

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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OCTOBER 2017



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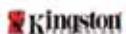
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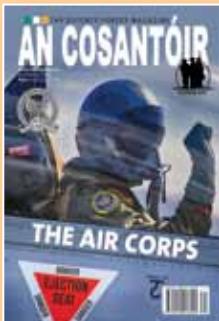


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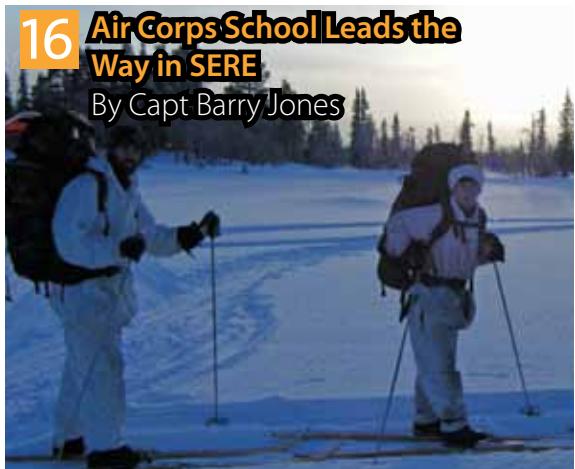
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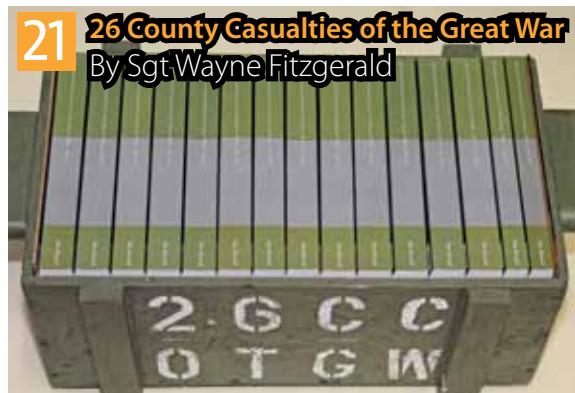
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**Front Cover**

An Air Corps pilot from the Flying Training School (FTS) in a Pilatus PC-9M. Photo by Mark Pollack, Baldonnel

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout: [www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine)

# Editorial

**H**ello and welcome to our October issue. This month our main theme is the Air Corps; looking at what they do in the air and on the ground as part of their daily operations.

As with every issue, the best photos are standing tall *On Parade*. Our *In Focus* pages look at veterans of different eras, starting with 2005 Medal of Honour recipient Lt Michael Murphy remembered in *US Navy SEAL Honoured in Kinnitty Castle*. This is followed by a look at the career of *An Cosantóir's* founder in *Lt General MJ Costello Remembered*. Our *Veterans News* looks at the book launch of *About Face: Finding Peace Within* the Battle in Cathal Brugha Bks last month, the proceeds of which are going to ONE for the welfare of DF veterans.

Our first article examines the first five years of the Emergency Aeromedical Service (EAS) in *Reconnecting*

*the Chain of Survival* before our front cover feature looks at the Air Corps Flying Training School (FTS) and its responsibility for training pilots for the Defence Forces.

Back on the ground we look at the Air Corps Military Training School (MTS), which has developed the SERE and joint personnel recovery capability within the Defence Forces.

Next, Cpl Lee Coyle visits the second Employment Support Scheme (ESS), which is part of the Defence Forces' Corporate Social Responsibility Programme to help develop a path to economic independence for unemployed young people.

Next we have a short piece on the Siege of Jadowille veterans who were recently honoured by Westmeath Co Council. This is followed by another short piece on the recently published, 15-volume *26 County Casualties of the*

*Great War*, a 15-year labour of love by DF veteran and historian Tom Burnell.

Our *In Reserve* feature by RDF CQMS Michael Barrett looks at the two-week, full-time training of 7 Inf Bn's reservists in *RDF Recruits Put Through Their Paces*.

Our first history feature looks at the story behind the novel *This Tumult* by Caroline Preston. Our second history feature is *Revolution & Counter Revolution: Russia 1917* by Paul O'Brien MA. Four pages of sport feature the recent All Army Boxing Championships, soccer's Cunningham Cup, GAA All Ireland winner Cpl Gemma O'Connor, and an Irish rugby league player's world cup debut.

Plus, all our regular features: *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Up*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and *What I Do*.

**Finally, check out our competitions and results on pages 35 and 36.**

**Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor**

*Wayne Fitzgerald*

## MOWAG PULL IN AID OF DOWN SYNDROME CENTRE, MIDLANDS BRANCH

**O**n 19th of July 2017, over 60 DF members from the DFTC completed a 52km journey, pulling a Mowag APC for much of it, in aid of the Down Syndrome Centre, Midlands Branch. The pull was to raise much-needed funds to provide essential services and support to people with Down Syndrome and their families in the Midlands (Kildare, Laois, Offaly and Carlow).

Starting in Joe Mallon Motors in Portlaoise, the soldiers completed a 30km relay to Kildare Village, where they met up with the Mowag from 1 MIC and pulled it the remaining 22km to Joe Mallon Motors in Naas, who were one of the main sponsors. Units that took part included: 107th Recruit Pl from 1 ACS, 1 MIC, Tpt Group, and Medics from the CMU.

The event was organised by Pte David Murray, DFTC Museum, who is the Director of Fundraising of the Down Syndrome Centre Midlands Branch. The event raised €5,150.

Pte Murray thanked Brig Gen Joseph Mulligan GOC DFTC and many others, who without their help and support couldn't have completed the event. ■



# 6 | ON PARADE



## ▲ FAREWELL CHRISTY

On the 15th July 2017, Sgt Major Christy Bourke RDF, HQ DFTC retired from the Reserve Defence Force with 44-years service. He is pictured here with his friends and colleagues of the Defence Forces at his stand down parade in McDonagh Square, Mil Col, DFTC. *Photo: Sean Shinnors*

## ▲ MILITARY VEHICLE CLUB OF IRELAND

Robin and Sue from the Military Vehicle Club of Ireland (MVCI) presented a cheque for the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund, which was collected at this summers MVCI show in Naas. *Photo: Jim Smith, MVCI*



## ▲ 4TH DFTC RDF RECRUIT PI

The 4th DFTC RDF Recruit PI trained by 1 Mech Inf Coy, completed their fulltime training (FTT) element and passed out as 2-star privates on the 9th September. Lt Jonathan Carroll RDF and Sgt John Fennelly RDF were the PI Comdr and PI Sgt respectively. *Photo: Lt Col G Maguire RDF, SSO RDTF, HQ DFTC*

## ▲ JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

The Junior Reserve Officer Developmental Course was conducted in the Officer Training Wing, Military College, DFTC last month. *Photo: Lt Col G Maguire RDF, SSO RDTF, HQ DFTC*



## ▲ CAN YOU HELP?

Retd Cpl Philip McDonald is looking for names from old UN photo 1982 UN 10K  
"I am trying to name the Irish Battalion Team that won the 1982 UN 10K road race in the Golan Heights. I was a member of that team (number 10 on the right front row) and I would like to pass on the photo to all the lads in it. This year will be the 35th Anniversary of winning the competition." Philip has 2/3 names of the Eastern Command, but he doesn't have the names of the Southern Command. Email: philipmcdonald@cavaninstitute.ie

## ▲ 46TH APPRENTICE CLASS REUNION

Pictured are members of the Air Corps 46th Apprentice Class, who celebrated their reunion on Friday 25th of August 2017 in the NCOs Mess in Baldonnel. *Photo: Armn Jimmy Darcy, No 5 Sp Wing*

# ON PARADE | 7



## ▲ IN HONOUR OF A POLISH PILOT

A special 75th Anniversary Commemoration was held outside Ratoath Community Centre on 23rd August 2017 in honour of a Polish pilot, Flight Officer Bolesław Józef Sawiak. Flight Officer Sawiak tragically lost his life on 23rd August 1942 when his Spitfire crash-landed in Ratoath, Co Dublin following an aerial battle with a German Junker JU88. The Polish Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Ryszard Sarkowicz together with local TD and Government Minister Regina Doherty laid a wreath in honour of Flight Officer Sawiak. Teresa Lowe MC'd the commemoration with some local people who had witnessed the tragedy in attendance.

Great credit is due to the local Ratoath Heritage Group who began some years ago to record for posterity the tragic incident that befell a young 24 year old from the city of Przemysł, situated near the Polish border with modern day Ukraine. Photo: Thomas O'Doherty



## ▲ 2017 IIFA FIATA DIPLOMA GRADUATION

Pictured on the 5th September are graduates of the Irish International Freight Association (IIFA) FIATA Freight Forwarding Diploma in the Spencer Hotel, Dublin. Pictured L/R: Sgt Michael Byrne, Cpl Patrick Daly and CQMS John Barnes all from the Customs Clearance & VAT Control Office, D Ord, DFHQ with Grainne Thornbury of the Irish International Freight Association. Photo: IIFA/ Philip O'Neill Photography



## ▲ DEFENCE FORCES VETERANS

Members of the Mullingar Branch of ONE were out in force on the 4th August in Market Square, Mullingar to raise funds for DF Veterans who have fallen on hard times. Pictured: Frank Stenson and Michael McDonnell, LAC Chairperson. Photo: Claire Corrigan, Topic Newspapers

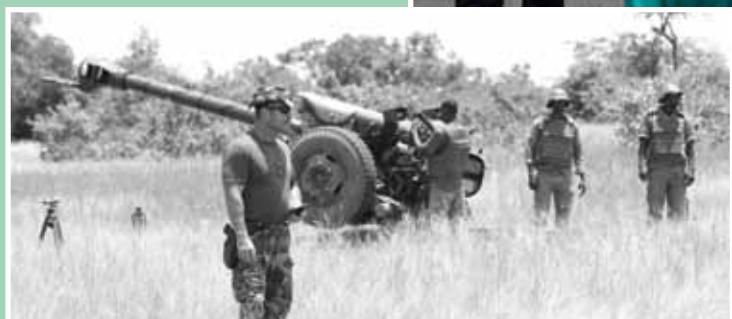
## ▲ ROSE OF TRALEE

Cpl Anthony O'Donoghue, 3 Ops Wing, Air Corps is pictured at the 2017 Rose of Tralee Festival. Tony along with 63 other escorts was paired off with two very lucky Roses. Photo: Denis Walsh Photography



## ▼ EUTM MALI

Sgt Billy Wykes, 2 Arty Regt from Athlone, is pictured in his role as a tactical instructor with fellow 'Gunners' in Mali on deployment with EUTM. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan, 2 BAR



## ▲ RDF 3-STAR COURSE TRALEE

1 Bde RDF 3-Star Course completed their two-week full time training and passed out as 3 star privates on the 17th August. The course comprised of engineers, musicians, martial arts experts, tech specialists, law students, mechanics, dancers and chefs. The training staff was drawn from C and E Coy, 12th Inf Bn and 1 Bde Tpt. Photo: Sgt Ian Sims RDF, C Coy, 12 Inf Bn

DODGY

# IN FOCUS

## US Navy SEAL Honoured in Kinnitty Castle

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD – PHOTOS BY ARMN ADAM MURPHY



DF COS Vice Admiral Mark Mellett, DSM with US Navy Vice Admiral Retd Joe Maguire pictured in Kinnitty Castle.



Parachutists, US and Irish veterans pictured with Vice Admiral Mark Mellett, DSM and Vice Admiral Joe Maguire.



Navy SEAL Lt Michael Murphy, Medal of Honour recipient. Photo: [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)

**O**n the 6th September 2017, US Navy SEAL Lt Michael Murphy, who was killed in action on 28th June 2005 in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, was honoured in the halls of Kinnitty Castle, Co Offaly, with a room being named in his memory.

Lt Murphy's SEAL Team 10, which included Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Danny Dietz, Sonar Technician 2nd Class Matthew Axelson and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marcus Luttrell, was on a mission to capture or kill high-ranking al Qaeda leader, Ahmad Shah, who led a guerrilla group known as the Mountain Tigers.

