



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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JUNE 2015

DCOS OPS
INTERVIEW

'NO COST' CIMIC
PROJECTS UNIFIL

IRISH D-DAY
VETERAN

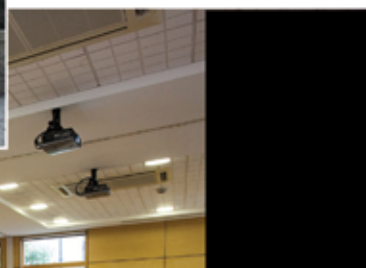
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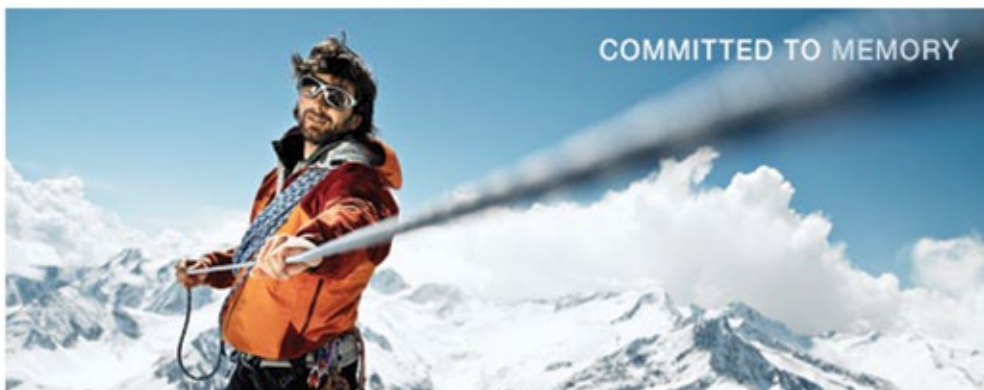
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Front Cover

Pictured is Lt Stephen Keane, 48 Inf Gp UNDOF by Cpl Neville Coughlan.

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

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our June issue, where we have another packed issue, featuring our current missions and stories from our historic past.

This issue starts with your photos *On Parade*, and please keep them coming. For our *In Focus* section we have a piece on the *Defence Forces Clay Pigeon Club* (DFCPC) who held a shoot in the Curragh recently, Cpl Lee Coyle and I visited the *Connaught Rangers Association and Museum* in Boyle, Co Roscommon. In *Veteran's News* we have five photos and their captions from our extended Defence Forces Family. In our front cover story *Peacekeeping in the Golan*, Cpl Neville Coughlan and I travelled to UNDOF as part of an Irish Media visit to the region, where we got to meet members of the 48 Inf Gp on the ground. Our next main article is an interview with DCOS *Ops Maj Gen Ralph James*, where we got his views before retiring from the Defence Forces this month. Next Comdt Rory Esler, tells us about 47 Inf Gp's ongoing 'No Cost' CIMIC Projects in South Lebanon.

In our *Strategic Review*, Michael Keane a project archivist with Military Archives article *One Family's Fight for Irish Freedom* looks at the Kerr Family through the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection. Next we have the *Irish Mutiny in the Punjab* by Michael Silvestri, Asst Prof of History at Clemson University, South Carolina who looks at the Connaught Rangers Mutiny in India in 1920. Our *History* feature *A Damned Near-Run Thing* by Paul O'Brien who visits the 100th anniversary of The Battle of Waterloo 1815. Instead of our regular *What I Do* feature we have an extended piece on Galway born WWII Commando Sgt Patrick Gillen in *Irish D Day Veteran Honoured* by his son Robin Gillen. In *Sport*, Capt Claire Mortimer, tells us about the revitalisation of the *DF Ladies Gaelic football team*. Plus we have all our regular features and reviews.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

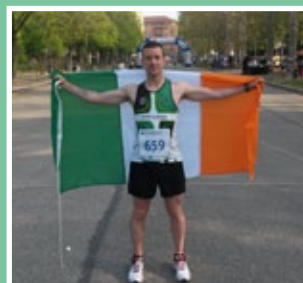
SARAH LEIGH FUN RUN



On 30th April members of Dept. of Defence (DOD) and DFHQ based in Newbridge took to the local roads to compete in a Fun Run/Walk and raised over €800 for Pte Sarah Leigh, who is undergoing medical treatment. This initiative commenced last year with donations going to The Clodagh Daly Trust. The DOD then hosted a soccer game later in the year between DF and DOD with funds raised going to the Jack & Jill Foundation. Thanks to all the competitors and members of DOD and DFHQ who contributed so generously. A mention of thanks for spot prizes to An Cosantóir, the DOD Social Club and to Bridgestock Café for refreshments. The event had 137 contributors and 57 participants. *Photo by: CS Joe Skelly, DFHQ*

24hr World Championship Race

The 11th IAU 24hr World Championship was held in Turin on 11-12 April. Sgt Brian Ankers, MSF, 101 Sqn, Air Corps finished 5th out of 180 competitors, running non-stop for 24hrs on a 2km track. He completed 198km and placed best amongst the Irish runners. He gave a big thank you to the DFAA for their support. *Photo: Sgt Brian Ankers, 101 Sqn*





DF ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS ▲

The Mil Col won the team event in the DF Orienteering Championships held at Oakwood, Co Wicklow recently. Pictured is Col David Dignam (D Inf) presenting the trophy to Sgt Paul Millar (NCOTW). *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY UK VISIT ▲

The staff of Royal School of Artillery, UK were pictured during a recent visit to the Artillery School, Mil Col, DFTC, Curragh Camp. L/R: RSM J Morris (Arty Sch), WO 1 PW Edwards (Royal Artillery Master Gunner), Capt P Magill RA (SO 3 Training), Lt Col R Yorke (Sch Comdt Arty Sch), Lt Col P Maple RA (SO1 Training), Comdt R Finegan (CI Arty Sch) and Mrs Debbie Morrison (SO 2 Defence Engagement). *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



DENMARK VISIT ▲

The Ambassador of Denmark to Ireland HE Carsten Sondergaard visited Collins Bks, Cork on 17th April 2015, where he inspected a Sergeants Honour Guard. EO 1 Bde, Col Patrick Flynn is pictured presenting the Ambassador with a Mess 'Coin'. *Photo by: Cpl Christine O'Leary, HQ 1 Bde*



RDF WINNERS ▲

Pictured are RDF members of 12 Inf Bn with Bn OC Lt Col Paul Carey, who were winners of the 1 Bde Shooting competition 2015 in Rifle, Falling Plates, GPMG and Pistol. *Photo by: Sgt David Kerin, 12 Inf Bn*



THE FIELD ▲

'The Field' as it has been named was constructed and designed by members of 47 Inf Gp prior to their departure from UNIFIL on 17th May 2015. Pictured are the team that brought about the development of the sports pitch having spent countless hours digging down into the rugged landscape at UNP 2-45. They are (L/R): Pte Diarmaid Corcoran, Cpl Kenneth McCormack, Pte Patrick Walsh, Pte Kevin Reid, CS Tom Mahon, Lt Col Kevin McCarthy (OC 47 Inf Gp), Sgt Trevor Howard, Sgt Paul McCoy, Pte Noel McManus and Capt Niall Fingleton. *Photo: Lt Mark White, PIO 47 Inf Gp*



BEST STUDENT ▲

Pte Jonathon O'Dowd was awarded 'Best Student' on his 3* Course with 104th Pln, 1 Armoured Car Squadron, DFTC, he is pictured here with Lt Brian Lane (Pln Comdr) and Sgt Larry Havens (Pln Sgt). *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



GALLIPOLI 100 ▲

On 24th April 2015, the Commonwealth and Ireland Service commemorated the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign, at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Helles Memorial in Turkey. Six members of the Defence Forces travelled to participate in the commemoration, they were L/R: Sgt Joe Meade (7 Inf Bn), Armn Michael J. Whelan (No 4 Sp Wing), PO Kevin Heade (NS), PO Cormac De Barra (NS), Sgt Tracy Walsh (No 3 Ops Wing), and Coy Sgt Jim Aherne (7 Inf Bn) at the Cape Helles Memorial. *Photo: Royal Navy photographer*



COMBINED LFTT SHOOT ▲

On 21st April 2015 members of 27 Inf Bn provided a weapons display and demonstration shoot to members of the Garda Firearms Training Unit (GFTU) at Red Barn Military Range, Dundalk. In turn, members of GFTU provided a display of their weapons. The event was concluded with a Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) Skills shoot. The DF works closely with an GS and a knowledge of Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) used by both organisations ensures mutual understanding and a good working relationship. *Photo: Capt J Freeley, PIO 2 Bde HQ*



SOVEREIGN'S CUP 2015 ▲

The Sovereigns Cup trophy is a revival of a centuries-old tradition when the 'Sovereign of Kinsale' presented a trophy for the fastest sailing craft of the time. The Irish Cruiser Racing Association (ICRA) Nationals and Sovereigns' Cup 2015 being held in the Kinsale Yacht Club from 24th - 27th June was launched on board LÉ Eithne by Minister for Agriculture, Food, the Marine and Defence Simon Coveney TD recently. He highlighted the importance of marine leisure for coastal communities, and organisers Kinsale Yacht Club, estimate the regatta could deliver €750,000 to boost the local economy. *Photo by: David Branigan, www.oceansport.ie*



PORTUGUESE GENERAL VISIT

Maj Gen Pedro Palhares, Portuguese Air Force is pictured with D COS Sp, Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM and GOC AC, Brig Gen Paul Fry. He was recently part of a visiting Portuguese delegation with their CASA CN295 aircraft to Baldonnel. *Photo by: Sgt Damian Faulkner, 105 Sqn*



MORTAR COMPETITION 2015 ▲

The 6 Inf Bn won the Defence Forces Mortar Competition 2015 on the 8th May 2015 in the Glen of Imaal, Co Wicklow. The photo is of a happy bunch with the trophy. *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



FRENCH GRAND PRIX ▲

Capt Michael Kelly continued his recent run of solid form with a win in the French Grand Prix at Chantilly recently. The 31 year-old piloted the Irish Sport Horse Drumiller Lough to a €6,000 victory after setting a very fast time in the 13 horse jump-off. Kelly claimed a win and several top three places at last month's Sunshine Tour in Vejer de la Frontera with the 12 year-old Drumiller Lough, and had similar results at the same venue with another very promising Irish Sport Horse, Mullentine Loughgall. *Photo: Colin McClelland, Press Officer, Horse Sport Ireland www.horsesportireland.ie*

DEFENCE FORCES CLAY PIGEON CLUB (DFCPC)

BY SGT JOHN REYNOLDS, DFHQ
MAIN PHOTOS CPL LEE COYLE, PR BRANCH



In 2012 the Defence Forces Clay Pigeon Club was founded to promote the sport of clay shooting in the Defence Forces. Like many armies all over the world, shooting is a big part of a soldier's life. Clay shooting is completely different to the shooting we would be used to in the Defence Forces in that all the targets are moving at speed and in different directions. With many different disciplines there is something to suit all types and levels of shooters. At present the DFCPC has established shooters amongst its members that have represented Ireland overseas in many disciplines with great success. In recent years the sport of clay shooting has become a competitive sport with many armies competing against each other. This in itself offers serious shooters the opportunity to travel and taste what it's like to compete at international level. Take a look at the US Armies marksmanship unit with shooters in every shooting discipline you can imagine. The DFCPC realises there are shooters within our ranks capable of shooting at international and possibly world level - with time and practice.

DFCPC have three members accepted into the newly formed Irish Shooting Academy (ISA), two in Olympic trap and one in Olympic skeet, where they receive one to one coaching from the Irish Olympic teams very own coach. In recent years DFCPC have competed in the Leinster League against clubs from all over the province with great success. Only last month DFCPC shot against An Garda Síochána who are a well-established club and came out as winners.

DFCPC as a club see great potential in current members but we know there are a lot more shooters out there that can put the DFCPC on the map. If you are interested in joining the DFCPC why not come along to one of their shoots and have a go or even watch and chat to some of the shooters there. DFCPC have qualified shotgun instructors and shooting coaches to help you enjoy the experience. Generally DFCPC host a shoot on the first Wednesday of the month on range 4 in the Curragh Camp and external competitions at weekends.

**You do not need to hold a current shotgun permit to become a member. Fee for registration is €20.00 (Year 1).*

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John Sargent - DFTC - john.sargent@defenceforces.ie - Ex 5481



The Connaught Rangers Association and Museum

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD – PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD & CPL LEE COYLE

On the 11th May 2015, *An Cosantóir* visited King House in Boyle, Co Roscommon, the home of the Connaught Rangers Museum. We were met by the chairperson of the Connaught Rangers Association, Pte Willie Beirne, from Sp Coy, 6 Inf Bn and the Association's General Secretary Mr Paul Malpas.

