

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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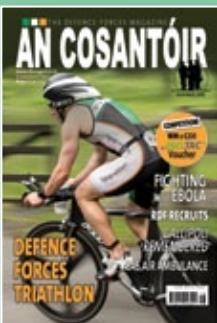


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**Front Cover**

Pictured is a participant in this year's DF Triathlon by Sgt Karl Byrne.

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

# Editorial



**H**ello and welcome to our bumper July and August issue, which has 8 extra pages and a 2-page poster included. The A3 poster designed by Sgt Mick Burke which features photographs from Sgt Karl Byrne and Cpl Neville Coughlan of the SRAW weapon being fired - shows a great collaboration.

As ever this issue starts with your photos standing tall *On Parade*. *In Focus* features two pieces on Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) Post 32 Kerry and Post 27 Portlaoise. In *Veteran's News* we have four photos from Galway, Dublin, Tipperary and Athlone. Our first main story comes from the 2nd Medical Detachment in Sierra Leone who are *Fighting Ebola*.

In our front cover story *Emergency Aeromedical Service*, we not only get to hear about this great life saving joint services provision, but also to celebrate its 1,000th mission. Our next main article is on the *2nd Weapons Intelligence Team* course and how WIT trained personnel are attaining lasting institutional benefit. In *Sharp Shooters*, I visited our close colleagues in 105 Airborne and Imagery Squadron, who were running an Air Corps Photography course, we also spoke to the five students and got to see some of their fine work. On page 20 we have a feature congratulating *PROTAC* on *20 Years of Service to the Defence Forces community* and we thank them for their generous competition of a €200 voucher.

*In Reserved Judgment: 7 Inf Bn RDF Recruits*, Eoin O'Shea now a recruit follows up on his previous article about joining the RDF. Next RDF Sgt Stephen Conran informs us about his journey as the first RDF member to participate in a motorcycle *Escort of Honour*.

In *Strategic Review*, Cian Moran a PhD candidate, Hardiman Fellow at NUI Galway and a serving member of the RDF reminds us of the terrible 1994 Rwandan Genocide in *The Devil's Dancefloor*. In the first of our *History* features, Terry McLaughlin reminds us of the *Disaster in the Dardanelles* on the 100th anniversary of famous Gallipoli battles of WW1. Then we have a WW2 feature by author Stephen O'Connor in Irish Officers in the British Forces, 1939-45, where an approx 8,000 Irish volunteers served in the commissioned ranks. In *Sport*, Comdt Máirtín Coffey gives us an update on this year's *Defence Forces Triathlon*, and we have the results of the *DF One-Wall Handball Championships 2015* by Sgt Eric O'Brien. Plus we have all our regular features and reviews.

**COMPETITIONS:** Don't forget to check out our competition on Page 20.

Winner of last Month's The Hobby Den €50 voucher was Alan Kelly, Kinnegad.

**Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor**

## IN MEMORY OF SGT PATRICK GILLEN RETD

By Lt Col Kevin Byrne Retd, Air Corps

A short while before his death late last year, Patrick Gillen was presented with the Legion d'Honneur by the French Ambassador while he was in hospital in Cork. Pat, as he was known, was being honoured for his efforts in the liberation of France on D-Day, June 1944 (See *An Cosantóir* June 2015). On a recent visit to Normandy two of his nieces, Linda Gillen-Byrne (my wife) and Ann Gillen, daughters of Michael 'Chick' Gillen from Galway, laid a wreath in his memory, and that of his comrades, at the Commando Memorial in the village of Amfreville, north-western France. The No 6 Commando Bde, of which Galwayman Pat Gillen had been a member, occupied a farm in the village for forty days. After the war Pat moved to Cork City where he lived for the rest of his life.