When their mission was compromised, the SEALs fought a two-hour battle against 40 Taliban fighters as they tried to make it out of the area. With all of the team wounded, Lt Murphy left cover during an intense fire fight, moving into the open to get a signal to call in the QRF from Bagram Air Base, while knowingly exposing himself to enemy gunfire in a deliberate and heroic act. He made contact with HQ and eight SEALs and eight members of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Night Stalkers) were dispatched in an MH-47 Chinook helicopter, accompanied by attack helicopters, to extract SEAL Team 10 in a daylight rescue. A slower armoured escort followed behind.

Tragically, a Taliban RPG hit the helicopter, killing all 16 QRF troops and the crew. On the ground the SEALs were overrun and Lt Murphy and

SEALs Dietz and Axelson were killed in battle, but not before an estimated 35 kills inflicted on their attackers. The remaining SEAL, Marcus Luttrell, was blown off the ridge and crawled away, dehydrated, with shrapnel embedded in both legs, three vertebrae cracked and a bullet wound. Despite his injuries, Luttrell managed to evade capture. The next day he was found and cared for by local tribesmen and after a few more days he was rescued by US forces. He was subsequently awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart.

For his courage displayed in relaying his unit's position, which ultimately led to the rescue of Marcus Luttrell and the recovery of the three SEALs killed in action, Lt Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honour. His other awards include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon and National Defence Service Medal. He is survived by his mother Maureen, father Dan and his brother John, who serves in law enforcement in the State of New York.

Marcus Luttrell's book about these events, *Lone Survivor*, was made into a movie of the same name in 2014, starring Taylor Kitsch as Murphy and Mark Wahlberg as Luttrell.

Kinnitty Castle's new owners Colin Breen and retired US Army Lt Col Bryan Bean and the Irish Veterans Association were behind the event to honour

Lt Murphy.

The day's events began with a parachute display by the Irish Parachute Club. The guests including Irish and US veterans were then piped into the hotel by DF veteran, Stefan O'Reilly. After an Irish whiskey tasting experience guests were entertained by the Young Wolf Tones and then to a fabulous banquet before the unveiling of the room. All proceeds raised were donated to the Irish Veterans Association, the Special Operations Warriors Foundation, and the Night Stalker Association.

Speaking after the event Lt Col Bean said: "We are extremely grateful to those that supported this event, which was the first to commemorate Irish and Irish-American US veterans. We are planning to open an Irish post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), which is a nonprofit veterans service organisation here in Kinnitty Castle." ■



Lt. Michael Murphy

The 19th Century Kinnitty Castle is located north of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in Co Offaly. The original castle was destroyed in 1209 and rebuilt by the Norman's in 1213. Its present owners purchased the castle in 2015. Visit [www.kinnittycastlehotel.com](http://www.kinnittycastlehotel.com) or call 057 9137318 for reservations.

# Lt General MJ Costello Remembered

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**D**uring the summer of 2017, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the late Lt Gen Michael Joseph (MJ) Costello visited the offices of *An Cosantóir*, the magazine that he founded in 1940. Together with his family we looked back over the career of our founder. It was a truly interesting and insightful day for all of us.

MJ Costello was born in Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary, in 1904, and in 1922, aged 18, was serving as a second lieutenant with the newly formed Irish Free State Army (Óglaigh na hÉireann).

A short time later, the young officer was promoted to colonel-commandant by General Michael Collins and served as Intelligence Officer, 3rd Southern Division. By October 1923 he was Director of Intelligence aged 19. In 1926 he and five other Irish officers went on a military mission to the US, where he and Hugo MacNeill studied at the US Army's, Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth while the others studied elsewhere.

Appointed Commandant, the Military College, in 1933 he served in that post for four years before being appointed Assistant Chief of Staff, a position he held when the Emergency was declared in 1939.

At the end of 1939 he was appointed to command the Southern Command and it was in this position that he established *An Cosantóir* as a newsletter in December 1940 as a medium of instruction to disseminate official views and instructions to members of the Southern Command.

In May 1941, the Defence Forces was reorganised into 2 Divisions. He was promoted to Major General and appointed to command the 1st (Thunderbolt) Division, with the Divisional HQ in Collins Bks, Cork - where he was already based.

General Costello's family visiting the Curragh Camp.



In 1945 at the end of World War II, MJ Costello's services were sought in industry and he took up the appointment

as general manager of the Irish Sugar Company. He sadly passed away in 1986.

In the October 1986 issue of *An Cosantóir* Col



MJ Costello. IE-MA-P-157-037 Courtesy of Military Archives



Walking behind Éamon de Valera, Uachtaráin na hÉireann inspecting troops during The Emergency, Southern Command HQ, Collins Barracks, Cork.

J Flynn (retd) wrote: "He has just gone from us, RIP, leaving behind a record of superb achieve-



The military mission to the US returned to Ireland in October 1927 - 90 years ago this month. Pictured: 2nd Lt Charles Troddyn/Trodden, Lt Seán Collins-Powell, Capt Patrick Perry, Col MJ Costello, Maj Gen Hugo MacNeill and Major Joseph Dunne. Washington, 1926. IE-MA-PRCN-0069-11-02-07 Courtesy of Military Archives

ment in the military as well as the national sphere. He holds a special place as being one of the most outstandingly able officers the army has produced: he possessed superior intellectual capacity, high organisational skill, keen perceptiveness, an amazing intensity of application, and a tremendous drive, which was uppermost in the initiation, planning and carrying through of his various duties. He was unique in many ways: he stood out as a leader; by example and foresight he impressed his subordinates who, recognising his striking qualities and knowledge were inspired to rise to the rigorous standards he set for himself and demanded for them." ■



The Irish military mission lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, September 1926.

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

# About Face

## Finding Peace Within The Battle

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**O**n the 1st of September, author Bethany Barnett launched her book *About Face: Finding Peace Within the Battle* in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin. The proceeds of the launch were donated to ONE to help fund their homeless initiatives for Defence Forces veterans who have fallen on hard times.

The evening began with an introduction to proceedings by one of the organisers, Paul Clarke, chairman of the 2 Inf Bn Association. Paul thanked Bethany and her family and everyone in attendance for supporting the launch and the cause. He also thanked OC Cathal Brugha Bks for giving permission to hold the launch in the Michael Collins Club.

Paul and the other veterans behind the event, like Stephen Doyle have helped out with many charitable events in aid of DF veterans. Last year they helped raise €10,000 for ONE with the Bob Farrell Memorial Swim and 5Km Walk in the DFTC. Bob was a swimming coach in the DFSPC and his family were invited to the launch, which was also attended by former 2 Inf Bn veteran and Olympic gold medalist, Michael Carruth, who was there to lend his support.

Bethany explained that *About Face* means we can literally do a 180° turn in life. She then read a few paragraphs to give her audience a feel of what the book was about.

"I am the sister of a soldier," she said, explaining that her inspiration for writing a book about veterans and the battles they carry around

with them long after the original battle has ended, was because of a Facebook post made by her brother, a US army veteran. His post, in December 2014, was a call to his military brothers to 'reach out' and talk if they needed to. This led her to think about what troubles he may be carrying too.

In Ireland a few years later she got talking to John Corcoran a DF veteran and former member of the ARW. "What can we do?" John responded to a question from Bethany with: "We can create a space where it is normal to talk about things like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)."

After listening to John, his brother Ger, and their former colleague, Kevin Burke, Bethany wrote *About Face* about their journey as they turned their lives around.

Another DF veteran, author of *The Siege at Jadotville*, Declan Power, also lent his support to the launch. "We are our own harshest critics in the Defence Forces and we use a lot of black humour." He remembers being asked when returning to his unit after a tough course: "Did they take the softness out of you?"

"We are aware of the realities of battle," he said. "but this book looks at the battle within us. Most soldiers don't talk to psychologists, but they will talk to someone of a similar rank who has walked the same walk."

"The DF is ahead, with members of the Personnel Support Services (PSS) being trained in critical incident stress management and as social care workers...but this book is the first chapter in looking at how our soldiers are coping with their experiences."

A few veterans spoke on some of the difficulties that affect retired soldiers. Anthony Moore spoke about the effects of PTSD, and RSM Dick Dillon retd, house manager of Brú na



Author Bethany Barnett



Paul Clarke, John Corcoran, Kevin Burke, Bethany Barnett, Ger Corcoran and Stephen Doyle.



Kevin Burke, John Corcoran and Ger Corcoran

bhFiann, spoke briefly about ONE's homeless initiatives.

A short clip was then played about Brú na bhFiann before ONE director and former Air Corps member, Derek Ryan, thanked Bethany for writing her book and then spoke about funding ONE's homeless initiative. "This book relates to everyone in this room who served in the DF," Derek said. "Telling these stories of our veterans is a good start."

Derek went on to explain that ONE was looking at new fundraising to open veteran support centres around the country. ■

**About Face:** *Finding Peace Within the Battle* was reviewed last month and is available for €10 from [www.bethanybarnett.ie](http://www.bethanybarnett.ie) or contact [hello@bethanybarnett.ie](mailto:hello@bethanybarnett.ie).



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# RECONNECTING THE CHAIN OF SURVIVAL

## Five Years of the Emergency Aeromedical Service (EAS)

BY CAPT SEÁN MCCARTHY, AIR CORPS PRESS OFFICE

**T**he Air Corps has a proud tradition of providing for the people of Ireland. No 3 Operations Wing in particular has introduced a number of significant capabilities to the state, including the first inter-hospital air ambulance service, search and rescue, and night vision operations. In 2012 the unit embarked on its next legacy project, the Emergency Aeromedical Service (EAS).

The EAS is a joint project between the Air Corps and the National Ambulance Service (NAS), designed to deliver advanced medical care to remote locations and rapid transport for seriously ill or injured patients to the most appropriate hospital, and is the first such service in the state.

The service combines the speed of the AW139 helicopter, cruising at almost 300 kph, with the high level of care provided by a NAS advanced paramedic.

The EAS began as a pilot project in 2012 to ascertain the need for such a service in Ireland. The project has since become a permanent service and its success has hinged on the collaboration of multiple bodies, including the Defence Forces, Department of Defence, Department of Health, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the NAS.

Behind the helicopter and four-person crew are a myriad of supporting functions required to ensure the aircraft can respond. The departments of Defence and Health generate the policies governing the operation of the service, while the Air Corps provides the technical, logistical and operational support needed to keep a state-of-the-art aircraft fit to respond at a moment's notice and 2 Bde provides the life support for the EAS in Custume Bks in the geographical centre of Ireland. The



NAS, through its Aeromedical Dispatch Service (AMDS) in Tallaght, manages the asset in adherence to protocols, which are designed to ensure the aircraft responds to patients that would benefit most from the service, and they provide the vital flight-following function ensuring safety for the crew.

Within the military, and in aviation, routine is very important and every day on the EAS begins in the same way, with a morning brief. The aircraft and medical equipment is thoroughly examined and the crew checks-in with the AMDS controller. Once this routine is finished, no two days are the same. The average duration of an EAS task is two hours and the service responds to an average of two calls per day, although it has responded to six tasks

in a single day, covering hundreds of kilometres. The crew are at a constant state of readiness, to respond at a moment's notice.

When the phone rings, the crew initially receives details limited to the location of the patient, to isolate the crew's decision from any emotional interference. Once the aircraft commander decides to accept the mission, depending on multiple factors, each of the crew members goes about their individual tasks; starting the aircraft, planning the route, identifying the landing site. This normally takes less than seven minutes.

The speed of the AW139 allows the EAS to reach and make a positive impact on every community in the country and the aircraft's range allows the crew to respond



to multiple calls without the need to refuel.

The EAS has completed almost 3,000 missions, responding to the most critically ill patients across the country, connecting the chain of survival for thousands of people.

On 25th August the Air Corps hosted an EAS family day in Casement Aerodrome, to reconnect those chains of survival and meet patients who have benefited from the service. The day also allowed the crews that keep the aircraft in the air on a daily basis but do not get to

interact with the patients on, to see the importance of the work they do. It was a moving day, full of smiles and stories of recovery.

