAULEY, CAPT, MEDICAL CORPS, ARMY RESERVE

The outbreak of Covid19 has brought devastating consequences, both nationally and internationally. Every part of Ireland has been touched by the pandemic, resulting in fundamental psychosocial changes, along with the continued loss of life. Many have contributed to the fight against Covid19 and I have been asked by Defence Forces (DF) colleagues to outline my civilian and military duties during the crisis.

The demands placed upon healthcare staff and patients are closely associated with acute disaster and crisis situations, similar to those seen on some military deployments. As noted in the military medical response to the Ebola Crisis in recent years, clinical psychologists are a crucial asset in assuring the optimization of policies and systems for limiting the spread of the virus (e.g. social distancing, adherence to quarantine, etc.). Indeed, the integral role and importance of psychological science has been a defining feature of the fight against Covid19. Clinical psychology focuses on mental illness, behavioral health, and the psychology of organizational and healthcare systems. The specialty is therefore well placed to respond to the psychiatric needs of patients; along with the resiliency, readiness, mental health and performance of staff.

As a consultant clinical psychologist at Blackrock Clinic in Dublin, I led on the formation of a Covid19 psychological medicine consultation team, which addresses the needs of patients and staff. Covid19 has seen healthcare personnel encounter changes to their role, working conditions, and personal coping resources. Some have been exposed to highly demanding and stressful clinical experiences. Framed within an occupational healthcare context, the resource is closely aligned with the Clinic's Human Resources Department.

As noted in the research, the psychological resiliency and wellness of staff requires a continuum of mental health resources. This model assures that for most, stress-related psychological reactions are viewed as 'normal' responses to 'abnormal' adversities; and an expectation of recovery and return to functioning is maintained. This is aided by appropriate self-care, psychoeducation, and/or peer support. A minority may develop clinically significant symptoms of mental distress, which can be treated by mental health professionals. This reflects a stepped approach to psychological consultation (see Figure 1).

As mirrored in military settings, this 'continuum' model to mental health and wellbeing (see Figure 2) results in a significant role for personal responsibility, leadership and line management. The process addresses the importance of effective communication, information dissemination, validation and recognition of staff engagement, access to self-care and peer support material and skills, reduced barriers for utilization of supportive counselling, and clear pathways for accessing professional psychological care.

In addition to the above, Covid19 has also seen a growing requirement for formal psychological assessment and care for patients. Such services respond to those with pre-existing psychiatric conditions. Other referrals involve patients with clinically significant symptoms of mental distress arising as a result of the pandemic, including patients exposed to trauma, undergoing quarantine, recovering from treatment in Intensive Care Units, etc. Clinical psychology outpatient services at Blackrock Clinic have transitioned to a tele-medicine mode of delivery, with emergent and acute care offered in-person with the use of PPE. As noted by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the mental health impact of Covid19 will evolve in the weeks and months ahead. The psychological medicine response plan at Blackrock Clinic will adapt to these changes.





Beyond the Clinic, I function as an Asst Professor at Trinity College Dublin. I contribute to the training of the next generation of doctoral-level clinical psychologists and conduct military health research. The pandemic has required the development of a Covid19-focused teaching curriculum via virtual learning platforms, with outstanding contributions from academic and HSE clinical colleagues.



Finally, as an Army Reservist I have deployed with the DF in the fight against the pandemic. I delivered Covid19 behavioural health training for PDF personnel, ahead of their duties in aiding the civil authorities. Additionally, I trained with RDF and PDF colleagues in Covid19 Swab Testing at the DF Medical School. I now continue to deploy with the DF in support of the National Ambulance Service (NAS), during which we undertake Covid19 Swab Testing in civilian medical and care facilities (see Image 1). Such duties hold a multitude of psychological processes and considerations.

Serving in the DF is certainly a 'life less ordinary' and it remains a great honour to contribute to Ireland's response to Covid19.

AUTHOR BIO:

Capt McCauley is the first consultant clinical psychologist to serve in the Army Reserve, where he is Consultant Advisor in the Office of the DMB. He completed his doctoral residency at Britain's Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, followed by post-doctoral military clinical studies in the UK and US. He has served for 15 years in international military healthcare for-

mations. Prior clinical appointments include the USAF's 48th Medical Group, 48th Fighter Wing and 423rd Medical Squadron, 501st Combat Support Wing. His background also includes service with the UK's Defence Medical Services, Joint Forces Command, where was lead MOD consultant clinical psychologist in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Capt McCauley served as an observer controller on Operation Bushmaster with USUHS, and is currently a clinical researcher with NATO. He is an Asst Professor at TCD, a former guest editor of JRAMC, BMJ, and a member of the RDFRA National Executive. ■

‘Stepping together’

THE DEFENCE FORCES IN 1940

BY LAR JOYE PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LAR JOYE

While World War II broke out on 1st September in response to the invasion of Poland by Germany and Russia it was not until the invasion of France on 10th May 1940 that the Irish Government decided to commit all the resources of the state to the defence the island. In April 1940 the Irish Defence Forces consisted of 14,454 all ranks and a year later had increased to 40,607. Indeed in a 5 week period from June to July 24,000 men offered their services after a ‘A Call to Arms’ and ‘Step Together’ publicity appeal.

Throughout the year as the Army grew it prepared for invasion, from May 1940 as mobile columns, then into 4 Brigades and by 1941 it would have 2 Divisions led by Major General MJ Costello, the founder of the An Cosantóir magazine and Major General Hugo MacNeill. In preparation for war 2 plans were developed in 1940 one against a German invasion and the other a British invasion. The LSF (Local Security Force) was established on 24th May 1940 under the control of the Gardai Síochána and this would later become the Local Defence Forces in 1941. 1940 also saw the appointment of new Chief of Staff, Lt General Daniel McKenna took over from Major General Michael Brennan who had served since 1931 as COS and had found fame as a guerrilla leader in the War of Independence. McKenna threw himself into his new job but complained “I’ve got the manpower but what I need is the firepower” and this proved a problem for the Army throughout the duration of the War, in particular a lack of light machine guns for each section. There were however enough rifles for each soldier and on 21st September 1940, 20,000 Springfield rifles arrived from US for the LSF.

An Anti-Aircraft Battalion was created in June 1940 of permanent and reserve soldiers with 3.7 inch heavy anti-aircraft guns at Ringsend and Clontarf, backed up with searchlights and sound locators around the city. While older 3 inch anti-aircraft guns were at Booterstown and Ballyfermot. All these were connected to a control room in Dublin Castle while lighter 40mm Bofors guns were used for local defence of Baldonnel aerodrome and Dublin Airport.

At the outbreak of the war for the first time the Irish government created the Marine and Coast Watching Service, which were the beginnings of the Naval Service. Later a Navy Reserve called the Maritime Inscription was formed in Dublin Port to assist port authorities with port control and examination on 20th September 1940. The following year its new members marched in the Easter Parade in Dublin. From a HQ base in Portobello Barracks (now Cathal Brugha Barracks) the Maritime Inscription developed and by 1943 had 14 officers, 137 NCOs and 992 men in 14 shore companies.

EASTERN COMMAND

No 1 Company - Dundalk, Drogheda, Sherries.
No 2 Company - Dublin and Howth.
No 3 Company - Dublin and Dun Laoghaire.
No 4 Company - Bray.
No 5 Company - Wexford.
No 6 Company - Waterford and Tramore



SOUTHERN COMMAND.

No 7 Company - Cork City.
No 8 Company - Bantry, Schull and Castletown.
No 9 Company - Cork City.
No 10 Company - Cobh and Crosshaven.
No 11 Company, Limerick and Foynes.

WESTERN COMMAND

No 12 Company - Silgo and Raughley
No 13 Company - Westport.
No 14 Company - Galway.



A.A. DEFENCE OF DUBLIN
39 - 45

Within the Ports and harbours, the local harbour masters were commissioned and given increased powers under the Emergency Powers Act. The Maritime Inspection were there to assist them, often in their own boats, and carried out rescue work, assistance in mine laying and servicing, inshore patrols, investigation of objects at sea, and in the event of attack, the manning and sinking vessels to block ports and remove aids to navigation.

They are best remembered in their role in inspecting merchant ships prior to entry into harbour. If a ship entered a port without permission they were fired upon which happened on a number of occasions in 1940 at Dublin and Waterford.

Although neutral during the war, the war in 1940 was being fought around Ireland in the air and on the sea. During the year, 71 mines were washed up on beaches and had to be destroyed by the Ordnance Corp, while the bodies of merchant seamen washed up on beaches. As the year progressed more German and British planes flew over Ireland and in August 1940 the first bombing occurred at Campille County Wexford, when 3 people were killed by bombs from a German plane. On 20th December 1940, bombs were dropped on Sandycove in Dublin injuring 3 people, beginning a series of bombing incidents over the next 6 months leading up to the bombing of the North Strand on 31st May 1941 killing 28 people. After the invasion of Russia by Germany such attacks stopped as did the threat of invasion. For the Irish Defence Forces though 1940 was a year of great change and expansion, something that it had not seen since its inception. ■

MULLINGAR to MONROVIA

BY LAR MCKEVITT PHOTOS BY LAR MCKEVITT

A Soldiers Memoir

PART 1

"Gunner McKeivitt, you've been selected for overseas for this upcoming trip to Liberia. Will you make your way over to the orderly room to start your administration? Well done.", the words of my then Battery Sergeant at my home unit at Columb Barracks in Mullingar. I had applied myself for this mission, but wasn't expecting to get it as I had returned from service from Lebanon with the 88th Infantry Battalion and there would be a lot of soldiers ahead of me who were due a first tour of duty, but due to courses in communications and signals, a role had opened for me to serve with the CIS section. They were looking for an extra body to come onboard. Excitedly, I jumped at my chance.



The blue beret worn by all UN soldiers on overseas missions

There was a lot of administration. I had to fill out a new Will & Testament, my Single Administrative Document, full Medicals had to be conducted, dental checks, hearing tests, vaccinations and fitness testing. During this I would conduct my training at the UN Training School at the Curragh Camp. Training included medical refreshers, signals, combat training and battle inoculations. I'll never forget the amount of injections that we had to have. Cholera, Rabies, Typhoid, Combined Hepatitis, Meningitis, Polio, Tetanus. I was like a human pin cushion. We were also required to take a weekly dose of the anti-malaria drug Lariam throughout the mission. Intense.

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

Ireland had been tasked with being the QRF (Quick Reaction Force) for this mission, meaning that we would be the first call to into action and line of defence as part of the United Nations mission in Liberia. A company of Swedish soldiers will join us mid-trip and they too would be part of the QRF and based at the Irish Headquarters at Camp Clara, Monrovia.

It's somewhere between late afternoon and the Angelus bells of a Tuesday evening, the date, December 16th, 2003. Only eight days to Christmas. My blue beret was out again and ready to be donned in exchange for the black beret that I wore while serving at home. It's absolute water-works leaving the house, a feeling that every soldier going overseas on a tour of duty will have experienced. I am twenty-one and with over four years' service to date, this is my second tour of duty since enlistment. Prior to this tour I had served in Lebanon when I was 18 years young, between November 2000 and May 2001 with a specialised weapons platoon in C Company of the 88th Infantry Battalion.

"The safety of my soldiers is of paramount importance."

Lieutenant Colonel P. Moran, OC 90th Infantry Battalion, Liberia.