Paul told us, "There were four fighting Battalions of the Connaught Rangers: 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th and two reserve battalions, 3rd and 4th. The 2nd were more or less wiped out in 1914 while retreating at Mons during the Great War, so they were amalgamated with the 1st Bn for the remaining years of the Battalions existence."

On giving us a tour of the museum and entailing us with many tales from the different eras of the Connaught Rangers history, a few names came to the fore during their infamous mutiny in 1920s India.

Pte James Daly, with the 1st Bn in India in 1920, who was one of the mutineers who tried to take over the armoury in Solon that resulted with the deaths of two fellow soldiers. He was later sentenced to death by firing squad in Daghai Prison, India on 2nd November 1920, and was buried in India. His remains were finally laid to rest in his hometown of Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath in 1972.

Another was Pte Patrick Gogarty from Roscommon, who re-enlisted in the 1st Bn on 4th April 1919, after a brief spell in the Royal Irish Regiment. He is regarded as one of the original mutineers in Wellington Bks in Jullundur, 1920. He was also sentenced to death by firing squad, which was later reduced to penal servitude for life.

His British Army discharge papers, which are on show, state his character was 'Very Bad' and he was discharged with disgrace and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, he had one year and 292 days service (75 days overseas).

He was released on 4th January 1923 and joined the recently formed Irish Free State Army on 12th January 1923, where he served 39-years and 304 days with 4 Garrison Ord Coy, Athlone. He was discharged on 19th November 1962, attaining the rank of Sergeant with an 'Exemplary' conduct

record. He died in St Vincent's Hospital, Athlone in March 1965, aged 64.

Interestingly, both men had joined the British Army after the Great War in late 1919 at Staffordshire, England.

Paul said if people wanted to read more on the Connaught Rangers Mutiny he highly recommended an article that appeared in the Irish Sword No 88, Vol 22 Summer 2001 by L/Cpl Conor Francis O'Brien who was in the Guard Room on the day of the mutiny in 1920.

In the 'Remembrance Room' of King House there is a number of model dioramas, most notably is the highly publicised 6ft scene depicting the Dublin and Munster Fusiliers landing at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli. Willie told us they previously asked the Boyle's Men's Shed to make a diorama depicting a WW1 trench scene from 1914 and another showing a memorial garden on the same topography in 2014, and were really impressed with it. You cannot but admire these dioramas, as they are expertly made with amazing details.

In finishing, Paul said they regularly help out people researching their family's history in the Connaught Rangers, and they now have a database containing records of 30,000 soldiers, from 1880-1922 – this does not include the previous 87-years of the unit due to lack of details from that period, which included the 1st Boer War and the Zulu Wars.

For more information on the Connaught Rangers Association or the museum please visit their website:

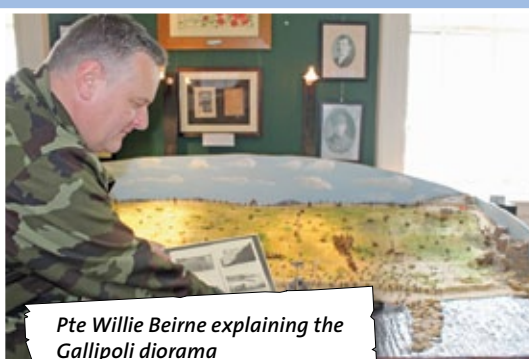
www.connaughtrangersistoc.com



Patrick Gogarty attending Pte Daly's remains being laid to rest in Glasnevin in 1972



Paul Malpas showing Patrick Gogarty's documents



Pte Willie Beirne explaining the Gallipoli diorama

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

ANZAC DAY



Col Even Williams NZ Defence Force is pictured with members of the Fr James Gilmore and Royal Meath Branches of ONE, who attended the dawn remembrance service for ANSAC Day in Grange Gorman Cemetery on Saturday 25th April 2015. Photo: Dessie O'Hara



Pictured are members of the United Irish Ex-Services Association Australia (UIESAA) on Anzac Day 2015 in Australia. For more information on the Association please visit: <http://uiesaa.wordpress.com>. Photo: Paddy Armstrong, UIESAA

CURRAGH CAMP VISITS



Pictured outside the MPs Mess in McDermott Bks, DFTC during a visit on 30th April 2015, are former members of the MP Corps. Standing L/R: Cpl Reade (Barman), Barry Clarke, CQMS David Murphy, Pat Vaughan, Jim Matthews, Paddy Morey, PJ Nichol, Paul Hewett, Paul Kelly, Kevin Sharkey, John O'Neill, Martin Griffin and Cpl A Murphy (Barman). Sitting L/R: Derry Molloy, Jim Kaufman, Noel Buckley, BSM Fran Hayden, David Ennis and Pat Molloy. Photo by: Cpl Lee Coyle, PR Branch

On 30th April 2015, the Naval Association visited the DFTC for a tour of the museum and to meet the GOC. Naval Association President Declan Pendred made a presentation to BSM Fran Hayden and Cpl A Murphy (Barman MPs Mess) on behalf of the Assoc. Photo by Cpl Lee Coyle, PR Branch



COFFEE MORNING ATHLONE

Lt Col David Goulding (OC 6 Inf Bn & Custume Bks) invited all ex-members who served in Custume Bks, Athlone to attend a Coffee Morning on 1st May 2015. There was a good turn out of ex members who treated those present with stories of their service in the Bks. Coffee mornings will continue to be held on the first Friday of each month. Pictured is: Sgt Paddy McManus (retd) and Cpl Amanda Ganley (6 Inf Bn). Photo by: Pte Aiden Sherlock, 6 Inf Bn



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PEACEKEEPING IN THE GOLAN

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN AND AS CREDITED

In a statement on 1st May 2015 regarding Irish peacekeepers serving with UNDOF, Minister for Defence Simon Coveney TD said: *"I am fully aware that peacekeeping operations are not without risk. However, the safety of our troops is my priority. I am concerned at the recent incidents and will continue to monitor developments in the region."*

On 31st May 1974 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 350, establishing the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), with a mandate to maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria; supervise the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces; and supervise the areas of separation and limitation, as provided in the Agreement on Disengagement. This mandate has been renewed every six months since.

UNDOF is situated inside and on either side of the Area of Separation (AOS) on the Golan Heights. The AOS comprises a hilly area, around 75km long, between 200m and 10km wide, which straddles the border between Syria and Israel. It is dominated in the north by Mount Hermon, Syria's highest mountain at 2,814m, and stretches south to the Jordanian border.

The AOS is defined by Alpha line on the Israeli side and Bravo line on the Syrian side.

The Disengagement Agreement prohibits Israeli or Syrian forces from entering the AOS and limits the amount of troops, weapons and armament permitted within 25km of their respective Alpha/Bravo lines. UNDOF is the only military force allowed in the AOS under the terms of the Agreement.

UNDOF's current strength is 930 troops, 80 unarmed UNTSO military observers of Observer Group Golan (OGG), 58 international staff, and 110 local civilians. The troop-contributing countries are Fiji, India, Nepal, Ireland and the Netherlands. UNDOF fatalities since 1974 stand at 54 troops and one civilian.

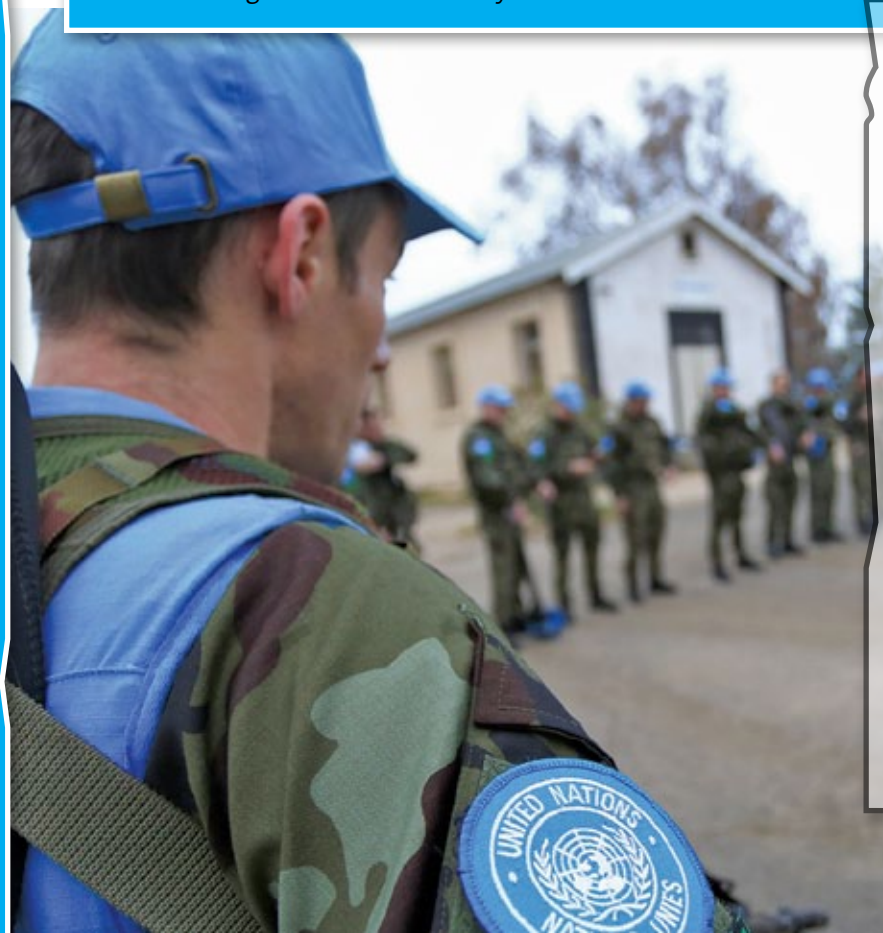
With the escalation of the Syrian civil war, which started in 2011, UNSC Resolution 2108 was adopted in June 2013, stressing the obligation of both Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to painstakingly observe the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement and abide by its terms.



In September 2013 Ireland began to contribute to the UNDOF mission. The Defence Forces contribution consists of a Force Reserve Company (FRC), which must also provide a quick-reaction force (QRF) ready to deploy at short notice. Deployment commenced with 43 Inf Gp, followed by 44, 46 and the current 48 Inf Gps.

In September 2014, Ireland's 44 Inf Gp conducted a tactical withdrawal across the AOS to the Alpha line, as Force Commander Lt Gen Iqbal Singh Singha (India) deemed the situation along Bravo line unsafe for UN peacekeepers. He made this decision after a number of incidents, including the capture of 45 Fijian soldiers by insurgents, and the insurgent surrounding of 70+ Filipino peacekeepers in two posts. As FRC, troops from 44 Inf Gp were responsible for the rescue and safe return of the beleaguered Filipino soldiers.

Prior to the 2014 relocation UNDOF had two camps, Ziouani (Alpha side) and Faouar (Bravo side), 20 permanently manned positions, eight outposts manned during daylight hours, and 11 observation posts.



On 20th April 2015 An Cosantóir visited the 130-strong 48 Inf Gp, the current Irish unit serving with UNDOF. In-country for two weeks at that time, 48 Inf Gp has a platoon stationed inside the AOS at UN Post 8o (UNP8o) acting as observers, and a second platoon acting as QRF with a 15-minute 'notice to move', stationed in Camp Ziouani, 1km from the AOS. In addition the FRC has an EOD/ESSCT capability, a medical detachment and all the required logistical backup such as transport, cooks, technicians, etc.

The new Irish contingent intend to build on the success of their predecessors, 46 Inf Gp, and maintain the Irish contingent's reputation as a highly-tactical, well-equipped force, and "a force multiplier", as DFC Brig Gen Anthony Hanlon called them, with their C-IED/EOD capabilities, which have become a great asset to UNDOF.

On our arrival at Camp Ziouani, Comdt Paul Kelly, 2i/c 48 Inf Gp, briefed us on the troubled region, from the Six-Day War (1967) to the Yom Kippur War (1973) and the May 1974 ceasefire that brought about the UNDOF mission.

While he told us that UNDOF is authorised to use force, "up to and including deadly force", under the UN's rules of engagement, Comdt Kelly pointed out that UNDOF doesn't have a mandate to get involved in the internal Syrian conflict; only "to observe breaches of the Disengagement Agreement".

Later we met with UNDOF DFC Brig Gen Anthony Hanlon who told us that "UNDOF is greatly challenged" and that "danger lurks around every corner". Speaking of how quickly things can change he said: "No one envisaged the major attacks on UN positions or the kidnapping of troops in August 2014 or that the front lines of the Syrian crisis that were 27km away six months ago would now be only 3km away."