As the service enters its sixth year the Air Corps has gained a greater understanding of, and competency in, the medevac role. Capitalising on the lessons learned from the EAS and the other aeromedical services provided by the Air Corps since 1963, efforts continue to ensure a military advantage is also gained. The Air Corps is committed, under the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Planning and Review Process to developing, with support of the Medical

Corps, an organic and potentially deployable medevac capability, be it fixed or rotary wing.

We are only too aware that not every EAS mission ends with a positive outcome for the patient and their families, but the ambition of everybody involved in the Emergency Aeromedical Service is to provide the best response for citizens of Ireland experiencing one of the worst days of their lives

It is this synergy and unity of purpose within multiple agencies, as well as the feeling of making a difference to communities, that makes working on the EAS such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. ■



# Air Corps Pilot Training

BY COMDT FABIO SCALICI, OC FTS

**T**he Air Corps Flying Training School (FTS) is responsible for the training of ab initio and flying-instructor pilots for the Defence Forces. Our contingent operational roles include air-to-ground weapons employment, basic fighter manoeuvre, and aircraft interception. Additionally, high profile ceremonial flypasts and aerobatic display flying contribute to raising the profile of the Defence Forces.

The PC-9M is a stable and highly responsive aircraft with excellent handling characteristics. It has all the qualities required to be an ab initio trainer while allowing more advanced forms of operational flying. The advanced cockpit avionics combined with the flat-rated 950 shp Pratt and Whitney engine provide a highly versatile platform for the Air Corps.

Our main effort is towards cadet pilot training and this course is broken down into three phases. Phase 1 is completed with other Defence Forces cadet streams in the Cadet School, DFTC, and takes approximately nine months. This phase develops military and leadership skills, a core requirement of any modern military pilot officer.

For Phase 2 the cadets return to Casement Aerodrome and begin their aviation ground school. This continues for approximately ten months, focusing on the 14-subject syllabus of the civilian Airline Transport Pilots Licence course. In addition to tuition and testing within the FTS, the students are also examined by the Irish Aviation Authority, thereby validating the quality of the FTS instructional process.

Following successful completion of their examinations the cadets begin Phase 3: flying training.

Prior to strapping into the PC-9M ejection seat, the cadets undergo in-depth training on aircraft systems, post-aircraft-ejection drills, hypoxia, centrifuge G-force resilience, and land and sea survival, preparing them for the challenging aircraft they are about to fly.

The G-force tolerance training allows students to experience what it will feel like when they fly the PC-9M, where accelerations of up to seven times normal gravity are permitted. At these large accelerations it can be difficult to see, breathe and move your body, so this preparatory training is essential.

## Vox Pops

### Cadet Matthew O'Brien

*"I served as a commop on LÉ Orla prior to getting the Air Corps cadetship and while I enjoyed my time in the Naval Service I always wanted to be a pilot. The cadetship has been challenging at times in different ways for each stage so far, from physically demanding in stage one, to developing leadership in stage two, and very academic in stage three. I am looking forward to flying in the near future, which will provide other challenges to overcome."*

### Cadet Oisín Murtagh

*"I completed my leaving cert in June 2014 and had already applied for an Air Corps cadetship. I had an interest in aviation and the military from a young age and the Air Corps seemed like the obvious choice for me. In September 2014 I was accepted for a cadetship and began my training with the 33rd Air Corps Cadet Class. I am currently about two-thirds of the way through the flying course due to finish up later this year."*





Cadets then progress through ten hours of familiarisation training on the Fixed Training Device (FTD), or simulator.

The simulator is a fully working replica of a PC-9M cockpit, complete with instrument panels, head-up display (HUD), and a 210° viewing screen onto which the instructor can project different scenarios. The FTD allows the student to gain a feel for the layout of the cockpit and to master the location of buttons, screens and switches without the added pressure of actually being in the air. The students will initially practice simple procedures such as engine starting and then move onto increasingly complicated normal and emergency situations in a cost-effective and safe environment.

They are now ready to commence flying the PC-9M. The first 50 hours of flying makes up the elementary block, where students learn how to taxi, take-off, complete basic manoeuvres and land. A high point in this stage is the cadet's first solo flight where Chief Flying Instructor, Capt Odhran Murphy, deems them safe to take an aircraft into the sky on their own for the first time.

Following on from the elementary phase cadets are introduced to navigation, flying by reference only to cockpit instruments, and military formation flying. Basic flying training takes total flying hours up to 150.

The final stage of the course includes formation flying and more advanced aerobatics, the culmination of which is the final handling test.

Cadets fly once or twice a day and always have at least three flights planned at any time, providing flexibility for the unpredictable Irish weather.

As well as flying, cadets have other ground duties to carry out, preparing them for the variety of responsibilities they will assume as young officers in the Air Corps. Throughout their training, elements of command, leadership and organisational studies are completed through focused lectures, seminars and round-table discussions.

This intense level of training wouldn't be possible without the dedicated support of the technical staff in the modern, well-equipped hangar. FTS Aero-Engineer, Capt Anna Edgeworth, together with Senior Aircraft Inspector, Sgt Alan Campbell, lead a team of highly skilled aircraft technicians, ensuring that the school has the serviceable airframes needed to complete the mission.

On a daily basis four aircraft are required, with at least one in deeper maintenance at any given time. Daily inspections and component changes are everyday tasks, with a sergeant inspector responsible for investigating technical issues, assigning rectification teams and certifying completed jobs. Technical staff also carry out scheduled 150-hour servicing, which can take up to three weeks. Aircraft requiring a 300-hour service are passed to

the Airframe Repair Flight, No 4 Support Wing.

Most days start with instructors and cadets assembled in the Fitzmaurice Building for the morning briefings. The first brief of the day consists of a weather briefing covering the meteorological situation around the country, together with relevant air traffic control issues and flight planning changes for the day.

The second brief is given by a member of the senior cadet class and covers a range of topics such as emergency procedures in the aircraft, Air Corps regulations, or any other topic that may be relevant.

Instructors and cadets then proceed to complete individual sortie briefs before they don their flight equipment and head to their aircraft. This cycle is repeated several times each day. Meanwhile, the junior cadet class attend lectures given by Air Corps subject-matter experts.

To enable cadet training and operational conversion training on our other aircraft, the Air Corps must train flight instructors. FTS has this responsibility and this intense training and development is run in tandem with the cadet-training cycle.

The flying element of the instructor course is designed around a flight 'cycle', comprised of three similar flights. For the first flight the trainee instructor acts as the student, with an instructor in the rear 'teaching' the student. On the second flight, two student instructors will pair up, and practice their instructional technique for the assigned disciplines. The third flight will have the trainee instructor in the rear with a qualified instructor in the front seat simulating common student errors. This ensures that the potential instructors continuously develop throughout the course and are exposed to situations that will face them once qualified.

During my time as Officer Commanding FTS the Cadet Pilots Wings Course has been modernised, ensuring it meets the requirements of the Air Corps' operational aviation units. Currently six cadets are approaching the end of their flying training, eight are completing ground school, and twelve are carrying out basic officer training in the DFTC.

While the workload is high in the FTS, I also have to find the resources to run instructor courses in addition to staff continuity training, test flights, display and visits, ceremonial flypasts, and exercises with the Army and Naval Service.

My instructors come with a wealth of experience from all areas of the Air Corps, with three lieutenants who have recently graduated from the FTS and captains drawn from either a fixed-wing or rotary-wing background, often with seven or eight years flying experience.

The FTS is a high-tempo but exciting and rewarding place to work where the staff have the pleasure of helping young men and women develop into highly competent military aviators, and students have the opportunity to fulfil their childhood dreams and earn their commission and military pilots wings. ■



**T**he Military Training School (MTS) is responsible for the military training of Air Corps personnel. The school conducts career courses from recruit and three-star training for line recruits and apprentices to potential NCO and standard NCO courses, range management courses, and weapons proficiency training for Air Corps personnel. In addition to the conventional military training courses and skills, MTS has developed the SERE and joint personnel recovery capability within the Defence Forces.

This small school in the corner of Casement Aerodrome proudly holds the title of Centre of Excellence for SERE and Personnel Recovery Training for the three services of the Defence Forces. Traditionally an Air Force skill set, the school took up the mantle for SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance to Interrogation, Extrac-

tion) following the introduction of the PC-9M aircraft in 2004 and the requirement for post-ejection survival training for cadets and instructors. Initial training for the first cadre of flying instructors, cadets and MTS instructors was provided by instructors from Pilatus, until the responsibility was handed over to MTS in 2006.

The initial training involved operation of the ejection seat in flight, post-ejection drills in the air, on the ground and at sea, and then the basic skills to survive on land for 24 hours. The survival skills taught on the course at that stage were very basic and the MTS instructors undertook the development of these skills on their own initiative with the enthusiasm of a hobby.

The development of basic survival skills and research into military survival led to an opportunity for four MTS instructors to undergo the Swedish SERE instructors course, a highly respected qualification that included advanced bush craft; escape and evasion; 24-hour conduct after capture; resistance to interrogation training; and, at a later stage, Arctic survival training.

# AIR CORPS SCHOOL LEADS THE WAY in SERE

BY CAPT BARRY JONES, DF SERE INSTRUCTOR

With the help of such qualified and experienced personnel, the syllabus for the 1st Survival Instructors Course was written and the course was successfully conducted in 2007.

As the course developed it was renamed the SERE Instructors course and nine have been conducted to date with the tenth due to be conducted in October.

SERE training blocks were also added to the three-star, potential NCO, standard NCO, sniper, and recce course syllabi.

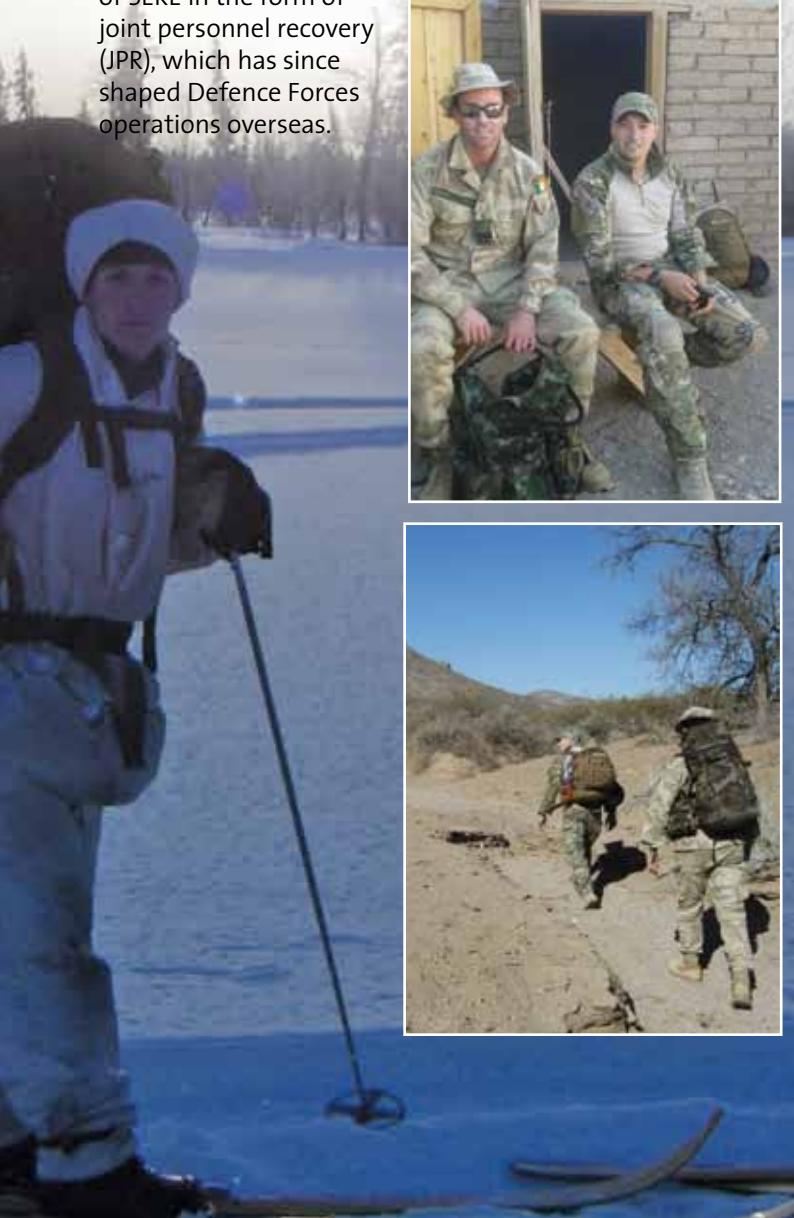
The deployment of Defence Forces personnel to Chad saw the first operational tasking for MTS SERE instructors who conducted a recce to assess the environment in Chad. The School then conducted pre-deployment training for troops during subsequent MREs that included environmental briefs, conduct after capture and rescue signal activation training.