The media were sharing stories of this deployment more than any of the current missions in Kosovo and in Eritrea, plainly due to the number of troops that the Irish government had agreed to offer for this deployment as part of the United Nations mission in Liberia, not to mention the instability and unpredictability of Liberia as a whole was currently going through. Warlord and ousted President, Charles Taylor was in exile and less than a fortnight previous to our deployment, Interpol issued a red notice regarding Taylor, suggesting that countries had a duty to arrest him. We knew that this mission would be a tough one, quite demanding and one that would require both physical and mental strength to get us through the six months ahead.

This was the first time in over 40 years that the Irish Army had deployed a battalion of soldiers to Africa as part of a UN mission. The Congo mission (ONUC) in the early 1960s was the last time.

A mission which my grandfather Larry served in twice. And like myself, my brother Derek would also serve on this mission in Liberia on two occasions.

On November 27th, 2003, 33-year-old, Sergeant Derek Mooney (Army Ranger Wing) from Dublin was fatally killed in a road traffic accident whilst on patrol 40 kilometres south east of the Irish base at Camp Clara in Monrovia. His colleague Sergeant Seán Baldwin (Army Ranger Wing) was also badly injured in this collision. A platoon of Rangers were deployed to Liberia in mid-November as part of the advance, security and reconnaissance party so that the main body of troops, ourselves, would have security, a bed, a cookhouse, a medical aid post and a safe camp with safe roads in and out of our area of operations. That party included special forces alongside members of the engineer, ordnance, communications, intelligence, medical and transport corps.

Our Battalion Commander was a big unit, oozed charisma and had the look of a tough nut. A man from Clara in County Offaly

known as 'Puck Moran' would lead the battalion. To look at him you can wonder, but not for very long, how he gained the name 'Puck'. He was being interviewed frequently by newspapers at national and at local level. He spoke mostly on how well trained and equipped we were for this mission, and we were. He spoke about how the troop morale had been attacked before the last soldier from his battalion had laid their boots on west African soil. He touched on the unfortunate death of Sergeant Mooney and the life-changing injuries of Sergeant Seán Baldwin and the impact it may have on the battalion in terms of morale. This made sense, because as a soldier, whether you knew a soldier who may have died or was injured or not, you didn't want any harm to come to your comrades. He also focused on how he had a duty of care to all of the men and women of the 90th Infantry Battalion and he made that known. We were all his concerns. "The safety of my soldiers is of paramount importance", he declared in an interview with the Westmeath Independent and Examiner prior to our departure. As a young man about



Aerial view of Camp Clara



A Mowag Patrol through one of the many jungle regions of Liberia

to head to a place that I'd only ever seen on a map or on a globe in the back of a classroom, that comment gave me some solace, a sense of belonging. I was still excited for the challenge ahead.

As our plane touched down, a quick look out the aircraft window and you quickly realised how bad things really were here. The airport was not busy, had two or three hangars, the odd small aircraft and a terminal building that had little or no glass in the windows. The sun was bulging out of a clear blue sky. It was time to step off the plane and move towards the terminal building. As I walked towards the aircraft exit door, Christ, I'll never forget that blast of searing heat and humidity as I stepped down the steps from the air-conditioned aircraft after a nine-hour flight and on to the scorching hot tarmac at Roberts Interna-

tional Airport in Liberia. The smell was stifling too. Your breath was stolen for a few breaths until you accustomed and worked out how to breathe again for the second time in your life. Every pore in the body was pulled from their comfort as the humidity tore them wide open. The few beers we had the night before at McKee Barracks were soon trickling down all of our faces, our arms and our legs. Lots of discomfort, lots of perspiration, but still the odd blast of morale ensued. We laughed at how out of our comfort zone we were. No amount of preparation or training could prepare an Irish man or woman for the blistering heat and humidity of West Africa.

Moving into the terminal, it was even warmer in there than it was outside, there was no escaping this oven-like heat, the lack of glass in the windows offered absolutely nothing, no slow breeze. It was an oven in the shape of a clapped out building. We waited a good 30 or 40 minutes for our bags to come through. The carousel was out of order which meant two or three local workers had to pull all of the baggage forward. They were adamant that we didn't assist or help. It was awful to look at and it was far too warm in there. The humidity was the topic of conversation as we continuously rubbed a fresh line of sweat from our foreheads. Eventually we got to leave this brick sauna and move towards the outdoor sauna and on to the waiting transport that would be escorted to our HQ at Camp Clara by members of the Army Ranger Wing who were already on the ground. For the 90 or so minute journey, all that was on my mind as I took in the area and surroundings was A, what I put myself forward for and B, if I would ever stop sweating profusely.

As we moved through Monrovia and towards Camp Clara it was something to see. The stench was unmerciful still, but this was to be understood due to the height of war and poverty this country had been put through for years. This wasn't a poverty-stricken advertisement on your TV back home. This was real life and very visible with your own eyes. Buildings with window frames but with no glass, not many traffic lights, no road safety, too many unsafe vehicles driving through small spaces at high speeds, kids in rags, men selling cheap shades and wood

carvings, women carrying basins of water, rice or something of use on their heads. Bullet holes spread across most buildings and worse still, craters in roads that I would assume were the result of light infantry mortars or heavy machine gun fire during the battles.

As we passed through a small area called Bushrod Island, up ahead was a straight road of about 2 kilometres that would lead us to the turnoff for Camp Clara, this area was formerly a holiday resort and a go to place for many celebrities, diplomats and visiting politicians in the 1970s and 1980s. It was the once famous 'Hotel Africa' where our advance party had to set up camp for the battalion. Around the grounds were what looked like chalets that would have been part of the hotel set up and brochure. It was surrounded by beach and sea too. Paradise to most some years earlier. It was now in ruins and wrecked and anything that may have been of some use or benefit was long since removed.

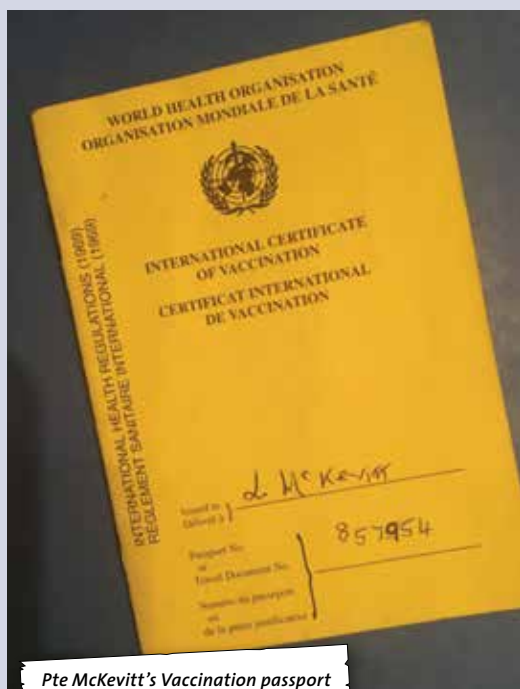
Our camp looked really well. It was apparent just how much work that our advance party had put in the month before the battalion had fully arrived and deployed. There was a medical aid post of air-conditioned cabins just inside the main gates. The camp was broken into three areas. Nearest the gate you had Logistics Company, made up of Medics, Signallers, Cooks, MPs, Drivers, Mechanics, Ordnance among more. At the centre of the camp was APC Company, a mechanised infantry company from infantry battalions drawn from then the 4th Western Brigade.

At the rear of the camp and nearest the beach were Support Company, this company contained an Infantry weapons platoon, a reconnaissance platoon and a light mortar platoon who were mostly from the 4th Field Artillery Regiment and the 4th Cavalry Squadron. The former was my home unit, but I was based with Logistics for this tour as I was a radio technician on both the Sincgar and Harris radios and managed to gain a slot with the CIS platoon drawn from both the 4th & 2nd CIS Corps. It would be a busy mission for our platoon as we would be part of most long-range reconnaissance patrols so that radios and contact back to base and within the patrol were in good shape, not to mention having to travel in the main command car with the

Company Commander at all times as a company signaller.

Although we were surrounded by water, the beach, earlier in the trip was out of bounds and as much as a foot dipped in the sea would see you repatriated home, that is how serious this mission was. The decesses in these waters could bring down the whole camp so it was the best idea no matter how inviting it seemed on a very warm day, which was every day to stay well away! As the trip passed, we were allowed to use the inner parts of the beach to walk along or train on if we wished, but the water surrounding us





Pte McKevitt's Vaccination passport



Small quarry like basecamp near Suskoko

remained a 'no go' throughout the mission in Liberia.

A fortnight into the trip, the first few calls made home, a few camp duties in the bag and having acclimatised to these very different temperatures and humidity, though I don't believe being from a country as cold as Ireland that I would ever be built or fully acclimatised to this unreal heat in Western Africa. I was some of the way there. So, I was then chosen to go on a long-range patrol, which would be my first of many. This

patrol would last 6 days (144 hours) as we were to move almost 200 kilometres from our base in Monrovia towards a town called Gbarnga which wasn't too far from the border of Guinea, a neighbouring country. We would have two stops offs before getting to Gbarnga and would do this over a period of about 36 hours. We would aim to make it to a small town called Kakata, approximately 70 kilometres of travel. Due to the size of the convoy, a company of armoured vehicles alongside logistics, the aim was to arrive at Kakata by 3pm, stopping for an hour to send out two foot patrols as part of this reconnaissance mission.

We pulled out of Camp Clara at 11am and pushed through central Monrovia when the convoy came to an abrupt stop. It appeared that the second armoured vehicle was being attacked by a sole person with a massive chain. That was never going to damage the armour, but it was stopping our movements. A few warnings and the cocking of a .5 heavy machine gun by the crewman in the turret put a stop to this young man's anger at seeing us. It wasn't very welcoming at the start. They had little or no trust in us, not even for a short time. No waving, just turning away and not recognising us at all. This mission would require building trust and relations with the local people.

We arrived at Kakata before our scheduled ETA, but only by fifteen or so minutes. Security parties were launched around our convoy and two sections from 1 Platoon, APC Company were sent

in two separate directions to conduct a 30-minute patrol of the area. I filled up two Sincgar radios for each of the sections so that they had communications back to me and the command car at all times. APC Company was made up of troops from the 1st, 6th and 28th Infantry Battalions back home from Galway, Athlone/Cavan and Donegal respectively. In command of APC Company was Commandant Ryan from Custume Barracks, Athlone with Company Sergeant Shay Whelan of Cavan Barracks being the most senior NCO within that company. Both of whom were in the armoured vehicle I was travelling in the 'command car'.

The command car took up the centre of the convoy and contained a crew of six. A driver, a gunner, the company or battalion commander depending on the nature of the patrol, the company CS, a rifleman and a signaller. I was the signaller in this case. My task was to ensure that all vehicles within the convoy had communications to both the command car and back to our HQ at Camp Clara. I was also in charge of satellite technology for use in an emergency. It was a big job and you were the only signaller from the Signals section on this patrol so a calm head, preparedness and back up in equipment was required. I was also armed with my Steyr assault rifle, 300 rounds of 5.56mm live ammunition alongside my kit that had to be prepared for the 6-day patrol.

At 4pm local time we were on the move again to the next town, Suakoko, ETA 6pm. We would set up an armoured basecamp there for the night before one last push towards Gbarnga the next morning.