We asked Brig Gen Hanlon how the Irish contingents are thought of within the mission. "While as DFC I can't favour any unit and I see them all as equals, our troops' performance makes me proud to be Irish," he said. "The three infantry groups to date have been well-capable, well-equipped modern units and have done

work as soldiers - although there's nothing they shouldn't be able to do. They did what needed to be done and they were tested and proven."

Brig Gen Hanlon said that in discussions with Israeli and Syrian military leaders and with other UN officials all had complimented the Irish peacekeepers and said it is known "you can rely on the Irish".

The DFC finished by saying: "We have been doing our recces, patrols and rehearsal exercises and we will be going back (Bravo side) as soon as possible when it is safe to do so. We need to go back for the credibility of the mission. For 40-years Israel and Syria have been at peace, so the mandate works, but it requires all armed groups to move out of the area."

During the form-up phase in Finner Camp, OC 48 Inf Gp, Lt Col Mark Prendergast, spoke about what he expected from his troops, saying he wanted "simple things to the highest standards" and that "amateurs practice something until they can do it right: professionals practice until they can't do it wrong".

Epitomising the CO's required standards, the FRC, who are on a 15-minute 'notice to move', have their mobilisation drill timing down to 10 minutes – that's geared up, in the Mowags and ready to go.

Lt Col Prendergast, who is very familiar with the area of operations having served as an UNTSO observer and chief of operations here previously, told us: "The DF provides the FRC. We have excellent comms, logs, weapons and troops: no one else has our capabilities. We are operationally self-sufficient and only require food, water and fuel."

Speaking about the current challenges in the mission he continued: "Although there are actors inside the AOS that are not part of the Agree-

ment, the mandate hasn't changed and we still do our job. We have to deploy a force-protection capability going forward."

He finished by saying: "We need to develop our armour capability for present and future deployments and we need these types of missions to develop new leaders and our capabilities and equipment." ■



Engineer Specialist Search Clearance Team (ESSCT) conducting a route-clearance operation. Photo by: Cpl James O'Dea, 48 Inf Gp



We spoke to some Irish troops about their roles with 48 Inf Gp.

Vox Pops

Medical Section: 1 Doctor, 2 NCO paramedics and 1 Pte medic



Sgt Darren McDade (CMU HQ, St Bricins Hospital), from Co Monaghan, with 21 years' service and five previous trips overseas (81 & 85 Inf Bn UNIFIL, 90 Inf Bn UNMIL, 33 Inf Gp KFOR, 13 Ir Comp BiH.)

"All medics are qualified as tactical emergency medical orderlies (TEMOs). Our routine is a week's standby with the QRF; then a week as duty medic, covering the medical office and admin; then a week on patrols. The medical Mowag APC is kitted out better than an ambulance at home is, and it needs to be, as more intervention is needed. We could treat anything from a simple cut to a cardiac arrest, haemorrhage control or life support.

"In our specialist chest rig we carry medical kits that can be used to treat catastrophic haemorrhage control, combat application tourniquet (CAT), oropharyngeal airway (OPA) as well as a CPR-mask, sheers and general medical supplies such as plasters, dressings and cleaning solutions."

Comdt Max Karpala (CMU Detachment, DFTC), originally from Poland, with nine years' service and five previous trips overseas (96 Inf Bn UNMIL, 97 & 102 Inf Bn EUFOR tChad/CAR), 105 & 107 Inf Bn UNIFIL).

"I have twice completed a Battlefield Trauma Life Support course. The medical section works with the Indian Logistics Battalion, which has a Level 1 hospital in Camp Ziouani. I conduct a daily sick parade for Irish personnel and I also rotate as duty medical officer within UNDOF and I am on call 24/7 for emergencies. The medical Mowag APC is crewed by a car commander and driver, along with the doctor (when available) and the paramedic. We can take two stretcher patients and two ambulatory at the same time, which is a great asset and assurance should it be needed."

Quick Reaction Force (QRF), which is on a 30-minute 'notice to move', forms part of the Force Reserve Company (FCR)



Pte Philip Conlon (28 Inf Bn), from Sligo with eight-and-a-half years' service and one previous trip overseas (39 Inf Gp KFOR).

"I'm presently acting 2i/c of 3 Sec, 2 Pl, and I'm enjoying the added responsibility. I take the notes in the command car, such as the various sitreps and reports that come in. I have completed many driving courses, including transit, truck and LTAV, and hope to do a Mowag driver course when I have enough kilometres done. My ambition is to move up the ranks when ready."



Cpl Damien Doherty (28 Inf Bn), from Donegal, with 13 years' service four previous trips overseas service (90 & 93 Inf Bn UNMIL, 39 Inf Gp KFOR, and 104 Inf Bn UNIFIL).

"From my previous overseas experience I know what it's like to operate in extreme high temperatures. I am currently 2i/c of 2 Sec, 2 Pl, where my tasks include making sure everyone is on time, go through their drills, and help the section i/c. I am also on the Welfare Committee here and enjoy helping out. I will be part of the next rotation to UNP80 to observe and report any breaches of the UNDOF mandate."

Ordnance & Engineer Detachments (Names withheld for security reasons)

The Engineer Specialist Search Clearance Team (ESSCT) works together with the members of the EOD team and both are considered valuable assets to the FRC. The ESSCT helps ensure the safety and freedom of movement of OGG and UNDOF personnel. When a suspected IED/UXO is identified within the AOS, the ESSCT is tasked with rendering it safe. The Ordnance Detachment is also tasked with inspections and maintenance of all weapons, from the Mowag-mounted weapon systems down to personal side arms. Ordnance personnel are also responsible for ammunition storage, which needs to be constantly monitored in high-temperature environments. They are looking forward to the arrival of the new Mod 14 Steyr rifle to arrive, which 48 Inf Gp had used in pre-deployment training.

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The Sean Lawlor Artist's Trust is a charity organisation that has been set up to help artists who are in dire financial straits and in need of care or medical attention. Sean Lawlor played Malcolm Wallace in the movie Braveheart but sadly lost his battle with cancer in 2010.

For more information contact:
aislennellenlawlor@gmail.com - 0857140213 or
eric.cablecommunications@gmail.com - 0851093422
http://artiststrust.ie - Trust Website
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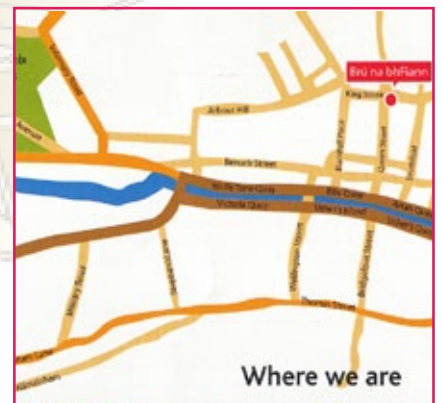
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Brú na bhFiann



Where we are



DCOS Ops Maj Gen Ralph James

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

On 17th April 2015 An Cosantóir interviewed Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) Maj Gen Ralph James prior to his retirement from the Defence Forces to take up the position of Director of Safety Regulation with the Irish Aviation Authority.

Maj Gen James joined the Defence Forces as a cadet in November 1973 and was awarded his 'wings' and commissioned as a pilot officer with the Air Corps in September 1975.

He served in various command and staff appointments, including OC Maritime Sqn, OC Training & Transport Sqn, Wing Operations Officer, OC Gormanston, Air Intelligence, OC No 1 Sp Wing, Chief Air Staff Operations (CAS Ops), and GOC Air Corps and Director of Military Aviation from 2002.

In July 2010 he was appointed DCOS Ops with responsibility for Ops Section, Int Section, RDF Section, Combat Support Section, and Communications & Information Systems (CIS). During his career with the Air Corps, Maj Gen James was an operational pilot, a flight instructor, and an approved rating examiner, with over 5,500 flying hours. He has flown many aircraft types in various mission profiles, including maritime patrolling and ministerial air transport.

He served overseas with UNTSO from 1986 until 1988, where he served as an observer on the Golan Heights (OGG) and South Lebanon (OGL) before serving as Chief Air Staff Officer in Jerusalem.

An Cosantóir: What is the main thing you would view as your legacy to the Air Corps?

Maj Gen James: The manner in which the Air Corps adjusted to ever changing realities and mission profiles with a greater emphasis on its prime military mission in support of the DF and greater focus on operational outputs. This involved redefining roles, especially after the loss of SAR, selection and integration of new aircraft and modernising the legislative basis for military air ops in-line with current international best practice.

An Cos: What were the main challenges you faced as DCOS Ops?

Maj Gen James: I suppose the two key issues from an organisational perspective, apart from normal everyday operational training, etc, would be the re-organisation of the Defence Forces, and the White Paper on defence policy, which is ongoing, and unfortunately I'm not going to see it through to fruition. However, the steering committee are well aware of my views of where its focus should be.

In terms of the re-org, we didn't start with a white sheet. There were limitations in what we could achieve but I think, within those limitations, what we have achieved is very worthwhile. I also think, based on visits to all the barracks over the last year, that there's a sense of the worth of the project, and a sense of enthusiasm for the work required. There's a great attitude out there: places like Galway and Kilkenny are up at maximum numbers and there's a vibrancy that wasn't there before, because we were more dispersed and stretched too thinly on the ground. I think we are actually in healthier shape as an organisation. The organisation that finally emerges will be more concentrated and capable, with training in larger formations being the key to operational success. All these changes have contributed to us getting back to a stage where people know what section they are in, what platoon they are in, what company, and so on, whereas we had tended to lose that sense of identity in the past.

An Cos: How is the integration of the RDF through the single-force concept progressing?

Maj Gen James: To optimise the return from the RDF and for the RDF to feel they are playing a meaningful role within the Defence Forces, the single-force concept was the logical step forward. It does represent a serious culture change, for both the RDF and the PDF, and while I think - again from visits to various locations - it is working better in some places than in others, it has generally been accepted by RDF personnel. We saw the single-force concept operating quite successfully in a number of company exercises last year, and this year hopefully we will see more of it in the battalion-level exercises. That's where confidence and trust are built; through training together and seeing each other's standards. So I think the single-force concept was a logical development. In addition, the White Paper may look again at the RDF to see what else they can bring to the table.

An Cos: What are your views on our major overseas missions with UNIFIL and UNDOF?

Maj Gen James: Both are going well. Obviously UNDOF went through a challenging period in the middle of last year, but our people came through that, and the main reasons we did were our commitment to training and the way we prepare our personnel. We continually change these to reflect changes taking place in the mission areas; the group going out to UNDOF now have been trained slightly differently to the previous group, who in turn had been trained slightly differently to the group before them.

We keep a close eye on what is happening in the mission area and as people come home we involve them in training the next group. We also look ahead to try to identify likely threats. I can honestly say that we prepare our people very well.

I had the pleasure of attending the medal parade in UNDOF and there is a great feeling of achievement out there. Equally, I visited the group going out to replace them and there is a great buzz about them as well.

Having attended the pre-deployment exercises it is clear to me that our personnel are reaching very high standards. Their drills are right up there with the best and I think they are as ready as they can be to face any situation. In UNDOF's volatile mission area things can happen quickly but I think we have optimised force protection and our units have a wide range of capabilities and equipment.

UNIFIL has been in Lebanon since 1978 and has evolved over time. In its current evolution we play a key part in one Blue Line position and in UNP 2-45. The plan is to maintain Ireland's contribution for another three-year period and the likelihood is that we will assume command and it will become IrishFinn battalion again in May of 2016. That will see us getting more people overseas, which ties in with what I spoke about a few minutes ago. Our centralisation of personnel as part of the re-org means we are able to commit more to training, and this extra overseas commitment will provide these personnel with the opportunity to 'operationalise' the training they have received.

An Cos: Do you see any new peacekeeping missions on the horizon?

Maj Gen James: There are a number of potential trouble spots around the world but there is nothing concrete at this time. The current Nordic battlegroup is now coming to a wind-down phase and our next participation is due to be with the German-led battlegroup in the second half of 2016. EU battlegroups can operate within a 3,000km radius and whether it is deployed or not will depend on the situation and EU commitment.

An Cos: Do you foresee any big changes in equipment in the near future?

Maj Gen James: What may or may not happen will be defined by the pending White Paper; that's the reality. But the White Paper does present a chance for the country and us as an organisation to look at where we are going; what the Irish people want us to do; and where we can best support the state. The equipment that falls out of that, or any re-organisation or strategic changes, will all be driven by that White Paper, so it's the key event that will define our organisation for the next 10 years.

The next draft is due to go to the minister in July and to cabinet later in the autumn. Once agreed, it should issue towards the end of the year. That will give us our focus and aim for the next decade.