The training conducted in the Arctic and recce's in Chad led to the awareness that different climates present unique challenges that require specific equipment, techniques and knowledge. J7 facilitated requests from MTS to further the cause by sending instructors on the RAF's jungle survival course in Belize and to the Arizona desert with the US Air Force on a massive exercise called 'Angel Thunder'. The experience and qualifications gained at Angel Thunder developed the focus of our SERE programme towards the 'extraction' element of SERE in the form of joint personnel recovery (JPR), which has since shaped Defence Forces operations overseas.

The concept of JPR is to locate personnel identified as isolated, captured or missing and recover and reintegrate them until they return to normal duties. SERE is the foundation of any JPR capability and is where troops learn how to facilitate their own extraction. This is achieved by training all our troops how to activate their evasion plan of action; get to a designated location; conduct themselves throughout the rescue; and alert rescue teams, with or without comms, if they have been compromised and are under duress, to prevent the rescue team being led into an ambush.

The effectiveness and speed of JPR is far greater than conventional means of search and rescue, as there is a focused effort from the isolated person to carry out a rehearsed set of procedures laid down in the evasion plan of action that can be predicted by rescue crews. There is also enhanced safety due to the ability of the person being rescued to use ground-to-air signals to warn an approaching rescue aircraft or Mowag of danger.

The MTS continues to develop the Defence Forces' SERE and personnel recovery programme and qualify instructors through the SERE Instructors course and concentrations. This handful of instructors in the small school in the corner of Casement Aerodrome have seen their hobby develop from rubbing sticks together to make fire to shaping current operations in UNDOF and UNIFIL for the benefit and safety of Defence Forces personnel. This new capability has also raised the profile and relevance of the Air Corps in the planning and training for land-based operations overseas. ■



# EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

BY CPL LEE COYLE  
PHOTOS CPL JOHN GREEN

“I think everyone should do this course.”

Jack O'Shaughnessy (age 18)



**T**he Employment Support Scheme (ESS), which is part of the DF Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, was launched in February 2016 by the then Minister for Defence, Mr Simon Coveney TD. The development of the scheme was a joint initiative between the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces, the Department of Social Protection and the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board.

The objective of the ESS is to help develop a path to economic independence for unemployed individuals aged between 18 and 24 who are at a distinct disadvantage due to their socio-economic situation. Participation in the scheme is voluntary and does not affect a participant's welfare payments.

The scheme is designed to exert a positive influence on participants, with the specific aim of equipping them

with life skills and other marketable and certifiable skills that will assist them in their capacity to participate fully in society and enhance their ability to enter the workforce or to pursue further education for this purpose. At its launch Minister Coveney stated: *“On successful completion of the programme, participants should be able to demonstrate an increased sense of self-confidence, self-discipline, self-motivation and self-worth, and increased physical fitness. They will be able to display social and team skills and to communicate more confidently with potential employers.”*

As with any course conducted by the Defence Forces, a specific syllabus was developed for the scheme, TS INF 032/2016, and a very successful 10-week pilot scheme was conducted for 30 participants in Gormanston Camp in June 2016. A commitment was also given to run six more it-

erations of the programme over a three-year period. The first of these has recently concluded in Limerick.

The selection process for the current course was carried out through the Department of Social Protection in Limerick. All 18-24 year olds in receipt of job seekers allowance in the Limerick and Clare area were invited to attend a brief on the ESS delivered by a member of the Defence Forces. Those who subsequently applied for a place on the scheme were then interviewed to assess their suitability and interest in the course. After garda vetting and security checks, successful candidates were offered a place on the course.

The course programme consists of five weeks of military-orientated training, provided by 12 Inf Bn, and five weeks educational training, delivered by Further Education and Training Campus Raheen who are part of the Limerick and Clare Edu-

## Vox Pops



cation and Training Board (ETB). The military training and educational elements are supported by the Department of Social Protection, which, as well as being involved in the selection process, provides a liaison officer.

The first two weeks of the programme were fully residential in Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee. Thereafter it was residential from Monday to Friday in Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick.

Participants who successfully complete the ESS programme will receive the following accreditations: A certificate of completion from the Defence Forces; a reference from the participant's OiC outlining the participant's performance; a basic medical training certificate; a manual handling certificate; a HACCP certificate; a Solas Safe Pass; and a QQI Level 5 component award in Information and Administration.

In addition, suitable participants, as determined by the OiC and the DSP case officer, may be selected for further ETB courses. ■

### Jack O'Shaughnessy (18)

"I've recently finished school and thought this would be interesting to do. I wasn't really looking forward to fitness part of it but I'm hoping to grow personally during the course."

"I'm enjoying the course so far and beginning to like the military life; it makes me want to join the DF even more."

"The course has improved my confidence, along with my fitness and strength, and it has also made me a better team player with all the team building stuff. After this I plan to keep an eye out on the website for the next enlistment, while also keeping up with my fitness."

"I think everyone should do this course."

### Sean Price (21)

"When I heard about the scheme I thought it would be a good way of working on my confidence. I'm looking forward to learning medical and communication skills and getting on a navy ship and an Air Corps helicopter sounds really cool too."

"I'm getting on ok. Sometime I feel like going home but I'm pushing myself through it and I feel myself improving in different ways, like my fitness and confidence."

"After this I'm hoping to get a course or apprenticeship in computer maintenance. I'm also hoping to get my driving licence, and what I learned about the Rules of the Road on the course will help with that."

### Caleb Brennan (22)

"I studied journalism in college and have an interest in writing but I was in a bit of a rut and this is a good opportunity to help me out of it. Looking at the programme, the bridge jump into water is going to be nerve racking as I can't swim, but the hiking and abseiling sound really good."

"I'm finding the course good, and understand what it's about now. We have earned a lot of certificates, which is great. The military parts are tough but I'm getting use to it, plus it's a bit of fun. I feel I've a swagger and a bit more pride in myself lately."

"It's important to work together on the course and to look after each other, while also learning from each other. They're a good group of people."

"I'm not sure what I'll do after this but I have more enthusiasm and ambition. I would highly recommend it, but you need to be strong willed and be prepared to work as a team."

### Jessica Stokes (20)

"I was a little terrified after I signed up for the scheme, as I didn't know who was going to be here and what exactly was involved. For me the jump off the bridge was going to be the hardest thing on the scheme as I'm afraid of heights and also of water, so I was very happy with myself for doing the jumps into the pool. After a while I was happy and had no fear jumping into water from different heights. I'm not afraid now and I'm more able to trying new things, because I feel proud after I do them."

"After this I am thinking of going to Limerick Institute of Technology to study to become a chef."

# JADOTVILLE VETERANS Honoured

BY COMS GER O'CONNOR (RDF RETD)

**O**n Monday 24th of July 2017 at the council offices in Athlone, Westmeath County Council honoured Defence Forces veterans who served in the Siege of Jadotville by presenting them with scrolls of recognition.

The council's full monthly meeting was relocated from Mullingar for the day to accommodate the veterans and their families. Cathaoirleach Mr John Shaw and CEO of Westmeath Co Council, Mr Pat Gallagher, were both in attendance and after a short speech by Mr Shaw the presentations began as the recipients, or their representatives, were called up individually to receive their Scroll of Recognition from the council.

After the presentations Mr Shaw asked former soldier and author of *The Siege at*

Jadotville, Declan Power, to speak on behalf of the veterans and inform the attendance of the position, as he knew it, on future medals being presented.

Declan thanked Westmeath County Council for their gesture and praised the General Staff for their brave decision to propose to government the awarding of a medal to the Jadotville veterans. A massive round of applause from the 250 people in attendance in the full gallery and the main floor of the chamber welcomed this statement. Declan urged local Oireachtas representatives to return to Dail Éireann and push for these medals to be awarded before any more of the veterans pass away.

Declan singled out Jadotville veterans Tom Gunn, for his help with the book, and

John Gorman, for his tireless work on behalf of his comrades in bringing the story to a wider audience. He also mentioned 'A' Company officers Liam Donnelly and Noel Carey for their work on the submission to the chief of staff that many years ago started the campaign for recognition of the Jadotville action.

Declan finished by informing those in attendance that both the US Command and General Staff College and the West Point Officer Training Academy are preparing to use the Jadotville story on their syllabus to demonstrate how a company should defend a position. This is a great honour to Comdt Pat Quinlan, OC 'A' Company, 35 Inf Bn. ■



Jadotville veteran William Keane with The Siege at Jadotville author Declan Power.



Tom Gunn, Declan Power, Mrs Maura Power, Tony Power and John Gorman.



Jadotville veterans William Keane, Tom Gunn and James Scally.



Comdt Pat Quinlan (far left) poses with soldiers of 'A' Coy, 35 Inf Bn, in Elisabethville, prior to their deployment to Jadotville. Photo: Courtesy of Leo Quinlan

Irish soldiers relaxing in a foxhole in Jadotville. Photo: Military Archives

## 26 County Casualties of the Great War: ••

Vol 1: Abbey - Britton to Vol 15: Walsh - Zimber

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

In 1923 eight volumes of 'Ireland's Memorial Records' were published, the purpose of which was to provide a remembrance of those Irish men and women who died in the Great War. It was a wonderful undertaking and a very polished end product. For almost 100 years it was accepted as the most comprehensive listing of our Irish heroes of the Great War, but nonetheless, it had an Achilles heel in that there were many omissions: specifically, it did not record many RAF/RFC, Mercantile Marine, South African Army, Canadian Army, or US Army casualties. Its greatest failing was that it assumed every man in an Irish regiment of the British Army was an Irishman. '26 County Casualties of the Great War' is the 21st century undertaking of this task, covering in greater detail the casualties of those belonging to the 26 counties of the now Republic of Ireland. We will remember them.



<b>Statistics.</b> Known birth locations-26239. Unknown birth Location-3150. Born in the 26 Counties-24589.	
<b>Type of death, most common-</b> Killed in action-16443. Died/Died of wounds-9079. Suicide, where recorded-87.	
<b>Figures for the 26 counties, after the duplicates are removed (30% are listed in more than one county) the total is</b> 29,387.	
Carlow, 571. Cavan, 697. Clare, 698. Cork, 4572. Donegal, 1284. Dublin, 8716. Galway, 1186.	
Kerry, 790. Kildare, 1048. Kilkenny, 799. Laois, 575. Leitrim, 339. Limerick, 1321. Longford, 345.	
Louth, 832. Mayo, 3138. Meath, 585. Monaghan, 531. Offaly, 666. Roscommon, 567. Sligo, 601.	
Tipperary, 1541. Waterford, 1178. Westmeath, 735. Wexford, 921. Wicklow, 803.	
<b>The 20 most common Surnames.</b> Name. Total. Murphy. 437. Kelly. 319. Byrne. 307.	

These 15 volumes weigh 23 Kilos and 600mm of shelf space is required, the 15 volumes covering the 26 counties is the work of historian Tom Burnell, which took him 15 years to complete. Tom is a Defence Forces Veteran, having served in the 70s/80s with 2 Fd Sigs Coy in Collins Bks, Dublin and on the border during 'the Troubles' with 27 Inf Bn in Castleblaney, he also served in the FCÁ.