As we arrived at Suskoko, the sun was setting as the day was coming to an end, businesses had shut and men working the land were making their way home. The convoy stopped as a recce team was assigned to move forward. It was made up of troops mainly from the 4th Cavalry Squadron. Their mission was to move forward and to find an appropriate area for APC Company to stay the night. They would also secure the area while the remainder of the patrol waited 2 kilometres to the rear. When they radioed in the order with the coordinates and to proceed to what would be our basecamp for the night, I swiftly relayed this information to our Company Commander, Commandant Ryan who in turn informed his second in command (2/IC) Captain Paddy Kelly who then proceeded to inform all call signs within the patrol to prepare to move forward, and that is what we did in unison.

We pulled into what I can only describe as what looked like a small quarry, it wasn't a quarry of course, but it was hollow ground with hills and higher grounds around us that gave us cover for most part of the basecamp. The mowag armoured cars were ordered to pull in at positions 12, 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 as if looking at a clock so that we had armour in position, in turn allowing the armour to cover off their arcs of fire. The three platoons would set up tents and bivvys within that armoured perimeter. We also had a section for logistical transport which carried rations, fuel, water, fresh clothing and ammunition. From the moment we arrived until the first move out of this position there were security parties deployed, known in military terms as 'Stags'. A rotating shift of two hours on and two hours off, or more depending on how many were on one shift at a time. We were then ordered to pitch our tents and to feed ourselves from our issued ration pack. We would live off these ready-made packs for the next six days. Demanding enough for a Paddy prone to a spud and a sliced pan, not to mention a beer. ■

Continued in our next issue....

Lar McKevitt's blog: <https://soldiersindreams.wordpress.com/2020/05/23/out-of-ireland-into-africa/>

EUFOR TCHAD/RCA

A REVIEW

PART 3

ENGAGEMENT WITH NGOS

The relationship between EUFOR and more than 70 NGOs on the ground in the region could reasonably be argued to have been among the most problematic of all EUFOR's key stakeholders. According to force commanders, painstaking effort was put into first establishing and then developing relationships with these organisations and their staffs – both international and local. The mandate of the operation included protection of humanitarians, their facilities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Security had been and was a very serious issue with NGO compounds being looted, vehicles carjacked and international and local staff being beaten, kidnapped, shot at and receiving death threats. Relationships were ultimately successfully established with 71 NGOs operating in the region. These were based on a range of mechanisms and standard operating procedures designed to ensure effective communication between the NGO's and EUFOR and to facilitate EUFOR support when and where necessary. Six NGO's refused to engage with EUFOR at any level.

Tensions between the two sides reflected contrasting roles. According to one senior military interviewee many NGOs were reluctant to be seen with, or supported by, EUFOR. While EUFOR could not substitute for effective local policing, investigation and prosecution, EUFOR could deliver the wide area security it was designed to supply, but only with a level of basic cooperation and engagement. For example, NGOs were asked to advise EUFOR about their personnel movements and aid shipments if they wanted resources to be assigned to their security. Several refused. For their part NGOs were determined to preserve and protect their 'humanitarian space'. Only this would allow them to be able to assess needs, deliver aid and control its use while respecting the basic humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence. Reliance upon – or even engagement with – EUFOR was seen by some as compromising those key principles.

Over time, relationships did successfully develop, illustrated as when rebel activity near the town of Kerfi in July 2008 threatened NGO staff and facilities. EUFOR troops helped evacuate NGO staff and remained on the ground for several days until tensions subsided. By contrast, the previous May,



the project director of Save the Children in Chad, Pascal Marlinge and his driver Ramadan Djon were shot dead by armed men who stopped their three-car convoy near the town of Forchana, just 20 km from a EUFOR base. To square the circle, EUFOR began to share information with NGOs as to some of its own patrol movements on major routes, thus allowing NGOs to synchronise their own movements with, or against, those of EUFOR as they chose. This did not provide military escorts per se, but it served to open routes for the flow of aid shipments. EUFOR thus 'went out of its way to adapt to the situation within its mandate and, through creative ways of patrolling and the provision of area security, helped the humanitarian community to operate in eastern Chad and northeastern CAR' (Kollies and Reck 2011:155).

There was positive engagement in the other direction too. EUFOR's mandate included the facilitation of the return of both refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP) to their homes and this was a high political priority, especially in Paris. On initial deployment in March, EUFOR thus preoccupied itself with encouraging IDPs to return to their homes before the start of the rainy season and sought to focus its efforts on securing the areas of origin of some of these IDPs. These efforts were put on hold when NGOs shared their local knowledge and experience of what was going on the ground in these areas and the inadvisability of trying to move populations prematurely or under pressure as some specious indicator of operational success. This was an argu-

ment that EUFOR defended with some resilience in Brussels in the face of significant political pressure.

An area of tension, however, was in the field of civil-military cooperation (CIMIC). For some NGOs the 'humanitarian' nature of the EUFOR operation was problematic in principle and in practice, creating confusion and duplication. NGOs demanded, for example, that EUFOR launch an

ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL POPULATIONS

EUFOR's intent with respect to providing security to local populations was differentiated by varying security priorities in the regions of its operational area. In the north, Polish and Croatian troops' primary role became the interdiction of rebel forces (formal and informal) from refugee camps. The goal here was to stop rebel recruitment and



Mass is conducted on Christmas day within the camp berm

information campaign, using local languages and radio, to explain the difference between the role of EUFOR and that of NGOs. They also criticised EUFOR's use of white vehicles in some areas and two white helicopters in Goz Beida which, they insisted, potentially blurred the distinction between NGOs and the military. More substantially, there were initial objections to bilateral civilian assistance projects of some EUFOR contingents. These projects (such as building schools, sports facilities and other infrastructures), undertaken with funds earmarked by EU member states, were seen as potentially blurring the lines between humanitarian and military entities. In the end cooperation was secured by agreement that such projects would be complementary to, and coordinated with, existing humanitarian operations and be focused towards those outside the formal refugee camps and IDP sites.

By operation's end, structures had delivered greater security to NGOs and their clients, with monthly CIMIC meetings, weekly security briefings and exchange of security-relevant information and communication channels for requesting EUFOR presence in certain areas at certain times were in place. At the same time, the determination of some NGOs to remain distanced from EUFOR were respected with agreement that EUFOR would not visit some NGO compounds (Feichtinger and Hainzl 2011).

interference within the refugee camps. In the central sector, French, Irish, Dutch and Slovenian troops were focused on interposing themselves between vulnerable populations (local and NGO) and rebels travelling across traditional routes from the Sudanese border. In the south sector (Central African Republic) the deterrence of Sudanese tribal militias from attacking local populations was key (author's interview, 2017).

Of course the policing issue was critical across all sectors and here EUFOR's perceived performance was problematic. The 300-strong UN MINURCAT operation had been tasked with police training and local security with EUFOR providing a wider security umbrella. Six months into the operation, MINURCAT had not yet deployed any of the promised 850 police officers and had managed to train less than half of that number. Critically, EUFOR was not mandated to enter refugee camps - other than in extremis. While they could respond to incidents of criminality that happened in their presence, they had no ability to conduct investigations or to pursue arrests. Multiple NGO reports insisted that the security situation within the formal refugee camps and more informal IDP encampments was poor with domestic violence, theft, extortion and banditry ongoing issues.

With channels of communication open to most NGOs, EUFOR had success in ensuring local populations had

access to incoming humanitarian supplies. Frequent and increasingly far reaching patrols of the primary humanitarian routes and vulnerable areas had a powerful deterrent effect on bandits. Moreover, the presence of EUFOR troops was reported to have had an impact on Chadian national army and gendarmerie forces resulting in more professional behaviour. Oxfam reported that 'EUFOR has made many civilians feel safer through its activities, which include patrolling known dangerous routes, destroying unexploded ordnance, making contact with local leaders, and positioning itself defensively around civilians during rebel and government fighting'.

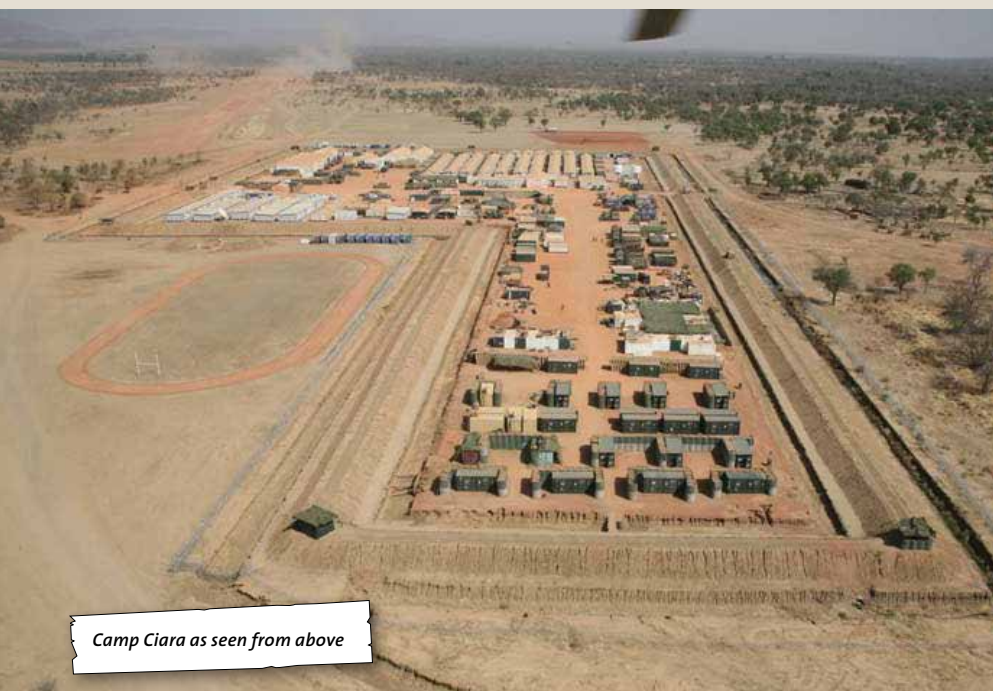
Another success claimed by senior EUFOR commanders and reflected in reports on the ground, was in the area of gender. The Operation Commander had made a point of seeking out gender advisors to the operation and placing them in the core Command Group meetings. While this generated antipathy on the part of some senior male officers he insisted that this was 'very important within CSDP and EU policy and (emblematic of) where we are coming from'. The role of the two consecutive Swedish officers so assigned was to implement European obligations under UNSCR 1325 for the protection of women and girls' human rights in conflict areas, to increase women's participation on peacebuilding and reconstruction and to increase numbers of females participating on interna-

responsibilities. This generated significant and adverse political opposition from some countries for undermining local cultural norms.

In sum, the perception of greater safety contributed to a positive local assessment of EUFOR's impact. In interviews conducted by Oxfam with IDPs and refugees in Goz Beida, for example, people spoke positively of EUFOR's engagement in protecting civilians and said that they personally felt safer with the arrival of EUFOR, feeling reassured by military patrols and asking for an extension in both the frequency and range of such patrols. Of particular note was the role played by the operation's three Level Two military hospitals (two French and one Italian) and associated medevac capacity. Over the course of the operation more than 3,000 local patients were seen and 65 major surgeries conducted. In all interviews conducted, mention was made of informal and non-mandated medical assistance provided to local populations.

HANDOVER TO MINURCAT II AND OPERATION CLOSE

The EU-UN handover at the conclusion of EUFOR Tchad/RCA was problematic at a number of different levels and was rooted in the failure to agree on a follow-up mission at the outset of the EUFOR 'bridging operation'. The Operations Commander repeatedly complained that the 'bridge'



Camp Ciara as seen from above



tional security and peace making operations.