An Cos: Is there anything you would like to say to our readers on your retirement from the Defence Forces?

Maj Gen James: Looking back on my career I think I will always remember the camaraderie that binds us, a natural camaraderie that keeps us all going and allows us achieve our individual and organisational goals. The absolute honour of commanding the Air Corps will always represent the peak of my working life. But underlying both of these, lies the fantastic friendships that have developed in that time, genuine friendships across all ranks which will continue long into the future. I have treasured the support of my fellow airmen/women, sailors and soldiers; not just in good times but also in bad. Sadly, during my time in the Air Corps we lost people and that's when an organisation comes under the most pressure. It is how its members come together to help and support each other and their families in desperate situations that marks the quality of an organisation. And in my opinion no organisation pulls together in the face of adversity better than the Defence Forces. This togetherness and bond stretches across the Defence Forces, whether it's in an operational setting, such as during UNDOF's troubles last year, or rallying together to get a task done at home. This is what the military life is all about and sets it apart.

Finally, I would wish the Defence Forces all the best for the future challenges. An organisation is built on its people and we have some of the very best. Thank you all, civilian and military alike, for your comradeship, your support but most of all your friendship. I have had a truly marvellous and fulfilling career. It has been a true honour to have served with you all; it has been an absolute privilege to command the Air Corps and your camaraderie and friendship has been a Godsend. ■



'NO COST' CIMIC PROJECTS

BY COMDT RORY ESLER, 47 INF GP UNIFIL

47 Inf Gp deployed to UNIFIL in South Lebanon in two stages towards the end of 2014. The advance party, comprised of the main staff officers and NCOs, deployed on 11th November, followed by the main body on 22nd November. The Chief CIMIC Officer (S9) was part of the advance group and was in theatre during the HOTO (handover/takeover) period with 45 Inf Gp, while SO S9 deployed with the main body. On 20th November, 47 Inf Gp took over from 45 Inf Gp and became part of 214 Finnish Batt, composed of 181 Irish and 325 Finnish personnel. The S9 cell has four staff members, two Irish (commandant and lieutenant) and two Finnish (captain and lieutenant).

CIMIC is commonly considered a force multiplier and one of the objectives of the S9 cell in FinlirishBatt is to assist in developing force protection for the operational companies within the AOR. This is mainly achieved through key leader engagement (KLE) and local leader engagement (LLE), and by implementing projects that have been identified as being beneficial to UNIFIL, FinlirishBatt and local communities.

Each of the 14 municipalities within Finlirish Batt AO has numerous CIMIC project proposals and each mayor has a number of reasons why their village should benefit from CIMIC activity. It is up to the staff of the S9 cell to conduct proper analysis of all projects; consider the needs of the battalion and the municipality; and liaise with Civilian Affairs, and in some cases the qaimaqam (governor of the provincial district), to establish if there is a priority list for the region for that year and to identify which of the villages are most in need.

Due to the naturally high turnover of military staff in UNIFIL, with two troop rotations most years, there is very limited 'mission memory'. Even with the best intentions only a limited handover of knowledge, procedures and processes can be achieved during a nine-day HOTO period. Maintaining the established relationships with civilian UNIFIL staff and local actors within the AO is therefore of vital importance. Such contacts are in a position to refer to works completed within a 12- to 24-month period, confirm how well, or otherwise, various projects were received, and identify which were of most benefit.

When 47 Inf Gp's S9 cell deployed to UNP 2-45 all available funds from Irish Aid and Finnish Aid had already been committed to CIMIC projects for the 2014 financial year. Knowing that the next budgets would not be finalised and approved until early March 2015, the focus of the cell quickly turned to 'no cost'



Lt Ruairi Millane conducting English Language lessons in Ain Ibil

S/Lt Inka Venho (SO Sg), RSM Fintan Lambe and Comdt Rory Esler (Chief Sg) at a children's Christmas party in Tibnin Orphanage



low cost' projects that could be achieved utilising battalion assets and expertise rather than requiring any financial input. 'No cost' projects that would directly benefit as many local people as possible were identified, with a particular focus on

youth groups and gender balance, which is in keeping with UNIFIL CIMIC guidance.

One of the longest running and successful 'no cost' projects that has been undertaken in the battalion AO in recent years is the provision of English-language lessons to schoolchildren and teachers in two of the local villages. 214 FinnIrish Batt conducted up to seven hours of structured English lessons per week in three locations. The student's ages and levels of English varied greatly, so a formalised approach was taken to ensure that there was progression in classes and that all levels were catered for.

These lessons were conducted with the assistance of members of the MP cell. It was essential to identify suitable personnel to conduct the lessons as opposed to tasking a certain cell with the classes. Without the proper 'buy-in' from the teachers, progressing the language classes would not have been possible. These lessons were mutually beneficial to schoolchildren and their teachers and also greatly enhanced the acceptance and credibility of FinnIrish Batt in the area.

An initiative undertaken during the rotation of 214 FinnIrish Batt was the provision of first aid awareness training to mothers and children in local social development centres (SDCs). A series of basic first aid classes were run over a four-week period, attended by 52 local women, some with their children. The lessons were conducted by female medical staff and nurses from the Irish and Finnish contingents. This was important, because if male medical staff were used some of the local women would not participate in the classes. Instead, the women, mostly Muslim, felt comfortable in the presence of female military medical staff and the level of interaction was excellent on account of this.

First aid kits were sourced from UNIFIL Civil Affairs and were distributed to all participants during the final lesson. Certifi-

cates were presented to all participants after the course by the battalion commander and the director of the local SDC. The Lebanese Ministry of Health also expressed an interest in running similar courses at a national level. These lessons continue in the SDCs in two locations, and may also begin in other villages as they have been requested by mayors during KLEs.

On previous rotations, fire and rescue equipment was purchased and donated to the local fire and rescue department. During the course of a meeting with this agency it was established that the local volunteers who make up the fire department had not received training in the use of some of this equipment and had received little or no specific fire and rescue training in general. Most of the Finnish soldiers who make up the battalion fire safety crew are army reservists and professional fire fighters at home. Consequently, a proposal was made to the local fire chief and the battalion commander to establish some joint training for the municipality fire department by utilising the skills of the Finnish fire fighters. This training has now been formalised and will take place during the summer months when the municipality fire department is more permanently manned.

This department is also responsible for providing some basic mine-risk education to schoolchildren. With input from the EOD officer, seminars to assist in disseminating this type of information have been established by the battalion. These seminars were tailored to suit the age group of the audience. The focus for these seminars was school children and youth groups in the area.

During March 2015, a number of national Mothers-and-Children's Day events were held throughout Lebanon. Local events were held to celebrate the role of the mother in the family and highlight the importance of a strong family structure. Members of FinnIrish Batt participated in many of these events and contributed to the festivities by donating children's schoolbags and 'goody bags' and providing face painting for the children.

Also during March a national Water Conservation Day event was held in the Roman ruins in Tyre where over 1,000 school children participated in games and activities that highlighted the importance of water conservation. Again, battalion personnel participated fully in this event to show our support.

Suitable used and new surplus materials, such as mattresses, bedding, clothing and medical supplies, that were no longer required for use within the battalion were donated at various points throughout our rotation. The distribution of these materials to underprivileged families and individuals through local SDCs was co-ordinated by the Sg cell. Engineer assets and expertise were also utilised throughout the AO to provide low cost assistance to municipalities in order to develop trust between the battalion and the municipality leaders.

In any mission the CIMIC cell does not have a monopoly on CIMIC activity. Every soldier deployed as a peacekeeper who has any form of contact with the local population has a responsibility to ensure that their actions add to the credibility of their unit and the mission. The CIMIC concept has been embraced by members of 214 FinnIrish Batt and the Sg cell has received significant input from both the Irish and Finnish contingents in the conduct of our 'no cost' projects. This input has been essential in ensuring that these projects achieved tangible and measurable results in terms of local acceptance and approval of the battalion's operational activity. ■

One Family's Fight

FOR IRISH FREEDOM

BY MICHAEL KEANE

Liverpool 1911

Liverpool Bootle 1900

One of the many remarkable stories contained within the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection (MSPC) in the Military Archives relates to the service of five members of the Kerr family during the Irish independence struggle. Through the files of Neill Kerr Senior, his second wife, Elizabeth, and his sons, John Patrick, Thomas and Neill Junior, we are provided with a vivid picture of one family's commitment, courage and sacrifice in the cause of Irish freedom.

The files for Neill Senior, Elizabeth and John Patrick, are already available for viewing online at www.militaryarchives.ie; the file for Neill Junior will be made available online towards the end of this year, while Thomas's file will be made available through the Military Archives by Easter 2016.

Neill Kerr Senior was born in County Armagh in 1867 but had been living and working in the greater Liverpool area intermittently for many years by the time of the 1916 Rising. According to the 1901 Irish census and the 1911 census of England and Wales, John Patrick and another son Peter (born c.1900) were born in Bootle, Merseyside, England, while Thomas and Neill Junior were both born in County Armagh. All the Kerr males were seamen or dockers, working in the thriving Merseyside docks.

The family home was 6 Florida Street, Bootle, and all the family were members of the Irish Volunteers or Cumann na mBan in Liverpool from the outset (except John Patrick, who was living in Ireland from 1913 and was a member of Dublin Brigade, Irish Volunteers).

Prior to the Easter Rising, Neill Senior had been involved in acquiring and transporting arms for the Irish Volunteers. Neill Junior and Thomas travelled to Ireland in early 1916 and joined the Kimmage Garrison and Dublin Brigade. Like many others they had travelled over both to avoid conscription into the

British forces fighting in the trenches. Elizabeth Kerr states in her pension application that a number of men in a similar situation used the Kerr home as a refuge en route from Britain to Ireland at this time.

During the Rising Neill Junior and Thomas served in Jacob's biscuit factory while John Patrick served in a number of locations, including Fairview, the GPO and Moore Street.

All three were captured and interned after the surrender with Neill Junior and John Patrick interned in Frongoch until December 1916 while Thomas was released from Knutsford Prison in August 1916.

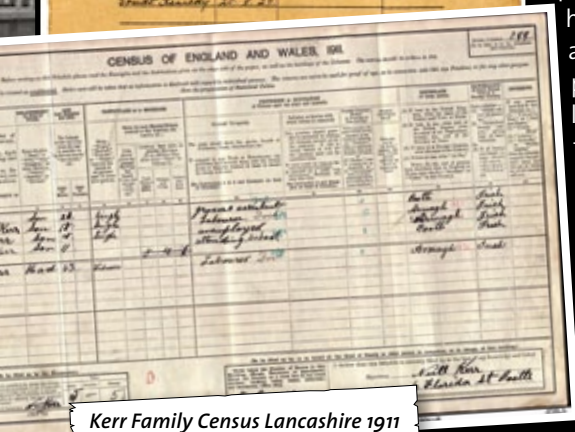
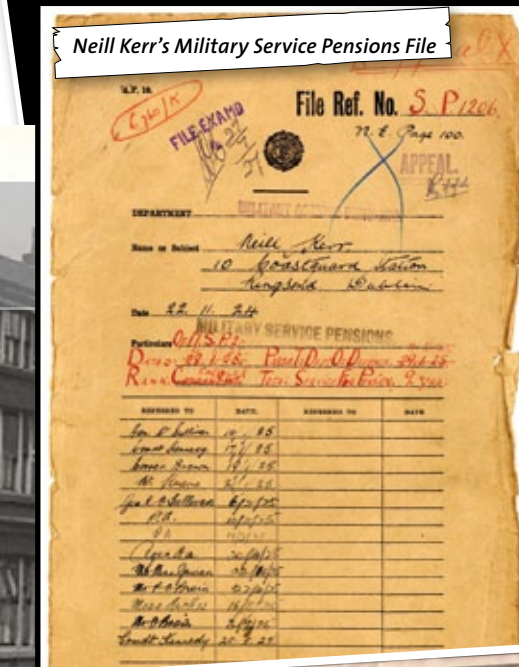
Elizabeth Kerr was also in Dublin during the Rising. She states that she came across from Bootle with clothes and money for the Volunteers, arriving on Good Friday, 21st April. She claims that during the Rising she assisted with first aid, food distribution and carried despatches.

Meanwhile Neill Senior remained in Liverpool awaiting orders from Dublin that never came. Following the Rising both Neill Senior and Elizabeth visited and assisted Irish prisoners in Knutsford and Frongoch.

Following their release Neill Junior and Thomas joined their parents in their efforts to reorganise the Irish independence movement in Liverpool. John Patrick had returned to Ireland but he rejoined the rest of the family in Liverpool from early 1920 onwards.