## COLLINS BKS OPEN DAY ▲

Minister of State Mr Paul Kehoe TD, and members of the Dept. of Defence visited Collins Bks, Cork on 20th May 2015, when a public open day was held. Pictured is CQMS Gerry Whyte providing a brief on the Michael Collins room in the Collins Bks Museum to (L/R): Mr Garry McDonagh, Private Secretary to the Minister of State, GOC 1 Bde, Brig Gen Kieran Brennan (now Maj Gen D COS Ops), Mr Brian Spain, Dept. of Defence and Minister of State Mr Paul Kehoe TD. Photo by: Sgt D. Sheehan, HQ 1 Bde



## SECURITY SECTOR REFORM WORKSHOP ▲

The United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI), held its first Security Sector Reform Workshop in partnership with the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) on 6th May 2015. 45 participants attended the Workshop from the Army, Naval Service, Air Corps, An Garda Síochána and 3rd level institutions. Pictured is Col Eamon Caulfield, Comdt of the Military College (CMC), the guest speaker, Lt Gen Marc Caron (Retd), Former Head of the Canadian Army and former UN SSR advisor to the President of Guinea, Mr Mark Downes, Head of ISSAT and Comdt Jonathon Marley. Photo: Capt Deirdre Carbery, UNTSI



## 1ST INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS COURSE ▲

The 1st International Protection of Civilians Course concluded in UNTSI on Friday 15th May 2015. CMC Col Eamon Caulfield and Course Director Comdt David Foley are pictured with the 40 students representing the UK, Germany, An Garda Síochána, 1 Bde, 2 Bde and the DFTC. Photo: Capt Deirdre Carbery, UNTSI



## AVIATION FIRE-FIGHTING COURSE ▲

Pictured are the students and instructors of the current Basic Aviation Initial Fire-Fighting Course, being ran in 506 Sqn, No 5 Sp Wing, Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel at present. They are (L/R) Back Row: Cpl Everitt, Pte Sheridan, Pte Moran, Pte McSheffrey, Pte Dempsey, Armn Winters, Mr Neil Crosby and Sgt Dominic. Front Row: Tpr O'Reardon, Ptes Brown, Ferris, Doyle, Brophy and Steele. Photo by: Cpl Lee Coyle, PR Branch



## OPERATION 'CLEAN SWEEP' ▲

27 Inf Bn completed an unprecedented clean sweep in the PDF 2 Bde Small arms shooting competitions recently, winning the rifle, GPMG, pistol and falling plates competitions as well as winners in the RDF rifle and pistol competitions. Photo by: Lt John McNamara (RDF).



## FAREWELL EDDIE ▶

On 28th May 2015 a presentation was held in the NCOS Mess, McKee Bks for the long standing and well known CQMS Eddie Byrne, who had retired just shy of 40-years service. Eddie enlisted on 27th August 1975 and except for recruit training with the 2 Fd Arty Reg, had spent all his career in the Signals Corps, starting with AHQ Sigs renamed to DFHQ CIS, up to his retirement on 14th April 2015. He is pictured here receiving a soldier statue from Lt Col Mark Staunton, OC DFHQ CIS. Photo by: Sgt Mick Burke, PR Branch



### ALL ARMY MARKSMAN ▲

Sgt Jason Caulfield, F Coy, 3 Inf Bn (Waterford) a member of the RDF since 1988, and is a postman in Waterford City in his civilian occupation. He has achieved success in rifle marksmanship at Coy, Bn and Bde level but always fell just short of achieving his long-term goal of winning the prestigious All Army Rifle competition. However, in Finner Camp, this year he achieved what all military marksmen aspire to, taking first place with the highest score in the All Army rifle competition. This is the first year both the PDF and RDF shooting teams amalgamated to compete on the same rifle competition. Well done and congratulations from all 3 Inf Bn Officers, NCOs and other ranks who are very proud of his achievement. *Photo: John Farrell*



### ALL ARMY WINNERS 2015

Pictured at the All Army Shooting Competition in Finner Camp recently are the Falling Plates Winners: 1 Cn Cois. They are: L/R: Pte McCormack, Cpl McCormack, Sgt Madden (Team Captain), Lt Col Carroll (OC 1 Cn Cois), Pte McCormack, Pte's Keenan, Hogan, Phelan and Nugent. *Photo by: Pte David Hogarty, 2 Bde HQ*



### “EXERCISE BLUEBIRD” ▲

Pictured on 23rd May 2015 during “Exercise Bluebird” in Sector West HQ, UNIFIL in South Lebanon, are from L/R: Capt Miciotto, Maj Caputo, Col Potenza, Maj Karanjder, Comdt David O’Shaughnessy, Col Harju, Gen Cuoci, Lt Pioli and Lt Col Kurkenen. The 48hr exercise was in order to assist with the mass evacuation of UN civilian employees of approx 500 personnel. Comdt O’Shaughnessy (Tactical Command Post Commander) briefed Gen Salvatore Cuoci (SW Cdr) on the situation as it developed. *Photo: Comdt O’Shaughnessy*