"Everyone serving in an Irish regiment was considered being an Irishman, everyone in the Leinsters and Munsters including all the officers were considered an Irishman", said Tom. 49,600 Irishmen died in the Great War, so Tom had to go through all the 92 print records of the Soldiers who died in the Great War books. Then cross-reference everything with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission works and letters to gain NOK details and all the newspapers from that time, in order to compile the 26 County Casualties of the Great War Volumes 1 to 15 (A to Z). "With access to the war records databases we have now I was able to compile these volumes with more information including next of kin, medals etc."

In the last book, there is a statistics section that will tell you the breakdown of all the ranks, ages, and cemeteries and accidental deaths or suicides. Suicides or accidental deaths are an interesting section, with deaths caused by badly feeding machine guns, cleaning guns, handling munitions or fuses. Only suicides at home are recorded and

not on the battlefield, and an unusual one, was walking through a second story window.

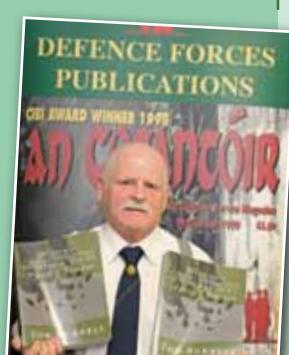
Tom said there is a grey area of those not included in these volumes, and include: Munitions workers, mercantile marine, sailors or merchant trawlers sunk during the war, and armed veterans of the Georgius Rex Brigade or 'Gorgeous Wrecks' as they were commonly called.

The volumes can be purchased from Amazon.co.uk.

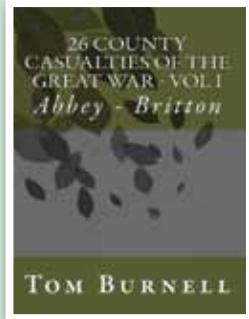
**Author:** Tom Burnell - **Publisher:** CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, April 2017 - **ISBN:** 978-1546405375 - **Pages:** 574 - **Price:** €16 per volume

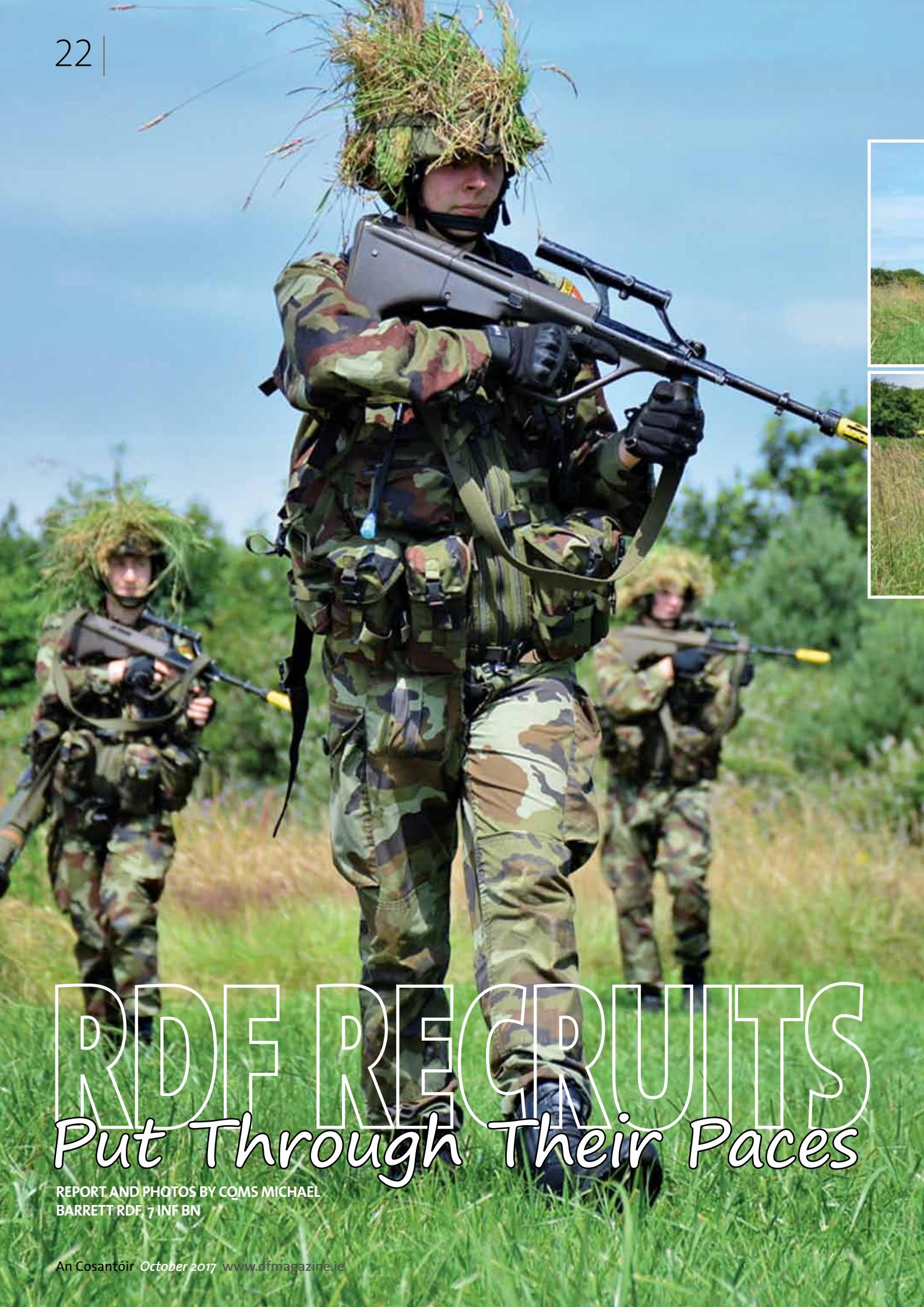
### About the Author:

Tom Burnell, historian and Irish Defence Forces veteran of the border campaign



during 'the Troubles,' is deeply committed to remember and chronicle the Irish men and women who died during the Great War. For far too long many Irish people have been afraid to speak of these heroes who gave up their lives over a hundred years ago. Now is their time to finally be remembered. ■





# RDF RECRUITS

## Put Through Their Paces

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY COMS MICHAEL  
BARRETT RDF, 7 INF BN



**A**ll RDF recruits in the greater Dublin area carry out their initial recruit training with C Coy (RDF), 7 Inf Bn, and from 24 June to 7 July the company ran a two-week full time training course for the latest batch of recruits. The recruits had joined the RDF in late 2016 and in the first part of 2017 their initial training by C Coy's officers and NCOs had included an introduction to the Steyr rifle, successfully passing their TOETs, and firing the recruit qualification tables at Gormanston rifle range in June. Now, the two weeks of full-time training would allow a greater amount of the recruit syllabus to be delivered.

The first week of the course was held in Cathal Brugha Bks, where the recruits spent long days on the square learning and practicing their foot and arms drill, eventually passing the star tests in both towards the end of the week.

Daily physical training also took place, under the supervision of an RDF PTL, the aim of which was to build up stamina for the tactical phase in the second week. Cathal Brugha Bks was a busy location that week, with over 40 PDF recruits also entering the Defence Forces to start their own recruit training with 7 Inf Bn.

Week 2 started with a 24-hour exercise in Kilbride TIS, which began with the recruits being dropped off to march the last 5km in full combat kit to their base camp location, a forest area close to Kilbride Camp.

After establishing their base camp, the recruits began a series of onsite lessons in field craft, culminating in their star tests in and around the base camp. After 24 hours at basecamp, the course uprooted and began a 4km route march, again in full kit, to a pick-up point where the transport was waiting to bring them back to Dublin.

The next day the course moved to Gormanston TIS to begin a two-day tactical phase in which the recruits were introduced to section attack drills. Warm humid weather meant that the resupply of water by the support staff became a necessary task as the recruits practiced their new skills. The use of pyrotechnics, a first for the recruits, added to the realism and enhanced the infantry skills acquired over two long working days. On 6th July the course returned to Dublin, and the full-time training came to a conclusion.

The next big objective for the recruits is their passing-out parade, while the staff of C Coy are looking forward to the next batch of new entrants to the RDF, who will hopefully arrive later this year. ■

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Competition Categories

Primary Schools  
Secondary Schools  
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Competition Prizes

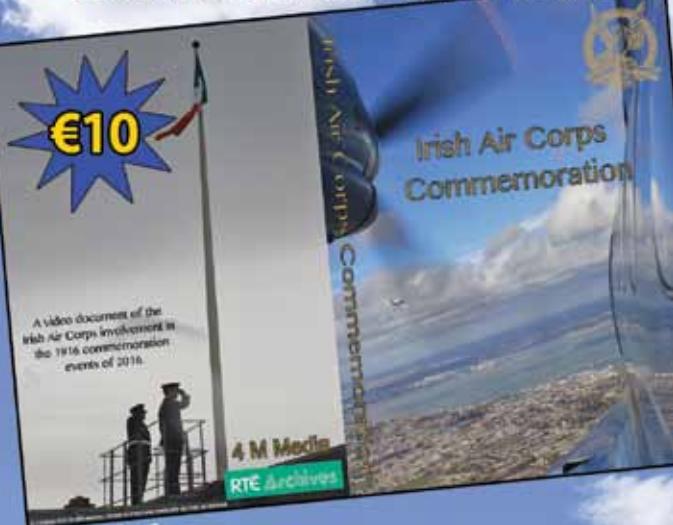
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## Air Corps 1916-2016 Commemorative DVD



**A video record of the Air Corps involvement in the Commemoration events from January to August of 2016, that includes footage from the Air Corps, DFAVS and aerial footage from RTE is available.**

**All profits will go to help fund the Air Corps Museum & Heritage project. The DVD is on sale now from the Museum and NCOs Mess Baldonnel and by post through [www.irishairpics.com](http://www.irishairpics.com)**



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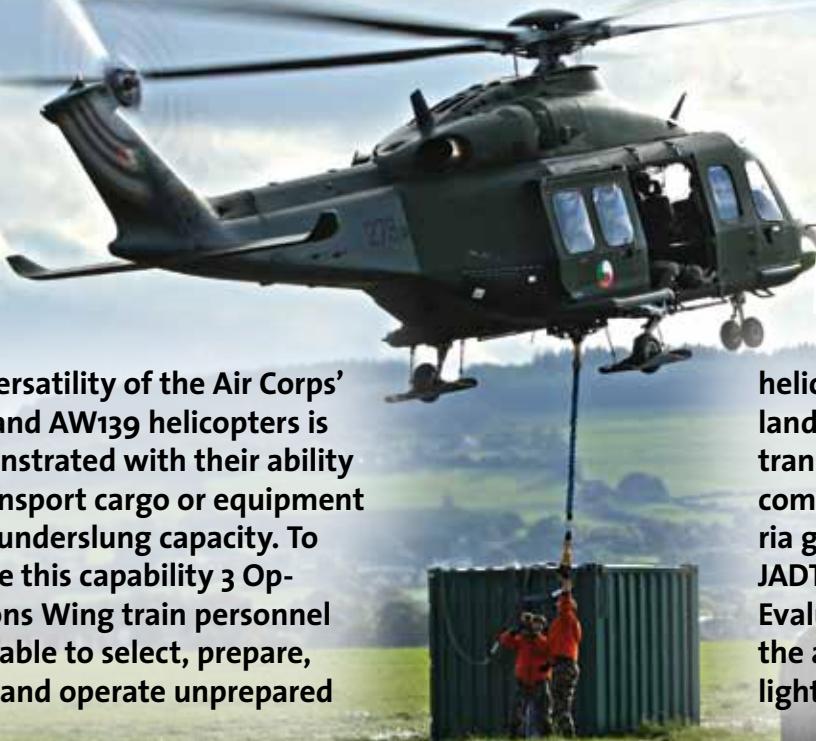
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# HELICOPTER CARGO OPERATIONS

BY CAPT AONGHUS Ó HALMHAIN

*in the Defence Forces*



**The versatility of the Air Corps' H135 and AW139 helicopters is demonstrated with their ability to transport cargo or equipment in an underslung capacity. To enable this capability 3 Operations Wing train personnel to be able to select, prepare, mark and operate unprepared**



**helicopter landing sites. These landing sites may be used to transport personnel, vehicles and combat supplies using the criteria given in the UK Armed Forces JADTEU (Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit) regulation using the appropriate black and white light systems.**

## Recent Operations

In March 2016 the OPW made a request through the Department of Defence to assist in transporting repair material up to Dún Aonghusa on the island of Inis Mór. Due to the inaccessible nature of the Dún the request came to 3 Operations Wing. The AW139 with the support of a H135 transported the ground personnel to the island where approximately 5000kg of gravel, 500kg of construction material and a 1300kg container were awaiting transport into the Dún. All the material and equipment was underslung by the AW139 in Single-Use-Lift-Bags (SULBs), cargo nets and using a 4-legged sling. The operation was captured by the Irish Times photographer Bred Fitzsimon and her photograph won 2nd place in the PPAI Press Photographer Nature and the Environment category.