From early 1917 the Kerrs were heavily involved in acquiring, storing and transporting arms for the resurgent Irish Volunteers and the emerging IRA. Their easy access to shipping and a port as busy as Liverpool, with its traffic to Ireland and the world, made them very important links in the network established by the IRA to transport arms and men into and out of Ireland.

All arms and munitions coming from Scotland and the north of England were transported through Liverpool. Similarly, men heading from Ireland to the USA, such as Eamon de Valera and



Kerr Family Census Lancashire 1911

Harry Boland, not only went through Liverpool, but often, as in both of these cases, stayed in the Kerr's home before travelling onwards. Other significant visitors to the Kerr home included Michael Collins and Liam Mellows.

Joseph Vize, the IRA's Director of Purchases during the War of Independence, wrote in Neill Kerr's pension file: "He had charge of all war material purchased in, or landed in England, from all over the world. He was responsible for getting it all to Ireland. Practically every weapon used against the enemy, every round of ammunition,

every ounce of other war material, passed through Neill's hands."

Neill Junior died engaged in this work. On 3rd September 1920 at 93 Scotland Road, Liverpool, while moving a delivery of arms from Scotland, he was accidentally shot in the head by his brother Thomas, dying instantly. According to Joseph Vize, Neill Senior "...gave orders for the body to be laid aside... made sure that the arms were safe and that the revolver [that had killed his son] was on its way to Ireland...before reporting the accident to the police." Vize states that for this and other reasons "Neill was the Big Man's [General Collins] idol." Despite this tragedy the remaining family members continued their work.

The War of Independence was intensifying and IRA policy towards Britain began to change. Up to this point the IRA had been using Britain as a source for obtaining arms and munitions for the campaign in Ireland but the IRA's GHQ now decided that the organisation should undertake operations in Britain itself, both in retaliation for the intensification of the British campaign in Ireland following the introduction of the Black-and-Tans and Auxiliaries during 1920, and to further increase political pressure on the British government. As a result, Kerr and his sons oversaw and took part in incendiary attacks against warehouses and farms in the Greater Liverpool/Merseyside area in November 1920.

These attacks resulted in financial losses for the British exchequer and brought the 'war' home to Britain. However, they also led to the arrest of Neill Senior and his son Thomas. They were both imprisoned until released as part of the general amnesty following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921. Neill was imprisoned variously at Walton,

Parkhurst, Brixton and Wormwood Scrubs prisons.

John Patrick meanwhile continued his work of smuggling weapons into Ireland on ships from Liverpool, North America and Europe.

Elizabeth Kerr too had helped greatly and played an important role throughout the struggle as her home was used as an arms dump, despatch centre, meeting place and safe house. She says of herself and her husband in her pension application: "His duties were mine ... we worked in co-operation ... from the beginning until 1922". PG Daly, who had to take over much of Neill's duties following his arrest, writing in support of Elizabeth's pension application states: "I would have found it most difficult to carry on were it not for her invaluable assistance, since she had always been cognizant of her husband's plans and knew all our men who were working on the New York and Irish boats".

Neither John Patrick nor Thomas took any part in the Civil War, although Thomas continued smuggling arms until April/ May 1922.

Following release from prison, on orders from Collins Neill Kerr Senior returned to duty in Liverpool, where he was involved in securing IRA supplies for the Provisional Government. He returned to Dublin in June 1922, joining the National forces in September, serving with the Marine Investigation Department as Officer Commanding the East Coast of Ireland for the remainder of the Civil War. He was demobilised on 31st March 1924 following the disbandment of the Coastal and Marine Service.

MSPC files show that Neill Senior, Elizabeth and John Patrick all successfully applied for military service pensions. While Elizabeth didn't receive recognition for her activities during the Rising, John Patrick did receive recognition for his 1916 service and was awarded a 1916 medal.

Thomas Kerr never applied for a service pension but did apply for a medal and was awarded a service medal (1917-1921), without bar, in 1971. However, although detailing his 1916 service in his application, he was not awarded a 1916 medal and it would appear that relevant nominal rolls held by the Department of Defence (see RO/607 Kimmage Garrison; RO/11 Easter Week Dublin Brigade General; and RO/13 2nd Battalion Dublin Brigade Easter Week online on www.militaryarchives.ie) that listed Thomas Kerr and his two brothers as 1916 participants were not consulted.

Neil Kerr Senior successfully applied for a dependents' gratuity under the Army Pensions Act, 1932, in respect of the death on active service of their son.

Neill Kerr Junior's 1916 service was recognised by the Military Service Registration Board, which issued a service certificate covering the period from 1st April 1916 up to his death in September 1920 and referred to his service during the Rising. However, there is no trace of a posthumous medal application in his respect on any of the files. Thomas Kerr, when making his own medal application, detailed his brother's 1916 and War of Independence service but there is nothing on Thomas's file to indicate that an investigation into Neill's case ever took place and no medal index card for Neill in the MSPC survives. It would thus appear from available MSPC records that 1916 medals were never issued for either Thomas or Neill Kerr Junior. ■

Michael Keane is a project archivist working on the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Project in Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.

Irish Mutiny in the PUNJAB

BY MICHAEL SILVESTRI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY, SOUTH CAROLINA

MAIN PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS MUSEUM IN BOYLE, CO ROSCOMMON

Connaught Rangers Cap Badge.



A most unusual repercussion of the Irish War of Independence involved Irish soldiers of the British Army stationed in India in the summer of 1920. On 28th June members of the Connaught Rangers at Wellington Bks in the Punjab town of Jullundur (Jalandhar) refused to carry out their military duties in protest against the actions of the British Army in Ireland. The next day the mutineers sent two emissaries to inform another company of Connaught Rangers located at Solon, 30 miles away in the Himalayan foothills. Soldiers there took up the protest as well, and for a brief time the Irish tricolour flew over two military barracks in the British Raj.

At first the soldiers' protests were largely peaceful. At Jullundur, while threats were issued against unpopular NCOs and some loyal soldiers were, in the words of another soldier, 'fairly roughly handled', the mutineers nonetheless submitted without resistance when British reinforcements surrounded the barracks. However, actions at Solon on the evening of July 1st added a tragic dimension to the episode when approximately 30 mutineers, armed with bayonets, attempted to recapture their rifles from the company maga-

zine, which was guarded by members of the regimental band. The guards opened fire, killing two soldiers and wounding another. These shootings marked the end of the mutiny.

While 61 men were convicted for their participation in the mutiny, and 14 capital sentences were handed down by the military court, only one soldier was executed; Pte James Joseph Daly of Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath, who had led the failed attack at Solon. Daly became the last British soldier to be executed for a military offence when he was shot at dawn in Dagshai Prison in northern India on 2nd November 1920.

In spite of its

brief duration, the Connaught Rangers mutiny proved to have a long afterlife and the story of the mutineers sheds light on the service of Irishmen in the British Army during a tumultuous time in Irish history, and on the legacy of this imperial service in an independent Ireland.

So, who were the soldiers of the Connaught Rangers in 1920? Many had numbered among the 200,000 Irishmen who had served in the British military during the Great War: of the 61 men convicted of participation in the mutiny, over half (32) had enlisted in 1918 or earlier. The remainder had enlisted in 1919, mainly between the months of April and November. This was the same time, following the establishment of Dáil Éireann in January, when the IRA's campaign against crown forces was accelerating. In an Ireland with high post-war unemployment and a growing republican suspicion of ex-servicemen, enlistment (or re-enlistment) in the British Army continued to be have appeal for thousands of young men.

One of these men was Daly, the leader of the mutineers at Solon. As a 16-year-old, Daly had briefly served in the Royal Munster Fusiliers during the Great War until the objections of his parents ended his military service. He enlisted in the Connaught Rangers in 1919, following a family tradition of military service. His father and two brothers served in the British Army. (During the mutiny his older brother, William, was serving with the Connaught Rangers at Jullundur and initially joined the mutineers before removing himself from the protest.)

While, for ex-servicemen in particular, the British Army provided an escape from the Anglo-Irish conflict that followed the Great War, these post-war Irish recruits were also influenced by that conflict.

India in 1920 was in the midst of Mohandas Gandhi's first national campaign for swaraj (independence) and some Irish republicans hoped to build an Indo-Irish alliance. Irish republicans in North America had forged alliances with Indian nationalists and harboured hopes of turning Irish soldiers against the British Empire. According to British intelligence reports, one plan was to establish an 'Eastern society' with 'the object of sowing sedition in India among Irish and Indian troops.' The initial reports of the Connaught Rangers mutiny were clearly influenced by this view, deciding that primary responsibility lay outside India. 'We have every reason to believe that the whole affair was engineered by Sinn Féin,' the Viceroy reported to the Secretary of State for India.

Yet the preponderance of evidence suggests that the soldiers' protest was an independent response to the escalating conflict in Ireland. While the mutiny of the Connaught Rangers was subsequently often referred to as 'a protest against the Black and Tans,' that phrase was never used by the soldiers or military authorities in 1920. Rather, the mutineers' protest focused on the actions of the British Army and the soldiers' conviction that they could not continue to remain part of an army which was engaged in repression in their own country.

The primary means by which mutineers gained news about home was through letters from friends and family. James J Devers of Ballina, Co Mayo, a participant in the attack on the magazine at Solon,

Pte James Daly, praying before his execution.



Death at six o'clock

At six o'clock precisely on the morning of 2nd November 1920, Private James Joseph Daly, age 22, of the 1st battalion The Connaught Rangers, was executed by firing squad at Dagsbai prison in India. Daly came from Ballymoe, a small village on the borders of Roscommon and Galway.

It was stated in the charges that 'the said Private James Daly and fifty men thereabouts, attacked with naked bayonets in their hands on the night of 1 July 1920, the magazine at Solan in which arms had been deposited and which was defended by a guard of officers and men'.

On the table in his cell he wrote this letter:

My Dearest Mother - I take the opportunity to let you know the dreadful news that I am to be shot on Tuesday morning, 2 November. But what harm; it is all for Ireland. I am not afraid to die; it is only thinking of you... Out of sixty-one of us, I am the only one to be put out of this world. I am ready now to meet it. God Bless you all. I hope to see you one day in heaven... God Bless Ireland.

Pte James Daly's last letter to his mother.

later recalled how for weeks the mail-carts had brought letters to the khaki-uniformed men telling them of events in Ireland.

Issues specific to the regiment also helped to fuel the protest. These included strained relations between officers and men, poor discipline, boredom and inactivity and, in the case of the soldiers at Jullundur, the sweltering summer heat of the Punjab plains.

While James Daly had expressed the hope during the mutiny that 'similar action would be taken simultaneously by every Irish Regiment in the Army,' the mutiny failed to spread beyond Solon and Jullundur: a third Connaught Rangers Company, at Jutogh, remained loyal, as did the soldiers of other Irish regiments stationed in India. While some soldiers might have harboured nationalist sympathies, few were moved to take action on behalf of the republican cause. The government of India reported, for example, that most of the Irishmen in the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars had 'enlisted to escape from Sinn Féin.'

In October 1920 the Connaught Rangers took over garrison duty on India's Northwest Frontier. There was to be no repeat of the events at Solon and Jullundur, and the regimental history recorded that 'the men were again in excellent order.' By mid-1921 the mutineers had been transferred to British prisons to serve out the remainder of their sentences, which ranged from one year to penal servitude for life.

In August of the following year, 28 of the mutineers unsuccessfully petitioned the British government to be released from prison so that they could enlist in the new Irish Free State Army. By this time, however, outside appeals to release the prisoners were growing, and came not only from Irish nationalists but also from a group of officers who had served in the Connaught Rangers.

Following negotiations between the British and Irish

governments, and the Dáil's passage of an act granting amnesty to those who had acted on behalf of the British during the War of Independence, the mutineers were released in January 1923.

While the former soldiers received a warm reception at the port in Dun Laoghaire, where a welcoming committee met them, and in their hometowns, for most of the men their transition to life in independent Ireland was a difficult one. A number joined the National Army, although few remained soldiers for long. Others were more successful in forging careers in the Civic Guards, but in the 1930s a number of the former mutineers were living in poverty.

Those convicted of participation in the mutiny had forfeited their British Army pensions, and in the mid-1920s the former Connaught Rangers had begun to lobby the Irish government for an official pension in recognition of their service to the independence struggle. With the support of the Fianna Fáil government, the Connaught Rangers (Pensions) Act was passed in 1936.

The pensions issue was discussed and debated in both the Dáil and the British and Irish press, which brought the mutineers to a prominence they had not enjoyed in a decade-and-a-half. Valentine Delaney of Mayo, one of the Jullundur mutineers, who had emigrated to the United States, served as grand marshal of the 1937 St Patrick's Day parade in Newark, New Jersey.