### UN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPERS DAY ▲

Members of the 48 Inf Gp participated in the UN International Peacekeepers Day in Camp Ziouani on 29th May 2015. Where OC 48 Inf Gp, Lt Col Mark Prendergast laid a wreath on behalf of the Irish Contingent and Father PJ Summers conducted a mass in memory of all the military and civilian peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the service of peace. *Photo by: Cpl Ronan Matthews, 48 Inf Gp*

### MAKING HISTORY ▲

The 6 Inf Bn won the All Army 81mm Mortar Competition for the first time in the units history recently. Pictured with the winning team in front of Bn HQ, in Custume Bks, Athlone are: Lt Col David Goulding (OC 6 Inf Bn & Custume Bks), Comdt Michael Daly (OC Sp Coy, 6 Inf Bn), Sgt Maj Frank Prendergast (6 Inf Bn), Sgt Jinks (Team Capt) Cpl Kelly (CPO) and Sgt Murphy (MFC). Missing from photo are team members Pte Grehan and Pte McNally. *Photo by: Pte Aiden Sherlock, 6 Inf Bn*

### GOC DFTC STAND-DOWN

Brig Gen Seamus Ó Giolláin recently had his stand-down parade. He is pictured with the Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Conor O’Boyle who made a presentation of a Magee Gun to Brig Gen Ó Giolláin. *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



### EU NORDIC BATTLEGROUP ▲

Brig Gen Kieran Brennan, GOC 1 Bde (now Maj Gen D COS Ops), welcomed the EU Nordic Battlegroup Commander Col Thorbjorn Larsson to Collins Bks Cork on Friday 5th June 2015. Col Larsson was visiting the 180 Irish troops who make up the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) Task Force to the Battlegroup. He thanked them for their contributions before the Battlegroup stands down on 30th June 2015 after six months on standby. Pictured is Col Thorbjorn presenting Cpl Anthony Kingsway with the NBG15 coin. *Photo by: AB David Jones, NS*

## IUNVA POST 32

BY JOHN WADE, SECRETARY, IUNVA POST 32, KERRY

**P**ost 32 Kerry is now in its fifth year as an Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) Post. Tom Bermingham, the post chairman since they started, initially made contact with other UN veterans in Tralee and the surrounding areas and a meeting was held in the Kerins O'Rahilly GAA Clubhouse in July 2010. IUNVA's National Secretary, Dan Garland, and National Development Officer, Charlie Mott, both attended and briefed the assembled veterans on the organisation. Following the briefing, most veterans signed up. They now have 25 members who are either serving or retired and our membership is drawn from members of the Permanent Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána, and we have a few of members working abroad, who pay their annual fees and want to remain associated with IUNVA in Kerry.

The Post meets regularly and discusses any topic relevant to our aims and objectives. Members have also made overseas trips to Normandy and have recently taken part in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Boston. One of our members, John Wade, took up an invitation to take part in this year's St Patrick's Day Parade in Cabo Roig, Spain and, as a follow-up to that, more Post 32 IUNVA members will be travelling over there for that parade next year.

The Committee in Cabo Roig have extended an open invitation to all IUNVA members to travel over and to take part in the parade, which is the largest parade in Europe outside of Ireland. The event is organised by the local Irish community and, they have three former members of the Defence Forces on their committee, who have all seen service in Lebanon and Iran/ Iraq.

Several years on since its inception by local military enthusiasts, the Listowel Military Tattoo, which is held annually on the May Bank Holiday weekend, continues to grow in strength and popularity. Post 32 members again took part in this year's parade and wreath laying ceremony at the town square where, along with the American Legion, the Royal British Legion, the Irish Legion, the French Foreign Legion of Ireland and VIPs, laid a wreath on behalf of IUNVA.