EUFOR issued gender guidelines and addressed gender issues within operational planning. This included a focus on the training and pre-training of incoming EUFOR troops and in disseminating information on EUFOR to target populations. One of the critical issues identified early on in the operation was that close liaison with traditional tribal leaderships was not connecting with local women. This was identified as a major problem and was addressed by the assignment of female French Muslim troops to the EUFOR operation. They were tasked in theatre of engaging directly with local women and advising them of EUFOR's role and

was being built from one bank of the river without any clear identification of what it was being built towards. This meant that an end date – rather than an end state – to the operation left many critical questions unanswered until very late in EUFOR's mandate. Thus, the final handover to the UN was late, confused and failed to build on the limited security successes which the EUFOR operation had managed to achieve.

The delays in MINURCAT training and deployment of the 850 police officers in the refugee and IDP camps – as well as the effective absence of state authority across much of EUFOR's area of operations – meant that insecurity for the civilian population remained a critical issue throughout.

When and where present, EUFOR exercised effective security, but this was limited in scope and scale and could not fill the vacuum of law and order which was by now endemic. Several senior NGO critics of the operation insist that the EU's military operation had partially mitigated the impact of the Darfur crisis in western Chad and the CAR, but had never approached a meaningful contribution to conflict resolution. Indeed it has also been argued that the EU operation exacerbated the underlying crisis, by giving President Déby the strategic space within which to conduct a political crack down at home (following the 2008 attack) as well as a foundation which allowed him to fund and supply other armed militias which he saw as leverage against the Sudanese government (Berg 2009). For most EU interlocutors this was an acknowledged effect of the EUFOR engagement, but not its purpose.

Nor, of course, did the EUFOR operation achieve any meaningful return of internally displaced persons or refugees to their places of origin. While the security situation for such people had been ameliorated to some extent it did so only for a limited time period within a limited context. In the absence of a broader process of political reconciliation and peace building, the EUFOR operation was incapable of achieving more.

At the close of the operation, the extensive EUFOR-built infrastructure was handed over to the Chadian authorities rather than the UN. The UN's MINURCAT II mission subsequently rented these facilities from the government. The UN was not well prepared for the handover – with late political decision making exacerbating poor planning structures and limited UN resources. In part this can be ascribed to UN assumptions that the EU operation would likely be extended – a prospect repeatedly and publically disavowed by EU officials and diplomats. In the event, a small group of experienced UN officials, working flexibly and sometimes well past the margins of their formal mandates, were able to get MINURCAT II off the ground. This was only really possible with the extensive 're-hatting' of EUFOR soldiers into MINURCAT II. The final EUFOR detachments were rotated home in July 2009. For several months following the formal handover, EUFOR supported MINURCAT II with Special Forces, medevac and administrative/legal support with one author noting the overall 'benevolent mentoring of the new force by EUFOR Force Headquarters' (Aherne 2009:141).

CONCLUSIONS

In reviewing this operation with a view to assessing how, if it all, it served the cause of global 'justice', it is important to bear in mind that this was a unique effort in scope and scale and, significantly, one that we have not seen repeated. Nonetheless it offers us perhaps a useful litmus test on the Union's centre of gravity as regards the pursuit of justice in the operation of CSDP.

On key signifiers there is some clarity as to where the EU and its EUFOR operation stood as regards justice. First and foremost – and regardless of bureaucratic disagreements (most especially on the very problematic (and late) handover from the EU to the UN) – there was scrupulous EU adherence to the principle of UN legitimisation of the operation and active engagement with it and other regional and multilateral actors. Second, while agreement with state actors was a pre-

condition of the operation – and there was some support for strengthening state security – EUFOR privileged impartiality. This occurred to the extent of generating President Déby's ire for effectively allowing anti-government rebels free passage across EUFOR's area of operations. Of course counter arguments have also been raised in as much as it has been argued that EUFOR gave the Chadian government critical security support and the opportunity to regroup following its near collapse in early 2008. As a result, EUFOR has been characterised as having served as a visible instrument of the Chad government to suppress the rebellion (Berg 2009). Third, the operation pursued, and at least in part fulfilled, objectives as regards universal norms and values. While cultural training was a focus of the operation's situational awareness, explicit priority was given to UNSCR 1325 and integrating gender issues within operational planning. This generated critical commentary from within and without EUFOR's own command structures.

If we try to synthesise these very outline conclusions with respect to the specified expectations of the three models of global justice presented above, we identify an outline of the operation's centre of gravity.

The EUFOR Tchad/RCA operation was one which served several constituencies. It sought to address a visible humanitarian crisis within very tight political/strategic parameters and without directly tackling any of the underlying socio-economic, political, tribal or ethnic causes of that crisis. Significantly, the operation was initiated and driven by a single EU actor with deep and ongoing strategic interests in the region. The integrated military command structure, which accorded operational command to a non-French general, visibly tempered the pursuit of French strategic interests. To some extent it reinforced EU declarations of impartiality and neutrality with practical effect. The operation also delivered significant – if limited in scope and duration – security benefits to local populations and to international humanitarians. Within a very limited scope, it also brought issues of gender-justice into the operational frame.

On the other hand, the operation's absolute reliance on state consent – reinforced by that state's existing strategic relationship with the major military sponsor of the operation (France) – can at best be reconciled with a position of 'non-domination' in its narrowest sense. The Chadian state – and its autocratic regime – certainly benefited from the temporary wide-vector security delivered by the 18 month installation of European military forces and the associated infrastructure that these forces bequeathed to the Chadian state on their departure. The subsequent UN operation to which the EU forces were offering a 'bridge' also delivered capacity building to Chadian security forces. That strengthening of the Chadian state – in both short-run strategic and in tactical terms – cannot, however, be said to have delivered on wider justice claims either towards a resolution of the underlying conflict (in terms of mutual recognition) nor substantively towards the inculcation of wider universal human rights norms (in terms of impartiality).

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LORD CARBERY

BY GUY WARNER PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GUY WARNER



Lord Carbery and his Morane-Saulnier

One of the most remarkable figures to grace Irish skies was John C Evans-Freke, Lord Carbery, who gained his Aviators' Certificate at the Morane-Saulnier School of Flying at Villacoublay in France on 2nd September 1913, had made a name for himself in air races in England and Europe, including the second Schneider Trophy speed contest in April 1914 in a Deperdussin monoplane and the third Aerial Derby in June of the same year in his Morane-Saulnier. His family seat was in Co Cork at Castle Freke, where succeeded to the title in 1898 and grew up in comfortable circumstances. He had gained a reputation for wild behaviour from boyhood. At the age of eight placed an apple on the head of a gardener and shot it off with an air pistol. He also shot the hat off the head of a poacher in the castle grounds, slightly grazing his head; the hat, complete with bullet hole, has been preserved. At fourteen he went secretly to Cork and arrived back driving his first motor car.

On 20th June 1914 he took part in the London to Manchester air race, flying a Bristol Scout, one of the most advanced machines of its day, capable of 100 mph. The following month he flew the Bristol again in the London-Paris-London race but had to make a forced landing in the English Channel with engine failure, was picked up by a passing steamer and 'did not get his feet wet'.

He came home to Ireland in 1914, where he made several flights in and around Cork City in his Morane-Saulnier monoplane, a much more capable aircraft when compared with the types used by other showmen. Carbery performed the first loop-the-loop in Ireland at the Clonakilty Agriculture Society's annual show on 5th July. The basic charge for a flight was £5, with a loop included the tariff rose to £25. On 9th July one of his passengers, Miss LE Townsend of

Lislenane, Clonakilty, could claim to have been the first lady in Ireland to take part in a public flying exhibition. The Cork Examiner reported:

"Amidst breathless silence, the machine darted forward, it ran along the ground for about fifty yards and then slowly and very gradually rose in the air against a fairly strong south-west breeze. As the machine neared the boundary of the grounds, the crowd became tremulous with fear for the safety of the aviator as it appeared as if he and his machine would collide with the corrugated iron fence. The suspense was only momentary, however, for the machine rose sharply and gracefully amidst the loud cheers of the crowd. Having performed two loops he then executed the 'falling leaf' descent before flying away."

He was married to José Metcalfe, a spectacularly beautiful young woman, the daughter of Major 'Jumbo' Metcalfe, from an acceptable military background, but not a brilliant one. She had been born in 1894 in Australia. José was with John when, on 9th July 1914, Cork 'Aviation Day', he gave an aeronautical exhibition over the city and then landed his Morane on the University athletic grounds at the Mar-dyke. The Cork Examiner described how:

"He took his seat in the machine. His mechanic turned the propeller and the engine went to work right away, its eight cylinders emitting an artillery-like roar. Immediately on the machine getting clear, Lord Carbery put the monoplane in motion and ran it a short distance when it ascended at a very narrow angle to the ground, so narrow indeed that the uninitiated (and most of those present were uninitiated) believed that it would go straight to the football posts. However, when about 30 yards from the posts, the aviator cleverly changed the steering of his machine giving it an extraordinary angle to the ground so much so that it was almost perpendicular. In this manner it ascended swiftly and sharply and still rising it headed off in a north westerly direction."

Carbery gave other displays over Bandon and Beaumont Park, Blackrock, where one of his passengers was Master Gerald Cobb, who was just 11 years old. "The people of the district," reported the Cork Examiner, would have "an opportunity of witnessing the daring and youthful aviator performing in the air feats which it would be impossible to describe, and must be seen to be believed." And it later reported that there were "shrieks and gasps of terror" when "the noble Lord looped the loop over the crowd." Towards the end of the display, José went up with her husband. She was wearing a "tight fitting dark cap". Although said by some to be looking rather pale, "she evidently enjoyed the prospect of looping the loop."

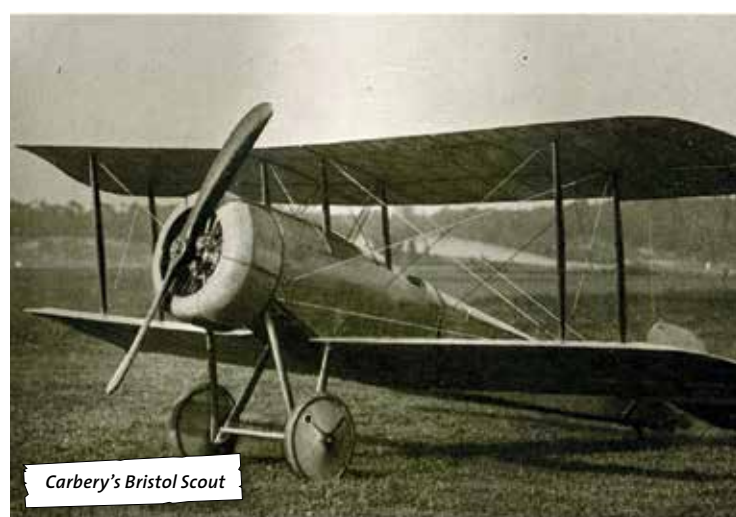
Flight magazine reported briefly on Carbery's activities in Ireland, "During the last fortnight Lord Carbery has been giving several exhibitions in Ireland. On Wednesday 15th July he was in Waterford in connection with the Agricultural Show there. The wind was rather troublesome, but he nevertheless put up several displays of looping, turnovers, tail slides &c, with and without passengers."



