



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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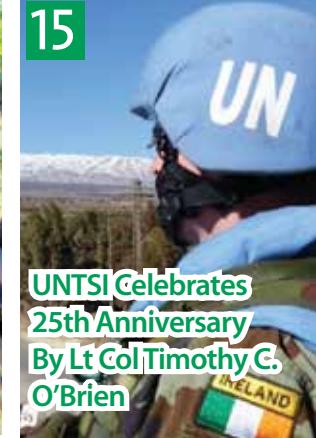
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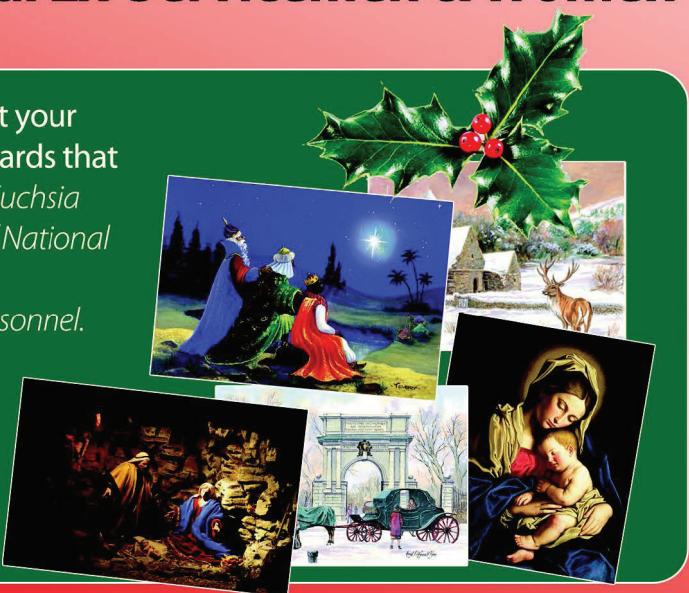


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**Front Cover**

Members of 58 Inf Gp during their MRE in the Glen of Imaal. Photo by Armn Jamie Barrett

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

# Editorial

**H**ello and welcome to our November issue, in which leadership is to the fore, with the views of a senior NCO laid out and the awarding of a DSM to Maj Gen Michael Beary in recognition of his exemplary leadership of UNIFIL amongst other accolades.

As usual your photographs from around the Defence Forces community open the magazine, to be followed by our *In Focus* pages in which we visit two of the Treaty Ports, Fort Berehaven and Camden Fort Meagher, celebrating the 80th anniversary of their handovers.

In our lead article, Coy Sgt David O'Reilly, senior NCO instructor in the NCOTW, Military College, gives his views on leadership.

This is followed by a piece looking at the awarding of the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) to Maj Gen Michael Beary for '*...distinguished service characterised by outstanding qualities of leadership, diplomacy and devotion to duty as Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon...*'

This piece is complemented by Lt Col TC O'Brien's look at the establishment of the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) in the Curragh, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and trains approximately 600 Defence Forces personnel a year for overseas peacekeeping service.

Our front cover feature looks at the intensive training 58 Inf Gp recently underwent during their mission

*Wayne Fitzgerald*

## MERITORIOUS PROMOTION

BY DCOS OPS MAJ GEN KIERAN BRENNAN

**O**n the 17th October, Brig Gen Séan Clancy, General Officer Commanding promoted Armn Austin 'Ozzy' Collins to Corporal for meritorious service with over 40 years loyal service to the Defence Forces and the State. Accompanied by DCOS Ops Maj Gen Kieran Brennan and CAS Ops Col Rory O'Connor. Brig Gen Séan Clancy said, "It was my honour to award Cpl Collins with his stripes."





### REMEMBERING THE ARMADA 2018

An event commemorating Sligo's links with the Spanish Armada 'Remembering the Armada' took place on 21st - 23rd September 2018. Spanish and Irish Naval Service personnel took centre stage in the weekend's events, in particular in the *Twilight Parade*, which followed the path taken by Spanish Armada Captain Francisco de Cuéllar, whose firsthand account vividly describes the tragic events as they unfolded at Streedagh in 1588, where over 1,000 Spanish lives were lost during Winter storms. The Spanish Naval vessel *OPV Atalaya* also visited.

Minister for Justice & Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD, made the official opening of the new Spanish Armada Interpretive & Visitor Centre in Grange.

Marie Casserly, Independent Councillor, Sligo County Council is pictured with Admiral Jose Antonio Ruesta Botella and Commander Cormac Rynne, Naval Operations Command.

Cllr Casserly said, "It was an honour to have the Spanish and Irish Navy join us again for the third year in a row for our commemoration and remembrance events.

*I would like to thank Lt Cdr Sean Linehan for his help and for his participation also.* [www.spanisharmadaireland.com](http://www.spanisharmadaireland.com). Photo: Marie Casserly



### MURPHY BARRACKS BALLINCOLLIG REMEMBERED

On Friday, 28th September 2018, members of the 1 Field Artillery Regiment Association gathered in Ballincollig to unveil a plaque, dedicated to the memory of all those who served in Murphy Barracks from the 1940 to the day they Marched Out in 1998.

The plaque was unveiled by Col Daly, EO 1 Bde and Sgt Steve Geary (Retd), and was sponsored by Starbucks of Castle West Shopping Centre. CQMS Larry Finnigan paid a warm tribute to all Officers, NCOs, Gunners and civilian staff who served in Murphy Barracks. Photo: CQMS Retd Gerry Cosgrove



### POLO MATCH

Pictured at the 11th Annual Cup of the Argentine Republic Polo Match event, which was held in Phoenix Park on the 7th September 2018 are (l/r): Miss Biance Bandarra, Argentinian Ambassador Her Excellency Laura Bernal, and Comdt Adrian Watson, HQ 2 Bde. Photo: Comdt Adrian Watson, HQ 2 Bde



### DF BAND ON THE DOWNLOAD

Attend any state event in Ireland? Be it presidential inaugurations, centenary celebrations or the visit of foreign Heads of State – well one of the bands of the Irish Defence Forces would have been there performing music by Irish and international composers based on Irish melodies. A selection of these compositions is available on *Rhapsodic Winds*, a new recording of The Band of the Irish Defence Forces from RTÉ Lyric fm. The music can be downloaded from iTunes and can also be purchased through Lyric fm's website: <https://bit.ly/2A6LXC1>. Photo: Cpl John O'Brien, DFSM



### FETTERCAIRN YOUTH HORSE PROJECT

Pictured at the horse awareness week in Fettercairn Youth Horse Project in Tallaght, Dublin are 2/Lt Benson-Byrne, Pte Aoife Curran on Ringwood Abbey and Pte Mark McKenna from the Army Equit Sch. The Garda Mounted Unit and the Lord Mayor of the South Dublin CC, Mark Ward were also in attendance. Photo: Pte Aoife Curran, Equit Sch

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'MARCH OUT' FROM FITZGERALD CAMP

The 20th Anniversary of the 'March Out' of the 1 Cavalry Squadron and closure of Fitzgerald Camp, Fermoy on 28th September 1998, was commemorated on 11th October 2018. A ceremony was held at the Memorial Wall in the old Camp location during which wreaths were laid by Comdt Pat Moroney, OC 1 Cav Sqn, Martin O'Keeffe, Vice-Chairman IUNVA and Tom McCarthy, Chairman Fermoy Post 25 IUNVA. Many former Officers, NCOs and Troopers of the Squadron attended and they were joined by local councillors Deirdre O'Brien and Noel McCarthy. Former DF COS Lt Gen Séan McCann (Retd) represented the Cavalry Club and many IUNVA Post 25 (Fermoy) members were joined on parade by fellow veterans from Posts 5, 24 and 27. Also on parade with their former comrades was a contingent from the 1 Cav Sqn, now stationed in Collins Bks, Cork. Following the ceremony the parade re-formed in Brian Ború Square to replicate the Squadron 'March Out' of 20-years ago. Led by veteran piper Anto Byrne the IUNVA Colour Party, marched ahead of IUNVA members and former Squadron personnel, followed by 1 Cav Sqn armoured and command vehicles marched across Kent Bridge and through Pearse Square, en route to Post 25 HQ and Collins Bks, Cork, respectively. Words: Ken Kelly/Photo: Pat Quinlan



### ALL ARMY FISHING COMPETITION

The Defence Forces All Army Fishing Competition took place on the 9th and 10th of October in Crosshaven, Co Cork. Pictured is Sgt Terry O'Brien, 28 Inf Bn who won sea fishing individual boat and overall best angler competitions. Terry was also a member of the 2 Bde winning team along with Sgt Gary Condron, Sgt Tom O'Neill and Ray Slattery. Photo: Coy Sgt Joe Doherty, 28 Inf Bn



### NO 3 OPERATIONS WING

Here is a great picture capturing Air Corps EC135 (271) and AW139 (276) from No 3 Ops Wing during recent operations using the bambi bucket. Photo: Mark Pollock, Baldonell



### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAYO PEACE PARK

On the 6th October the Mayo Peace Park and Garden of Remembrance marked its 10th anniversary with ceremonies taking place over the weekend. The peace park was opened in 2008 to remember all those from Mayo who died during the two world wars. The Defence Forces 60th anniversary of continuous participation on UN Peacekeeping operations and the 100th anniversary of the signing of the World War I Armistice were also commemorated. Photo: Martin Rowe



### AN COSANTÓIR 10K IN UNIFIL

The 112 Inf Bn took part in the An Cosantóir 10k Road Race in UNP 2-45. The event was run simultaneously to the event in Ireland, with over 60 personnel from the Battalion taking part on a hot day in Southern Lebanon. Cpl Sherlock came first in the male event and Capt Danielle Murphy came first in the female event. Congratulations to all the members of the 27 Inf Bn team on winning the block run, from all the members of the 112 Inf Bn. Photo: Capt Sean Maguire, PIO 112 Inf Bn

### ALL ARMY 84MM ANTI TANK WINNERS

Pictured is the victorious 28 Inf Bn team who won the All Army 84mm Anti Tank competition in the Glen of Imaal recently. Pictured l/r: Lt Col P Kelly OC 28 Inf Bn, Pte R Devine, Cpl M McBrearty, Pte J Harkin and Comdt B McGovern OC A Coy. Well done to the lads keeping up that winning tradition in the competition. Word/Photo: Sgt Kieran Crawford/Cpl Ronan Matthews, both 28 Inf Bn



### COL JAMES FITZMAURICE REMEMBERED

On 26th September a wreath laying ceremony was held in remembrance of Air Corps pilot Col James Fitzmaurice in Portlaoise. Col Fitzmaurice is remembered for being the first pilot to fly transatlantic from east-to-west in the famous 'Bremen' German aircraft which took off from Baldonnel 12th April 1928 with German co-pilot Hermann Kohl, and the plane's owner Ehrenfried Gunther Freiherr von Hunefeld. Photo: Martin Rowe

# 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANDOVER OF BERE ISLAND

BY HELEN RIDDELL, BERE ISLAND PROJECTS GROUP PHOTOS BY CPL EOIN CURTIN, 1 BDE ARTY REGT AND AS ACCREDITED

**O**n Wednesday 26th September 2018 Bere Island marked a key date in its history when it commemorated the 80th anniversary of the handover of Fort Berehaven, Bere Island with a function held at Rerrin Military Barracks, Bere Island.

In 1922, under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the British withdrew from most of Ireland but kept the deepwater treaty ports, at Berehaven and Cobh in Cork and Lough Swilly in Donegal in order to protect their Atlantic convoys. The ports were handed back to the Irish Government in 1938, with Bere Island being the final port to be handed over on September 26th 1938. Winston Churchill however, was appalled by the decision and in an address to Parliament that year he called it a 'folly.'

On 22nd September 1938 an advance party from the Irish Defence Forces arrived on Bere Island. The actual handover was completed in a rush on 26th September; so much so, that most of the islanders didn't know it was happening. However, as the British were loading their equipment on to boats to depart Bere Island, an order was received to stop loading and to halt the handover. The British ordered the Irish gunners out of the fort at Lonehort and back to their billets in Rerrin. The Irish Government reacted speedily and insisted that the handover be completed by nightfall, thus ensuring that Ireland secured her neutrality and avoided becoming involved in World War Two.

The commemoration event was organised by Bere Island Projects Group with participation by 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment, Collins Barracks, Cork. Guest of honour was Mayor of Cork County, Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy. Family members of the Irish Defence Forces advance party from 1938 were

also in attendance.

Cork County Mayor, Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy spoke of Bere Island's strategic role in world military history, "This event here today, which is being supported by the Heritage Council as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, marks

not only Bere Island's rich military heritage and the resilience of its people but also acknowledges the role the island has played in European history over the years. Whilst geographically, Bere Island lies on the furthest reaches of western Europe, the sheltered waters of Berehaven Harbour gave safe harbour to the British fleet which lay at anchor here during World War One, and also to the battleships and submarines of the US Navy in their role of protecting the Atlantic convoys."