Post 32 held their first 'Flag Day' in Tralee in 2014, which were very thankful and are particularly mindful of those many members of the public who said: "Thank you for the service you have given to our country and for your work overseas". We never expect praise for doing our duty, but it was heart-warming to receive such recognition for what we do at home and for what we have done, and continue to do, internationally in the service of peace.

Post 32 understands that members cannot always attend every meeting but there is an overwhelming wish by all of our members to be associated with and to be part of what we stand for.

It is impossible to close this article without mentioning our esteemed colleague John O'Mahony, survivor of that infamous Battle of At Tiri in Lebanon in April 1980, when we lost our comrades, Ptes Derek Smallhorne and Thomas Barrett, may they rest in peace. John is a proud member of IUNVA, and it's our privilege to know him and we trust justice will prevail and bring closure to all the families, friends and comrades, affected by the events of that fateful day.



Cabo Roig 2015



IUNVA POST 32 BOSTON St. Patrick's Day 2015



Post 32 members pictured at the Boston St. Patrick's Day, Listowel Military Tattoo and Cabo Roig Parades.



Post 32 members pictured at graves in Normandy in 2014 and features L/R: Tom Bermingham (Chairman), John O'Connor (Treasurer), Joe Hanley, John Gilbert and Alan Hanafin (Director of Ceremonies).

We would ask all UN veterans out there who are interested in becoming a member of IUNVA Post 32, Kerry, to contact the Post Secretary, John Wade, on 086 8033121. There are IUNVA Posts nationwide, please feel free to contact John who will be happy to put you in contact with the Post nearest to you or visit [http://iunva.ie/iunva\\_posts.html](http://iunva.ie/iunva_posts.html). ■

# IUNVA POST 27

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE

**W**hen you look back at your army career, whether you're still serving or retired, you always remember certain things like the friends you made, friends you've lost, overseas missions etc. You may however dismiss the fact that it doesn't necessarily have to end there and look forward to think, well what next? Where can I adapt my military knowledge and expertise to move forward and make a difference?

Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) Post 27 Portlaoise is such an outlet where you're previous skillsets can be utilised. As long as you are a United Nations (UN) Veteran you can become a member and wear the IUNVA beret.

Post 27 was first established in October 2004, it now has its office permanently located in Old Mil, Portlaoise since August 2013. It started out with over 30 members attending their first AGM in January 2005 and now has 52 members and growing. Within the post there are certain members with positions of importance so as to continue the smooth and efficient running of the post, them being the President Archie Raeside, Chairman Frederick O'Reilly, Secretary Timmy Coughlan, Treasurer Peter Early, Welfare Officer Michael Thompson, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Tommy Mooney, Parade Marshall Jimmy Shiels, House Manager Tony 'Barney' Flanagan and not forgetting the Daily Secretary Therese

Greene who works in the office Monday - Friday from 10 - 2pm. Before they got their permanent office in Old Mil they previously had to hold their meetings in a variety of different places such as John Egan's restaurant, the RDF hall and even out in the Birchwood community centre in Knockmay. The members of Post 27 had a UN memorial erected locally in Peace Park, not far from the post in honour of all those who gave their lives in the service of world peace with the UN. The members have also done plenty of work with the council, some of which was helping to clean out a section



of the local Triogue River, the painting of three houses for pensioners in Portlaoise Town and even helping to rehouse one of its own members after a house fire.

Speaking with a variety of the members of Post 27 it was clear that everything about the post is positive, from the work they do with the council to the help they do with the local community. As each member will tell you 'their door is always open' whether you're a civilian off the street, a serving soldier or just in need of some help. Talking to the house manager Barney Flanagan, who also had a big part to play in getting their current office, any of Post 27 services are available to anyone, whether it be their phones, computers (which were donated by ANSAC Credit Union), internet or if you just want to call in to talk to someone.

Members range from men in their 30s to 70s, which may seem like a big age gap but from talking with these men, age is nothing, your service in the army has no bearing on your position within the post, all are treated equally and previous rank isn't considered an issue. The one major thing that resonates through its members is the friendship and comradeship that exists between its members. The monthly meetings are always looked forward to and it's a great time to catch up with old friends, meeting with soldiers you may have served with home or overseas. The stories each soldier had to tell varied from harrowing experiences in the likes of the Congo (ONUC) and Lebanon (UNIFIL) to the humanitarian work done in Rwanda under severe security and health risks. No matter where a member served they all bring something from their experiences, everyone has a story to tell, both good and bad, some wishing they could forget and others never wanting to forget. For these men, sharing their experiences within the walls of Post 27 is what they love most about going to the meetings.