Lord Carbery come in to land his Morane. (via Terry Mace)



Lord Carbery and his mechanic at the Mardyke in 1914



Carbery's Bristol Scout

One of his passengers in Waterford was a reporter from the Irish Times:

"Without overcoat, hat or even goggles, Lord Carbery climbed into the aeroplane and I followed him. No sooner had we strapped in than we were off. There were a couple of jolts as the machine sped along the ground but in a moment or two it rose in the air. It swayed from side to side, then tossed backwards and forwards, and one had the feeling of being in a boat in decidedly bad weather. When I looked around we were several hundred feet up. There was a magnificent view of the surrounding district, the River Suir winding its way through the countryside before emptying itself

into the sea, while the steamers in the river at Waterford appeared as mere model boats. Presently Lord Carbery, making a megaphone of his hand, said, 'Terrific lot of wind, more than usually bad.' This was certainly encouraging news for me. I was enjoying my first real flight. We were now going round in a circle, making a sharp spiral ascent. On one or two occasions as the machine banked, powerful squalls struck it and threatened to turn it over. Presently Lord Carbery took what I thought at first was a watch out of his pocket and turning round showed it to me. 'Twenty-nine point something,' I read. One thousand, one hundred feet up was Lord Carbery's remark. With a wave of his hand Lord Carbery indicated that he was going to loop-the-loop. Next instant the machine shot rapidly upwards, went over on its back and in a moment or two came round to its normal position again. Looping the loop is quite a delightful experience."

Carbery's next venue was Bray, whence his machine was taken by rail:

"Ascending early in the afternoon from the Cricket Ground in a series of spirals to a height of 3000 feet, passing the meanwhile over Bray Head, he executed several loops and tail slides. He then took up several passengers and caused some alarm by descending in a field outside. His reason for doing this was on account of the Cricket Ground being rather unsuitable for fast landing, and, moreover, somewhat unpleasantly crowded."

He followed this before the end of the month with a flying visit to Powerscourt, and a free exhibition in the grounds of Castle Bernard, the seat of the Earl of Bandon:

"After a circuit of the town Lord Carbery looped the loop twice, did the dead-leaf drop and other exhibition flying. On descending, he was given a most enthusiastic reception, and was presented with an address by the local branch of the Irish National Volunteers."

In August further displays were given in Clonmel, Tralee Race Course and Youghal. Britain having declared war on Germany on 4th August, Flight noted that the remaining fixtures arranged had been cancelled, as Carbery, despite his strongly-held Nationalist political views, had offered his services to the Government. This offer was accepted and during the Great War he served with courage and some distinction in the RNAS until September 1918, when he was honourably discharged. Early on in the war he had suffered injury in several crashes: On 3rd September 1914 he was an observer in a Sopwith Tractor Seaplane, flown by Flight Sub-Lieutenant Sydney Pickles when it crashed at RNAS Calshot. Four days later Carbery experienced a hard landing at Antwerp in a Sopwith S.S.1 Tabloid biplane. And then on 25th Sept 1914 Carbery flew a Sopwith Tabloid, which suffered engine failure on take-off at Dunkirk and crashed. Carbery was injured. His observer was the Prince de Ligne.

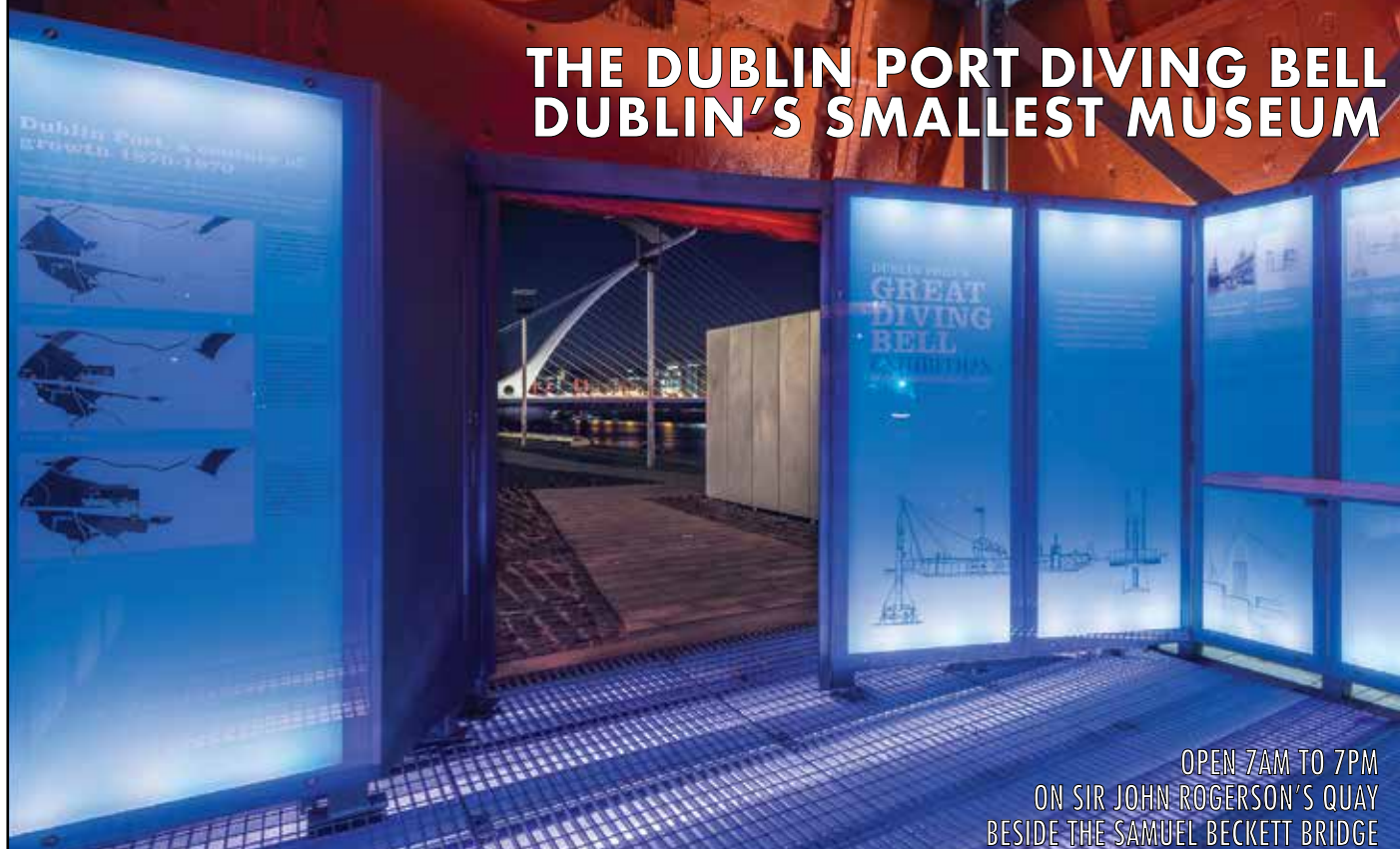
It cannot be denied, however, that Carbery had a most unusual personality. After the war he sold Castle Freke, but not before taking a shotgun to the family portraits. He spend some time in the USA, where his application for citizenship was refused because it was alleged that he had been involved in bootlegging prohibited alcoholic beverages. Not long afterwards he became one of the notorious Happy Valley Set in Kenya, changing his name by deed poll to John Evans Carbery. His personal life was no less controversial with allegations of marital cruelty and vicious rows with his several wives. Despite all of this he lived to a fairly ripe old age.

It can be asserted with some confidence, however, that owing to his skilled flying displays in Ireland in 1914, he inspired many a young Irishman to volunteer for the flying services. According to the historian, Joe Gleeson, no less than 6500 Irishmen joined the RFC, RNAS or RAF, with more than 500 being killed. Their fighting record was second to none. ■



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ANSAC welcomes new moneylender measures

ANSAC Credit Union, which is open to members of PDFORRA and their family members, says it welcomes the new measures regarding moneylenders which were announced on June 9th.



With effect from January 1st 2021 all advertisements for high cost loans with an APR over 23% (Credit Unions are capped at 12%, although most rates charged are much lower) must include “prominent warnings” and prompt consumers to think of alternatives.

“However, we’re still really concerned about those in acute financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic.” Says Gillian Dunne, CEO of ANSAC. “From what we’re seeing, the marketing tactics of some of these agencies are really quite predatory. They’re praying on the vulnerable who can least afford the astronomical rates of interest they’re charging.”

One simple tactic ANSAC points out is a flier through the letter box that promises cash delivered to your door and manageable repayments. However typically the interest rate is excluded meaning prospective customers must call the listed number where they’re met by an aggressive sales pitch.

“During this health and economic crisis sadly we’ve seen some pretty despicable practices such as fake websites selling masks, testing kits and even vaccines. We’ve also seen those profiteering through the bulk buying and then inflated reselling of hand sanitizer and PPE. While many of these have been clamped down upon, moneylenders continue to exploit the situation.” Laments Dunne.

THE IRISH MONEYLENDER MARKET – KEYS STATS:

(Based on research conducted by The Social Finance Foundation referenced in a 2019 Saint Vincent de Paul submission to The Department of Finance)

- There are an estimated 330,000 Moneylender customers in Ireland.
- Average loan size of €556
- Majority of customers are female
- Aged between 35 and 54 yrs.
- 9 month loan terms are most common.

#HERETOHELP

018554489 / info@ansacuu.ie



ANSAC’S ADVICE

To look at alternatives before making your mind up and use a template like the below comparison table to get the full picture.

	ANSAC Annual Loan	Provident Loan
Loan amount	€1000	€1000 (This is the max they offer)
Interest rate	7.9% (8.19% APR)	157.3% APR
Loan term	52 weeks	52 weeks
Weekly repayments	€20	€30
Total repayments	€1041	€1560
Total interest due	€41	€560

Table accurate as at 10/06/2020

They also point out that Credit Unions are a good place to start given their core values which centre around the promotion of thrift, improvement of the economic well-being of members and responsible provision of affordable credit.

Anyone wishing to get in touch with ANSAC for a confidential chat can reach them on 018554489.

Major Edward Mannock VC, DSO and 2 bars, MC and bar

BY GUY WARNER

Edward's mother, Julia Sullivan, came from Ballincollig, working at the Powder Mill and in domestic service. His father, Edward senior, was the black sheep of an English lower middle class family. They married in 1883 at the church of St Mary and St John, Ballincollig.

Edward's early years included time in India, where his hard-drinking father was stationed. There he contracted an amoebic infestation that weakened his left eye but did not permanently blind him. On their return to England, Edward abandoned his family. For young Edward there followed, from the age of 12, a succession of menial jobs, until he achieved modest success as a telephone engineer/linesman. He boarded with the Eyles family in Wellingborough from 1911. Jim Eyles later wrote that Mannock had, "high ideals and with a great love for his fellow mortals. He hated cruelty and poverty....A kinder, more thoughtful man you could never meet."

He was a keen cricketer, was involved in the Church Lads Brigade and then the Territorial Army with the RAMC, where he attained the rank of Sergeant. He read widely and was a passionate Socialist. He was an active member of the Independent Labour Party (ILP). He was proud of his Irish ancestry and was a staunch supporter of the movement for Irish Home Rule.

To further better himself he took a job in Turkey in 1914, was interned on the outbreak of war and treated very harshly in captivity. Mannock quickly developed a hatred for the Turks and the Germans.