As it did in 1938, the Tricolour was raised over Fort Berehaven at 12.01pm. This was followed by a 21-gun salute by 1 Bde Arty Regt, the playing of the National Anthem by the Band of the Defence Forces, followed by a fly past over the island by the Air Corps.

Bere Island Projects Group extended thanks to 1 Bde Arty Regt from Cork for all their support in arranging the commemoration event for the 80th anniversary of the handover. They also thanked the Department of Defence for their continued support in preserving the island's military fortifications, most notably with the current development of Lonehort Battery as a visitor attraction, and for supporting the island community by allowing their facilities to be used for various cultural and sports events. The Bere Island Projects Group is also grateful to the Heritage Council of Ireland for financial support in holding this event. ■



Fort Berehaven handover in 1938, photographed by Fr Bob Murphy, a Bere Island native and Irish Defence Forces chaplain.



Lt James McKeown, 1 Bde Arty Regt raised the flag for the 80th anniversary of the handover. Photo by Anne Marie Cronin Photography



# Camden Fort Meagher Cork Harbour

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS ARMN JAMIE BARRETT

**C**amden Fort Meagher is one of two coastal artillery forts that sit as protectors at the mouth of Cork Harbour; its sister fort is Fort Davis, a place familiar to many Defence Forces personnel through training exercises.

With the forts having such a close relationship, Norma O'Connor, who is a volunteer at Camden Fort Meagher, invited *An Cosantóir* to take a tour of the magnificent buildings, tunnels and fortifications of the lesser known of the two siblings that sit like giants watching over the bay and protecting Cork Harbour.

As we approached the fort from its west side, the sheer impact of its immense external wall would make most stop and gasp. Rising from a dry moat 40 feet into the air, any would-be assailant would surely be intimidated simply by its enormity.

Norma, our tour guide for the day, met us as we entered the fort by way of a bridge linking the external road to the fort, spanning the 28-foot-wide moat.

It didn't take long for the details of the fort to intrigue us, as our host told us that the bridge we had just crossed was erected by the Defence Forces, sometime in the last 40 years. (Originally there would have been a Guthrie rolling bridge that would be withdrawn inside the fort to prevent would-be attackers from crossing.)

The first fortifications were built in 1550, with most of what can be seen today being constructed by British forces in the mid-1860s.

The fort remained in British hands until 1938, when it was handed over to the Defence Forces, which used it as a training base for the next 50 years. During its time as a military base the fort's inhabitants would have ranged from between 20-40 during peacetime to as high as 500-600 during the Emergency.

In 1989 the fort was handed over to Cork County Council, but no use could be found for it and it sat idle for the next 20 years, slowly falling into disrepair.

In 2010 two enthusiasts, Irish musician, Skully, and local man, Vince Farr, approached the Council with a plan to restore the fort and were given the go-ahead. Over the next few months and years they completely transformed the site, removing overgrown vegetation and rubbish, with help from volunteers and FÁS schemes. The fort is now a listed building.

The fort's internal layout has much that would be familiar to military personnel, with a guardroom and prisoner cells located at the main gate.

All the rooms have been given different themes, each offering visitors a different aspect of the fort's history. One is furnished like an old billet, with beds and authentic bed blocks. Others include an Irish military history room, British military history room, WWI memorial room, and a Naval Service room.

One of many interesting facts about the fort is that it employed the Brennan torpedo, and a room dedicated to the torpedo and its inventor, Louis Brennan, shows how inventive and ahead of its time this technology was.

The bunker where the Brennan torpedoes would have been launched was built in 1900 but is inaccessible today due to safety concerns. However, a 3D scan of the bunker can be viewed on [www.normaoconnor.com/cms/torpedo](http://www.normaoconnor.com/cms/torpedo).

Camden Fort Meagher truly is a great historical site that holds many marvellous military history displays. It is a great family day out with lots to see and visitors can also take in the scenery while relaxing in the fort's café if they want a break. Even now this fort's story has not yet been fully told, with many tunnels and areas waiting to be discovered and restored.

**I would like to thank Norma O'Connor and all the staff at Camden Fort Meagher for a great experience. You can contact Camden Fort Meagher on: 085 850 1483 or visit their website [www.camdenfortmeagher.ie](http://www.camdenfortmeagher.ie). ■**



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

# Pte Michael McNeela (RIP) Family visit Lebanon

BY CAPT SEÁN MAGUIRE, PIO, 112 INF BN UNIFIL

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”*



Irish UNIFIL members pictured with the visiting family and ONE veterans at Haddatha Crossroads.



30-years apart: Hafif and Jim McEneaney.



UNIFIL Honour Guard with the family and veterans at the Irish UNIFIL Memorial.

The 112 Infantry Battalion had the privilege of hosting the family of Pte Michael McNeela (RIP), who was killed while serving with UNIFIL in 1989. Pte McNeela was killed on 24 February 1989 while manning a checkpoint in the town of Haddatha in South Lebanon. The South Lebanese Army, an Israeli backed militia, fired indiscriminately on the town hitting Pte McNeela in the chest with a ricochet from a heavy machine gun round, he was killed instantly. Pte McNeela was on his second tour of duty in South Lebanon and was part of a 700 man Irish Battalion in the 5,800 strong UNIFIL Force.

On the 24 September 2018 Kathleen and John McNeela, accompanied by Mick Reid and Jim McEneaney, two members of the Dundalk ONE (named the Michael MacNeela Branch), came to Lebanon to visit the site of their son's death. They had visited Lebanon once before almost 20 years ago and they were immediately struck by the difference in the country. The development since then throughout Lebanon and within the IRISHFINBATT area of operations (AO) made the country almost unrecognisable for them.

As the Defence Forces is a relatively small organisation a running theme throughout the visit was that many of the more senior members of the battalion either knew Michael before his death, such as Sgt Conlon who trained in the same Recruit Platoon, or had been in attendance at his funeral. Also with Dundalk being traditionally a garrison town and the 27 Infantry Battalion being the lead unit currently, the McNeela's came across dozens of familiar faces throughout their stay.

After the long trip from Beirut to United Nations Post (UNP) 2-45, they met with OC 112 Inf Bn, Lt Col John Kilmartin, who welcomed them to Lebanon. After lunch with the battalion, the visiting group were brought to UNP 6-52, a platoon sized outpost that overlooks the Blue Line. Here they were greeted by the post commander, Lt Daniel McChrystal (27 Inf Bn), who gave them a brief on the current situation in Southern Lebanon along the Blue Line. After they met with members of the platoon on the post meeting with familiar faces from around Dundalk, some of whom they hadn't seen since they were children, such as Cpl Chris McMahon.

After the visit to UNP 6-52, the McNeelas were brought to the town of Haddatha and were joined by OC 112 Inf Bn and other senior staff of the battalion, as well as the Mukhtar of Haddatha, they gathered at the crossroads where Michael was killed. The Battalion Padre Father PJ Somers led the group in a prayer, and then held a minute's silence. It was an emotional scene at the busy crossroads that has changed so much in the past 30 years. Despite the changes there was some reminders of the past. The Mukhtar remembered Michael's death from his childhood and was able to recall the event in detail. A passer-by (a.k.a HAFIF) who stopped to speak to our group informed us that he also remembered the event and had mourned it as he had worked with the Irish for many years in his shop outside Camp Shamrock. Coincidentally Jim McEneaney had a picture in his pocket of him and the shopkeeper together taken over 30 years previous in 1988. This coincidence lightened the mood and was memorable occasion for all. A BBQ was arranged for the McNeela Family with all the 27 Inf Bn personnel serving with the Bn later in the evening and this provided another opportunity to share stories and look at photographic memorabilia from days of old.

The final part of the programme for the McNeela family was a poignant event to lay a wreath at the Tibnin memorial ceremony. This monthly ceremony commemorates the soldiers who died while serving with United Nations. The

roll of honour was read out for the month of September with a special mention for Pte Michael McNeela and his family. John and Kathleen proudly laid a wreath at the monument for their son, while Cpl Rúan McKinstry (27 Inf Bn) played the last post on the bagpipes. ■



Veterans Mick Reid and Jim McEneaney with John and Kathleen McNeela at UNP 2-45



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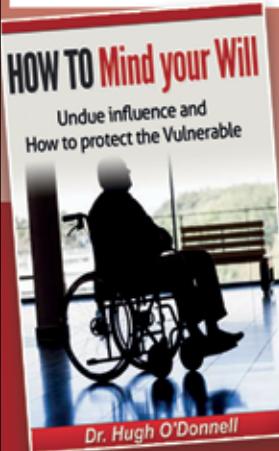
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Dr Hugh F. O'Donnell is a senior principal in General Practice and Medico Legal Specialist (Retired Comdt Army Medical Corps).

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# LEADERSHIP

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## A Senior NCO's Perspective

BY COY SGT DAVID O'REILLY, NCO TRAINING WING, MIL COL, DFTC



One could argue that today's Irish NCO leader is the best trained and educated since the foundation of the state. While there is an endless library of memoirs from retired generals, and thousands of journal articles on military leadership from the officer perspective, there is a surprising lack of writing by NCOs on the topic of leadership. Searching *An Cosantóir*'s database the only article written by an NCO on the subject I could find was a piece from September 1945, written by Sgt Gallagher of 1 Division HQ, that focuses on young officers arriving to their first unit and what NCOs expect of them; an interesting read and still relevant today.

Since 2012, of the numerous dissertations submitted to IT Carlow by NCOs, only two are on the topic of leadership. One of these focuses on senior NCO leadership, while the other offers a comparative study between sergeant and lieutenant leadership training.

So why is it that NCOs, who eat, work and rest with their soldiers, and indeed live with them on deployments, have not written more on this subject? After all, NCOs are leaders who are at the coalface of day-to-day decision making and problem solving, dealing with soldiers 'eyeball to eyeball'.

In this article, I offer a senior NCO's views on leadership; focusing on two themes important to the development of NCO leadership skills: the study of leadership as a subject, and the adoption of a mission-command philosophy.

Military leadership is different to civilian leadership in that it is imposed by authority of rank and appointment, and decisions made by military leaders may result in serious injury or death. In a study of leadership in the US Army, prominent military historian and author,



Nathan Finney, notes that leadership is simultaneously the least expensive and the most expensive resource a military possesses. Its fiscal cost is minuscule in comparison to the procurement budgets for high-end military equipment, but its cost in terms of time is measured in decades and must therefore be prioritised when allocating available training and education resources.

The price of failing to effectively resource the development of leaders can be enormous. In a small military such as our Defence Forces, leaders are the competitive advantage that technology cannot replace nor substitute.

Defence Forces leadership doctrine (DFLD) states that NCOs provide the 'critical link in the mission command philosophy', and that they are key implementers who 'execute plans, make decisions, solve problems and overcome obstacles in delivering outputs and mission achievement'.

Recognising the value of NCOs' corporate knowledge, DFLD notes that 'Officers should seek and listen to the advice of their NCOs', and once trust is developed officers can rely on their experience and counsel.

At the same time, junior soldiers see good NCOs as role models because they are the first link in the chain of command and, as they previously served in the rank, know the junior soldier's role and understand it.

In turn, NCOs must always be conscious that their behaviour and performance will influence their team members as they are constantly being watched from above and below.

In terms of decision making, NCOs can contribute a lot to the formulation and development of a commander's course of action because they are often the longest serving members of a unit and are custodians of the 'corporate knowledge'. Similarly, this experience gives the NCO the ability to offer qualified constructive contributions to ongoing developments within the Defence Forces; something that should not be understated.

There is no doubt that in order to become a better leader, one must actively study the subject. By studying current or historical leaders, we can learn from their successes and failures, without repeating mistakes of the past. Perhaps the most daunting part of commencing a study of leadership is the sheer volume of literature available; so where to start? The DFLD provides an excellent overview of military leadership styles, theories and competencies, and as such it serves as a very useful framework for our leaders to begin to explore their own leadership philosophy.

Traditionally, NCOs tend to base their leadership philosophy on personal experience or what they have observed in others, and a recent survey of students attending career courses in the NCOTW shows that a surprisingly low number have read the DFLD, and consequently lack the framework with which to articulate their leadership philosophy or values.

All NCOs should take the time to read the DFLD and reflect on their leadership performance to date. In doing so, they may be

surprised with how aligned their informal leadership philosophy is with our official doctrine. This could serve as a launchpad for NCOs to explore their own leadership philosophy through study of military leadership literature.

There are many books written by experienced military leaders, but one should not overlook a memoir of a prominent sporting or political leader that they admire, as a good way of getting started in exploring the topic of leadership. From the author's personal reading and research spanning a 20-years-plus career, some books stand out.

These include: *The Three Meter Zone* by CSM JD Pendry; *Hal Moore on Leadership* by Lt Gen Harold G Moore and Mike Guardia; *Extreme Ownership* by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin; and *Turn the Ship Around* by David Marquet, just to name a few.

The common themes throughout these books are trust of subordinates and NCO empowerment, and the employment of a mission-command philosophy. The most famous wartime generals (eg Gen Hal Moore) often state that their senior enlisted leader was their most trusted confidant. This is based on hard-won trust and successful delegation, which underpin the mission-command theory.