## Personnel

As well as pilots being trained in the particular skill set ground crew are also trained to various levels. Each level has its own set of capabilities and responsibilities. The initial ground crew qualification with-

in the Irish Defence Forces is the Landing Point Commander (LPC) qualification. The qualification is open to all personnel of the minimum rank of Cpl. In the last 3 years 3 Operations Wing have qualified over 150 personnel across the Defence Forces as LPC's. The course qualifies LPC's to:

- Lay a single Landing point by day and night for use by day and night.
- Select, prepare and mark an Emergency Helicopter Landing Site with a single Landing Point by day and night for CASEVAC and Emergency extraction.
- Operate a Landing Point by day and night.
- Identify, use and carry out before and after use checks on Helicopter Underslung Load Equipment (HUSLE)
- Prepare internal and external loads, including the identification of dangerous goods for carriage by helicopter.

The qualification is valid for an unlimited period provided a formal annual check is carried out by a Helicopter Handling Instructor (HHI). The next qualification available to LPC's is the Defence Helicopter Landing Site Manager (DHLSM) qualification. The training is currently

provided by JADTEU personnel. The DHLSM qualification allows personnel to:

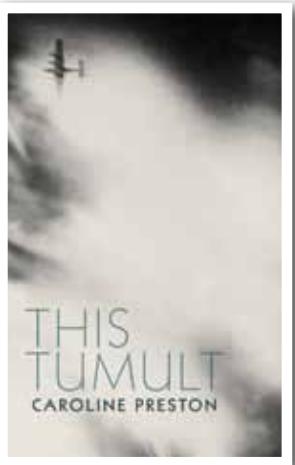
- Take responsibility for the scaling and husbandry of HUSLE.
- Select, prepare and mark a Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) by day
- Select, prepare and mark a HLS by night
- The safe conduct of all operations on a Helicopter Landing Site.
- Maintain radio communications for local control of a HLS (Helicopter Landing site) to unit/formation headquarters and the helicopter.
- Check the preparation of external and internal loads in accordance with the approved Underslung Load Clearances or Tie-Down Schemes that have been prepared by LPCs.

Once DHLSM's have had suitable experience they may be eligible to become Helicopter Handling Instructors (HHI), which then allows them to:

- Train, supervise and revalidate LPCs.
- Supervise and revalidate DHLSMs.

The DHLSM and HHI qualification is valid for 5 years but must be revalidated annually by a HHI Specialist. ■

# THIS TUMULT



***The story of an ordinary family touched by extraordinary events.***

*This Tumult, by Caroline Preston, was published in May 2017 and is available in bookshops, online and from [www.lilliputpress.ie](http://www.lilliputpress.ie), priced €15.*



**M**y grandfather, Harold W Loftus Tottenham, was born in 1889 and brought up in the family home, Tudenham, near Mallingar. When he left school he went to Malaya to prospect for rubber but when the Great War broke out he returned to England to join the 9th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade ('The Prince Consort's Own'), the unit in which his own father and grandfather had also served. The original battalions of the brigade were formed to provide 'sharpshooters, scouts and skirmishers' and something of this mentality stayed with my grandfather throughout his life.

After he landed in Boulogne in May 1915 his unit was subject to a German gas attack at Hooge and was part of the first division to be attacked by flamethrowers. He then saw action at the second attack on Bellewaarde.

In 1916 he was on the Somme at the Battle of Delville Wood and Flers-

Courclette. The following year his battalion fought in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line; the first and third battles of the Scarpe at Arras; Langemar; and the first and second battles of Passchendaele.

In 1918 the battalion returned to the Somme and Harold was wounded either at St Quentin or Avre, where the division took heavy losses, and he returned to England to the 5th Battalion (Reserve). From there he joined the newly formed RAF on 13th July 1918.

His service records tell us that he was transferred to the unemployed list on 27th February 1919. Harold's younger brother, Desmond, joined the navy and was lost on *HMS Invincible* at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 at the age of 19.

Shortly after the war Harold married my grandmother, Veronica Bowen Perkins, a clever doctor's daughter from Wales who, unusually for those times, had a degree in mathematics. There

are no photographs of the wedding. Perhaps Harold did not have his father's approval to marry Veronica; my great-grandfather was of a generation who might have thought her too 'blue stocking' with not enough 'blue blood'.

With an infant daughter, Joan, they set sail for Malaya, where Harold was employed to prospect land for the Argham Company. The photographs would suggest that they did not live a grand colonial life. Rather, their home was a simple shack in a kampong many days' oxen drive from the colonial outposts.

Either a keen sense of adventure or hardship then led the new family to South Africa, where Harold grew oranges for a living. Once again, life apparently lacked luxury and home was a collection of thatched rondavels. Three more children, Nick, Tony, and my mother, Barbara, were born there.

It was only when my great-grandfather died in 1929 that Harold and



Barbara Tottenham,  
Caroline's mother



Nick Tottenham



Tony Tottenham



Veronica Tottenham

his young family returned to Tudenham but by this time the family farm had been long neglected.

In early 1939, Nick and Tony, then aged only 17 and 15, were sent to Australia to a cousin of Harold's who was farming in Victoria. Sending two sons so far at such a young age can only have been made in the context of the boys having no future in Westmeath.

When war broke out in September, only six months after they arrived in Melbourne, Nick immediately joined up, enlisting in the 2/2 Pioneers ('the Diggers'). On the other side of the globe, Harold, despite being well beyond military age at 51, joined the Royal Norfolks and, because he spoke Malay, was posted as ADC to the Sultan of Johore in the summer of 1941. Meanwhile, the RAF recruited my grandmother as an officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), serving with Bomber Command in Lincolnshire. My aunt Joan also joined the WAAF, where she became a radar operator. My mother and her younger siblings were left in Westmeath to be minded by a pair of terrifying and, by all accounts, bad tempered maiden aunts.

The Pioneers were sent to Syria, where the Vichy French were doggedly protecting the oil supply route from Iraq to the Germans, and despite being designed and trained for a back-up role, A and B companies of the 2/2 were thrown into the assault of Fort Medjayoun on 17th June 1941. It was a disaster for the Allies: the troops were ill prepared for the French machine guns and one report suggests they had been issued with American ammunition for British rifles. The unit lost: 27 killed, 29 captured (of whom Nick was one) and 46 wounded. The prisoners were rescued after six very unpleasant weeks,

and in early 1942, following Japan's entry into the war, the 2/2 were ordered to return to Australia, embarking on the troopship *Orcades*. En route, following the fall of Singapore in February 1942, they were diverted to Java. They were not tactically loaded, as the bulk of their equipment had been sent on slower cargo ships and when they landed at Batavia Nick Tottenham and his comrades were once again ill equipped for action. Nevertheless, as part of Blackforce they took a significant toll on the Japanese at Leuwilang. Support was, however, non-existent and the Australians were ordered to lay down their arms the day after the Dutch surrender on 8th March.

Nick was a POW again, this time of the Japanese. He remained on Java for almost a year before being shipped to Changi, Singapore, in January 1943, suffering from dysentery, beri beri and pellagra, and not expected to live. As he struggled to come to terms with his new surroundings in Selarang Barracks, he looked across the wire to where the British prisoners were imprisoned. There he saw an older man taking an unenthusiastic salute from the British POWs: it was his father, Harold.

Nick was too sick to be sent north to the railways and my grandfather, relying heavily on his ability to speak Malay and Chinese, and the fact that the Japanese respected his advanced years, was able to get Nick the medicines and food that would allow him to recover.

In the meantime Nick's brother, Tony Tottenham, joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in October 1942, two weeks after his 18th birthday. He flew his first mission in March 1944 and then another 35 as a pilot on the Avro Lancaster. He was based in Waddington in Lincolnshire where his mother, my grandmother, ran the operations room, and

thus terrifyingly had an intimate knowledge of the danger her son faced every night he flew over the Nazi heartland. By this time my mother was also in the WAAF. Unusually for a woman she was a radar mechanic, a new technology at the time.

Tony was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his role in an attack on Brest in August 1944 after his aircraft was holed three times on the run up to the target. He piloted 'S for Sugar', a famous Lancaster that bucked all the statistics, flying over 100 missions and stands today in the RAF Museum in Hendon. Tony's name is one of four commemorated on her engine casings.

At the end of his tour in late summer 1944 he immediately volunteered for another. On 26th September, his mother's birthday and only a couple of weeks after his own 21st, he flew a daylight mission to the Pas de Calais. It is thought they were trying to locate the launch site of the V2 rockets.

Flying in low over the Grosser Kurfurst, one of the last remaining gun batteries of the Atlantic Wall, they were hit by flak and the aircraft exploded on impact. Only one dog tag was found belonging to the crew and it was not Tony's. He is buried in Wissant in the village cemetery.

After the war, Nick Tottenham migrated to Australia and devoted his life to the welfare of ex servicemen.

This is a story of an ordinary family who were touched by extraordinary events and coincidence. As I researched it I imagined what they felt and how they coped with what happened to them. This led me to write *This Tumult* as a novel because I felt drawn to move in their personal spaces to better understand them. ■

# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



Russian Flag established by the Constitution of the Soviet Union in 1918.

**T**owards the end of 1917 the guns on the Great War's Eastern Front fell silent as German commanders began withdrawing their divisions from the front line and sending them west. The no man's land between the Russian and German lines, with its detritus of three years of war and the countless dead from both sides, was abandoned. These changes were the result of tumultuous events taking place in Russia, the reverberations of which would affect Europe and the world for decades to come.

By the end of 1916 it was clear that the Russian Tsar's days as an autocratic ruler were numbered. Nicholas II had proved an incompetent military commander and continued to exclude representatives of the Duma (parliament) from

## Revolution & Counter Revolution: Russia 1917

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

of the greatest powers in Europe, but by the beginning of the 20th century, it was universally regarded as backward by comparison with Britain, Germany and France. It emerged late from feudalism and was also a late-comer to industrialisation. While the three decades before 1917 witnessed an increase in national wealth, the peasantry, who constituted 80% of the population, did not benefit from the improved economic situation.

In political terms, until 1905 there were no legal political parties, no elected parliament, and the autocracy survived with undiminished powers. Political unrest in that year highlighted the deteriorating situation within the country and although some political concessions were imple-



Tsar Nicholas II photographed by Boissonnas & Eggler, circa 1909.



real power. The mass of the people were suffering from the consequences of a poorly managed war economy and the population, particularly those in the cities, were becoming increasingly desperate for change. That change, when it came, would not only affect Russia but would have an effect on the war and the balance of power throughout the world.

Russia was historically considered one



mented they did little to improve the everyday lives of the Russian people.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, the ruling class hoped that a successful military campaign would unite the Russian people and forestall the need for radical reform of the state. However, their army was under-equipped, poorly trained and badly led and was soon suffering defeat after defeat. These



Vladimir Lenin during the Russian Revolution.

catastrophes exposed the incompetence of Russia's autocratic government but Tsar Nicholas II had neither the will nor the wit to make changes. He decided to take personal command of the Russian army, leaving his wife, the tsarina, to rule in his absence. Disliked by the Russian people and under the influence of the faith healer, Rasputin, the tsarina's rule proved disastrous as

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ministers resigned or were dismissed on a daily basis, leaving the country in a state of chaos. The scarcity of food and fuel, rampant inflation, rising crime and strike after strike were combining to create an explosive, revolutionary situation.