He was repatriated in April 1915 but recovered his health. He rejoined the RAMC, rising to Sergeant Major but applied to join the RE and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in April 1916. He transferred to the RFC in August 1916, to be more involved in the fighting. He learned to fly in the autumn of 1916 at Hendon. He was a natural pilot with an excellent feel for his machine. He was posted to 10 Reserve Squadron in February 1917. One of his instructors was the ace, Captain James McCudden. "Mannock," he wrote, "was a typical example of the impetuous young Irishman, and I always thought he was the type to do or die."

On 6th April 1917, he was posted to 40 Squadron. He made an awful first impression, failing to appreciate the public school atmosphere. A fellow officer recalled, "Mannock seemed too cocky. New men usually took their time and listened to the more experienced hands. He offered ideas about everything: how the war was going, how it should be fought, the role of scout pilots." He also spent hours at target practice but appeared hesitant when confronting enemy aircraft over the lines. His detractors could only be silenced by deeds. They got a taste of Mannock's mettle on 19th April when, while practice diving at a ground target, the lower right wing of his Nieuport snapped off and the plane plunged downward. He managed to land the crippled craft safely.

On 7th May he destroyed an observation balloon for his first victory. He wrote in his diary: "My fuselage had bullet holes in it, one very near my head, and the wings were more or less riddled. I don't want to go through such an experience again." He became more aggressive in the air and was now accepted in the Squadron. It helped that he was an excellent shot. It was here that he generally became known as Mick. It was remarked upon that he spoke with



Edward Mannock

an 'Irish, English, Indian lilt.'

His score mounted up, though his sensitive nature is revealed in his diary, a "little black-and-tan terrier, dead in the observer's seat. I felt exactly like a murderer." He told a comrade, "Of course, I've been frightened, I've now conquered this and, having conquered myself, I will now conquer the Hun. Air fighting is a science. I have been studying it and have not been unduly worried at not getting Huns at the expense of being reckless."

On seeing a fellow pilot shot down in flames he said, "That's the way they're going to get me in the end." He had started to carry his service revolver with him on flights: "to finish myself as soon as I see the first sign of flames." He was awarded the MC and made leader of 'A' Flight. In October the Squadron received the new SE5a fighter. By the end of 1917, he had 15 confirmed victories and had received a Bar to his MC. He was becoming an excellent flight leader, fighting with tactics rather than sheer audacity. He looked after the men who flew with him, helping them to develop as combat pilots. In January 1918 he was posted back to England for a rest.

He returned to France with 74 Squadron in April 1918. In the next three months, he increased his victories to 33, not counting those

he gave away to junior pilots to boost their self-confidence. "It was wonderful to be in his Flight," one wrote, "to him his Flight was everything and. Every member had his special thought and care." Another related how Mannock had shot up a German two-seater and then "nodded at me to get it. I went down on the Hun's tail and saw that Mick had killed the gunner, and I could attack safely."

He had, recalled Ira Jones, "an intriguingly complex nature. He could be ruthless as a fighter, boyish in the mess, harsh with his pilots' mistakes, gentle and complimentary for good work, morbid when depressed. He also found solace in playing his violin and had an excellent singing voice." In May he was awarded the DSO. By the middle of June, Jones noticed that Mannock's nerves were "noticeably fraying".

port, "I saw Mick start to kick his rudder and realized we were fairly low, then I saw a flame come out of the side of his machine; it grew bigger and bigger. Mick was no longer kicking his rudder; his nose dropped slightly, and he went into a slow right-hand turn round, about twice, and hit the ground in a burst of flame." Mannock had been brought down by ground fire. He has no known resting place.

His friends campaigned for him to be awarded Britain's highest decoration, the Victoria Cross, which was conferred on 18th July 1919.

Fellow pilots recalled, "He was idolized by all who came into intimate contact with him. He was a man among men. A warm, lovable individual of many moods and characteristics."

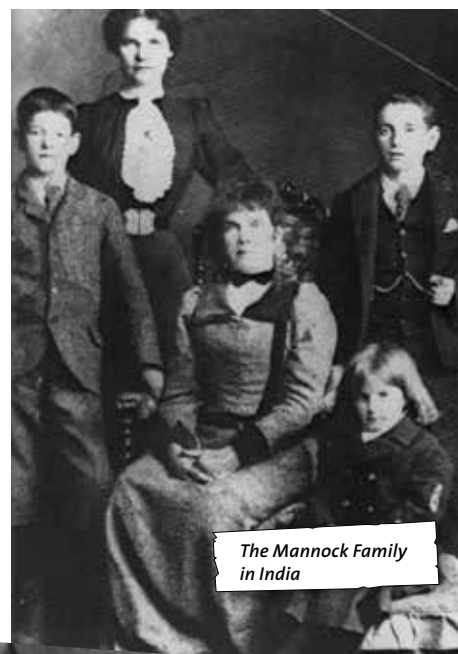
He was indisputably one of the top aces of the RFC/RAF and one



Mannock at London Colney in 1918



Sgt Mannock RAMC



The Mannock Family in India

On 18th June he went home for leave in England. He was promoted to Major, given command of 85 Squadron and awarded a Bar to his DSO. After spending a brief but painful time with his mother, an alcoholic, Mannock went to stay with his friend Jim Eyles, who noted, "he had changed dramatically. Gone was the old sparkle; gone was the incessant wit. I could see him wring his hands together to conceal the shaking and twitching."

Back in France, Mannock took command on 5th July 1918, and his arrival was seen as a godsend. He taught his men aerial tactics. Two days after his arrival he downed two Fokker D.VIIs, as his pilots, infected by his enthusiasm, brought down an additional three. Within a matter of days, his personality had completely transformed the unit. He threw himself into his work, enjoying a respite from the nightmares and depression. On 10th July he heard that James McCudden, had been killed, news that shook him but also spurred him to a furious killing spree. But he was also taking risks and ignoring his own teachings.

Early in the morning of 26th July 1918 Lieutenant Donald Inglis walked into the mess where Mannock was smoking his pipe. The two were to fly a morning patrol together. Mannock told Inglis that they would hunt for a two-seater. He would attack first, with Inglis coming in to finish the enemy off and thus get his first kill.

At 5:30 a.m Mannock dived on a two-seater. He knocked out the observer and pulled away, letting Inglis come from underneath, firing into the petrol tank. Violating his own teaching, Mannock circled the burning wreck twice. Inglis later wrote in his combat re-



Mannock with friends in Turkey

of the best fighter leaders and air fighters of his time, worthy of further remembrance and honour. ■

CONTACT CALL CENTRE

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE



The Covid-19 pandemic has rocked nations across the world, and has pushed governments to act in ways never seen before by most people in the world. The pandemic has created many challenges for people lives and businesses, but none have been more affected than our health services. Dealing with this threat has pushed our own HSE to go above and beyond, with its staff working tirelessly to treat and respond to the pandemic while also running normal day to day services. With the overwhelming number of taskings the HSE are required to do they have called in assistance from other government bodies to help out in areas that are needed.

One of the ways the DF has been called upon during the Covid-19 pandemic was to set up a Contact Call Centre (CCC). This is an invaluable tool in stemming the spread of the virus and gives people affected quicker access to testing and much needed medical care.

The 96th Cadet Class was tasked with this important task of helping to set up and manning the CCC. The location chosen for the centre was within the DFTC, close to where the cadets are housed during their cadetship and started operating in late March. Contact Call Centres like this one have been set up in numerous locations around the country. Each CCC site has a mobiliser who manages the centre, also

on site are clinical supervisors who are nurses and pharmacists from the HSE who answer any medical questions that arise. The cadets role in the CCC is to make calls to individuals who have contracted the Covid-19 virus and those who have come in contact with someone who has the virus.

The training they received for the CCC was conducted over two weeks in Dr. Steevens' Hospital in Dublin, which is the HQ for the HSE. The cadets quickly learned the procedures the HSE have in place, from the different call types to the call script that they must read.

The calls are broken down into three types, Call 1, Call 2, and Call 3. Call 1 is the initial call from a patient to their GP with suspected Covid-19 symptoms, from there they will be tested for the virus. If a patient's test comes back positive for the virus they are then passed to the CCC for a Call 2. The Call

time has progressed and the safety measures put in place by the government. The maximum number of calls being made by the site reached an all-time high of approx. 1500 calls in a single day, which is one of the largest number of calls for any CCC across the country.

Over these last number of weeks, the cadets have seen a change in the information that has been taken from a Call 2 patient, this being a significant drop in the numbers of people who have come into contact with that patient. That drop was from an average of 36 people to 5, this shows that most people are adhering to the governments advice and staying at home and not making unnecessary journeys.

At the moment the cadet class is broken into two groups, one group operates the CCC while the other is a training group. Cadet Hickey and Cadet Ahearn told us 'Due to our



2 is initiated by the cadets to the patient and a call script is used to ascertain who the person may have come into contact with since their symptoms began minus two days. From this list the Call 3 is then created and those individuals are then called to inform them they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

We spoke to Cadet Hickey and Cadet Ahearn about the training they received for the CCC, they told us, 'Our cadet class was first split into its platoons and separated for the training, the reason why this was done was in the event a member of one of the platoons contracted Covid-19 the other platoon would still be able to continue to work without being effected.' 'The training was quick and you learnt as you go, with us making calls the very first day.' 'When we first started the training, we were using a paper-based script system that was a little bit slow, but before the end of the two weeks we had started to trial a new HSE computer-based script system. This computer script was much easier to store the information and it even got modified around some of the feedback that we gave to make it more efficient, which is amazing.'

The CCC is operating between 5-6 days a week and making calls for approx. 8 hours each day. It is managing an average of approx. 700 calls every day, with this number dropping as

class becoming so competent in conducting calls that we have been asked to instruct in other CCC sites, like DCU, UCD, Trinity, and even in the Revenue Offices. We are also supervising calls at these locations. At the moment we are currently training the Army Band on how to make calls and use the computer system. We don't know what is on the horizon, but we are going to be as prepared as we can for any eventuality.'

We also got a chance to speak to the CCC site mobiliser Dearbhla De Lasa, she told us how the site is managed and ran from day to day. She also told us how the members of the 96th Cadet Class have been handling this unique challenge. She told us 'The cadets are showing great leadership and are very efficient with dealing with this challenge. They also show great empathy when engaging with the individuals on the calls which is a very important part of dealing with people under this situation.'