The words 'mission command' can make many NCOs shudder, thinking it's 'officer business' but in today's Defence Forces, mission command is 'leader business', and that makes it 'NCO business' too.

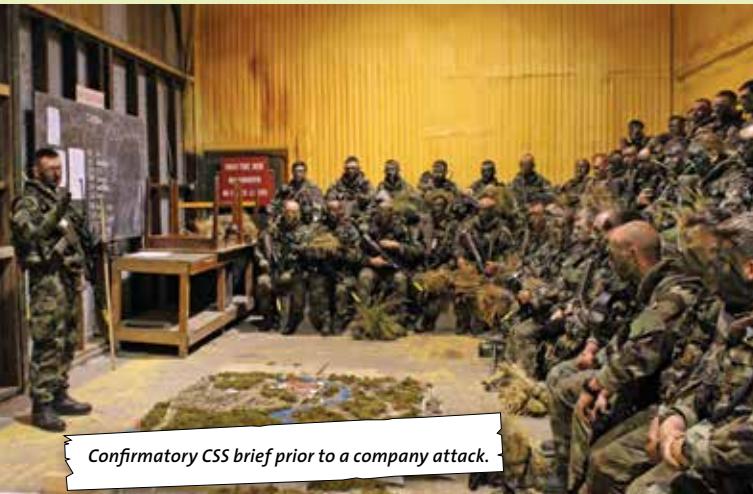
Mission command is designed to give junior leaders (both commissioned and non-commissioned) freedom of action to complete the task on the ground, with the emphasis on what is to be achieved, not how it is to be achieved. The principles of mission command are: build cohesive teams through trust; create shared understanding; provide a clear commander's intent; exercise disciplined initiative; use mission orders; and accept prudent risk.

NCOs are key to the implementation of mission command, bringing relevant experience to complement junior officers' planning, decision making, and execution, to achieve mission success.

The different use of language between NCOs and officers in the decision-making process can often lead to confusion, which leads to NCOs feeling of a lack of empowerment and perhaps being 'outside' the process. The NCOTW is striving to combat this, and has combined the language of the '7 questions combat estimate' and the MDMP's five-stage 'est of sit' in the new *Infantry School Battle Book*. This provides a common estimate format that will lead to a synchronisation of thought; thus, providing organisational clarity within the unit.

As NCOs, we must continue to develop ourselves through both professional and personal education. Self-development is important not just for service within the Defence Forces but also on departure from the organisation and it sets the conditions for continuous learning and growth. (Darwin has a pretty good theory about the outcome for those who cannot adapt to changing circumstance!)

In determining your strengths and developmental needs, one has to think about what they do and how well they do it. At the end of a training period always carry out your own after-action review. Ask



others whose opinion you value for their feedback and ask for advice on how to improve.

As students of our profession we must read more about it, as in doing so we will face nothing new as we continue to develop as leaders. US General James Mattis stated: "The problem with being too busy to read is that you learn by experience (or by your men's experience), ie the hard way. By reading, you learn through others' experiences, generally a better way to do business, especially in our line of work where the consequences of incompetence are so final." ■

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# OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP RECOGNISED

## General Michael Beary Awarded DSM

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY ARMN JAMIE BARRETT



Minister Kehoe and Vice-Admiral Mellett present Maj Gen Beary with his DSM and citation.



Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, Maj Gen Beary DSM, and Col Ian Byrne DSM.

**O**n Tuesday 4th September, Maj Gen Michael Beary was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (An Bonn Seirbhise Deargna) with Honour, in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin. The citation reads: 'For distinguished service characterised by outstanding qualities of leadership, diplomacy and devotion to duty as Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and as Force Commander of the European Union Training Mission in Somalia. His distinguished service has made a significant contribution to regional stability and world peace and enhanced the reputation of Ireland and its Defence Forces.'

Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD, accompanied by DF Chief of Staff, Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, attend the ceremony along with members of the general staff, officials of the Dept of Defence and Maj Gen Beary's family and friends. On parade were troops from 7 Inf Bn, the Air Corps and the Naval Service, and DF veterans, many of whom had served with Maj Gen Beary during his 44 years of service.

As well as a distinguished domestic career, which culminated as GOC 2 Bde, Maj Gen Beary has the distinction of commanding two multinational overseas missions. From August 2011 to February 2013, he commanded the European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia), and in May 2016 UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as Head of Mission and Force Commander, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a post he held until August 2018.

In presenting the award Minister Kehoe said: "Major General Beary has had a long and distinguished career since he joined the Irish Defence Forces in 1973. He has spent a total of 12 years in overseas deployments in various countries, including Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

"Since July 2016, Major General Beary has held the prestigious appointment of UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander. It has been over thirty years since an Irish person has held this appoint-

ment. He brought extensive command and peacekeeping experience to the post, serving with distinction in an appointment, which was not without significant challenge."

The minister also thanked Maj Gen Beary's wife and family for their support, noting: "Service does not come without sacrifice; that sacrifice falls most heavily on the family".

Vice Admiral Mellett said that Maj Gen Beary has been "an outstanding leader, who for over forty years has given selfless, loyal service to Óglaigh na hÉireann, Ireland, and the international community. Today is a proud day for him and his family. I would like to congratulate him on his award and offer him best wishes in the future."

UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Jean Pierre Lacroix, sent the following message: "The United Nations and the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations were privileged to have Major General Michael Beary at the leadership of UNIFIL. His exemplary dedication and integrity during his tenure as the Head of Mission and Force Commander were integral to the achievements accomplished by the Mission. His strong leadership, commitment to core peacekeeping values and principles and pro-active approach enabled UNIFIL to carry out its important mandate during a particularly challenging period."

The United Nations also conveyed its gratitude to the Irish government and the Defence Forces "for their unwavering commitment and support to United Nations peacekeeping." ■



Maj Gen Beary with veterans from the 2 Inf Bn Association: (l/r) Jim Cahill, Gregory Leech and Noel O'Neill.



Minister Kehoe and Vice-Admiral Mellett with Maj Gen Michael Beary and his family (his son, Lt Howard Beary, is serving with 7 Inf Bn).



OC 7 Inf Bn, Lt Col Seán Ó Fátharta, accompanies Maj Gen Beary as he inspects the parade.

# UNTSI Celebrates 25th Anniversary

BY LT COL TIMOTHY C. O'BRIEN, SCH COMDT UNTSI

*"We live in a complex world. The United Nations cannot succeed alone. Partnership must continue to be at the heart of our strategy. We should have the humility to acknowledge the essential role of other actors, while maintaining full awareness of our unique convening power."* – UN Secretary General António Guterres, December 2016

**T**he Defence Forces marked the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Defence Forces United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI). The School, located in the Curragh Camp, was established on 16th September 1993 by the then Minister for Defence, Mr David Andrews TD.

On 23rd August 1993 Colonel Jim Mortell was nominated to be the first School Commandant of what was initially called the United Nations and International Studies School. Minister Andrews inaugurated the School in former married quarters at Pearse House, adjacent to the Military College Officers Mess. Work began to convert the former home into an educational establishment.

On 18th November 1993 the School's first visitor was President Mary Robinson who was briefed on UNTSI's role: The enhancement of peacekeeping training within the Military College; Debriefing of key personnel on their return from overseas service; Liaison with similar international institutions; Formulation of peacekeeping doctrine, and to attract foreign military, as well as national and foreign police and diplomats as students.

The first delivery of peacekeeping training was to the Junior Command and Staff Course in December 1993 and once up and running the School ran its first international course for Military Observers and Staff Officers in June 1995, attracting 20 foreign students from the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America.

On completion of the engineering works in 1994, the school was renamed United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI), complete with a modern auditorium, syndicate and research rooms as well as a replica of a UN Post.

In marking its 25th Anniversary UNTSI opened to the public as part of Kildare's Culture Night events on Friday 21st September 2018. A lecture was also presented to visitors on 60 years of Defence Forces Peacekeeping, given by Lt Col T C O'Brien.

UNTSI's principle role was, and continues to be, ensuring that members of the Defence Forces receive up to date mission briefings and training prior to deploying on Peace Support Operations around the world.

In addition, the School shares the collective experience of the Defence Forces, gained over 60 unbroken years of peacekeeping, by running international courses for foreign military, as well as for civilians, police, academics and humanitarian staff and by maintaining close contacts with

similar institutions throughout Europe and North America. The 2018 programme of International Courses covers the complex subjects of Civil Military Relations, Human Rights, the Protection of Civilians and Security Sector Reform.

On average 600 members of the Defence Forces pass through UNTSI each year prior to deployment overseas and the School also acts as a focal point for visitors to the Defence Forces seeking briefings on Ireland's role on Peace Support Operations.

This year, Ireland also celebrates the 60th Anniversary of its involvement in Peacekeeping Operations, the longest unbroken record of peacekeeping of any nation. This record forms one of the key pillars of Ireland's ongoing bid for a seat on the UN Security Council. UNTSI's role in shaping and informing the Irish Defence Force's approach to peacekeeping, and in maintaining this record, cannot be overstated. ■



*The original UNTSI staff, l/r: Comdt Colm Doyle, Colonel Jim Mortell, Coy Sgt John Lynch, Sgt Paul Longman, Comdt Dermot Earley and Comdt Tadgh Crowe.*



*Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon during his visit to UNTSI in 2015.*



*HRH The Prince Of Wales receives a brief during his visit to UNTSI in 2017.*

*"We want the world our children inherit to be defined by the values enshrined in the UN Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance, and solidarity... Our duty to the peoples we serve is to work together to move from fear of each other, to trust in each other. Trust in the values that bind us, and trust in the institutions that serve and protect us."* – UN Secretary General António Guterres, December 2016

# Mission Ready for UNDOF!

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS SGT KARL BYRNE & ARMN JAMIE BARRETT

**A**fter three months of intensive operational training, 58 Inf Gp recently conducted their mission readiness exercise (MRE) in preparation for deployment to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Syria, where they will serve as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) with the multinational mission consisting of 1,102 personnel from Bhutan, Czech Republic, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, India, Nepal, Netherlands and Ireland.





The QRF will operate on a 15-minute 'on-call' status to UNDOF Force Commander & Head of Mission, Maj Gen Francis Vib-Sanziri (Ghana), who may task them with a wide range of activities; anything from the evacuation of UN personnel for various emergency reasons, to routine patrols.

The highly mobile and flexible Irish unit has a wide range of capabilities, including armoured force protection, patrolling and mobility, surveillance, communications, medical and operational expertise.

UNDOF, which is assisted in its mission by 77 UNTSO military observers from Observer Group Golan (OGG), is one of the longest running UN peace-keeping missions, having been set up in 1974 following the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

UNDOF maintains an area of separation (AOS) between Israeli and Syrian forces that is over 75km long and varies in width between approximately 10km in the centre, to only 200m in the extreme south. The hilly terrain includes Mount Hermon in the north, where the highest permanently manned UN position is located at an

altitude of 2,814m.

Over the course of its mission, UNDOF has suffered 60 military and two civilian staff fatalities.

The escalation of the Syrian civil war saw UNDOF HQ move from Camp Faouar on the Syrian (Bravo) side of the AOS to Camp Ziouani on the Israeli (Alpha) side. However, last March the HQ, which included Col Michael Dawson (UNDOF Chief of Staff) and seven other members of the Defence Forces, returned to Camp Faouar.

57 Inf Gp, under command of Lt Col Mark Brownen, also relocated to Camp Faouar in September.

The Dept of Defence said the relocation of Irish personnel follows ongoing assessment of the security situation in the region and the continued enhancement of force-protection measures and living standards within Camp Faouar.