The future for Post 27 can only be bright, with the assistance and work they offer to the local community, membership levels always increasing, and the fact that the doors of Post 27 are always open to anyone in need of assistance. The members can hold their heads up high and be proud of IUNVA Post 27 and what it stands for 'Serving our Soldiers Past and Present'. ■



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

# SUMMER OF 75'

This picture was taken 40-years ago and shows graduates from University College Galway (UCG) at USAC in Renmore, Galway. With the recent retirement of Brig Gen Séamus Ó Giolláin (GOC DFTC) in May 2015, there are now two still serving: Col Peter Richardson and Lt Col John Phelan. The 29 officers who graduated from UCG (now NUIG) are photographed before their graduation ceremony on 16th July 1975. Front Row L/R: Lieutenants Trevor Kingston, Francis Kelly, George Kerton, Dermot McKeon, Patrick Phelan, Peter Richardson, Michael Kennedy. Second Row: Mathew Murray, Patrick McKenna, Michael Daly (RIP), Declan Lawlor, Peter Gallagher, Thomas Rigney, John Phelan. Third Row: Louis Culliton (RIP), Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Brian O'Keeffe, Michael O'Hanlon (RIP), Michael McMahon, Christopher O'Sullivan, John Ahern and Michael Hanrahan. Fourth Row: Dermot Igoe, John O'Reilly, William O'Flaherty, Gerald Fitzgibbon, Dermot O'Connor, Michael McDermott (RIP) and Séamus Ó Giolláin. Photo: Col George M Kerton Retd



## In Memory

The annual IUNVA Wreath Laying Ceremony took place at the UN Memorial in Arbour House, Dublin on Sunday 24th May 2015. Three DF members who died in Cyprus while serving with UNICYP peacekeeping mission in 1965 on their 50th anniversary were specially remembered. The tri-service wreath layers were Pte Saoirse Hogan 2 BAR, Athlone, A/B Noel Elliot NSR Dublin and Arvn Laura McHale, No 1 Ops Wing and along with Arvn Michael Whelan, No 4 Sp Wing who read out a poem he had previously written. Photo by: Cpl Colum Lawlor, 105 Sqn.

## Tipperary International Peace Award

Pictured are members of Post 24 and Post 5, IUNVA who performed an honour guard for UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's visit to the 2015 Tipperary Peace Convention on Sunday 24th May 2015 at Ballykisteen Hotel and Golf Resort Tipperary. The Secretary General was presented with the Tipperary International Peace Award. Photo: Stephen Dwyer



## International Peacekeepers Day

On 29th May 2015, 6 Inf Bn hosted a coffee morning for retired DF members in the NCOs mess in Custume Bks Athlone. In recognition of International Peacekeepers Day, members of Post 9, IUNVA and ONE formed up on the Barracks Square and marched out the gate to the remembrance monument for deceased members of the Defence Forces in Athlone Castle, where both groups laid wreaths. Comdt Shane Rockett (2 i/c 6 Inf Bn) is pictured both groups. Photo by: Joe Relihan & courtesy of Pte Aiden Sherlock, 6 Inf Bn



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# Fighting EBOLA

BY SGT MARTIN MOULES (2 MED DET, SIERRA LEONE)

**I first learned of Medical Corps personnel deploying to Ebola-affected countries on the morning of last year's Christmas break-up as we sat in the tea room preparing Irish coffees and awaiting the arrival of GOC DFTC, who was to address us.**

I spoke with one of my CMU colleagues who told me he was finishing off his vaccinations that day before heading to the UK in early January for an all-ranks brief prior to travelling to Sierra Leone to assist in the fight against the deadly Ebola virus.

I immediately started to check the statistics and investigated the matter a little bit more, as my only knowledge of Ebola at the time was what had been on the news. When I learned the job description for our personnel's mission, I became interested in replacing CMU's 1 Medical Detachment once they had complete their tour.