On March 8th (February 23rd by the old Russian calendar) a march by women in honour of International Women's Day joined striking workers in the then Russian capital, Petrograd (now St Petersburg), and turned into a mass demonstration against the continuation of the war and Russia's autocratic government. The military was called out to restore law and order but sided with the protesters instead.

The February Revolution united the workers, military and citizenry. A provisional government was formed and an eight-point programme was drawn up calling for the appointment

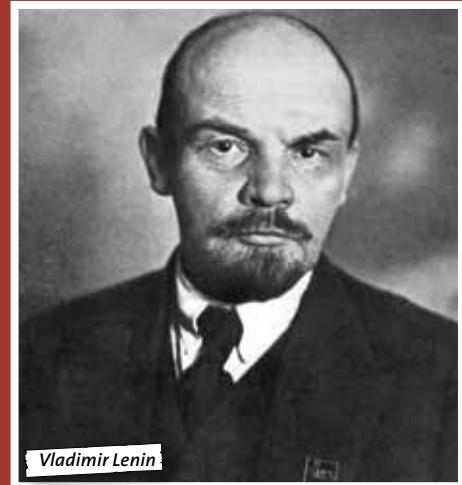
events the Tsar, who had returned from the Front, was compelled to abdicate.

Alexander Kerensky was appointed war minister in the provisional government and he planned a 'revolutionary' offensive against the Germans. However, no plan could remain secret in Russia at this time and the Germans soon knew about the planned offensive, giving them time to reinforce their positions and plan for defence in depth. Secondly, the Russian preparations for the offensive were inadequate: there was little or no co-operation between artillery and infantry units, reserves were kept to far from the Front, supply lines were congested and staff and divisional commanders changed constantly, with arguments and personal opinions affecting military decisions.

A two-day preliminary bombardment was followed by infantry attacks on 1st July. The Germans initially fell back but the Russians stalled at the Germans' third defensive line and after fierce hand-to-hand combat around Bereshany and Lyonia, the two strongest German positions, the exhausted Russian forces were compelled to fall back. The Russians had some success against Austro-Hungarian positions along the Dniester but by 12th July, with little progress made and with casualties mounting, the offensive ended in failure.

A counter-offensive by eight German divisions retook territory lost during the initial assaults and the Russian army was routed in many areas. In order to reconstitute their defences, senior Russian commanders attempted to instil discipline in their forces using draconian methods, resulting in thousands of executions. Further German attacks throughout the summer caused the Russian lines to collapse. At that point, the Germans abandoned their plans to penetrate further into Russia and take Petrograd as it became increasingly clear that the Russian government, now led by Kerensky as prime minister, was on the verge of collapse.

The Provisional Government had con-



Vladimir Lenin

tinued the Tsar's fiscal and taxation policies, resulting in falling wages and continuing food shortages. Their continued participation in the war, their losses, and the failure to improve morale within the army resulted in a number of attempted coups. However, there was one group, the Bolsheviks, that had quietly watched and waited for the right moment to strike.

In early October Vladimir Lenin, knowing the time was right for a Bolshevik coup, seized control. Key buildings, including the Winter Palace, were taken in Petrograd and roadblocks were set up controlling routes in and out of the city. Apart from a few minor skirmishes, power was wrested from the provisional government with little resistance and within days a Bolshevik-controlled government had been established.

On 26th November the Bolshevik government requested negotiations with Germany for an armistice. Within weeks peace talks had begun and Russia ceased to be a military factor in the war, allowing the German High Command to reassign some 80 divisions from the east to the Western Front.

For the next three years, Russia would be devastated by a civil war between Reds (Bolsheviks) and Whites (anti-Bolsheviks) that would cost more Russian lives than all the Eastern Front battles combined. ■



of elected representatives for local governments, the replacement of imperial state policy, and military units were encouraged to elect soviets (councils) to represent them. In the face of these

# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

# DEFENCE FORCES

## Boxing Championship 2017

BY CPL LEE COYLE - PHOTOS CPL COLIN DELANY

**B**oxing is a long-standing and proud tradition throughout the Defence Forces. National and International Champions have entered the ring as serving soldiers, with the likes of Phil Sutcliffe, Tony DeLoughrey and most notable of all Michael Carruth, who won a Gold Medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

In the years proceeding these great boxers though, the number of serving soldiers either taking up the sport or having a history in it has fallen, this may be due to the popularity of other sports like MMA/UFC or it could even be due to the responsibilities most units and each soldier have in this climate and time not being available to them. The last few years though, have seen the sport go through a renaissance and resurgence, a revival if you will to take up this challenging sport. It is a sport that requires patience, fitness and discipline, and has always fit well with the ethos of Óglaigh na hÉireann.

The 2017 Defence Forces Boxing Championships took place in Cathal Brugha Bks on the 9th to the 11th August 2017. This year's event was organised by Cpl Paddy Daly, Sgt Damien Flood, Cpl Thomas Murphy and Cpl John Molloy, who are all members of the 7 Inf Bn.

There was good number of entries that came in from across the country with a total of 40 plus fighters; this also included four members of the An Garda Síochána. From this number there were a total of 16 finals. Unfortunately some fighters didn't get the chance to fight, as they were in a class and weight on their own, but there were still enough bouts to keep the crowd happy.

Fighters had a mix of different levels from novices to seasoned senior competitors, also in the mix was a European finalist Pte Geoffrey Kavanagh from the 7 Inf Bn.

The atmosphere inside in the hall was contagious with a lot of adrenaline trapped inside the room, and the crowd getting swept up with most of the matches. It was good to see that boxing still draws a big crowd. I think that is due to the rawness of the sport and its ability to bring us in touch with our more animalistic side.

The spectators were getting into the matches with them shouting support and cheering fighters on, with the rivalry between units adding extra fuel to the fire.

We spoke with Cpl Paddy Daly, who firstly told us how the organisation of the event went, "We had some great help organising the event and everything has gone smoothly. The first day was the busiest, most of the hard work was done with the weigh-ins' and the sorting out of the matches". He added, "We had a very good turn out from the whole Defence Forces and this is the first time the Gardai have taking part. It's good to see they have the passion for the sport too. We also have two female contenders taking part."

We also spoke with Sgt Damien Flood who has been boxing over 32 years since he was 11 years of age. He is now 43 and still has a passion and great knowledge of the sport. He told us, "The popularity of the sport has been knocked back a bit for a number of reasons, but we are going to try and revive this long standing tradition. We have a few ideas on how to do this"

He told us to help revive it they plan on holding a blue light services event, that will hopefully be ran in February next year and will include all blue light emergency services like the Gardai, fire service, DF and prison service. They also want to try and set up matches with colleges and other places to try and keep the sport alive.

If this works out it is hoped that they will hold summer camps across the DF to help increase the popularity of the sport and help fighters get some coaching and tips.

Cpl Paddy Daly is a coach at St Bernadettes Boxing Club, Santry and Sgt Damien Flood is a coach in Cabra Boxing Club.

All competitors gave there all in each and every match, which made for some very entertaining fights. They are to be commended for their efforts even in defeat, as they did their units proud and also the DF. A well-deserved congratulation to all involved in the organising of this great event that went off very well and shows that the team spirit of the DF is alive and kicking. ■





## RESULTS DF ALL ARMY BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### Novice      Gold

64KG Pte Mark Kearney 7 Inf Bn  
71KG Pte Clinton Scott 7 Inf Bn  
75KG Pte Kyle Morgan 27 Inf Bn  
80KG Cpl John McGuigan 27 Inf Bn  
91KG Pte Mark McHugh 28 Inf Bn

### A/Novice      Gold

67KG Pte Dillon Cambell 7 Inf Bn  
80KG Pte Brian Gallagher 28 Inf Bn  
85KG Pte James McClaron 27 Inf Bn  
91KG Pte Gerard Louglin 27 Inf Bn

### Intermediate   Gold

67KG Pte Jamie Long 12 Inf Bn  
71KG Pte Dominic Donegan 27 Inf Bn  
75KG Pte Conor Rooney 7 Inf Bn  
80KG Pte Stephen Doherty 28 Inf Bn  
85KG Pte Danny O'Brien 7 Inf Bn

### Senior      Gold

91KG Pte Geoff Kavanagh 7 Inf Bn

### Silver

Pte Shane McEvoy 27 Inf Bn  
Cpl Declan Forde 27 Inf Bn  
Pte Tadgh Luby 7 Inf Bn  
Pte Paul Kelly 7 Inf Bn  
Pte Kyle Toorish 28 Inf Bn

### Silver

Pte Martin Taylor 27 Inf Bn  
Pte Nicky Casey 1 Cn Cois  
Pte Ciaran Murphy 12 Inf Bn  
Pte Martin Ward 6 Inf Bn

### Silver

Pte John Ahearn 7 Inf Bn  
Pte Kevin Loonan 6 Inf Bn  
Gda Daniel Houlan AGS  
Gda Dillon Devin AGS  
Pte Owen Wright 28 Inf Bn

### Silver

Pte Frank Mongan 28 Inf Bn

## Cpl Gemma O'Connor – All Ireland Winner

BY SGT RENA KENNEDY, PR BRANCH

*"Team sports foster much of what is essential to our lives as soldiers from the physicality and loyalty to dedication and teamwork. Our participation enhances our fighting spirit, commitment, and esprit-de-corps. Corporal Gemma O'Connor, as one of the most decorated camogie players in the history of the game, is a shining example of how team sports have been well served by members of the Defence Forces over the years. I watched the All Ireland Camogie final with mixed emotions as it was my own County Kilkenny who had to lose on the day". Maj Gen Kieran Brennan, DCOS (Ops) and two-time All Ireland winner with Kilkenny.*

In the early years of camogie in Ireland a century ago, players lined-out wearing gymfrocks that covered the knee, long black stockings, canvas boots, long-sleeved

blouses and a belt or sash around the waist. Quite a lot has changed over the decades but the game of camogie is still as thrilling a sport to watch as in the years past.

Cpl Gemma O'Connor first picked up a hurl at the tender age of seven, coaxed along by her parents and brother Glenn. She plays her club hurling with St Finbarr's in Cork City and has represented Co Cork since her mid-teens. In September 2017 she lined out in her 13th All Ireland Senior Final, after sustaining an injury in the semi-final she went on to help Cork beat Kilkenny and to make it eight All Ireland winning medals. This is in addition to her two minor titles, two Camogie Player of the Year Awards and her record winning nine All Star Awards. Whilst the current record for All Ireland Camogie titles is held by 1950's Dublin player Kay Mills, the Camogie Association credits Gemma with certainly one of their most decorated players in the history of the game.

Gemma is full of humility when questioned on her multiple titles, *"I just absolutely love the game, I adore it, and I've always put camogie first, it's always been my priority. I play it for my family, my club, my county and myself. I tried other sports before and nothing really compares, camogie is just something special. And to play it at the top level for Cork is an honour for me."* ■



## CUNNINGHAM CUP FINAL 2017

BY CAPTAIN RICHIE BARBER, S3/7, 27 INF BN - PHOTOS CPL LEE COYLE

**T**he Cunningham Cup final was contested between 2 AR and Collins Bks (Cork) at St James Gate FC, Crumlin Rd, Dublin, on the 27th July. The facilities and pitch were of an excellent standard for the game, despite varying weather throughout the day.

The teams were led onto the park by piper Cpl McGeough (27 Inf Bn) and the national anthem was played before the game kicked off. A hectic start saw both sides putting in heavy tackles to put a marker down for the game. Referee Toland, who had an excellent game along with his supporting officials, let the game flow well and was happy to allow a hard but fair game to develop.