The status of the Connaught Rangers mutineers as republican heroes was further solidified in 1949, when a cenotaph in their honour was unveiled in the Republican Plot at Glasnevin Cemetery. The memorial honoured the members of 1 Battalion, Connaught Rangers, 'who gave their lives during the mutiny and subsequently for Irish freedom'. The cenotaph became the focus of annual commemorations, not only of the mutiny but of James Daly's execution on November 2nd.

In the following decades, the mutineers, supported by the National Graves Association, lobbied for the return of Daly's remains from India. The re-interment of Roger Casement's body at Glasnevin in 1965 renewed calls for the return of what one newspaper called 'Ireland's Loneliest Martyr' from his grave in Dags-hai Cemetery.

In October 1970, Daly's body was reinterred in Tyrrellspass before a crowd of 6,000. The flag that covered Daly's coffin had previously adorned that of Terence MacSwiney, the Lord Mayor of Cork who died on hunger strike in October 1920, and the contemporary Northern Ireland conflict was also a prominent presence in the day's events. The republican pageantry of the ceremony was strongly martial; speakers invoked Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and the goal of a 32-county republic. Following the graveside ceremony, a detachment of masked IRA men fired a volley in Daly's honour.

The death of James Joseph Daly had been intertwined with one Anglo-Irish conflict; the commemoration that accompanied his return to Ireland ensured that his legacy would be linked with another. ■

Connaught Rangers mutineers' memorial, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.



Connaught Rangers Peninsula battle flag with honours.



Photo of Pte James Daly in India prior to mutiny.






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FIELD AIDE

FIELD CRAFT – PART 9



Reaction To Fire Control Orders

Recognition of Targets: It is most important that the soldier knows the sequence of the order, understands the implications of each section of it and the necessity to obey its implicitly. It should be emphasised that it is the soldiers own duty to estimate and aim off for wind.

Aim: To teach what to do when given a fire control order.

Preparation: Select arc of fire and reference points, and prepare at least four fire control orders of each type using various methods of indication. Using the aiming rests, check that the targets indicated have been recognised correctly and encourage the use of the word “Again” if they have not. When practising the section in each type of fire control order, check after each stage that their actions are correct. Order “Stop” on completion of each engagement.

Sequence of a Fire Control Order

Explain using chalkboard or chart. A fire control order is given in a definite sequence, the word ‘GRIT’ helps in remembering the sequence:

Group: Tells who is being addressed, i.e. “Gun-group”, “Section”, “No 2 rifleman”, etc.

Range: Tells how far away to look for the target and the setting required on the sights.

Indication: Tells in which direction to look and what to look for.

Type of Fire: Tells whether rapid fire is required, whether the weapon is to fire single rounds or bursts. The order is completed with the command “Fire”.

Types of Fire Control Orders

Explain and demonstrate using a chalkboard or chart. There are four basic types of fire control orders to cater for battle situations:

Full: This is given if there is sufficient time, e.g. “Gunner - 400 - ruined house - bottom Left corner - enemy machine gun - in bursts - fire”.

Brief: This is given when there is little time and the target is obvious, e.g. “Section - quarter Left - rapid fire”.

Delayed: This is used when the movements of friendly forces or of the enemy are known or can be guessed. The order “Fire” is delayed until the right moment, e.g. “No 1

Section - 300 - farmhouse - immediately below - enemy in the hedgerow - No 2 Section is moving through the copse on our Right. We will cover their advance when they get to the open ground - rapid - await my order”. Then, when No 2 Section reaches the open ground, “fire”.

“No 2 Section - 200 - quarter Right - small wood - when the enemy comes out into the open - rapid - await my order”. Then when the enemy are in a suitable position, “fire”.

Snap: This is used at ranges up to 300 metres when enemy forces are out of view and it is impracticable for the commander to control the time to open fire, so he passes the responsibility to the individual(s) concerned, e.g. “Rifle group - 200 - slightly Left - farm buildings - enemy in that area - watch and fire when you see a target”.

Tracer: To indicate an extremely difficult target tracer ammunition is a useful aid, e.g. “No 1 Section - 200 - half Right - watch my tracer - where it hits - fire”.

Distributed Fire: When engaging a wide target the section’s fire needs to be distributed. The riflemen fire at points between the limits of the target corresponding with their places in the section. The GPMG gunner traverses the target from limit to limit firing bursts at points throughout the width of the target or concentrating fire at critical points

as directed,
e.g. “No 1
Section - 400
- farmhouse
- Left - 4
o’clock - Red
gate - Left
limit - Right
60 mils along
fence - lone
tree - Right
limit - fire”.



'A Damned Near-Run Thing'

The Battle of Waterloo 1815

BY PAUL O'BRIEN

Two hundred years ago Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from the island of Elba where he had been incarcerated. On reaching France, he mustered his old army and within weeks had dethroned the Bourbon king, Louis XVIII, and had taken the title of Emperor of France. Coalition forces that had previously defeated Napoleon's regime began mobilizing their armies, which inevitably led to a showdown ten miles from Brussels at a hamlet called Waterloo.

After detaching sufficient forces to secure his other frontiers, Napoleon, with an army of 124,000 men pushed north in order to seize Brussels. His strategy was to isolate the allied and Prussian armies, and destroy each one separately before the Austrians and Russians arrived.

Sir Arthur Welsley, the Duke of Wellington, had arrived in Belgium to take command of the British-German army and their allied Dutch-Belgians numbering an estimated 83,000 troops. The bulk of his army consisted of 50,000 infantry, 11,000 cavalry, and 6,000 artillery with 150 guns. At Liège, Wellington's Prussian ally, Marshal Gebhard von Blücher, was in command of 113,000 soldiers.

Wellington knew he could not engage the French without Prussian support as Napoleon fielded 48,000 infantry, 14,500 cavalry and 7,000 artillery with 252 cannon. (It was with his artillery that Napoleon planned to decimate the allied forces facing him on the battlefield.) Though Napoleon was outnumbered, his troops were veterans of numerous campaigns, better equipped and more battle hardened than the coalition forces.

Armaments for each side varied, with French troops equipped with the Charleville musket that fired an iron ball 19mm (3/4 inch) in diameter. This weapon, though deadly on impact, wasn't accurate unless fired at close range. Many British regiments were supplied with Baker rifles, which were fitted with a detachable sword bayonet.

There were several key clashes in the lead up to Waterloo. On 16th June French forces engaged Prussian troops at Ligny. After fierce clashes the French defeated the Prussians but allowed them to withdraw in good order and regroup. Napoleon split his forces into different units and one of these, under the command of Marshal Ney, was ordered to secure the crossroads at Quatre Bras in

order to harass the rear of the fleeing Prussian army.

This battle, involving British troops, proved indecisive and Ney was hesitant, costing the French valuable time. Another French commander, Marshal Grouchy, with a force of 33,000 men also failed in his objective, which was to pursue the fleeing Prussians and prevent them from linking up with Wellington's forces. The Prussians withdrew leaving a small rearguard to hold Grouchy's troops at bay.

On the morning of 18th June 1815 Napoleon amassed his armies facing Wellington's at Waterloo. The battlefield comprised of a long ridge running from east to west, bisected by the main road to Brussels. Wellington deployed his infantry along this ridge, exposing his artillery and sharpshooters to the French.

In front of the ridge there were three positions that could be fortified to prevent any attempt to outflank Wellington's men. On the right was Hougoumont, a chateau, garden and orchard. On the left was the hamlet of Papelotte. Any attempt to turn Wellington's right flank would entail taking the fortified Hougoumont position. Any attempt to attack his centre would result in enfilading fire coming from Hougoumont and La Haye Sainte. If a force attempted to push through on the left flank they would have to fight through the streets and hedgerows of Papelotte. The terrain was also waterlogged after heavy rains and was not suitable for the deployment of troops.

While the main posts were occupied by British troops, the farmhouse and orchard of La Haye Sainte was garrisoned by 400 light infantry of the King's German Legion. Wellington drew up his remaining forces in depth along a 2.5-mile (4km) front.

On the previous day Wellington had been



'The Battle of Waterloo' painting by George Jones, 19th century.

planning to withdraw his forces from the impending battle, having heard that Blücher's Prussian army had been beaten. However, news reached Wellington that the Prussian army was intact, had evaded Grouchy, and were on their way to Waterloo.

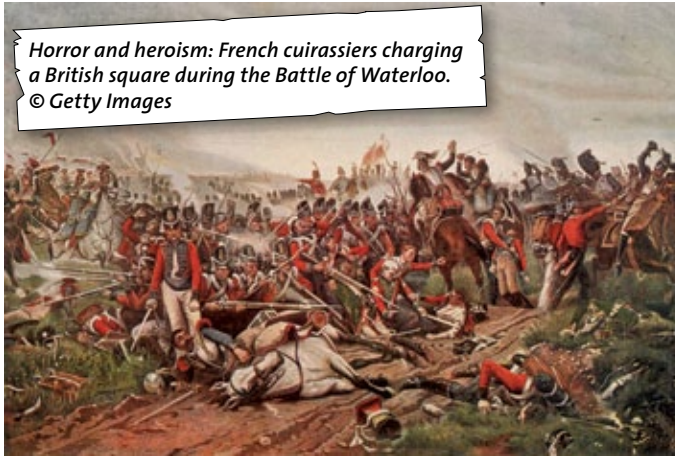
Both sides amassed their forces, with Napoleon delaying battle until noon in order to let the ground dry. This delay bought valu-

explosions of shells, the incessant hammering of musket volleys, the pounding of distant guns, the drums beating and the trumpets screaming.'

Hours of intense fighting took place, with thousands of casualties on both sides. Napoleon knew he had to break Wellington's lines before Blücher arrived on the field of battle. The British were

being pushed back when Napoleon sent a message to Grouchy to attack the Prussians but he was too far away. The French infantry, numbering in their thousands, advanced towards the British line. Though Wellington's troops had suffered during the French artillery bombardment they held their ground and created havoc amongst the advancing French.

Napoleon deployed his Imperial Guard, seasoned fighters who had never lost an assault. Immaculate in their blue coats with red epaulettes and white cross belts, they advanced and achieved some gains, winning the



able time for Wellington who was still waiting for the Prussians.

Artillery was wheeled into position and troops waited in formation for the order to advance.

The battle began with a French attack on Hougoumont by Comte D'Erlon's I Corp, followed by Napoleon's grand battery of 80 cannon opening fire on the British lines. The gates of the farmhouse were broken open and a fierce hand-to-hand struggle ensued, with the British managing to regain control. In the ensuing melee, Irishman, Sergeant James Graham distinguished himself in battle as one of those that closed the gates, denying the French this important position.

With the battle continuing at Hougoumont, Napoleon advanced numerous infantry units towards the British lines. Weakened by the French artillery fire, Wellington's troops fell back until he ordered his men to lie down and take cover using the ridge line.

Cavalry attacks were carried out by both sides, with the British infantry forming squares to repel their attackers. Ney, mistaking the movement of casualties to the rear for the beginning of a retreat, ordered his 5,000 cavalry forward to break the British squares. However, the cavalry suffered heavy casualties before being repulsed.

Visibility was almost non-existent on the battlefield but the deafening sounds of battle raged without relief. In his book Waterloo, Bernard Cornwell writes: *'They could only see a few yards*

around them, and what they saw was obscured by thick smoke, and their ears were assailed by the buzz of musket balls, the crash of cannons firing, the cries of the wounded, the clamour of officers and sergeants shouting, the

crest of the ridge.

Wellington shouted: *"Now's your time! Up Guards!" The men on the ridge stood up and formed into line. The order "Make ready!" was called out and the British infantry took aim. The rapidity and precision of the British musket fire was deadly. Captain Harry Powell of the 1st Foot Guards recalled: "Above 300 were down. They now wavered, and several of the rear divisions began to draw out as if to deploy, whilst some men in their rear beginning to fire over the heads of those in front was so evident a proof of their confusion."*

The attack wavered and the French were forced back. They regrouped and attacked again but were driven off. The Imperial Guard began to fall back in disarray where it fell prey to allied cavalry.

On Napoleon's right flank, Blücher arrived and his Prussian army attacked, causing chaos and giving Wellington the upper hand. With his forces losing discipline and ground, Napoleon ordered a retreat. Wellington and Blücher linked up at an inn (La Belle Alliance) on the north-south road that bisected the battlefield and the Prussians pursued the retreating French army into France.

As the smoke of battle cleared, the debris of war, along with the dead and wounded, littered the battlefield. The battle had cost the allies 22,000 men and the French as many as 30,000.

A number of factors had contributed to the allied victory at Waterloo: Wellington's leadership, Napoleon's mistakes, the boggy terrain, Marshal Ney's cavalry attacks that sacrificed thousands of men in futile attempts to break the British squares. All played key roles in the battle.