Once the Christmas and New Year's celebrations were over, I informed my wife and other family members of my intentions of travelling to Sierra Leone. Their immediate reaction to this was one of great concern, which I totally understood and expected as they had seen West African countries like Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea in the news for all the wrong reasons and had seen the number of Ebola cases increasing. However, after a couple of days of their own research they came to terms with it, and once I explained the nature of the mission, and the preventative measures that we would be imposing, they understood my desire to travel with 2 Medical Detachment.

Once selected for deployment in early March, Capt Kelly (MO CMU-DFTC Detachment) and I immediately drafted a training plan for the detachment based on what would best suit our needs in the UK and Sierra Leone. We decided that all four personnel deploying, Pte Brennan (CMU 2Bde), Armn Walsh (504 Sqn, Air Corps) and Capt Kelly and me from CMU DFTC, would undergo clinical placements on HSE ambulances in order to gain sufficient patient contacts; attend PPE training days in Beaumont hospital specifically preparing us how to react if and when we come in contact with Ebola-infected patients; and undergo a tactical emergency medical orderly (TEMO) course in the Medical School, which was conducted by Lt Col Paul Hickey (OC Med School) and Coy Sgt Dave O'Connor (CMU 2 Bde).

Once we completed this training it was time to pack the bags and make the short journey to the UK via ferry to undergo a three-day brief in Chillwell Bks, Nottingham, to familiarise us with the 'dos and don'ts' and what was expected of us once we deployed. We then travelled to Normandy Bks, home of 22 Field Hospital, in Aldershot, where we were put through our paces in



*Irish and British medical personnel carry a casualty to the HLZ*



a number of practical scenarios based on what we were most likely to encounter during our tour in West Africa.

So D-Day finally arrived and we set off on the first leg of a very long journey with a UK medical contingent also travelling to the mission area. From Heathrow airport we flew to Casablanca, Morocco, where the Air Morocco aircraft re-fueled before we headed on to Freetown in Sierra Leone.

Having previously served in Liberia and Chad, I got that familiar odour of Africa as soon as we stepped onto the tarmac.

In the terminal we had to go through security clearance, but not before washing our hands and having our temperatures checked a number of times; this was a sign of things to come as it was one of the preventive measures that were required no matter where you went in the country to help prevent the spread of the disease.

Next stop was International Security Advisory Team (ISAT) HQ, where we had to attend RSOI briefs that basically mirrored those we had received in the UK. Nevertheless, they had to be completed again just to be sure it was embedded



employed in Benguema Camp and those working in the Red Zone at the Kerrytown Treatment Unit (KTTU).

We are on call 24/7 for any medical emergencies in camp and we also run a sick parade in the Role 1 facility three times a day 0800hrs, 1400hrs and 2000hrs.

As the practice manager for the Role 1 in Benguema Camp, I'm responsible for maintaining sufficient amounts of stock, such as dressings, medications, IV fluids, medical Bergens, and any additional medical equipment we may require.

We also provide medical lessons for security personnel who are on down time or off shift in the camp. In addition to this we have responded to road traffic incidents involving aid workers and to a wide range of incidents in the KTTU, such as heat exhaustion, chlorine exposure/inhalation injuries to Red Zone workers, which can lead to a number of complications if



into our brains at this stage and to ensure none of us were to become complacent, as all it would take is one mistake to potentially put our colleagues or ourselves at risk of contracting Ebola.

At this stage our four-man team sent was split into two different camps. Pte Brennan and Armn Walsh have remained at ISAT HQ where there is a Role 1 & 2 medical facility for UK/Canadian/Irish troops and NGO staff to be treated should they need it.

Capt Kelly and I were transported to Benguema Camp, some 60 minutes away, which is occupied by UK and Canadian military personnel, with us being the only other nationality in the camp. Our role is to attend to the medical needs of personnel



not treated quickly.

In summary this is an enjoyable mission and possibly the busiest I have been deployed on to date. So far it's been an excellent experience and the nature of the mission means that the medical component is to the forefront.