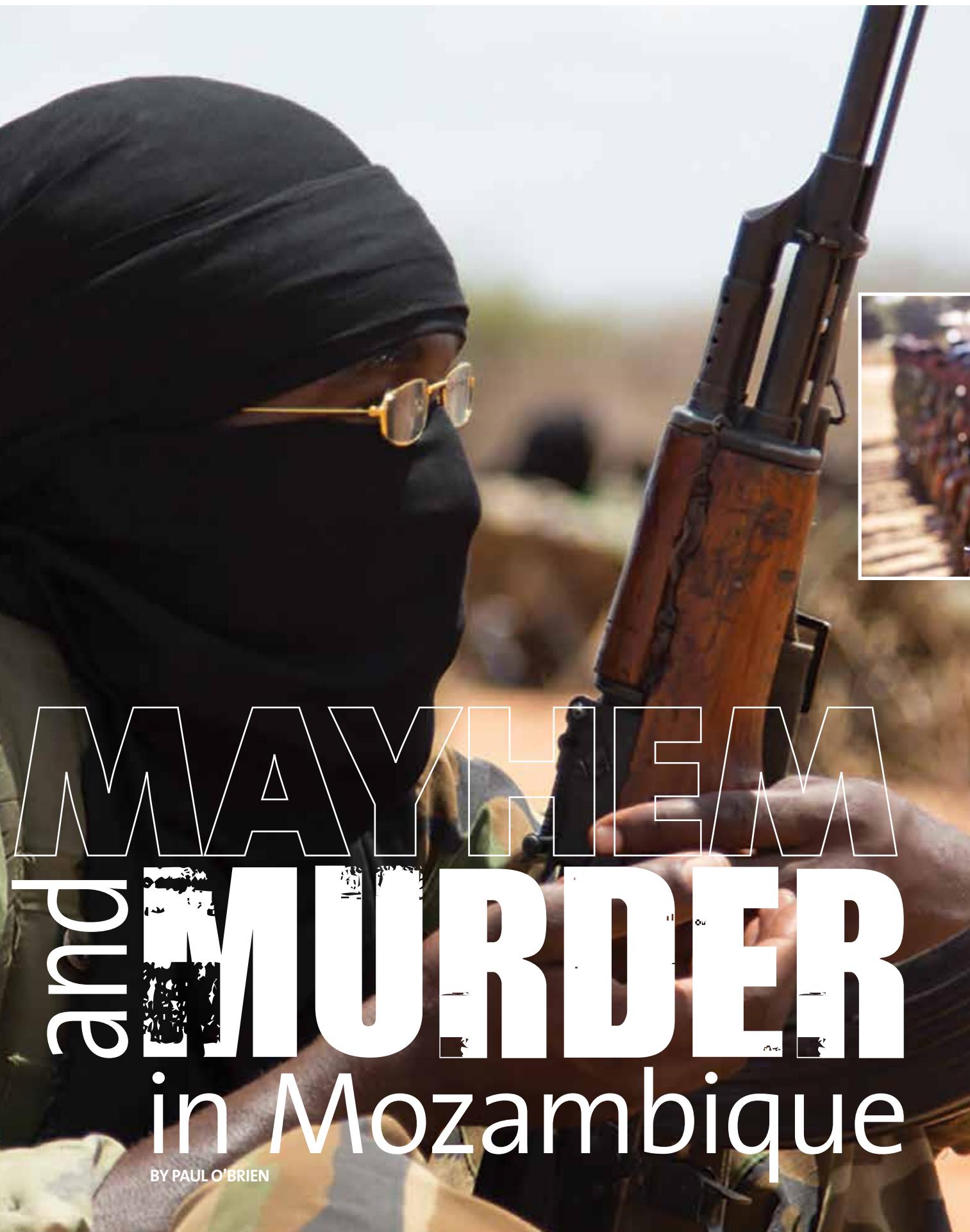
Minister with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Kehoe TD recently said: *“The safety of our Defence Forces personnel is my paramount concern, and throughout the relocation operations I have had ongoing discussions with the UN.”* The minister also said: *“The continued presence of the UNDOF mission remains an important element in*

*ensuring stability on the Golan Heights and in the Middle East and is supported and welcomed by Syria and Israel.”*

Nearly 100 personnel travelling with 58 Inf Gp come from the main contributing unit, 7 Inf Bn, based in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin, with a further 30 personnel coming from around the country. The unit's members range from those on their first overseas deployment, to vastly experienced NCOs and officers who have served multiple tours of duty on peacekeeping and peace-enforcing missions.

A DF Press Office statement said: *“The mission readiness exercise puts commanders and soldiers through a series of demanding scenarios based on potential situations that may be encountered in the mission area. The training reflects the robust nature of a deployment in this area of operations and serves to prepare our personnel for any eventualities that may occur during their six-month tour.”*

The unit carried out its deployment to Syria in mid-October, continuing Ireland's long-standing commitment to international peacekeeping, and the Defence Forces' continued contribution to peace and security. ■



# MAYHEM and MURDER in Mozambique

BY PAUL O'BRIEN

**O**n the 5th October 2017, in the town of Mocimboa de Praia, Mozambique, an armed group of thirty insurgents targeted three police stations, killing seventeen people that included three police officers and a community leader. During this brief attack, the insurgents stole firearms and ammunition while proclaiming affiliation with Al-Shabaab, the Al Qaeda affiliated group situated and operating out of southern Somalia.

Mozambique, a former colony of Portugal, is a country in south-east Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the northwest and Swaziland and South Africa to the southwest. The capital is Maputo while Matola is the largest city, being a suburb of Maputo.

Like many African countries, Mozambique is no stranger to violence having endured a War of Independence that stretched from 1964 to 1974 when it achieved independence, which was then followed by a Civil War from 1977 to 1992.



The country is recovering from this time of unrest and democracy has stabilised the country. As with many of its neighbours, Mozambique is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources though the country's economy is largely based on agriculture; but industry is growing with food and beverages, chemical manufacturing and aluminium and petroleum production. The Tourism sector is also growing with many foreign tourists visiting the country.

The recent insurgency is stems from an Islamist militant group named Ansar al Sunna, who want to establish an Islamic state in Mozambique. Ansar al Sunna also known as 'Ahlu Sunnah Wajamo' (translated 'adepts of the prophetic tradition') was a religious movement in the northern districts of Cabo Delgado which first appeared in 2015. The group was formed by followers of the radical Kenyan cleric, Aboud Rogo, who was killed in 2012. The group worked out of Kibiti in Tanzania before moving to Mozambique where they have launched a number of attacks against government installations, villages and towns.

The group claim that Islam as practised in Mozambique has been corrupted and no longer follows the teachings of Muhammad. Their campaign commenced with gunmen entering mosques intimidating and threatening worshipers to follow the organisation's radical beliefs. They have also tried to prevent people from attending hospitals and schools which they consider secular and anti-Islamic. Instead of winning the people over, their behaviour has alienated local population. Within a short period of time the group became increasingly violent, calling for Sharia law to be implemented in the country.

The group established training camps in the Macomia District, Mocimboa da Praia District and the Montepuez District. Here recruits were trained by disgruntled ex-policemen and military personnel who held grudges against the government. Mercenaries were also employed to train insurgents with others travelling out of the country to receive direct training by other militant groups.

Government intelligence has identified six men as leaders of the militants in the region of Cabo Delgado: Abdul Faizal, Abdul Raim,

Abdul Remane, Ibn Omar, 'Salimo', and Nuno Remane.

The group, like many terrorist organisations, receives funding through heroin, contraband and the ivory trade. Poaching is considered a risk-free way of raising funds for insurgency groups.

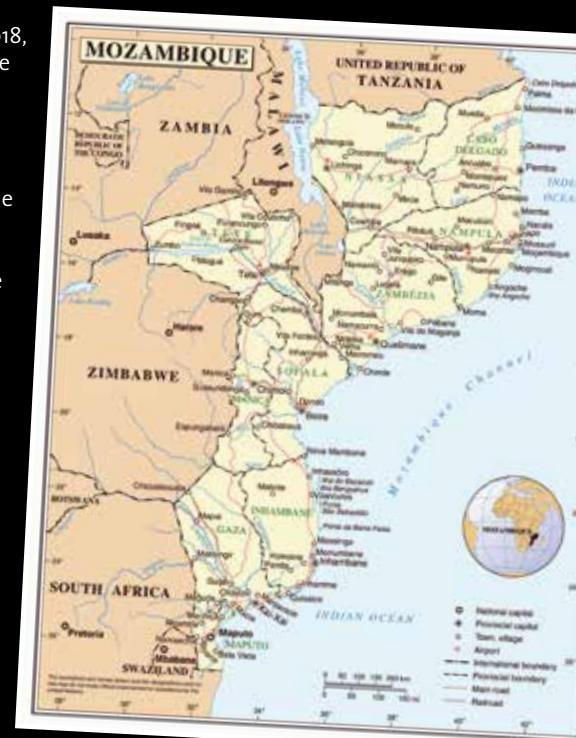
While religion has played and still does play an important role in attracting recruits, analysts believe that like many insurgencies throughout the world, it is widespread social, economic and political problems in Mozambique that are the root of this insurgency. Youth unemployment is a major factor that needs to be addressed, as does education. Increasing inequalities have led many young people to be attracted to radical movements and this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Government has signed an agreement with Russia that provides technical cooperation, arms and military equipment, all as part of the war on terrorism. Police and military forces have clashed numerous times with the insurgents with casualties on both sides.

In September 2018, twelve people were killed when Jihadists attacked the village of Paqueue in the province of Cabo Delgado. The attackers burned fifty-five houses. Of those that were killed, ten were shot, two were burned to death and at least one of the victims was decapitated post-mortem.

The insurgency is not unified, with various cells conducting the war against the government. With these groups divided, the government has a chance to contain and eradicate the problem. They must also address the country's social and economic problems that will help the people of Mozambique.

However, if outside influences manage to unite these groups, the government of Mozambique may have to face an all-out war with Islamic insurgents, a prospect that nobody wants to see. ■



# IUNVA Annual General Convention 2018

REPORT & PHOTOS BY  
CPL LEE COYLE



**T**he Irish United Nations Veterans Association's (IUNVA) annual general convention took place over the weekend of 22nd September. This year's conference was hosted by Post 29, Carlow, in the Seven Oaks Hotel in Carlow Town.

Delegates from all over the country gathered on the morning of the first day to sign in, began swapping war stories, and renewing friendships.

Invited as a VIP guest, Brig Gen Patrick Flynn, GOC 1 Bde, opened the convention. After thanking IUNVA for the invitation, Brig Gen Flynn spoke a little about his military career, and said that he learned most of what he knows about the military from senior soldiers and NCOs.

He then spoke about a new veterans' support centre that opened recently in Collins Bks, Cork, and asked for IUNVA's support for the centre. He thanked IUNVA for all the good work they carried out in 2018, and wished the organisation all the best for the future.

Next, IUNVA National Chairman Jim Casey, addressed the delegates and thanked Post 29 (Carlow) for all their hard work leading up to the AGC. He thanked all posts for all their good work throughout the year and for the great turnout at all the events held in the last year, and complimented them on the high standard of dress and deportment at those events.

As IUNVA President Maj Gen Vincent F Savino (retd) was unable to attend the conference, National Director of Ceremonies, Willie Gilbert, spoke on his behalf, welcoming the delegates and wish-



ing them a good day and great evening.

National Secretary Charlie Mott was next up, giving his annual report, which included an update of posts across the country and developments that had taken place over the year, such as the use of the RDF building in Portlaoise by Post 27, which they have been given the go-ahead to use for an extended period.

Charlie also told the AGC that the current strength of IUNVA stands at 1,149 members across 23 posts.

National Welfare Officers Michael Thompson then gave his report, detailing the good work IUNVA carries out helping their own and other veterans.

He also briefed the delegates on a mental health service called GROW, and urged them to be aware of people suffering from mental health problems.

After the addresses and reports, it was on to the motions. There was healthy debate on some of the motions but all were dealt with in a friendly and professional manner.

That evening everyone gathered together for food and music, while more war stories and laughter filled the room.

I would like to thank IUNVA executive council for inviting us to their AGC and for being so hospitable; they are the embodiment of true DF spirit and comradeship.

If you would like to know more about IUNVA, or wish to become a member, please visit their website [www.iunva.ie](http://www.iunva.ie) or give them a call on their new automated system on 01 6791262. ■

# Curragh UN Veterans

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD & SGT KARL BYRNE

**R**ecently, *An Cosantóir* visited the Irish United Nations Veterans Association's Post 11 (Suncroft/Curragh) located in No 2, Griffith Road, Curragh Camp. The house, a four-bed, with a large kitchen and dining room, and oil central heating, is on a 99-year lease from the DoD.

We got a great feel of comradery among these veterans when speaking with Post 11 chairman, Tony O'Reilly, secretary, Mick Gorman, other members of staff, and some residents who live in house. (Post 11 is unique in IUNVA as it houses four DF veterans on a full-time basis, and has done since 2005.) The post has 84 members, which includes one serving garda and some serving DF members.

Tony O'Reilly told us: *"The post was originally in 'the Wes' (the old canteen in the Curragh), where there were five veterans living upstairs. Then, in 2005 we were given No 2 Griffith Road, for which we owe many thanks to former COS Dermot Earley (RIP) and to former EO DFTC Col John Courtney; and a special thanks to BFW foreman Tom Maguire for making the house habitable."*

Tony, who is in his fifth year as chairman, enlisted with 3 Inf Bn in 1973, where he spent most of his long career up to retirement as a CQMS in 2007. He worked on the procurement project for the Mowag APC and the conversion to a mechanised infantry force. He served on nine trips to Lebanon and one to Liberia.

*"I am responsible for running the post,"* Tony told us, *"assisted by our secretary, treasurer, welfare officer and other members of the committee. We have a very good working relationship with the DFTC and with the GOC, Brig Gen Joe Mulligan."*

Mick Gorman spent most of his 21-year career in the General Training Depot (GTD) in the Curragh and the last five in the Army Apprentice School in Devoy Bks, Naas. He served overseas in Cyprus three times in 1968, 1974, and 1978.