On closing the interview, Cadet Hickey and Cadet Ahearn told us 'We are delighted to be making such a difference like this so early in our careers and to be able to be there for our country during this difficult time.' These comments show the commitment and dedication instilled in members of the DF in our role as part of the national response to combat this virus, and that we, members of the DF remain ready to respond professionally as we strive to Strengthen the Nation. ■

LT GENERAL MJ COSTELLO

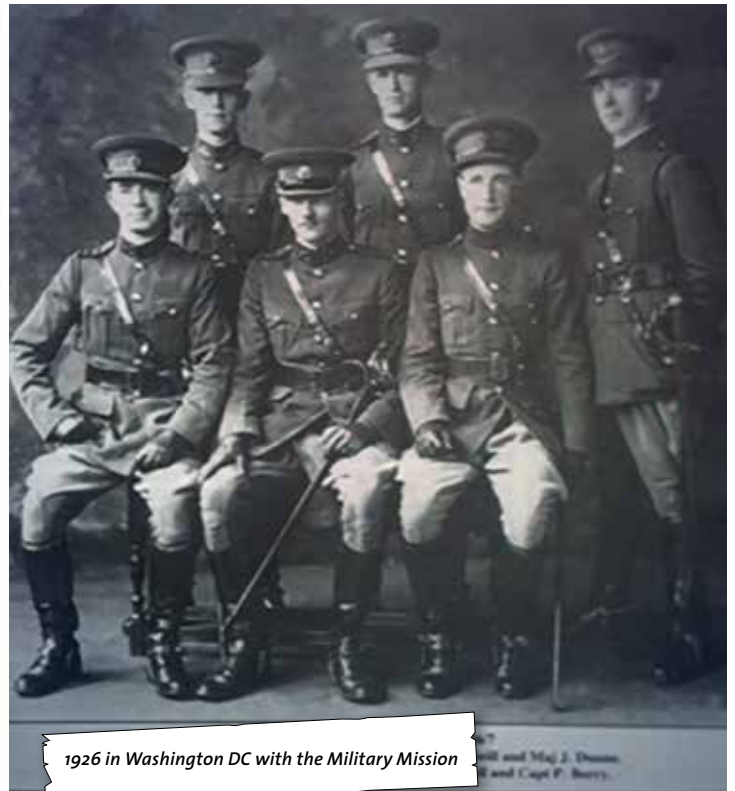
BY BRIAN COSTELLO

Lt General MJ Costello was born in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary in 1904. He joined the IRA in 1920 and subsequently supported the treaty. He joined and achieved rapid promotion in the Free State Army, being personally promoted in the field by General Collins. In October 1923, aged only 19, he was acting Director of Intelligence in GHQ. He was one of the 6 officers chosen for the 1926 Military Mission to the USA after which he was centrally involved in the establishment and functioning of the Military College. After a 2 year appointment as ACOS, he transferred to

kane Board of Guardians without bothering to attend. As the young I/O of C company, 2nd Battalion, North Tipperary IRA, he could easily get hold of the meeting's agenda and predict how various members would react and comment in compiling his "report". Unfortunately for him, on one occasion, having submitted his copy, another report reached the editor telling of how the meeting was broken-up by the Black and Tans and never took place at all! Costello was promptly sacked. He learned a valuable lesson in journalistic integrity and attention to detail that was to become the hallmark of



1925, as a young Colonel serving as Director of Intelligence



1926 in Washington DC with the Military Mission

Cork on the outbreak of WW2 as OC Southern Command. Promoted to Major-General in 1941 he was appointed GOC of the newly formed, First (Thunderbolt) Division. He retired from the Defence Forces in October 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant General and began a successful tenure as General Manager of The Irish Sugar Company, establishing Erin Foods. In later life he devoted himself to dairy farming in Boyle, Co. Roscommon. He died in October 1986.

As a teenager, the founder of An Cosantóir, Michael Joseph Costello, held aspirations to be a journalist. At aged 16, following the arrest of his father by The Black and Tans, he was offered the position of Cloughjordan correspondent with Birr's Midland Tribune. In an early display of the innovative thinking that was later to characterise both his military and business career, young Costello discovered that he could submit reports on meetings such as those of the Borriso-

the early editions of An Cosantóir. A tone was set that happily continues 80 years later.

AN TÓGLACH

On his return from the USA Military Mission in 1927, Costello was amongst a small group of senior officers involved in the revival of An tÓglach. During the War of Independence, An tÓglach, under the editorship of Piaras Beaslai, was an important vehicle of motivation and propaganda for the volunteers around the country. Later, under the guidance of Commandant WJ Brennan-Whitmore (Author of "With the Irish in Frongoch"), it remained influential during and shortly after the Civil War, until it began to suffer as a side-effect of the 1923-24 demobilisation. His American experience convinced Costello - now serving in the newly established Temporary Plans Division of GHQ - of the immense importance of a

AN COSANTÓIR ● ● ●

C. 1935. On the right, as Commandant of The Military College, inspecting troops with An Taoiseach Eamon De Valera, in Pearse



regular military publication. A small coterie of these officers, from their own personal resources, took it upon themselves to energise and publish *An tÓglach* as a method of quickly disseminating and reinforcing training information.

Costello functioned as editor for a number of issues. However, an ongoing editorial theme that criticised Government's lack of a Defence Policy incurred the wrath of the then Defence Minister Desmond Fitzgerald. The final straw for Fitzgerald was a January 1930 editorial supporting a statement made elsewhere, that the restricted availability of marriage allowance to Defence Forces personnel could be interpreted as encouraging contraception in the army. Such sentiments were unmentionable in Ireland at that time. Costello was asked to step-down as editor. In the aftermath of this controversy, the publication failed to garner sufficient support either from Department of Defence or within the Defence Forces and it, once again, fizzled out. Much of the 1930s passed without any regular military journal.

WORLD WAR 2

The fall of France in June 1940 triggered a national "call to arms" in Ireland, to which there was a huge response. Costello recalled the – "Immense tasks of organisation, training, morale building and even of defence planning to be undertaken simultaneously...there was urgent need for a military journal (as)...a vehicle of instruction that would supplement existing manuals and fill the place of non-existent ones"

He had the idea that such a journal should be produced by the military college. When this proposal wasn't received with enthusiasm, Costello – since November 1939, serving as OC Southern Command, with HQ in Collins Barracks, Cork – instead, created his own weekly Southern Command newspaper. He continues the story – "The name *An Cosantóir* was chosen on the grounds that it was proper to the most numerous category of readers, the members of the LDF, and that it reflected the basis of the call to arms, to defend the freedom and integrity of the State."

The early issues were laden with articles on tactics, care and use of weapons and some relevant contextual historical content from which readers could draw lessons to embel-

lish their ongoing training. The training manual role of the publication at this time was emphasised by the important and ever-present instruction in bold print to – "Keep your copies of '*An Cosantóir*' in a safe place. You will want them for reference later".

Demand for copies increased quickly and nationally. A decision was taken to transfer the editing and publication of *An Cosantóir* to Dublin, under the auspices of the Army Authorities. This caused some resentment amongst the ranks of the largely Munster based contributors leading to a decline in suitable material coming forward for publication. This decision was reversed after 18 months when *An Cosantóir* was returned to Cork, only this time, with an aim of national circulation under the very capable editorship of Major Florrie O'Donoghue – the distinguished I/O in Cork during the War of Independence and one of several prominent men from that era, from both sides of the Civil War divide (or none in O'Donoghue's case), who joined up during the 39-45 War. O'Donoghue was also by this time editing '*An Barr Buadh*' – a journal that Costello established for serving personnel of the First (Thunderbolt) Division, reporting sporting and competition achievements of the troops.

At the behest of Costello, *An Cosantóir* provided an early and important outlet for the writings and recollections of many veterans of the War of Independence. Prominent amongst these were Tom Barry, Sean Gaynor and Liam Deasy. Younger current readers of *An Cosantóir*, with ready access to such recollections via The Military Archives website, may fail to realise that this was the first time that many of these stories were written down and published. The aim in doing so was to educate, motivate and inspire the readership, as well as create a historical record which the current archive of *An Cosantóir* undoubtedly is. Having persuaded Barry to contribute to early editions of *An Cosantóir* – contributing under the pseudonym of 'Eyewitness' – Costello was later instrumental in encouraging his friend towards completion of '*Guerrilla Days in Ireland*' and lobbied successfully for its publication in 1948. New life was breathed into some of these important early contributions to *An Cosantóir* with the 2009 publication of Terry O'Reilly's important book '*Our Struggle for Independence*'.

Costello officially retired from the Army in October 1945, with honorary promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General. He remained a lifetime reader of *An Cosantóir*, the ongoing publication of which remained a proud legacy of his later years in the Army. In his home he retained a collection of issues of *An tÓglach*, Emergency issues of *An Cosantóir* & selected other issues from later years, many adorned with ticks, underlining or comments in the side bar as was his habit.

Today he is honoured and remembered by the annual 'Lt General MJ Costello *An Cosantóir* awards', which strive to highlight and honour contributions of note to the durable publication he established 80 years ago this year. ■

NOTE: Brian Costello is the grandson of Lt General MJ Costello

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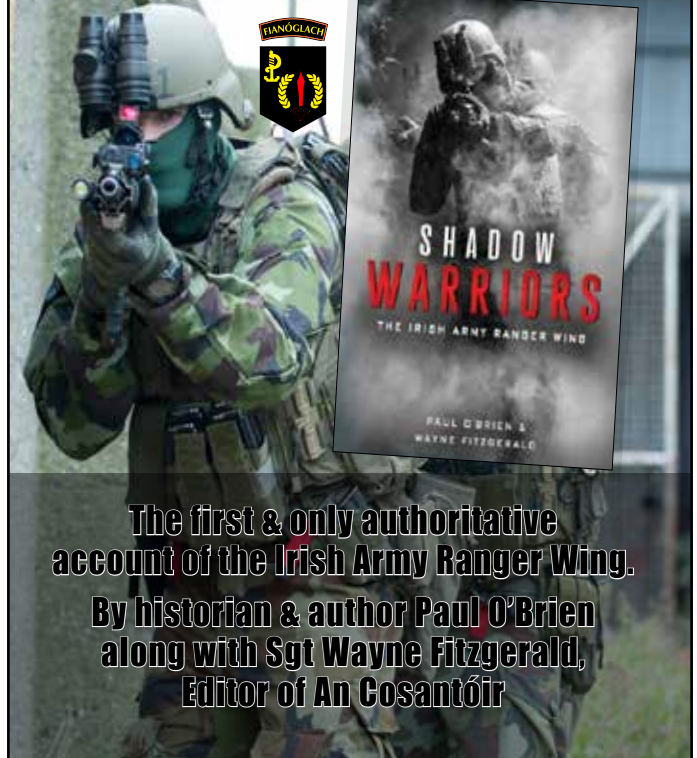
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Word searches are fun, they also bring benefits you may not realise and can play an important role in keeping you mentally fit.

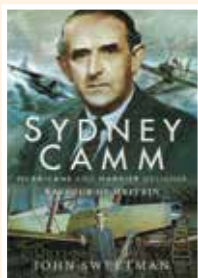
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BOOKS BOOKS

SYDNEY CAMM: HURRICANE AND HARRIER DESIGNER

Author: John Sweetman
Publisher: Air World
ISBN: 9781526756220
Pages: 320
Price: €35



Sydney Camm is undeservedly not as well known as RJ Mitchell (of Spitfire fame). However, along with Roy Chadwick of AVRO, really should be remembered as one of a trio of war winning British designers. Camm had the longest career of the three, rising from shopfloor worker to Managing Director. He was involved in the design of no less than 52 aeroplanes from Martinsyde G100s in the First World War to the Hawker Cygnet in the early 1920s and finally the HS P1127 and P1154. Naturally as he gained in seniority and experience he became less intimately involved with the nuts and bolts of design, as high levels meetings and committees took up more of his time but to the end, he was well known for his personal

inspection of and comments on the current work of individual draughtsmen in the drawing room. He was a perfectionist, who could be very testy indeed, but if his questions were answered capably and reasonably, he paid heed.

He was born in 1893 in Windsor, the son of a journeyman carpenter and joiner. At the age of 14 young Sydney was apprenticed to a local builder. He was already showing considerable mathematical ability and his interest in aviation was furthered as a founding member of the Windsor Model Aircraft Club; winning second prize for a model of a Sopwith in 1911, which was presented by TOM Sopwith himself. He was an avid reader of Flight and, spotting an interesting advert therein, he bought Lilian Bland's engine, when she was induced by her father to give up flying.