The personnel on the mission includes highly trained specialists in medicine, nursing, pre-hospital trained experts, environmental health care, infection control, logisticians and other healthcare roles, all of whom are providing the expertise for us to assist in the fight to get Ebola down to zero, which is, after all, why we have been deployed to Sierra Leone. ■

# EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SERVICE

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE

**W**e all have that feeling of wanting to make a difference in life, always wanting bigger and better things for ourselves. But there are those out there that succeed in making a difference to other people's lives and sometimes that difference is life saving, life changing and sometimes even heroic. The Emergency Aeromedical Service (EAS) are those I am speaking of. It's a very rare day that the men and women of the EAS crew don't have some kind of positive effect on someone's life, shortening the time spent in transit from the scene of an accident to the nearest, or best, hospital for the patient.

The team itself is made up of six members; two pilots, a crewman emergency medical technician (EMT), an advanced paramedic (AP) from the National Ambulance Service (NAS), and two maintenance technicians.

The EAS and its AW139 are for the most time located in a very central location of Custume Bks, Athlone. The AW139 is a medium-lift, twin-engine heli that can normally carry up to 14 passengers but the ambulance-adapted version's capacity is four passengers plus a patient lying on the treatment table in the middle of the seated area.

Of course the patients don't just appear on the treatment table; the EAS crew are requested by the National Aeromedical Co-ordination Centre (NACC), who are responding to a hospital or ambulance service request for assistance.

The average day for the crew can sometimes seem very 'hurry

up and wait' as they rush around getting their preparatory tasks done before waiting expectantly for the call to action.

The day starts with the removal of the heli from the hanger by the aircraft techs for the P1 (pilot) to start, run, and complete the aircraft's ground checks. The heli is then connected to a ground power unit (GPU) to save the batteries for a flight. Then its onto the morning brief, normally carried out in the operations room where the P1 and the P2 (co-pilot) have access to the onscreen weather reports and webcams of coastal areas. (The pilots believe the use of the coastal CCTV is a fantastic way of seeing what the weather is actually like, rather than just a radar view onscreen.) The brief is very precise in its execution and includes info on the weather state, aircraft state, airports and aeromedical information. Also discussed is the weight and balance of the craft, fuel state, serviceability and upcoming maintenance.

After the P1's brief the crew is given the opportunity to add any info they may have that may have any effect on the day's possible lifts. After each crew member has had their input the wait is on.

The crew say that the mornings can often seem very long, as it seems most lifts take place in the afternoons. When a call does come in from the NACC, it comes in via the AP's work phone. He, or she, is given the details of the patient and the location of the lift. They immediately inform the pilots of the location of the possible job while staying in communication with the NACC. As the pilot's decision to make the lift or not must be based solely on the weather conditions or aircraft condition, the AP holds back the information about the patient in order not to influence the pilot's decision.

Once the P1 makes the call to fly, the AP lets the NACC know that they are taking the job. The NACC then gives the AP the latitude and longitude to the location of the patient or a predetermined landing zone and any other info on the patient that may be of importance.

## Benhaffaf Twins Visit The Air Corps

The Benhaffaf twins Hassan and Hussein along with mum Angie and sister Iman, returned to meet the crew that flew them to and from their separation surgery 5 years ago. The Air Corps completes over 400 aeromedical missions each year and usually only meets patients and families in very difficult circumstances. This was a far more joyous affair and as you can see Hassan and Hussein are two bundles of energy and joy, providing an inspiration to us all in their role as "Ambassadors of Happiness". Photo by: Aron Jamie Barrett, 105 Sqn





Minister for Health Leo Varadkar TD speaking at the EAS special event in Casement Aerodrome on 11th June 2015.  
Photo by: Cpl Brian Doherty, 105 Sqn

## Vox Pops

The P1 and a maintenance technician immediately head to the aircraft to get it started up and ready to fly. The rest of the crew start planning the route to the lift and to the drop-off point for the patient, whether it be a hospital or a waiting ambulance, checking the weather for the whole route.

The P2 uses Health Atlas to determine the landing zone (LZ) and Ordnance Survey Ireland and Google Maps for info on roads, grasslands, electrical wires and anything else that may affect choosing an LZ. Once all the info is gathered it's printed out for use en route, and the crew move to the heli.