Other post members we met included Catherine and Miriam. Catherine has been coming in three days a week for the past 10 years. Her father, CQMS Michael McBride, was a member of Post 11, but sadly passed away. Miriam Lott carries out the post's secretarial work five mornings a week under a TUS community work placement scheme.

Regarding Post 11's activities, Tony told us: *"80% of our involvement with our veterans is welfare related. We can't give out money, but we can help by getting advice for them and accessing the Army Benevolent Fund through IUNVA National Welfare Officer Michael Thompson."*

We also chatted to some of the veterans who live in the house and see it as their home. Kevin 'Woody' Woods joined 3 Inf Bn in 1973, becoming an army chef working in both Ceannt Dining Hall and Ceannt Officers' Mess. He remembers serving overseas with 43 Inf Bn and cooking

on the old M59s. Kevin left the DF in 1998 and was living in Newbridge until circumstances

led him back to the Curragh to live.

Jimmy 'Bulia' Welsh enlisted in 1979 and completed 18 years with 1 Armd Cav Sqn before finishing his career with Logs Base HQ, DFTC, as a storeman after 37 years' service. Jimmy lived in Plunkett and Ceannt Bks most of his army life, and was delighted with the opportunity to live in the house with his fellow veterans.

Post 11 holds its monthly meetings in Connolly Ptes' Mess and holds fundraisers like pub quizzes and raffles, in the messes in the Curragh. From these, they have made donations to local charities like Newbridge Cancer Support, Newbridge Meals on Wheels and Saint Brigid's Hospice on the Curragh, to name a few.

The post held their annual deceased members Mass at the end of August in memory of their 34 deceased comrades.

It is fitting to see the DF ethos being displayed to its fullest by veterans who work to look after the needs of other veterans and who make such efforts to make them feel at home. ■

From l/r: Miriam Lott, Jimmy 'Bulia' Welsh, Kevin 'Woody' Woods, Catherine, Post 11 chairman, Tony O'Reilly, and secretary Mick Gorman.



# Moving Forward Together

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY ARMN JAMIE BARRETT



ONE board members Lt Col Ollie Barbour retired, and Derek Ryan give very informative talks on the veterans support centres and public relations and social media respectively.



*"We have a bit of a way to go, and then the home will need to be renovated and hopefully we can access grants to bring it up to a liveable standard,"* Ollie told delegates. He went on to say that ONE intends to open more support centres, with a view to every

ONE (the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel) held its annual convention in the Talbot Hotel, Carlow, on the 29th September 2018. Over 200 delegates, representing branches from around the country, voted and discussed veterans' affairs and how to take the organisation forward. Items discussed ranged from strategic planning, to veterans support centres, public relations, and governance.

The conference opened with a prayer from ONE National President Tom James, who then read out a list of recently deceased members. Tom then thanked his predecessor and the staff of ONE's homes in Letterkenny, Athlone and Dublin.

CEO Ollie O'Connor was next to the podium, and began with the news that the ONE was in close negotiations with the DoD and the OPW to purchase a building in Cobh that will be turned into another veterans support centre, and possibly a small residential home for homeless veterans.

barracks in the country having one.

Regarding the Fuchsia Appeal, Ollie thanked the county councils who flew the Fuchsia flag during the year, and he announced that the first annual Fuchsia coffee morning will be held in every barracks on 30th November.

On the subject of veterans policy and the government White Paper, Ollie said ONE had met with the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) a number of times throughout the year to discuss the issue.

Speaking about the homes ONE manages for former DF veterans in need of accommodation, Ollie said: *"The way the homes are managed is second to none; they are really hostels, but we like to call them homes, and I'd like to thank Aiden, Pat, Dick and Sinead for their great work."*

ONE Chairman Brig Gen Colm Campbell (retd) then gave an inspiring talk on the organisation, and its strategic goals. *"Civvies have colleagues, soldiers have comrades,"* he said. *"That's why we get on so well together, because no matter where you served, or rank or position you held, we can relate to each other."*

Speaking about the branches, he said: *"The members are ONE. We have to focus on what the branches do. We need to look more at local politics and we must develop the veterans policy. We need to look at a better set of certificates for personnel leaving the Defence Forces than the current LA89 – which doesn't really tell you about the person or the skills they have attained in their careers."*

The chairman finished by saying that ONE needs to look more at applying for grant aid and at corporate sponsorship of its homes and support centres. He then took some questions from the floor. One questioner asked *"would it be possible to bring branch committee members up to National HQ to undergo training in their relevant appointments, such as treasurer, for example,"* to which Brig Gen Campbell replied that he thought it was *"an excellent idea"* and that he would immediately add it to the strategic plan to make it happen.

Ollie O'Connor then spoke about the veterans support centres in detail, saying a number would be up and running by the end of 2018. He said that ONE would work hand in hand with Personnel Support Services (PSS) in developing and utilising the centres and that they



ONE's CEO Ollie O'Connor addressing conference.



ONE Delegates voting at conference.

# ONE Conference 2018

would be run by trained veterans with a statutory board behind them, and under the same ideals as a Citizens Information Centre.

*“They would be a marriage of the Citizens Information Centre and a type of Men’s Shed,” Ollie said, “where veterans will be able to seek advice and direction, and also be able to relax in a welcome environment, under the saying, ‘It’s OK to say you are not OK’ – that’s what the centres are for.”*

There are two veterans support centres in operation, in Limerick and Dundalk, with a further seven in development and six more locations identified, which will cover most of Ireland.

Recently retired director of Personnel Support Services, Lt Col Ollie Barbour (retd), now a board member with ONE then took the podium for his first conference. He told delegates: *“The veterans support centre is not just for problems; I’m a firm believer in the ‘cup of tea’. The idea is to just come in and have a cup of tea and chat. These centres would be there for all veterans, not just ONE members – all veterans and all associations welcome.”* He said. Speaking about staff training, he said: *“All our veterans will have the skills to help other veterans. That’s why we opened up our recent Mental Health First Aid course to other veterans associations, so they are trained on how to listen and guide people with mental health issues; not just veterans, but their spouses and family members as well.”*

He also said all staff would be Garda vetted and trained further, like staff in Citizens Information Centres. He finished by saying: *“I’d like to think of the veterans support centres as the PSS for retired veterans.”*

Next up was board member Derek Ryan to talk about public relations and social media. His talk was very informative, especially in this modern world where news is a few keystrokes away and fake news can be created from one post or tweet.

*“Our PR message should always include the fact that we are a charity, housing homeless veterans,”* he said. *“The aim of good public relations is to inform the public or veterans, donors and other stakeholders, and to give a positive view on our organisation and what we do.”*

He then went on to give some jaw-dropping examples of the dangers and pitfalls of bad PR, the fallout of false accusations, cyber bullying, and the law.

*“An online comment will stay there forever despite attempts to delete it,”* he warned. *“Comments can be attributed to an individual, a branch, the organisation, and even private posts are admissible as evidence in civil actions.”*

Then, to hammer home this point he said: *“All comments on social media are public comments, even if posted on a private forum. It is the same as writing a comment in a local newspaper, and anything negative and untrue about an individual or a group can be perceived as defamation.”*

He then quoted Article 40.3.2 of the Constitution, which says: *“The State shall, in particular, by its laws, protect as best it may from unjust attack, and in the case of injustice done, vindicate the life, person, good name and property rights of every citizen.”* Derek went on to talk about cases of defamation and gave guidance on what not to do online in order to protect ONE and its members. He also added that ONE could also sue people for negative or false comments, and would do so if required.

He finished by telling delegates that the board was drafting a social media policy for members and branches, and would be conducting training and workshops in this area soon.

ONE Company Secretary Albert Farrell then briefed delegates on ONE’s progress with the Charity Regulator’s guidance on good governance and said it is an evolving code that includes the principles of leadership, effectiveness, accountability, remuneration and relations to stakeholders.

Workshops were then held to discuss the veterans support centres and financial policy. Later the delegates reconvened for the AGM part of the conference with only 11 motions on the table. Those of note that were passed included: the establishment of branch welfare officers, to lobby minister for defence for all DF veterans to be awarded the 1916-2016 commemorative medal and any subsequent commemorative medals.

Overall, it was a very informative conference, where relevant matters pertaining to the welfare of our veterans were discussed in a thoughtful and well-planned manner. ■



Pictured with 'Branch of the Year' trophy is Jim McEneaney from the winning Michael McNeela Branch along with ONE National President Tom James, Pat Durnin, Mick Reid and Paddy Flavin.



ONE Chairman Brig Gen Colm Campbell (retd) gives an inspiring talk.

# PDFORRA CONFERENCE 2018

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS SGT MICHAEL BURKE

*Ms Patricia King, general secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU).*



*PDFORRA General Secretary Gerard Guinan speaking about pay and allowances.*



*Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM addressing the conference.*



*PDFORRA President Mark Keane speaking about his Conciliation and Arbitration (C&A) Report.*



loyalty to the Constitution, and our personnel's willingness to "head towards danger" when duty requires.

The COS acknowledged the work of PDFORRA and its efforts in representing its members.

He said it was clear to him, after visits to Defence Forces locations at home and abroad, that pay is the number one concern. He also mentioned the Central Statistics Office (CSO) claim that the Defence Forces were the lowest paid in the public sector.

*"We all want a thriving Defence Forces where people feel valued,"*

**T**he Permanent Defence Forces Other Ranks Representative Association (PDFORRA), which represents 6,500 soldiers, sailors and air crew, held its 27th Annual Delegate Conference (ADC) from 2nd to 4th October in Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Vice President Donagh Maguire welcomed the almost 100 delegates to the ADC, which is PDFORRA's primary policy-making forum, and outlined the topics that would be discussed during the conference.

The ADC was then addressed by Ms Patricia King, general secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), which represents and campaigns on behalf of some 832,000 workers.

Ms King spoke about ICTU's efforts on behalf of low-paid workers, and also said that the government would have "nothing to lose" in allowing PDFORRA to join ICTU. Ms King's address received a warm round of applause from the conference.

PDFORRA General Secretary Gerard Guinan then took to the podium and spoke about pay and allowances, the EU Working Time Directive, working conditions, the diminution of medical services, and the ever-increasing workload of members of the Defence Forces.

Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM then addressed the conference, speaking about the uniqueness of the military profession, the Defence Forces'

he said before telling conference that although pay is not in the remit of the COS, he has advocated on our behalf to the Dept of Defence and to the Public Sector Pay Commission, that he will continue to do so, and that he would like the opportunity to address the Commission in person.

PDFORRA President Mark

Keane then took to the podium to deliver his Conciliation and Arbitration (C&A) Report, speaking about adjudicated reports and giving a synopsis of claims currently under discussion.

General Secretary Guinan then spoke about the Pay and Industrial Relations Report, which included the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020, complaints under articles 5 and 6 of the European Social Charter, a review of the NCO promotion system and criteria for sergeant rank and above, the Working Time Directive, and PDFORRA's submission to the Public Sector Pay Commission.

Deputy General Secretary Martin Bright then went through the Council and DFHQ Forum report before PDFORRA Health & Safety Officer Ray McKenna gave his report, which included topics such as Portlaoise Prison, 'blue light' driving conditions, the proposed incinerator in Ringaskiddy, body armour, driver fatigue, and many more.

National Support Officer Damien Quigley's report followed, which mainly addressed welfare issues, including Budget 2018 and the USC, Family Income Supplement (now called Working Family Payment), and the PDFORRA Medical Assistance Scheme (PMAS), which assists members in accessing treatment under the EU Cross Border Healthcare Directive.

Invited as a guest to discuss the scheme, HSE General Manager Catherine Donoghue congratulated PDFORRA for being "way ahead" on this initiative. She also gave advice on medical tourism companies, travel insurance and the EHIC card (formally E111), which gives access to emergency treatment anywhere in the EU.

Minister with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Keogh TD spoke on the second day of the conference. He acknowledged that there are pay issues and mentioned the 1% PSSA payment in that regard.

The minister apologised for the delay in the rotation of 57 and 58 Inf Gps and said he had phoned OC 57 Inf Gp to apologise personally and offer a €1,000 gratuity to the 119 members of the unit. He also extended his apology to the families of those affected.

There were over 50 motions up for discussion over the remainder of the ADC, with over 75% of them relating to the Naval Service.

It was a very busy conference with emotions running high at times as delegates spoke up on behalf of themselves, their colleagues and those at the coalface of the Defence Forces. ■



*Minister with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Keogh TD addressing the conference.*



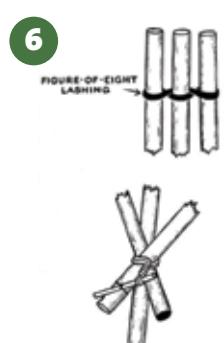
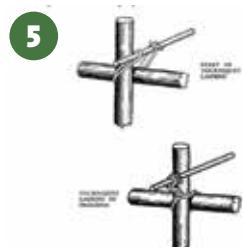
# WINDLASS TRIPOD

BY JOE PRICE

It's good to be back in front of a keyboard again, but before I start I want to thank everyone who came over to say hello at the An Cosantóir 10K event in McKee Barracks recently - it was great to meet the readers of the magazine and share a few words.