He began working at Brooklands, one of the hubs of early British aviation, in 1914 for Martin and Handasyde, advancing from cleaning the hangar floor to craftsman, mechanic and draughtsman. He also started writing well-received articles for technical journals. In 1923 he joined HG Hawker Ltd and by 1925 he was the Chief Designer. The list of aircraft types from the next decade or so was staggering – Horsley, Tomtit, Hart, Hind, Audax, Osprey, Demon, Hardy, Nimrod Fury and Hector – elegant and advanced biplanes for their time.

The design and development of the Hurricane is covered in considerable detail with much space being devoted to a fascinating description of the interaction between Camm and the Air Ministry.

Hawker's wartime role is covered at a brisk pace but with enough content to satisfy this reader. It is a remarkable fact that 12974 Hurricanes were produced in 17 versions for service on 23 battlefronts. It is the only British fighter of the war to operate in every theatre. Following on from the Hurricane we had the Tornado, Typhoon, Sea Fury and Tempest. Then post-war came the Sea Hawk and Hunter. Camm is described as inspiring, awing and, at times, intimidating his team. The author gives a rounded portrait of Camm's, at times, contradictory character. He also fills in the background of Camm's family life and broader developments at Hawker Siddeley.

The final part of the book examines, again in appropriate detail, the HS supersonic strike and VTOL projects, P1121, P1127, P1129 and P1154. The P1127, which, of course, became the Harrier, it is said, 'illustrated Camm's philosophy: identify a need and seek to provide for it; work closely with an engine company to achieve management of airframe and engine; simplicity in layout and design and do not exceed existing knowledge in too many areas at once.'

Camm did not retire, he died in 1966 at the age of 72, having suffered a heart attack while playing golf.

This is an excellent, well well-researched and highly readable book – not that one would expect anything less of John Sweetman – who members may recall gave a talk in May 2001 to the Ulster Aviation Society about his book on the Dambusters. Highly recommended.

Review By Guy Warner

HARRIER 809

Author: Rowland White
Publisher: Bantam Press
ISBN: 978-1787631588
Pages: 512
Price: £17.99



A military adventure, written with expertise...a tale of initiative, skill and courage, of pushing beyond the rules.' The Spectator April 1982. Argentina invades the Falkland Islands.

In response, Britain despatches a naval Task Force. Eight thousand miles from home, its fate hinges on just twenty Sea Harriers against the two hundred-strong might of the Argentine Air Force.

The odds against them are overwhelming.

The MoD's own estimates suggest that half the Harriers will be lost within a week. Against this background, 809 Naval Air Squadron is reformed, trained and sent south to fight.

Not since WWII had so much been expected of such a small band of pilots. Combining groundbreaking research with the pace of a thriller, Rowland White reveals the full story of the fleet's knife-edge fight for survival for the first time, and shows how the little jump jet went from airshow novelty to sealing its reputation as an icon of British aviation, alongside the Spitfire and the Hurricane.

'Without the Sea Harrier there could have been no Task Force' - Admiral Sir Henry Leach, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff

About the Author - Rowland White is the author of four critically acclaimed works of aviation history: Vulcan 607, Phoenix Squadron, Storm Front and Into the Black, as well as a compendium of aviation, The Big Book of Flight. Born and brought up in Cambridge, he studied Modern History at Liverpool University. In 2014 he launched Project Cancelled to produce apparel inspired by the best in aviation, space and other cool stuff.

Find it at projectcancelled.com

Taken from www.Amazon.co.uk

BOOKS BOOKS

SHOOTING THE DARKNESS

Iconic images of the Troubles and the stories of the photographers who took them

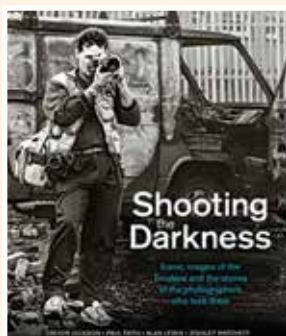
Author: Trevor Dickson

Publisher: The Black Staff Press

ISBN: 9781780732398

Pages: 144

Price: €22.99



"Photographers don't take sides, they take pictures" PAUL FAITH
"We were under no illusions that what we were doing was very, very important. It was crucial. The message had to get out" - CRISPIN RODWELL

This book is based on the critically acclaimed documentary, *Shooting the Darkness* (2019), directed by Tom Burke and produced by Thomas Kelly for Broadstone Films.

It is the story of the local press photographers in Northern Ireland who, when the Troubles broke out, were thrust on to the front line of daily shootings, bombings and murders, becoming war correspondents in their home towns.

Seven renowned photographers – Stanley Matchett, Trevor Dickson, Alan Lewis, Hugh Russell, Martin Nangle, Crispin Rodwell and Paul Faith – reflect frankly on their experiences, from the trauma of covering hundreds of funerals and being first on the scene after an atrocity, to the ways the different paramilitary groups chose to work with the press, the dangerous situations in which the photographers found themselves, and why their work was so profoundly important.

Included are the stories behind iconic images such as Father Edward Daly waving a blood-stained handkerchief on Bloody Sunday in 1972, Sean Downes being shot and killed by an RUC plastic bullet in 1984, and the brutal attack on Corporals Derek Wood and David Howes in March 1988. The result is a unique and landmark book, recognising at last the achievement and contribution of the photographers who were shooting the darkness for more than thirty years.

Key Points:

- Based on the critically acclaimed Broadstone Films documentary
- Follows from 'Reporting the Troubles' which has sold 10,000+ copies
- Covers many of the key events of the Troubles
- Presents the stories behind the iconic imagery that defines the conflict
- Approx. 100 historic, and often visceral, photographs of the Troubles
- Prominent, respected and well-known photographers share their experiences of the Troubles for the first time
- Guaranteed wide media coverage, given that all contributors are eminent photographers

Press release by The Black Staff Press

IRISH SERVICEWOMEN IN THE GREAT WAR

Author: Barbara Walsh

Publisher: Pen & Sword History

ISBN: 9781526767943

Pages: 224

Price: £19.99

Highlights

- The story of the Irish women who responded to the call for volunteers on the Western Front in 1917.
- This is the history of those women who joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from every class, creed, family background and ability.
- Their willingness to help has been woefully overlooked in the following years of political unrest.
- Irish Servicewomen looks to redress this imbalance, and restore the rightful recognition of their contribution to the war effort.

When the call went out in 1917 for volunteers willing to serve both at home and on the Western Front in a newly founded Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, young women from every province of Ireland responded just as eagerly as those from homes in Scotland, England and Wales.

Drawn from every class, creed, family background and ability, the girls who came forward to join the WAAC from Ireland had often suffered equal heartbreak over the loss of husbands, brothers and friends killed or wounded in France. Yet, their willingness to help bring about an end to the slaughter was a narrative that became ignored in popularised versions of that politically volatile era and it is hoped that this study will now go some way to restore a rightful recognition of their army service days within the historiography of twentieth-century Irishwomen.

Their work as office workers, cooks and caterers, motor transport drivers, cryptanalysis and hi-tech telecommunication personnel are examined. Close investigation is made of the Irishwomen seconded to the Royal Engineers from branches of the General Post Office in Ireland and elsewhere. Attached to Signal units, they became key players in ensuring the Western Front's crucial, high-security army Lines of Communication remained viable.

The story of these Irish servicewomen in the Great War winds up within the interwar period that followed. Had often dangerous war experiences affected these women's postwar life-changing decisions and aspirations? Compare/contrast experiences in the postwar era are cited. There were new careers, migration, home and family life. How many had foreseen that twenty years hence, Irish women 'veterans' of the Great War would once more rally at a time of fresh crisis?

About the Author

When Irish author and historian Barbara Walsh gained a doctorate in history from Lancaster University in 1999, she had already enjoyed a long and productive career which had encompassed a number of creative outlets as a writer, artist, broadcaster and multi-media producer.

Barbara went on to develop a particular interest in researching neglected early twentieth century historical topics which she presents as ground-breaking building blocks to introduce new themes and fields of research. Each subsequently well-received publication of her work has allowed these topics to be successfully developed and expanded by international scholars.



Press release by Pen & Sword History

NAME

STEPHEN BURKE

RANK

CPL

UNIT

EQUITATION SCHOOL



BY CPL LEE COYLE

My name is Stephen Burke and I am a groomsmen serving with the Equitation School based McKee Bks Dublin. I have had an interest in horses from a young age and getting to do this for a living is really rewarding. My interest for joining the DF started back in 2012, at the time I was working as a personal trainer whilst attending college studying European studies and Languages. I was interested in having a job that was different then the norm, so I began looking at the Garda Síochána and the DF.

At the time the Garda were not enlisting until the following year but the DF had a recruitment opportunity. I did a lot of research about careers in the DF, it looked like a great fit for what I was looking for and asked my fiancé about what she thought of me enlisting, and she encouraged me to go for it.

I was enlisted on 22 Oct 2012 in Gormanston Camp as part of the 48 Rec Platoon from the 27 Inf Bn. My first few weeks were a culture shock with it being more difficult than I had expected, more so the mental aspects. It was also strange to not know anybody who I had enlisted with, but after a few weeks we all settled in and bonds were made, this helped us through the difficult times. The friends I made during my training are some of the best, with one of them becoming my best man and my sons godfather.

When I finished my training, I was posted to An Chead Chathlan Coisithe (1 Inf Bn) Galway, which has a great tradition of Irish speakers. My first career course in the DF was a Basic Radio Operators Course in Jul 2013, and soon after I applied for an Irish Language Course in May 2014, to help me with serving within this Irish speaking unit. I also completed a Computer Course and a 12.7 HMG Course over the next year.

In 2016 I travelled overseas with the 54 Inf Gp UNDOF, this gave me the chance to complete overseas qualification courses like Military First Responders (MFR) Course, Army Fighting Vehicle Recognition (AFV) YE Course, and we also got to Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) exercises which was really interesting. Being away from home on that tour was difficult as I had a young son at home, but it was a great experience.

While serving overseas I applied for a transfer to the Equitation School due to my interest in horses and I also wanted to be stationed in Dublin. I was successful with my trans-

fer, so when I returned home from overseas I was posted straight into the Equitation School. The following year I completed an NCOs course and my initial Groomsman Course, and I was promoted to Cpl soon after in Feb 2018.

My role as a Cpl Groomsman within the Equitation School is a busy appointment, with many daily and seasonal taskings, with every week being different. On a daily basis my tasks range from ensuring the groomsmen have lunge each horse assigned to them, mucked out, clean tack, gone to paddocks, and clippings, we even make our own feed on site for the horses. We are a proud unit and keeping a high standard is very important, especially while attending show jumping events.

We attend national and international events on a regular basis and it is up to the groomsmen detailed for the event to organise transport, the route to be used to event, and even the entry tickets. As the NCO I am ultimately responsible for the care of the horse while at an event.

Also as an NCO in the unit I am also required to instruct our groomsmen and help them upskill their equine education. We do this by internal and external instructors, with our external instructors teaching our groomsmen up to Fetac Level 3 equine first aid. I am currently instructing on our latest grooms course.

I am really proud to serve with the equitation school, especially traveling abroad to other countries and seeing Irish horses compete against horses from around the world. The DF has given me the chance to turn my interest for horses into a career. ■



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