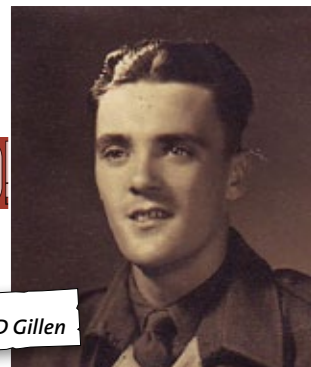
Following the French defeat the Treaty of Paris was signed on 20th November 1815, the monarchy was restored with King Louis XVIII, and Napoleon was banished to St. Helena, where he died in 1821. Wellington went on to have a political career in England, becoming prime minister in 1828.

The balance of power in Europe had been altered on the battlefield, with Britain pre-eminent in the new order. Though there would be other battles in the years that followed, the world would not again see carnage on the scale of the Napoleonic Wars until the Great War of 1914-18. ■



IRISH D DAY VETERAN HONoured

Sgt Patrick D Gillen



BY ROBIN GILLEN, PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, UCC

Patrick D Gillen was born in Galway City in March 1925. He had just turned 18 when he left home in 1943 to join the British Army in search of adventure. After basic training in Ballymena, Co Antrim, he was posted to the Royal Norfolk Regiment in England. After some time with the Norfolks, Pat applied to join the Commandos and after selection was sent for further training to the Achnacarry in the Scottish Highlands. After completing a rigorous commando training course he was posted as a rifleman to HQ troop of 6 Commando, led by Scottish Laird 'Shimi' Lovat, where he immediately began training for the Normandy invasion as part of 1 Commando Brigade.

The brigade spent weeks in the South of England honing their weapons skills, carrying out different types of landings, studying various models, sand tables and aerial photographs, which were updated daily. On 5th June, Pat, a young 19-year-old commando, boarded his LCI (Landing Craft, Infantry) as part of a flotilla of 22 craft.

After a pretty uncomfortable journey, with the troops suffering the effects of sea sickness from the swell of the previous day's storm and nausea from the fumes emanating from the LCI engines, the outline of the beach finally loomed. Earlier, at 0530hrs, battleships with 15" guns, cruisers and destroyers, had opened up on the beach defences. Looking up, Pat could see the vast array of

Allied bombers and fighters all heading in the same direction. (He says it was an incredible sight to behold.)

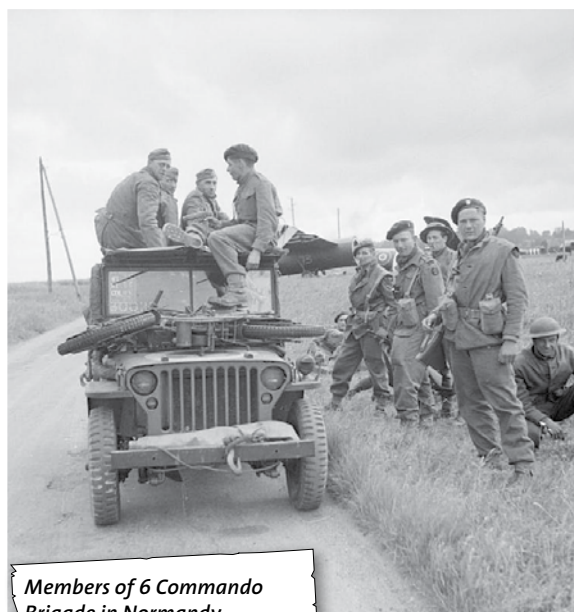
Weapons and equipment checks were carried out for the last time. Seasickness quickly forgotten, the troops moved into their prearranged positions ready for the landing. The flotilla carrying 1 Commando Brigade lined up abreast, and when it came to their turn (0840hrs for 6 Commando) the engines were opened up full throttle as they headed for the 'Queen Red' area of the beach.

These LCIs were generally made with a wooden hull and powered by petrol engines, carrying 4,000 gallons of high-octane petrol in single-skin petrol tanks. Fortunately for Pat and his fellow commandos, the Germans had decided to use armour-piercing munitions rather than high-explosive shells to engage the flotilla. This resulted in many shells travelling right through the hull of the craft. A direct hit to the fuel tank would have resulted in disaster for all on-board. It should be mentioned here that the Commando always had great respect for the navy and, in particular, for the very brave LCI crews.

As Pat and his comrades prepared to exit down the ramps on either side of the craft, the LCI alongside them suffered a direct hit, and shortly after his group of 80 troops from 6 Commando moved onto the beach, their own craft had both ramps damaged by an anti-tank weapon sited just behind the beach.



Commandos moving through France 1944



Members of 6 Commando Brigade in Normandy



Members of 6 Commando Brigade train around Inveray, Scotland, October 1941.

1 Commando Brigade was tasked to secure the two bridges over the Caen Canal and River Orne and move from there to hold and secure the left flank. 4 Commando (who were supported by two troops of French commandos), were to branch off to Ouistreham to deal with a gun battery that was shelling the beach area. 3 and 6 Commando were to break through the Atlantic Wall, avoid any skirmishing and cover the six miles to the bridges as quick as possible. All of this was to support and reinforce the 6th Airborne, who were preventing the Caen and Orne bridges from falling into German hands. 6 Commando led the brigade inland encountering pillboxes, minefields, snipers, and a great deal of mortar fire. They also had to contend with the six-barrel Nebelwerfer mortar, known as 'Moaning Minnie'. After securing the bridges, Pat's unit extended forward three more miles to the ridge around Le Plein and consolidated there.

Originally, it was intended for Pat and his comrades to stay in France for only two to four days but the strategic situation required them and their airborne colleagues to remain at the front to hold the eastern side of the Allied bridgehead.

They took up a defensive position in a farm area at the edge of a small village called Amfreville, where high ground provided a natural fortress for the Commando. Access to and from the beach had now been closed off as the enemy managed to recover from their initial surprise and were now counter-attacking. The Commando had moved up from the beach, without any heavy weapon support, carrying in their rucksacks all the food and ammunition to last them the few short days that were planned. However, as plans have a habit of changing, they were to spend over 42 days there, living in expertly camouflaged slit trenches, under shell and mortar fire day and night, with the enemy sniping and counter-attacking from sometimes only a few hundred meters away.

The Commando themselves had two-inch mortars, which they were able to employ to great effect. They also had a naval bombardment officer attached who was able to direct fire on selected enemy positions using available naval ships out at sea.

On the night of 12th June, their brigadier, Lord Lovat, was seriously wounded from shellfire and replaced by Brigadier Mills-Roberts DSO MC.

Later, towards the end of July, the Commando progressed further inland, reporting a spectacular success on 19th August, when they captured the high ground of Angoville from the Germans, after marching through the night. The brigade successfully slipped through the German positions before detection and then held firm, fighting back four counter-attacks in one day.

After being in action continuously for 82 days in France, Pat's brigade were taken out of the line and shipped back to the UK during the first week of September. For the record, 1 Commando Brigade (3, 4, and 6 Army Commando and 45 Royal Marine Commando) lost 77 officers and 890 other ranks from 6th June to 30th August 1944.

Later, Pat Gillen fought through Holland for the final push, with 1 Commando Brigade always taking an important role, including the assault crossings of the five great rivers: Maas, Rhine, Weser, Aller and Elbe.

After hostilities ended, the brigade carried out normal occupational duties in Germany. Then a decision was made to stand-down the Army Commando and Pat returned to the Norfolks as an orderly room sergeant with 4 Battalion. In 1946, while stationed in Petras in Greece, the Norfolks were also disbanded and he ended up serving with GHQ in Cairo.

In 1947, Pat returned to his family in Galway, and shortly afterwards took up a position with the Ford Motor Company in Cork, retiring as press officer in 1984.

In 1950, while in Cork, Pat joined 8 Fd Arty Regt FCÁ, where he later attained the rank of commandant and battery commander of 2 Battery. (I was later to hold the same rank and position with 8 Fd Arty Regt as my father.) Pat retired from the Reserves in the early 1980s after 32 years' service.

Pat went back to visit Normandy on a number of occasions, in particular to call to the farm in Amfreville and visit his many comrades' graves in the perfectly kept Ranville Military Cemetery. Alongside the farmhouse at La Grand Ferme, there now stands a monument dedicated to 6 Commando. Pat, along with his very good friends from the Retired Artillery Officers group in Cork, would traditionally lay a laurel wreath from Ireland at this monument.

Only last December 2014, Pat was honoured by the French government, when he was presented with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in a ceremony held in the Mercy Hospital in Cork. The presentation was conducted by the French Ambassador, Jean Pierre-Thebaul. Pat was surrounded by his very proud family and friends and even though he was quite ill, the ex-commando summoned the strength to reply to the award in perfect voice, saying: "In accepting this award, other brave Irishmen, thousands of young men, who lost their lives in pursuit of peace remain in my memory. This award is as much theirs as mine".

Pat Gillen sadly passed away in his own home just a short time later on 27th December 2014. ■

Sgt Patrick D Gillen (centre) after being awarded his Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in Mercy University Hospital, Cork. Comdt Michael Hartnett (PDF ret'd), (centre left sitting), passed away suddenly on 11th January 2015. Photo: © David Hegarty



Sgt Patrick D Gillen with his Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur and Mary. Photo: © David Hegarty



DF LADIES FOOTBALL *Revitalised*

BY CAPT CLAIRE MORTIMER, MILITARY ARCHIVES

Not so long ago the DF ladies Gaelic football team enjoyed very good times and it was difficult to make the panel as competition for the 30 places was so high. The team played annual matches against An Garda Síochána and Bank of Ireland (BoI). They also enjoyed a successful tour in New York in 2008, which was a great reward for the players.

The last fixture against BoI was in 2009 to mark the GAA's 125th anniversary. Following that, BoI could no longer sustain a team and the loss of this fixture left a large gap in the ladies calendar. Around the same time the DF team lost a number of core players and much of the team committee and ladies football went into a decline.

Over the last three years, however, there has been a new energy in ladies Gaelic football in the DF. In November 2013 those involved in ladies football, spearheaded by Capt Siobhán O'Sullivan, decided to get a squad together and invite the Garda ladies team to the DFTC for a match to reignite what was once the highlight of the fixture calendar. The game went very well, with some great performances ensuring the DF team enjoyed a tough, competitive victory. This game would mark the beginning of the growth of the current ladies Defence Forces GAA team.

Moving on from that game the ladies committee recognised the need for a number of fixtures throughout the year to maintain player interest. Several training camps were organised and opened up to all females in the DF. Out of this a quality team, with a mixture of new and seasoned players, was picked. Former legends such as Louise Conlon, Dee O'Rourke and Niamh O'Mahony had left big boots to be filled but players such as Siobhan Tierney, Grainne Kenneally and Shellie Keogh have slotted seamlessly into them. The now experienced Aoife Herbert, Jackie Kelly, Paula Spillane and Lorraine Whelan remain, ensuring the backbone of the team remains intact.

Former inter-county players Capt Padraig Murphy and Capt Ross Glavin, current Kildare star Lt Gary White, and a true GAA man, Sgt Trevor Howard, are involved in coaching and managing the team while I am charged with providing the lead on team planning and organising. The new coaches have brought fresh training drills and ideas to the team and have an excellent ability to motivate players and make tactical decisions at decisive points.

The first test for the revitalised team, in April 2014, was against Eadestown GFC in the DFTC.

The game was tight at the start but the DF's quality and raw fitness levels allowed the margins to be widened in the second half with the DF comfortably winning following tireless efforts from Sinéad Carolan and Shellie Keogh and a rock solid performance from Áine Gilmore at full back.

The next training camp allowed the team to gel further and gave Murphy & co the chance to work on areas that had been identified from the game against Eadestown. The team then travelled to Leixlip, where they met a young Confey side. Due to many unit commitments the DF struggled to get a full panel for this fixture and had to make do with just 15 players. However, a solid team performance, with excellent support play and sharp-shooting from players such as Rebecca Coogan, Kim Turner and Paula Spillane, left the Confey side chasing the DF ladies for much of the game.





DF Ladies Team

Capt Pdraig Murphy
(Manager)

All in for the team talk



Now settled in as a team, with players

knowing

each other and their play, the DF

travelled to Westmanstown in November for the restored annual fixture against An Garda Síochána. The DF thought this would be the toughest match of the year and they were right. Weather conditions were poor and it was a very physical game, unlike the previous two games that had ran with fluidity. The gardaí opened the scoring but it wasn't long before the DF settled and at half time were narrowly ahead. The second half remained extremely tight with both teams becoming frustrated with decisions going against them.