But this month I thought I would share a very simple and quick way to build a tripod in the field. Tripods are commonly used for cooking but also can be adapted for raised beds, shelters and even a centralized camp first aid station. They require minimal resources but can be time consuming if you just want to build something really quick and with minimal materials. This method is from an old boy scouts pioneering manual and is very effective if you need a singular tripod in a hurry or multiple tripods for larger camp setups and one I like to use a lot on day hikes or working with scouts.

- First gather 3 branches of equal length and enough diameters to hold the load you want to suspend from it. If you want the tripod to stand about chest high aim for branches a foot taller than yourself. This is just to allow for loss of height when you open it out.
- You want to cut the branches to equal length. If you want to add some stability to it, if the ground is uneven, add a point to the end of each leg. This isn't always necessary.
- Once this is done you will need a fixed loop of some strong cordage like paracord or bailing twine. It should be big enough to wrap around the tops of your branches like in the diagram.
- For creating the fixed loop I like to use a 'double fishermans' or a 'necklace knot'.
- Once this is done you can grab a small branch roughly about 1 foot long and an inch thick and slip this through the excess cordage twisting it like a tourniquet until there is enough tension to bind the sticks together.
- You can now stand your tripod up and adjust it to the height and span you want. At this point it's ok to give it a final few turns to hold it all in place.



**Joe Price is one of the co-founders of the "Living to Learn" Bushcraft Community, a member of the Irish Bushcraft Club and an Irish Ambassador for Mora Knives.**

He works in The Camo Shop [www.thecamoshop.ie](http://www.thecamoshop.ie) and you can follow the 'Living to Learn' community online:

[www.facebook.com/groups/livingtolearn/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/livingtolearn/)

# You OK, Christy?

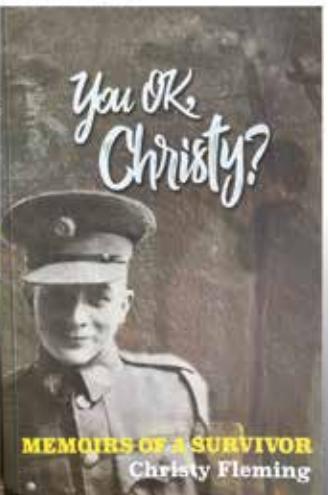
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You OK, Christy: Memoirs of a Survivor by Christy Fleming

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# SMACK WEAR SPORTS CLOTHING COMPETITION

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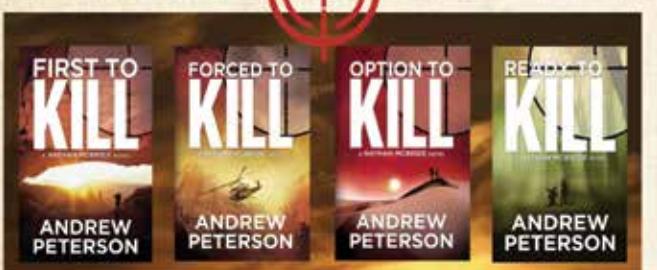
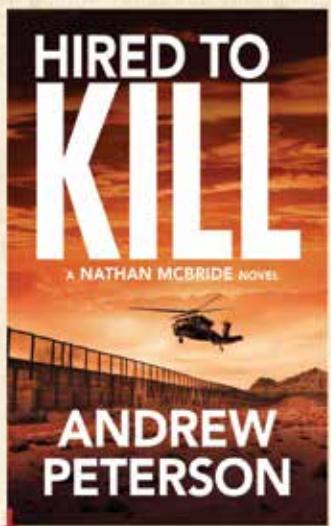
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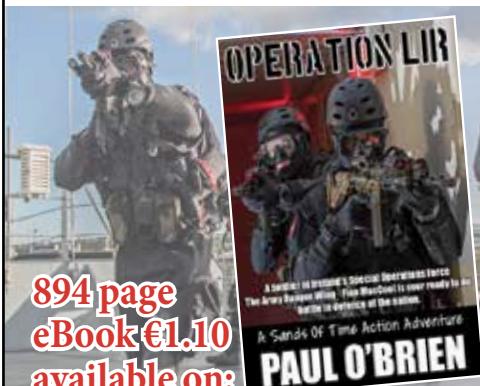
**WHO WAS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THIS SERIES? = Nathan McBride**

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# THE GUNS FELL SILENT



BY SGT TERRY MCLAUGHLIN RETD

**A**t 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 silence fell on the Western Front for the first time since the Great War began in August 1914. Just before hostilities broke out, British Foreign Secretary Viscount Edward Grey is said to have uttered a phrase that came to encapsulate the magnitude of what was about to befall Europe and the world.

In contrast to many who expected a short, sharp campaign, and for the troops to be 'home before Christmas', Grey, standing with a colleague in Westminster looking out of a window watching a lamplighter going about his work, said: *"The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."*

Grey's vision was the more prophetic. By the end of the war the old world had been shattered. The Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires had collapsed; the Czar and the Kaiser were gone, while the British Empire began a slow but inexorable decline.

Millions of young men lay dead on battlefields, mainly across Europe; thousands of them who had come to help Britain in her hour of need from the four corners of her empire and dominions: from Ireland, India, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, to mention but a few.

Russia descended into chaos after calamitous defeats on the Eastern Front, leading to Lenin's Bolsheviks taking power and withdrawing Russia from the war.

American 'doughboys' joined the fight in 1917 after their country abandoned its isolationist policy; an event that gave impetus to the final thrust for victory by the broken, dispirited and exhausted Allies.

Military casualties are estimated at anywhere between 15 and 19 million, with between 9 and 11 million dead. (Poor Russian records make the figure hard to calculate accurately.)

Around 1 million troops from Britain and its empire died, while France suffered 1,357,800 deaths from a total

deployment of 8,410,000.

Germany lost roughly the same amount of men as France, but from a larger deployment of 11 million.

These almost incomprehensible figures fail to take into account the millions of lives ruined by catastrophic injury such as the loss of a limb, blindness, or shell shock.

Civilian casualties are estimated at around 8 million, most from famine and famine-related disease.

The number of Irish soldiers killed fighting with the British Army is recorded as 49,000, from an estimated 210,000 who enlisted (this despite conscription never being introduced in Ireland).

The lights had indeed gone out forever on the world Viscount Grey knew.

Women had won the vote and were working in factories and on the land, doing jobs that had always been the preserve of men.

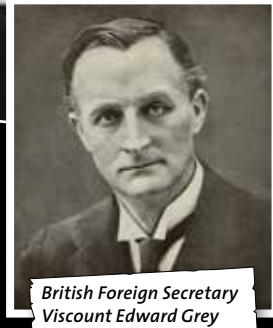
The old semi-feudal, class system had begun to unravel as previous certainties were replaced by increasing democratisation and changing world views.

Many communities across the UK had been devastated, particularly by the deployment of Pals Regiments, which tragically often saw a whole generation of young men from a single town or village being wiped out in one fell swoop.

On top of the carnage of war a deadly worldwide flu pandemic emerged in late 1918 that dwarfed the war's death toll, with estimates as high as 100 million deaths; nearly 250,000 in the UK. Devastatingly, given the death of so many young men in the war, the flu mainly killed those in the 20-40 age group.

Even though the end of the war brought additional territories into the British Empire, it was actually the beginning of the end, as the US began to usurp Britain's economic and industrial dominance, and in Ireland a full blown war of independence had begun, which would see it emerge as the first country since the United States to break from the empire by force.

However, unbelievably, worse was yet to come. Rather than being 'the war to end all wars', it turned out to be only round one, with two huge heavyweights staggering back exhausted to their corners, only to re-emerge 21 years later, stronger than ever, for an even deadlier second round. ■



British Foreign Secretary Viscount Edward Grey



The Signing of the Armistice in November 1918, print by Maurice Pillard Verneuil. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art CWM 19830483-001

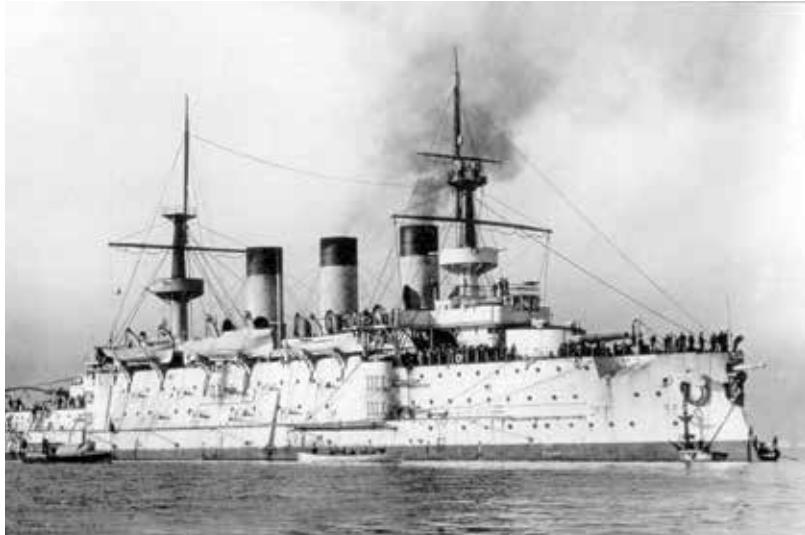
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# The Ship that Began the Bolshevik Revolution

BY PETER MULREADY MA



The Aurora then



**N**ovember 7th (25th October, old Russian calendar) marks the 101st anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, one of the major events of the 20th century. The shot that began the October 1917 Revolution in St Petersburg was fired by the cruiser Aurora, which was to become the symbol of the revolution.

The Aurora, which is still a commissioned warship in the Russian navy and is its flagship, due to its historical and cultural importance, is permanently anchored in the river Neva at Petrogradskaya Embankment in St Petersburg, as a memorial to the Russian Revolution. The ship is an experienced war veteran, its career having encompassed three wars (Russo-Japanese 1904-5, WWI and WWII) and two Russian revolutions (February 1917 and October 1917).

Aurora was launched in 1900 in St Petersburg and was intended for service in the Pacific. It was a *Pallada* class protected cruiser, with an overall length of 126.8m, a beam of 16.7m, a draught of 7.3m, and a displacement of 6,731 tons. It carried a crew of 18 officers and 580 men. The ship's maximum speed was only 19kts, which

was slow for its designated role as a commerce raider, and had a range of 7,200 km at 10 kts.

The Aurora's original main armament comprised eight 152mm (6-inch) Canet guns: one mounted on the forecastle deck, four in sponsons at upper-deck level close to the bridge and fore funnel, and three aft. (During WWI these were increased from eight to fourteen.) The ship had three torpedo tubes and could also carry mines.

After the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904 the eastern Russian city of Port Arthur was besieged by the Japanese, who also blockaded the harbour containing the 1st Pacific Squadron.

In October 1904 the Aurora set off from the Baltic Sea as part of the 2nd Pacific Squadron, to relieve Port Arthur. The voyage began badly, when on the night of 21/22 October, in a confusing incident, nervous Russian gunners fired on a fleet of British trawlers fishing on the Dogger Bank in the North Sea that the Russians believed to be Japanese torpedo boats. One trawler was sunk and two fishermen killed. The Aurora also suffered damage in the incident and the ship's chaplain and

a sailor were killed. The incident caused a serious diplomatic rift with Britain.

In December Port Arthur fell and the ships were ordered to break through to Vladivostok. The fleet was reinforced by the 3rd Pacific Squadron off French Indochina, and after an epic voyage of 18,000 nautical miles (33,336 kilometres) the combined fleet reached the Straits of Tsushima, between Japan and Korea, where, on 27/28 May 1905, it was destroyed by the Japanese navy in the Battle of Tsushima.

The Aurora protected the transport ships in the battle and sustained serious damage, and lost her captain, ER Yegoryev, and 14 crewmen. The cruiser was one of only four Russian ships to escape after the battle and was interned under US protection in the neutral Philippines until the end of the war.

During World War I the Aurora operated in the Baltic Sea, performing patrols and shore bombardment tasks, in addition to minelaying operations. In late 1916 the ship was moved to Petrograd (as St Petersburg was renamed from 1914-1924) for major repairs. The city was full of revolutionary fervour and a section of the crew joined

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the February 1917 Revolution. The ship's commander, Captain MI Nikolsky, was killed when he refused to carry a red flag and tried to suppress the revolt. Most of the crew joined the Bolsheviks who were preparing for a communist revolution during the rule of the Provisional Government.

In November 1917 the *Aurora* was again under repair in Petrograd while at the same time the Provisional Government was



*The Aurora now*

established in the Winter Palace, the home of the deposed Tsar Nicholas II. The building was guarded by units of officer cadets, Cossacks and women's battalions, totalling around 3,000 troops. As they awaited the Bolshevik attack most of the garrison slipped away, leaving 300 to defend the palace.