Both David Long and Jamie Murphy went close to scoring in a lively opening 20 minutes in which the pouring rain only adding to the standard of both teams' fast, passing game. As the half progressed the Corkmen began to get on top and were duly rewarded when 'Zico' nicked the ball in the mid-

field and played in Jamie Murphy who rifled a 20-yard shot into the top corner.

Collins Bks doubled their advantage shortly after, when a long ball caused confusion in the 2 AR defence allowed Jamie Murphy in and lob Clarke with an excellent finish.

The second half again started brightly for Cork who put the 2 AR team under intense early pressure, with the excellent Scott Delaney holding back the tide almost single handily at times.

The artillerymen found their feet midway through the second half and started to get on top, with Noel McGee, David Long and Scott Delaney creating good chances. They got their reward 20 minutes from the end when McGee scored a 25-yard free kick to set up a nail-biting finish.

Although 2 AR piled on the pressure in the closing minutes, creating numerous scares in the Cork defence, the men from Collins Bks held out under the guidance of expe-



rienced centre half Dave Sweeney.

In the end the Corkmen were deserved victors, bringing the Cunningham Cup back to the Rebel County for the second year in a row.

Man of the Match was awarded to the two-goal star, Jamie Murphy, narrowly edging out the excellent Scott Delaney, who had an outstanding game for the artillerymen. ■

# DF RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYER'S WORLD CUP DEBUT

BY LT ADAM DOYLE, 27 INF BN



# SPORT

In Ireland, rugby league is far less well known than rugby union. However, the fast-moving and hard-hitting league version is quickly becoming a popular rival, with new clubs springing up every year. Its main distinguishing features are that it is 13 a side, there is no scrum, and a team must hand over the ball to the opposition after six tackles; this encourages fast, expansive rugby.

Having played union with NUI Galway for two seasons, my coach nominated me for a provincial trial for the Rugby League Ireland university team.

I passed the first hurdle in Galway in February 2017 and was invited to the trial of candidates from the four provinces, as well as players of Irish heritage based in England. Ireland competes annually in the Four Nations University tournament against England, Scotland and Wales, but 2017 was different; it was a world cup year, with the tournament to be hosted by the current world champions, Australia.

Approximately 50 trialists went through rigorous sessions, testing physical fitness, strength, and technique. Initially I struggled with the pace compared to rugby union and the impact of the tackles. However, with more exposure to the game and guidance from the coaches, I quickly settled in.

Fortunately, I played well in the final trial in April and after waiting two agonising weeks I received a call to tell me I had been selected for the squad.

Over the next two months we met regularly to train, before setting off on 29th June for Sydney, where a tough draw left us facing the Pacific Islands (Tonga, Fiji and Samoa), Scotland, and Australia.

In the week prior to the tournament two sessions per day put us through our paces and helped acclimatise us to the heat, which, despite being winter in Australia, regularly hit the high 20s C. This proved an extra challenge to players used to milder, wetter conditions.

On 7th July we began our campaign, losing to a very big Pacific Islanders side. This was followed two days later with a defeat to Scotland. I watched these two games from the sideline before making my international debut against Australia on 12th July, coming off the bench 15 minutes in.

I had only just entered the defensive line when I was charged at by a massive Australian prop. In the nick of time I managed to sink my shoulder under the ball and luckily he came out second best: this set the tone for the rest of my game.

It was a closely contest-

ed match until the last 15 minutes when the experienced Australians swung a series of tries around our outside defence. Although we lost, we gave a solid account of ourselves: a week previously, the same Australian team had put 64 points on a very good English side and many had expected them to put a cricket score on us.

On a personal note, it was a welcome bonus to have been highlighted as a stand-out player and to be mentioned in the match report.

Our last game was the 5th/6th place playoff against Wales, and I was named in the squad. After both sides scored early tries, the two evenly matched squads entered into an arm wrestle up and down the pitch until the Welsh broke the deadlock with the game-deciding score.

It was a massive honour to represent Ireland and I must thank head coach, Carl DeChenu; assistant coach, Wayne Kerr; team manager, Bill McKelvey; and team physio, Keith Griffin. I also wish to thank the Defence Forces for allowing me the time to pursue this endeavour.

Finally, I would encourage people to give rugby league a go and get involved with one of the growing number of clubs. ■



Lt Adam Doyle receiving his Irish jersey from Shannon O'Donnell, former Irish rugby league star. Photo: Bill McKelvey





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*His email is:*  
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Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Gerard Little, Co Dublin. Closing date is 18th October 2017.

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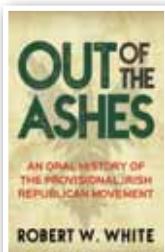
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## OUT OF THE ASHES, AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE PROVISIONAL IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

**Authors:** Robert W. White  
**Publisher:** Merrion Press (May 2017)  
[www.merrionpress.ie](http://www.merrionpress.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1-785370939  
**Pages:** 500  
**Price:** €24.99



This work is divided into five parts, with part one giving a brief history of Ireland's struggle against British rule from 1170 to 1923. This is brief but concise.

The second part of the book gives an oral history of the organisation that stems from 1923 up to 2005 that covers the aftermath of the Civil War and the years that followed.

*Out of the Ashes* notes how attacks on civil rights campaigners in the 1960s brought a new generation into the ranks of the Republican Movement.

Through a series of interviews that cover those founding figures of the organisation such as Sean Mac Stiofain, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Joe Cahill, the author builds up an excellent history of the early years of the organisation and of those involved.

As the movement progresses, a new generation emerges and work their way through the ranks. The author interviews leading members from this period also with well known figures such as Martin McGuinness, Danny Morrison and Brendan Hughes among others.

Part three covers the aftermath of the Peace Process and reflects on activism and the armed struggle.

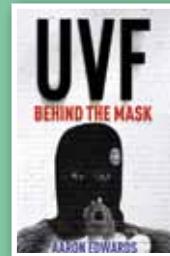
Part four looks at activism since 2005 with the different republican groups that split from the main organisation and are still active today.

The final part of the work is a sociological summary of the Republican movement and makes for interesting reading.

This is a pioneering history that definitely breaks new ground in defining how the provisional movement operated, caused worldwide condemnation and were subsequently transformed by constitutional politics. **P.C.**

## UVF BEHIND THE MASK

**Authors:** Aaron Edwards  
**Publisher:** Merrion Press (June 2017) [www.merrionpress.ie](http://www.merrionpress.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1-785370878  
**Pages:** 444  
**Price:** €17.99



This excellent new work from historian and author Aaron Edwards recounts the turmoil of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in Northern Ireland and the re-establishment of the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force in 1965, and their reign of terror in the decades that followed.

The book relates the history of the UVF mainly through interviews with its members, many of them high-profile leaders such as Billy Mitchell, David Ervine, Billy Wright, Billy Hutchinson and Gary Haggerty to name but a few.

The author delves into the grisly and sadistic killings carried out by the organisation and its members such as McGurk's Bar, the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, the Miami Showband massacre and the killing spree by the Shankill Butchers.

The work also reveals how members of the group considered shooting David Ervine, the best known of the group who contributed to the peace process, as well as Republican Martin McGuinness, another key figure in the peace negotiations. If these men had been shot, well, the ending would have been very different than what we have now.

Belfast born Aaron Edwards who lectures at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst has written a number of books and is a very gifted individual as he, with this book and his others, has the ability to take a highly complicated, controversial and often overlooked subject and write a highly readable and authoritative study.

This is an excellent addition to the written history of the troubles. Well worth getting. **P.O'B**

## THE DUBLIN LOCKOUT 1913: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CLASS WAR & ITS LEGACY

**Authors:** Conor McNamara & Padraig Yeates  
**Publisher:** Irish Academic Press (July 2017) <http://irishacademicpress.ie>  
**ISBN:** 978-1-911024781  
**Pages:** 272  
**Price:** €24.99  
 PB – €44.99 HB

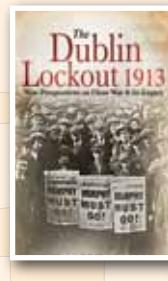
It's great to see that the 1913 Lockout is still being remembered and this latest work is testament to that.

The Dublin Lockout 1913 recounts and re-examines the narrative of Dublin workers who stood up to the greed of their Irish employers with profound consequences. Beyond the animosity and immediate impact of the industrial dispute are its enduring lessons through the First World War, the Easter Rising, and the birth of the Irish Free State; its legacy, real and adopted, instructs the surge of activism currently witnessed, but to what effect?

The book features an exemplary list of contributors such as Donal Fallon writing on the Dublin's Newsboys in Challenging Times, Peter Collins on the dispute in Belfast, Meridith Meagher on the American perspective and Conor McNamara writing on the Citizen Army to name but a few.

Of interest to note is that this work highlights that little has changed in industrial relations over the years, with zero-hour contracts, later retirement age, workers representative bodies ignored or denied by employers, both then and sadly, still evident today.

This authoritative work, which encompasses local, northern, British and American aspects, is a key edition to the literature about this era. **P.O'B**



**NAME**

PAUL O'GRADY

**RANK**

ABLE SEAMAN

**UNIT**NS OPS COMD, SHORE OPS,  
SEAMAN BRANCH, POSTED  
DIVING SECTION

BY CPL LEE COYLE

PHOTOS AMN ADAM MURPHY

I was born and raised in Clongeen, Co Wexford. My older brother and his friend enlisted in the army together and it was the stories my brother told about his training in the Curragh that sparked my interest in joining up.

As my father was a fisherman I decided to apply for the Naval Service as well as the army and after completing the enlistment process for both of them I ultimately decided on the Naval Service, enlisting in November 2013.

After recruit training I completed my basic seamanship training, which includes a lot of different courses like Personal Survival Techniques; Basic Marine Damage Control and Fire Fighting; Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities; NS RIB Level 1; and Naval Boarding Team Member. This qualified me as an ordinary seaman (O/Sea).

In September 2014 I was posted to LÉ Aisling for my two years at sea, during which I completed the NS Rib Level 2 course and the Seaman Gunner course, and passed out as an able seaman (A/Sea) in September 2015.

My time with LÉ Aisling was very busy and I was away from home a lot doing patrols: this is a downside to the navy, but time goes really quickly too. On one of our patrols we went to the Royal Navy's base in Portsmouth, England. It was great to see other ships and to meet their crews share their experiences.

I was still serving on the Aisling when I applied for the Naval Diving course. I had a bit of interest in diving before I enlisted and when I saw the navy divers in action my interest grew. I talked to a few of the divers and to people who had completed the course before to get information on what is expected on the course and when the next course would be carried out.

I applied for the course twice before being successful in January of this year. I was due to finish my two years at sea some time before the course started but I decided to stay at sea, on LÉ William Butler, for an extra three months so I could keep training and stay focused for the course.

The aptitude test for the course included some grueling tests like endurance finning, high jumps and mass clearance. The 12-week course itself was the toughest thing I have ever done, but it was 100% worthwhile and I am now part of the Diving Section, where our main task is to conduct ship bottom searches. These are conducted on all NS ships monthly and quarterly, during which we do a full hull survey (checking for cracks and dents), check props and shaft, and check the adenoids for barnacles.

During the week we are also all on call for any emergency and on the weekend there is usually a team of six on call.



We work with the Gardá, RNLI and the Coast Guard on a variety of different tasks. One such recent task was the search relating to Rescue 116. This was my first task after finishing the course and I was a bit nervous. My role was to support the divers who were diving on the wreckage by dropping shot lines and preparing equipment. We spent two weeks at the crash site and another four days a few weeks later to facilitate civilian divers. It was a very tragic event to be part of.



Since then I've completed a number of other diving courses on equipment maintenance and full face mask and re-breather diving, and I want to go further in diving, which will help me advance my career in the Naval Service. ■



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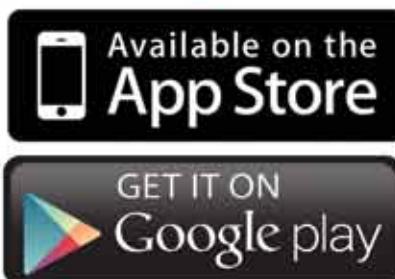


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