Grainne Kenneally led by example throughout, covering and shadowing while engaging in perfectly timed tackles. Sinéad Taylor proved to be a handful for the Garda defence, securing some well-taken scores despite the effort of the gardaí to curtail her. As the full-time whistle was blown the DF team and management rejoiced in a sweet, hard-earned victory.

This year looked like it was going to be a challenging one for the DF ladies, having lost seven of the 2014 panel and a coach to overseas service. However, last month the team opened their 2015 campaign as they left off in November. After an unbeaten run in 2014 we knew we needed to raise the standard of opponent in order to keep progressing. Following a training camp in the DFTC, the ladies travelled to Mountmellick in Laois to take on Sarsfields senior ladies (who have contested three senior Club All-Ireland semi-finals in recent years). It had been a week of headaches for me getting the squad together. Key players Aoife Herbert and Siobhan O'Sullivan had to pull out at the last minute due to a fractured wrist and ankle surgery respectively and we lost corporals Kim Turner and Sinéad Taylor

to other commitments. However, a panel of 16 travelled to Laois and despite the low numbers and loss of key players, we knew we still had an excellent team to field.

The game opened at a ferocious pace that was maintained through to the final whistle. With plenty of opportunities for both teams and very little going wide, the scoreboard at half time read 2-4 to 1-7 in the DF ladies' favour, with Lynn Ryan netting twice. Sarsfields opened the second half with a goal but it did little to shake the DF. Rebecca Coogan, Pte Lorraine O'Connor and Pte Stacy Keogh continued the DF accuracy with excellent points and consistent support play from all positions. Pte Shellie Keogh calmly netted a third goal low into the corner for the DF as Sarsfields continued the pressure.

Team captain Grainne Kenneally put in an outstanding, player-of-the-match performance, causing headaches for the opposition as she drove forward from her commanding centre-half-back position, while Laois star Ciamh Dollard was solid in maintaining the backbone of the defence. An excellent team performance, which displayed all elements of the DF ethos 'Defend, Protect, Support'...and score!!! The full-time score was 3.12 to 2.11 to the DF.

It is hard to motivate a team that is not involved in a competitive competition and faced with challenges such as player loss to unit and overseas commitments. However, it seems that these girls are rising to the challenges head on and are going from strength to strength. The future of ladies football in the DF is once again looking bright. ■

Manager: Capt Pdraig Murphy. **Coaches:** Capt Ross Glavin, Lt Gary White and Sgt Trevor Howard (o/seas); **Team LO:** Capt Claire Mortimer.


Capt Ross Glavin
(Coach)


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Last month's winner of the An Cosantóir T-shirt and 'Goody Bag' was Oliver Byrne, Lucan Co Dublin. Closing date is 19th June 2015.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ONE Fuchsia - Appeal to be confirmed

Sunday 21st June (12noon) - Fr James Gilmore Br ONE Annual Mass - St Monica's Edenmore, Artane

Saturday 11th July (3pm) - Royal British Legion Ireland, Remembrance Saturday - Island Bridge

Sunday 12th July (11am) - National Day of Commemoration - Royal Hospital Kilmainham

Saturday 18th July (12noon) - Air Corps & 7 Inf Bn will start the Military Guard - National Memorial Merrion Square

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BATTLEGROUND: THE BATTLE FOR THE GENERAL POST OFFICE 1916

Author: Paul O'Brien
Publisher: New Island Press (June, 2015) <http://newisland.ie>
ISBN: 978-1848404274
Price: €12.99
Pages: 120



Written by Military Historian, Paul O'Brien, the latest addition to New Island's In Focus series, Battleground is a detailed account of the actions in the area of operations in and around the General Post Office that Easter week in April 1916.

As members of the Irish Citizen Army and the Irish Volunteers under the command of Padraig Pearse and James Connolly, occupied the General Post Office, O'Brien takes the reader through the smoke filled labyrinth of streets and alleyways and the posts occupied by Republican Forces as they prepare to defend their newly declared republic.

Defending in the largest area of operations, republican forces were undermanned and under equipped to secure the area, allowing British forces to move into the city centre, and by Thursday, the military launched a devastating artillery bombardment on the beleaguered Irish Forces.

The description of Pearse's Battalion's attempted breakout from the surrounding British forces is harrowing in its detail describing the deaths of Volunteers as they tried to breach British lines and establish a secure corridor for the Irish command to escape encirclement.

This is the author's sixth book on the Rising and like the previous five; it is a fast paced work that details the command strategies, tactics and battle experiences of those fighting on both sides during that turbulent week in Irish history. Complementing the text are a number of black and white photographs and an excellent map of the area that gives the reader an authentic feel for the battle.

Once again, O'Brien has brought the reader to the frontlines of the 1916 Easter Rising - another excellent read. **WF**

THE GLORIOUS MADNESS TALES OF THE IRISH AND THE GREAT WAR

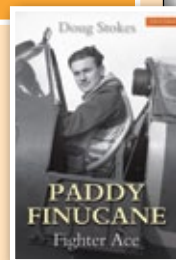
Author: Turtle Bunbury
Publisher: Gill & Macmillan (October 2014) www.gillmacmillanbooks.ie
ISBN: 9780717162345
Price: €29.99 H/B
Pages: 224



With numerous events scheduled for the next number of years commemorating seminal events of the First World War it is apt to examine the role of Irish men and women who participated in the Great War. The story of these men and women has now been vividly brought to life in the Glorious Madness by Turtle Bunbury, himself a scion of a family with a distinctive Anglo-Irish history. Bunbury is a well-known name on Irish television and radio. He is co-presenter of RTE 'Genealogy Roadshow', and the founder of Wistorical, an innovative concept of promoting Irish History globally. This beautifully illustrated work is akin to the opening of a time capsule of the period and the role of the Irish in the Great War. It takes a sweeping majestic view of the conflict from the mud and mire of Flanders Fields, to the ultimately futile Gallipoli campaign where the Irish played a significant role as the ANZAC Brigade; the war at sea, Irishmen who fought in the Middle East made famous by the exploits of Lawrence of Arabia as part of the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire. The role of Irishmen who fought in the skies above the trenches is also addressed, including the 'Eagle of Trieste' Gottfried Freiherr von Banfield, the most successful Austro-Hungarian naval pilot of the war, descended from the Banfields, a Quaker family from Clonmel, Co Tipperary. The poignant story of Erskine Childers, awarded a DSO (Distinguished Service Order) for his outstanding reconnaissance skills over the North Sea, Gallipoli and Palestine is also recounted. Author of the acclaimed The Riddle of the Sands, considered the world's first spy novel, he was subsequently executed during the Civil War. He had been found guilty by a military tribunal of possessing a prohibited firearm, an ivory-handled Spanish automatic, a gift from Michael Collins during happier times. Their stories are all at once tragic, honourable, often recklessly brave, overshadowed in many instances by the deep loss felt by Irish families left in mourning by the loss of family members killed in the charnel house of the Western Front and other far-flung theatres of war. This evocative work brings alive the Irish and their role in the Great War, be they nuns, artists, sportsmen, poets, aristocrats, nationalists, clergymen and even film directors. **RF**

PADDY FINUCANE FIGHTER ACE

Author: Doug Stokes
Publisher: Crecy Publishing, (October 1992, re-released June 2015) www.crecy.co.uk
ISBN: 978 08597 91809
Price: €15.00
Pages: 176



Dublin born fighter pilot Brendan 'Paddy' Finucane in his short life of 21-years achieved fame and recognition in the USA, Britain, and Australia and yet, until very recently, virtually none in the land of his birth. Doug Stokes has, with the co-operation of the Finucane family, written a comprehensive, interesting and detailed account of this young Irishman's life. Born in Dublin in 1920 he was the eldest of five children born to Thomas 'Andy' and Florence Finucane; 'Andy' had fought as a Volunteer in the 1916 Rising. Educated firstly at Christian Brothers schools at Synge Street and latterly O'Connell Schools Brendan, along with the family, moved to Richmond, Surrey in 1936. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1938. After a time on general flying duties he reported for duty on July 15th, 1940 to the Spitfire-equipped 65 Squadron at Hornchurch. The Battle of Britain was at its height and Brendan was soon in action.

After achieving several victories Brendan was promoted and joined the newly arrived 452 Squadron from Australia in 1941. His leadership and tactical abilities with the squadron brought huge publicity and he became one of the top scoring 'aces' in Fighter Command being awarded the DSO and three DFCs. A very modest young man, he did not relish all the publicity but realised that it was a necessary to keep the country's morale high. In early 1942 he took command of 602 Squadron who were engaged, along with many other Spitfire and Hurricane squadrons, in furious dogfights over northern France. In late June 1942 Brendan became the youngest Wing Commander in the RAF when he took over the Hornchurch Wing. Leading the Wing on a raid over France on July 15th, 1942 his aircraft was damaged by machine gun fire and he 'ditched' in the English Channel. His body was never recovered. Brendan had not reached his 22nd birthday. **MB**

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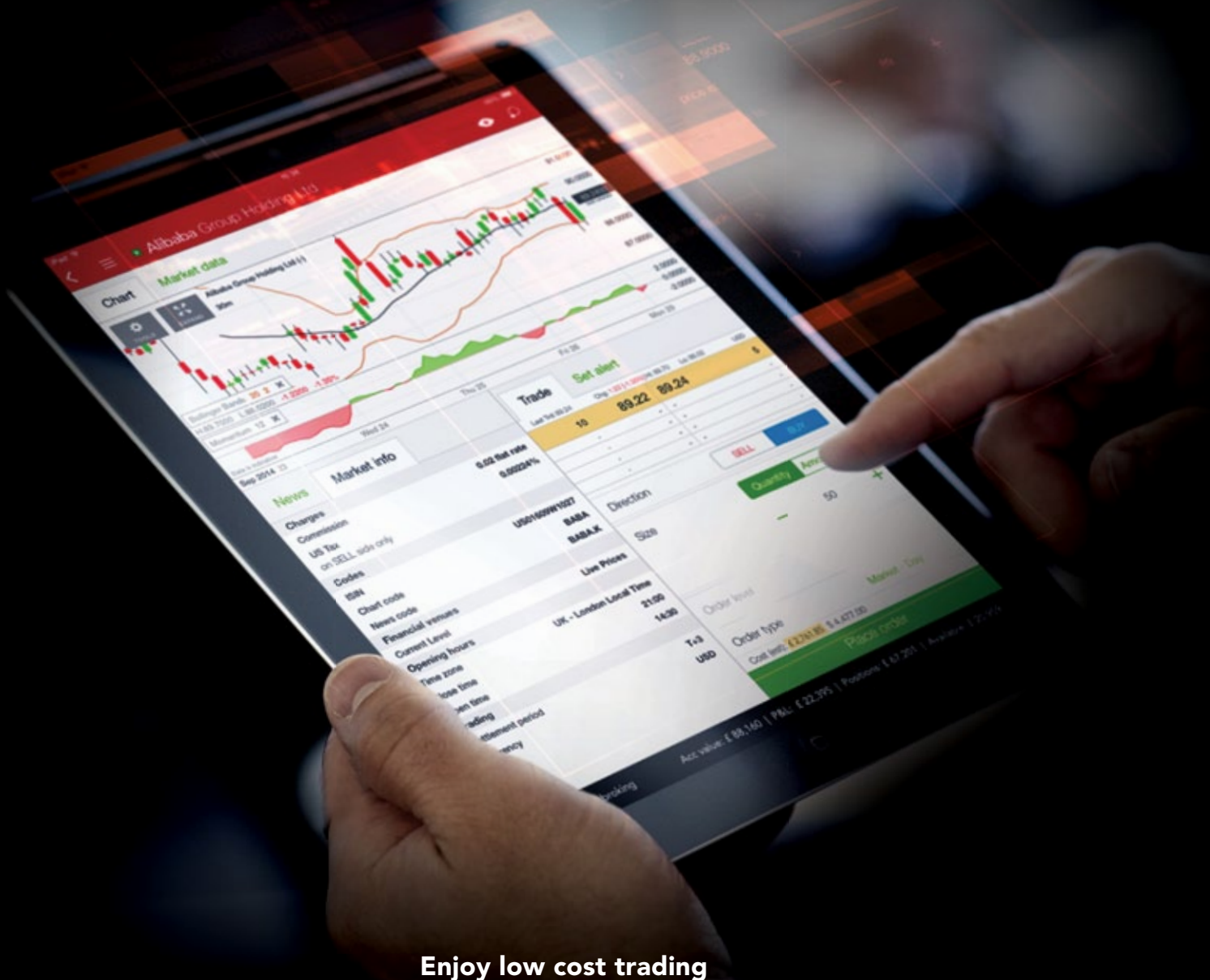
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