At 21.40hrs on 7th November 1917 (25th October in the Russian calendar) the *Aurora* fired a blank shot from its forecastle gun. (The blank was louder than a live round.) After a short interval, guns in the nearby Peter and Paul Fortress began firing live shells, most of which landed in the Neva. The majority of the defenders of the Winter Palace fled and Bolshevik troops easily entered the Palace where they arrested members of the Provisional Government and imprisoned them in the Peter and Paul Fortress.

Vladimir Lenin then used the *Aurora*'s radio to broadcast his address "to the citizens of Russia", proclaiming victory for the Bolsheviks. The October Revolution had begun.



*Soviet banners*



*Captain Yegoryev, killed at Tsushima, framed in a piece of penetrated armour.*

The *Aurora* became the symbol of the Revolution when the Communist Party commissioned film directors Sergei Eisenstein and Grigori Aleksandrov to make the 1927 silent film, *October: Ten Days that Shook the World*. The film was shot as a documentary, with thousands of people appearing to storm the Winter Palace immediately after the shot was fired by the cruiser. This confirmed the legend of the *Aurora*'s shot starting the Revolution. In November 1927 the *Aurora* was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for its revolutionary actions. More praise came from the *Official History of the Soviet Communist Party* (1939) which stated that by the thunder of its guns directed on the Winter Palace the *Aurora* heralded 'the beginning of a new era, the era of the Great Socialist Revolution.'

During the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 the heavy guns were taken off the ship and used in land defences during the prolonged siege of Leningrad (as the city was renamed in 1924). The *Aurora* itself was moored at Oranienbaum port, with the remaining onboard gun crews operating in an anti-aircraft role. The ship was sunk at its mooring on 30 September 1941.

In 1944 the *Aurora* was raised, repaired and permanently moored on the Neva at Petrogradskaya Embankment in 1948 as a monument to the Great October Socialist Revolution. In 1956 a branch of the Central Naval Museum was opened on the cruiser, while in 1968 the *Aurora* was awarded the Order of the October Revolution. In 1987 the ship underwent extensive repairs, repairing the decayed hull below the waterline with a new welded hull, in line with the original drawings.

In 2016 *Aurora* reopened to the public after another two-year overhaul. The museum on board now comprises ten rooms, covering all aspects of the ship and its history as well as both World Wars and both revolutions. There is also an exhibition on the history of naval medicine, the *Aurora* being the first Russian naval ship to use X-ray equipment.

To date, the *Aurora* and the museum exhibition have been visited by many millions of visitors. The cruiser is one of the few remaining warships from the early 20th century (the cruiser HMS Caroline in Belfast being another), and she remains a major tourist attraction in St Petersburg and an enduring symbol of the October Revolution.

*Peter Mulready has an MA in Military History and is a council member of the Military History Society of Ireland. ■*



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# THE HEROES OF TELEMARK

## *The Cobh Connection*

BY PATRICK B POLAND

In 1942, the only hydro-electric plant in the world capable of producing 'heavy water' (an essential ingredient for producing an atomic bomb) in significant quantities was at the Norsk-Hydro facility at Vemork, in Telemark, Norway, which had been occupied by the Nazis since April 1940. Situated on a precipitous rock shelf some 300m above a river, the plant was regarded by the Germans, with good cause, as virtually impregnable.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Franklin D Roosevelt were agreed on one thing: that the Nazis' capability of producing the world's first weapon of mass destruction must be stopped at all costs. The most efficient way that that could be achieved was by sabotaging the Norsk-Hydro plant, thus cutting off the supply at source. If this could be done it would allow the Allies to regain time lost in the race for the bomb.

The units tasked with the mission were 9 Fd Coy (Airborne) and 261 Fd Park Coy (Airborne) of the Royal Engineers, part of the 1st Airborne Division, and would be their first operation. The plan was for glider-borne landing in a remote area five hours' march from the plant. The towing aeroplanes would be guided by radio location devices operated by the Norwegian Resistance, who would lead the attacking party of 34 commandos to the objective.

Once the mission was complete, the group were to extract across the mountains into neutral Sweden – some 400km – and contact the British Consulate. This plan is now regarded as extremely naïve, as none could ski and, at best, they had learned a few basic Norwegian phrases, such as 'I am going to the dentist.' The operation, code-named 'Freshman', was an unmitigated disaster.



*The Vemork plant, where heavy water was produced for the Nazi atomic bomb programme.*

On a bleak evening on 19th November 1942 the group took off from RAF Skitten in Caithness, Scotland, in two wooden Horsa gliders towed by specially adapted Halifax bombers, for the daunting 400-mile journey across the North Sea to Norway.

In the first glider, commanded by 20-year-old Lt David Methven, was Lance Corporal Trevor Louis Masters of 9 Fd Coy, known as 'the Shiny 9th'.

Described as 5' 7" tall, with blue eyes and blond hair, Masters' service record shows that he was born in Glamorgan, Wales. At the time of the raid he was 25 years old and married to Teresa Jane (Jennie) née Keogh, of Harbour Terrace, Cobh. Jennie was pregnant with their first child, subsequently named Jean, who was born two months premature in February 1943, weighing just 2lbs.



*A Horsa glider being towed by a Halifax.*



*The ferry Hydro, sunk in February 1944 with its precious cargo of heavy water.*



*L/Cpl Trevor Louis Masters.*

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*The memorial at RAF Skitten in Scotland to the fallen of Operation Freshman.*



*The nominal list on the memorial.*

Trevor met Jennie while stationed with the Royal Engineers at Fort Carlisle (now Fort Davis), Whitegate, Co Cork, which was one of the Treaty Ports that remained in British hands up to 1938. Launches regularly brought the soldiers across the harbour to Cobh, which had a cinema, cafés and dance halls, and a regular train and bus service to nearby Cork City. During service in Aden, Trevor kept in contact with Jennie, and they married in St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh, on 11th July 1942. Within a fortnight, Trevor re-joined his unit in England.

They never saw each other again.

The mission soon became hampered by severe weather conditions. As they neared their destination they encountered dense, freezing fog and the planes and the gliders began to ice up. The tow-rope of the first aircraft froze solid and as it reached its objective the rope snapped, causing the glider to plummet into a mountainside north of Stavanger. Eight of the 17 men inside were killed, and four were badly injured, including Masters. The Halifax limped back to Scotland, landing on its last drop of fuel.

Meanwhile, some of the surviving soldiers made their way down the mountainside and sought help from a farmer, who said he would inform the Norwegian police, who would be in a better position to help. The police thought it impossible to keep medical assistance secret, and, with the consent of the commandos, sent word to the nearest German garrison. While they were waiting, Hjordis Espedal, the daughter of a local official, who was doing her best to treat the badly injured soldiers, recalled Masters showing her a picture of his pregnant wife.

The second Halifax and its glider crash landed at Helleland in southwest Norway, killing the Halifax crew instantly, along with three commandos in the glider. Of the remaining 14 survivors, 11 were practically unhurt. In the middle of the night two of them made it down the valley to the local police station. Again, the police said the Germans would have to be informed if a viable rescue mission was to be launched.

Upon arriving at the two crash sites, the Germans quickly concluded that their captives were commandos, having discovered sabotage equipment in the wreckage, a silk map displaying the Vemork plant circled in blue and with the escape route marked, as well as finding that the British soldiers were wearing shabby civilian clothing under their uniforms.

Although none of the captured soldiers was aware of it, they now came under the jurisdiction of Hitler's infamous 'Commando Order', which had come into effect just one month

before, and which prescribed the death sentence for anyone apprehended while participating in a commando raid. Hitler had specifically said: "Commandos are to be annihilated to the last man."

The group were imprisoned at Lagardsveien Gaol, where 14 men from the Helleland crash were shot. Of the remainder, those who were not badly injured in the crashes were sent to a concentration camp at Grini, near Oslo, where, after intense interrogation, they were killed in January 1943.

The four badly wounded who remained, including Trevor Louis Masters, were given lethal injections. After lapsing into semi-consciousness, they were subjected to abuse by the Gestapo; three being strangled and the fourth shot in the head. On the morning of 25th November 1942, the remains were collected by truck and driven to the quayside where a boat awaited. The four bodies were committed to the sea in deep water off the island of Kvitsøy. They have never been recovered.

Three months later, in one of the most physically challenging covert operations of WWII, a team of Norwegian Resistance fighters infiltrated the Vemork plant and caused significant damage with plastic explosives, and successfully withdrew without a shot being fired.

Later, in February 1944, when the Nazis decided to transfer the remaining heavy water to the relative safety of Germany, the Resistance blew up the ferry and its cargo over the deepest part of Lake Tinn, where they reposed to this day.

On 8th May 1985 in Stavanger, on the 40th anniversary of Norway's liberation, memorial services for the 41 who died in Operation Freshman were held in the presence of Princess Astrid of Norway, the British Ambassador, Norwegian dignitaries, and members of the 1st Airborne Division, including its former commander, Maj Gen RE Urquhart. Among the distinguished attendance was Jean Dahill (née Masters), accompanied by her husband, Bernard, and Hjordis Espedal, who had given succour to her grievously injured father almost 43 years previously.

Jennie, who never remarried, passed away in 1964, and their daughter Jean died in May 2014.

The compiler is indebted to the O'Connor family of Cobh for assistance with this article. ■



*Jean Dahill (née Masters, right), and Hjordis Espedal in Norway, 1985.*



*Trevor and Jennie on their wedding day.*

# An Cosantóir 10K ROAD RACE 2018

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS: SGT COLIN LAWLOR AND ARMN JAMIE BARRETT

**T**he largest event in the Defence Forces competitive sporting calendar took place on Wednesday 10th October 2018, as participants took to the roads in the Phoenix Park for the 39th annual *An Cosantóir* 10K Road Race and 5K Walk. As always a strong turnout of competitors from all over the DF along with veterans and invited guests and there was many more personnel in McKee Bks for the displays and atmosphere.

There were no surprises in the Senior Male category as Pte Kenneth Rodgers, 12 Inf Bn won again for the 8th time. He came in at an impressive time of 32.27, which was 20 seconds faster than his winning time last year. Coming back on last years' win, Cadet Elizabeth Carr, won her second Senior Female category in a time of 38.34.

As well as winning some of the individual categories the Naval Service took the Team event also and were followed by 6 Inf Bn and 28 Inf Bn respectively. The NS team consisted of: PO Darren Molloy (34:03), AB Enda Cloake (34:34), CPO Graham Swords (36:13), PO Connor McCrory (36:58), AB Michael Coakley (37:54), and CPO Cian McParland (43:07) in a combined time of 3:42:49. The 6 Inf Bn were looking for their 10th consecutive win in this event and were not far behind with their combined total of 3:45:27. Most notable was the 28 Inf Bn who had two other teams in the 4th and 5th spots too.

A block run event preceded the main race, where units/formations enter as a group of 25 runners – and need 20 finishers to qualify. This event creates a great 'esprit de corps' and team building with all runners working together to win. Out of 14 Blocks the winning bragging rights went to the 27 Inf Bn (41.03), followed by the Cadet School 'A' (41.47) and 7 Inf Bn (42.35) respectively. Most notable blocks were the first ever 'all female' block and the DF bag pipers who wore kilts – thankfully it wasn't windy.

Defence Forces COS Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM addressed the packed gymnasium for the prize giving ceremony. The chief thanked everyone for taking part saying it was a, "great collective sporting event, which is inclusive of ages and gender." The COS also acknowledged that it was World Mental Health Day and that sporting events such as this and any sports and athletics were good for your mental health. The COS and the Dir of Public Relations Lt Col Oliver Dwyer both thanked our sponsors ANASC Credit Union, Friends First and Druid Craft for their continued support. Lt Col Dwyer also thanked J7 Branch, OC McKee Bks, Catering Staff, MPs, medics, CIS staff, An Garda Síochána, the Office of Public Works (OPW) and to everyone whose efforts made the race possible.

So to all those who took part we offer a big 'thank you' for making the event what it is, in particular, the organising committee, the *An Cosantóir*/Information Office, J7 Branch and all those who gave a hand on the day like PTIs, logistics, McKee Bks catering centre and our work party from the 27 Inf Bn who really got stuck in on the day. ■





*Lt Col Oliver Dwyer presents the Phoenix trophy to the NS winning Team on behalf of ANSAC Credit Union*

*Robert Connell from Friends First presents the winning shield to 27 Inf Bn*



*COS Vice Admiral Mellett presents Senior Winners Cadet Elizabeth Carr and Pte Kenneth Rodgers with their trophies.*



*Block Winners: 27 Inf Bn*



#### **THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:**

Male Senior	1st	Pte Kenneth Rogers, 12 Inf Bn	32:27
Male Senior	2nd	Comdt Mark Conway, 2 CIS	33:33
Male Senior	3rd	AB Enda Cloake, Naval Service	34:34
Male O/35	1st	CPO Graham Swords, Naval Service	36:13
Male O/40	1st	PO Darren Molloy	34:03
Male O/45	1st	Cpl Brendan McCarthy, 2 Cav Sqn	40:16
Male O/50	1st	Lt Col Johnny Whittaker, 6 Inf Bn	39:07
Male O/55	1st	Pte Mark Bulman, 1 Bde Tpt	40:41
Veteran Male	1st	Comdt Fabian Flood Retd, Air Corps	41:07
Guest Male	1st	Mr Paul Mahon, DFB	39:05
Female Senior	1st	Cadet Elizabeth Carr, Cadet Sch	38:34
Female Senior	2nd	CQMS Jackie Wykes, 2 Arty Regt	42:37
Female Senior	3rd	Pte Aoibheann McColgan, 28 Inf Bn	53:47
Female O/35	1st	Cpl Amanda McDonald, DF BW	55:42
Female O/40	1st	Pte Eucharia Gould, 1 Bde HQ	1:01:20
Guest Female	1st	Ann Marie Kenny, DFB	42:19
Veteran Female	1st	Debbie Carr, Air Corps	49:47

**The results for 2018 can be viewed online on [www.myrunresults.com](http://www.myrunresults.com) or this link: <https://bit.ly/2pNJA0w>**

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## BIKERS SHED

Is a place for all bikers no matter of gender age or experience to come to share experiences or help a fellow biker buddy out, learn and teach making more experienced riders, reducing road deaths. All Are respected, valued and belong, and can comfortably use and pass on their practical skills and knowledge.

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- Can come together and help out fellow biker friends.
- Can just come and have a chat and a cuppa.

Derek Gannon is a serving member of the Defence Forces and a motorcycle enthusiast, he set up the Bikers Shed with a friend for other like minded people: *"The Bikers Shed is free to use and works on donations, we are currently looking for any tools i.e. spanners, sockets etc. you may have gathering dust, which will be put to good use. All donations greatly received."*



Motorcyclists are over-represented in collision statistics in Ireland: less than 2% of licensed vehicles but 10% of road deaths. They are six times more likely to be killed on Irish roads than any other road user. According to the road collision fact book, 29 motorcyclists were killed and 494 injured on Irish roads in 2007. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) figures, a motorcyclist is two to three times more likely to be killed in Ireland than in other European country.

Check us out: [www.facebook.com/groups/bikershed](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bikershed)  
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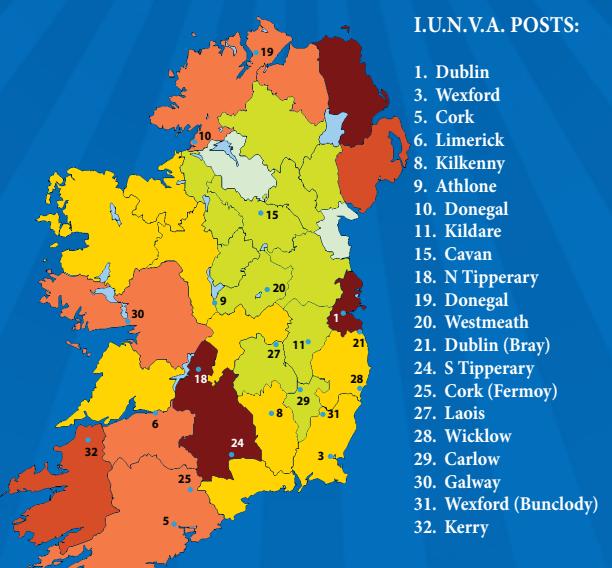
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LAST MONTH'S WINNER:

David McKenna, Co Roscommon

# BOOKS BOOKS

## A CONCISE HISTORY OF MCKEE BARRACKS

**Authors:** Ronnie Daly & Paul O'Brien  
**Publisher:** A Defence Forces Publication, (November 2018)  
 Printed by Defence Forces Printing Press

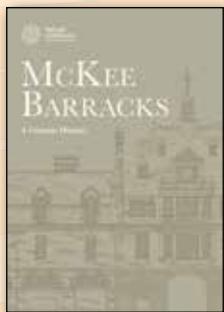
Those of us that have been fortunate enough to have been given a guided tour of McKee Barracks by former member of the Defence Forces, Ronnie Daly, know of his wealth of knowledge on the barracks and those that lived and worked within its confines. A Concise History of McKee Barracks is Ronnie's first book and with it he has dispelled many of the myths associated with the barracks and set a very high standard for future barrack histories.

Formerly known as Marlborough Barracks, the book takes in the conception of the complex, the construction of the barracks and the initial occupation by British Forces in the 1880s. This is very interesting and some research has gone into these particular chapters as the author describes the daily lives of those serving and the barrack routines at that time. Of particular interest is the cavalry trooper's preparation for inspection and the 'spit and polish' required for various parades.

The book also takes in turbulent periods in our nation's history such as the Rising, the War of Independence, the Civil War and the handing over of the barracks to the National Army. The decades that followed are also covered, with the history continuing up to modern day.

Daly has enlisted Military Historian and regular contributor to *An Cosantóir*, Paul O'Brien, whose writing skills make this publication a very easy and enjoyable read.

Both authors, Daly and O'Brien, must be commended for this work and I hope that this book, its content and layout, will be a template for future barrack histories as a series is long over due. **PC**



## BATTLES THAT CHANGED HISTORY

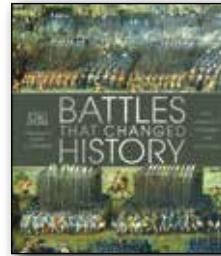
**Authors:** Philip Parker, R.G. Grant, Andrew Humphreys, with foreword by Sir Tony Robinson  
**Publisher:** Dorling Kindersley / Penguin Random House Publishing (September 2018) [www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)  
**ISBN:** 978-0241301937  
**Pages:** 256  
**Price:** €30 Hardback

This glossy, coffee table book, is a lavishly illustrated guide to over 90 of the world's most significant battles. Containing colour and black and white photographs and plates this work brings to life numerous battles that impacted upon the history of the world.

In five chronological sections, *Battles That Changed History* explores the battles that shaped global history – from the ancient world to World War 1, the cold war and beyond. Each battle is given its own chapter and is accompanied by photographs, maps and drawings that tell the story behind the battle, why it happened, and the lasting historical impact it left on those involved and the world in general.

Some of the battles covered are Actium (31BCE), the Siege of Jerusalem (1099), Naseby (1645), Balaklava (1854) and Stalingrad (1942-43). The book shows readers how fateful decisions led to glorious victories or crushing defeats, whilst specially commissioned maps explain how the battles unfolded. Key military leaders are also profiled that include Alexander the Great, Napoleon and Rommel.

With Christmas just around the corner this book would make an ideal gift for the novice military historian. **PO'B**



## KILKENNY: IN TIMES OF REVOLUTION 1900-1923

**Author:** Eoin Swithin Walsh  
**Publisher:** Merrion Press, (August 2018) [www.irishacademicpress.ie](http://www.irishacademicpress.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1785371974  
**Pages:** 350  
**Price:** €19.99 PB

In recent months there have been a number of books published that centre on a particular county and their involvement in Ireland's struggle for independence.

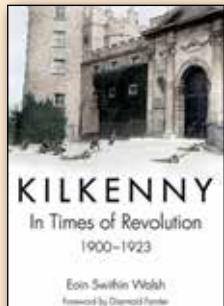
*Kilkenny: In Times of Revolution 1900-1923* comes under this category.

The author sets out to dispel many myths that arose during this turbulent period, one in particular being veteran IRA leader Ernie O'Malley's criticism of County Kilkenny, when he accused its volunteers as being 'slack' during the War of Independence.

Though local histories are often overlooked they hold a wealth of information for historians everywhere and this book is no exception. Making the use of good archival material such as the Bureau of Military History Statements, newspapers and collections in the National Archives, the story of the county has been painstakingly put together. This gives the reader an almost first hand experience of what went on almost one hundred years ago in County Kilkenny.

Of particular interest are the casualty lists for the War of Independence and the Civil War. There are a number of black and white photos as well as an excellent map of Kilkenny City depicting the battle for the city during the Civil War.

Though this book is academic in layout, the author states that it has been written with the aim of being accessible to all readers and this he has achieved. This well researched and well written book comes highly recommended. **PO'B**



# NOTICEBOARD

## REMEMBERING BOYLE'S BAND OF BROTHERS

BY WILLIAM BEIRNE, CONNAUGHT RANGER'S ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

**A**t 11am on the 11th November 2018 a memorial will be unveiled in King House in Boyle precisely 100 years to the hour and day the guns finally fell silent on the western front, the Great War had ended.

With the support and goodwill of Roscommon County Council the Connaught Ranger's Association (CRA) committee will realise its final aim - to unveil a memorial to the 127 men of Boyle and its environs who lost their lives in the Great War. These men saw Boyle as their home and that is reflected on their enlistment papers which bar one name was the procedure the CRA pursued to come up with the many names on the memorial. It is a fitting tribute that these soldiers, who came

from all backgrounds and religions from the town and countryside around Boyle, will finally be remembered by name along with the numerous units they served and died with. The unveiling will take place in the Connaught Rangers Association's 'Room of Remembrance' in King House, where photographs of soldiers who were killed serving with the Connaught Ranger's Regiment hang from the walls. It is also fitting that this memorial will be located in King House as many of the soldiers who are being remembered would have served in King house when it was a military barracks, or would have enlisted there before seeing active service abroad during the war. In one sense they have finally come home.

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Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Cormac Smith, Co Dublin . Closing date is 19th November 2018.



## NAME

PAUL ROCHE

## RANK

LIEUTENANT (NS)

## UNIT

TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT (TSU),  
NAVAL SERVICE RESERVE (NSR)

**N**aval reservist Lt (NS) Paul Roche is presently tasked with recruitment for the Naval Service Reserve (NSR), “this is challenging but a vital part of the NSR, as new recruits are the lifeblood and the future of the NSR so it is critical to get it right.” Lt Roche has been trained in the Candidate Manager System and has also received further training from J7 branch on interview techniques. Included in this task is being the Point of Contact (POC) for NSR content on the Defence Forces’ website [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie). Paul makes himself available for this duty two Monday mornings out of every month. “Not all tasks can be met during this time so I complete a lot of phone calls and e-mails while off base in personal time.”

He added. “Work in the Technical Support Unit (TSU), is very interesting as the tasks can be so diverse. This has included reviewing training syllabi, delivering training course content, carrying out a small boat survey, flood water relief operations review, sail training, damage control and firefighting, ceremonial duties and being available for seagoing relief as I hold a Naval Watchkeeping Certificate.”

Paul said he views the NSR as a second career due to the enhanced learning opportunities which complement his professional work life. Paul’s main career is with P&O Ferries where he is serving as Senior Ship Master and responsible for up to 8,000 passengers a week during the summer. P&O Ferries has been very supportive of my reserve commitments down through the years, granting additional leave and being flexible in adjusting work commitments. [www.poferries.com](http://www.poferries.com)

Paul has been at sea since 1985, “One thing I’ve learned is that the maritime environment is very unforgiving, even for professional mariners. I was on board LÉ Róisín (P51) when tasked with a Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission for the air crew of Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue 116 in 2017. It was a very steep learning curve, providing invaluable experience in command and control for crisis response in maritime SAR operations. The professionalism and seamanship demonstrated by the Officers, NCOs and Ratings in tough sea conditions were exemplary; from the initial task, co-ordinating the search and rescue response, to launching and recovering boats safely. As an additional officer I was able to contribute my experience and training to support the command team having previously been involved in other Search and Rescue Missions.”

Paul explained that there are certain maritime skillsets transferable within the Merchant Marine and the Naval Service. Ship handling, navigation, ship stability, SAR training and international maritime regulations are all common, and with a little orientation training, can be aligned with NS procedures. “The world class coastal navigation skills I’ve picked up in the NS enhance those of my Merchant Navy job. However, there are significant differences as I found during training evolutions on LÉ Róisín. It was very clear that the ethos of the Naval Service

*is to maintain the fighting platform whereas in the Merchant Marine the preservation of life at all costs is the fundamental principal, even if it means losing the ship.”*

Other aspects of Paul’s career can contribute to the Naval Service. He recently completed a Master of Science Degree in Maritime Management where Naval Officers contributed to his thesis on task unrelated thought (which effectively constitutes mind wandering) affecting ship handlers. The completed thesis was circulated to Naval Command and he delivered two technical papers at conferences which were well received in both the maritime and aviation industries. *An Cosantóir* hopes to publish Paul’s article on this topic soon.

Paul’s volunteer work also includes working at the United Nations Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as technical advisor for the Nautical Institute. “Sitting on the Technical Working Groups required working with delegates from different governments such as the UK, USA, Russia, China and Germany to name but a few.”

From 2011 to 2014 Paul was an external examiner for Nautical Science in the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), where he had excelled in his undergraduate degree.

“I have spent 33-years in the Reserve Defence Forces and the training received and experienced gained has been invaluable to my personnel and professional development. However, for me it has always been about the people and of lifelong friendships, both PDF and RDF, during my service that I value the most.” ■





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