While the P1 and P2 fly the aircraft to the LZ, the crewman is also checking and confirming that the navigation is correct. Once the LZ is located the heli lands and the AP, with the assistance of the EMT crewman, goes to work assisting with moving the patient into the heli. If it's a quick extraction the pilot will leave the rotors running so as not to cause any delay. The pilot also programmes the flight management system with the next route and ensures there is enough fuel to continue. After the crewman has confirmed with the pilots that it's safe to bring the patient aboard, he/she is boarded as quickly as it is safe to do so. During the flight the AP administers any medical aid that they can to try to keep the patient in a stable condition, constantly monitoring the patient and also communicating with the destination hospital. The EMT crewman goes back to checking navigation while also giving the AP any possible assistance. Once the destination is reached the AP exits the heli with the patient and hands over to the waiting medical staff, be it ambulance crew or hospital staff, giving them any info they may need.

Once a job is completed the NACC often have another waiting for the crew. The new route must be planned quickly and sitreps done straight away as the crew may not be back at home base for several hours.

Throughout the mission, the maintenance crew back in barracks are constantly updating Air Corps HQ and DFHQ of the situation. They are also ready to head out to deal with any mechanical or electrical issue that may arise with the heli.

After the flight crew are stood-down for the day, these unsung heroes have to continue working, giving the heli its daily inspection and dealing with any issues that may have arisen from the day's flights.

With the service completing its 1,000th mission, Minister for Defence Simon Coveney TD and Minister for Health Leo Varadkar TD had nothing but praise for the EAS at a special event held in Casement Aerodrome on 11th June 2015.

Minister Coveney said: *"Whilst the Air Corps has certainly set the benchmark during the pilot phase, and will continue to provide the service at its current level, as would be expected in implementing the report we must, and indeed are obliged to, keep an open mind as to the many different ways of providing the service, and to keep all options under consideration in the context of ensuring a sustainable long term arrangement."*

Minister Varadkar TD said: *"I congratulate the staff of the Air Corps, the National Ambulance Service, and the Coast Guard for completing 1,000 missions on the 26th May last. This is a great example of what can be achieved by government departments working in partnership. This service has been a great step forward in providing access to specialised emergency treatment for patients living in remoter areas. It is also of significance that one third of the missions have been in response to STEMI heart attacks, and have allowed these patients to be treated in a specialist setting within 90 minutes of diagnosis."*

**A massive thank you must be given to the men and women who provide this service. Without it many may not be here today, or may not have their current quality of life, and for that the Emergency Aeromedical Service must be commended. ■**

### Capt Paul Grennan (Co-pilot):



*"It's a nice change from the normal working day, it can be very busy but with that it can also be a very rewarding job, helping those in need of medical assistance"*

### Sgt Val Murray (Crewman EMT):



*"It's the best thing we can do in our job. It's by far the most rewarding job I do, between the crew there's great comradery. And nothing can beat that feeling of meeting a patient that you've helped in the past through the service"*

### Sgt Sylvester Johnson (Maintenance inspector):



*"Most rewarding part is the day to day work that helps save peoples lives, lads will tell you the same thing. It's the impact our work has that's the main thing"*

### Cpl Phil Byrne (Maintenance technician):



*"Out of all the things we do, this one has to have the most impact for the public. This job is never a training exercise, it's all real life in real time"*

### Kieran Henry (NAS Advanced paramedic):



*"There's a good combination of teamwork with the fusion of two services, with the one goal to achieve the optimum care for those people in need of assistance"*

# Weapons Intelligence Training

BY CAPT PHELIM GIBBONS, INSTR, ORD SCH, DFTC

*Physical evidence cannot be wrong, it cannot perjure itself, it cannot be wholly absent. Only human failure to find it, study it, and understand it, can diminish its value. Paul L Kirk 1953. Crime Investigation, NY*

**G**iven the continuing character of the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) problem, vigilant reflection is required to ensure that the necessary counter-IED capability and capacity exist to meet future threats across the spectra of military operations. The US Department of Defense's JIEDDO (Joint IED Defeat Organisation) estimates that in the past year there have been over 20,000 IED events worldwide that caused 50,000 casualties and that this problem is iterating, adapting and changing over time as physical and operative force-protection measures improve.

Since 2007 the Ordnance Corps has been to the forefront of developing a C-IED culture, nationally and internationally, exemplified by the training of up to 200 C-IED and weapons intelligence instructors, C-IED ISAF staff appointments, the fielding of new capabilities and involvement in the genesis, evolution, specification and staffing of the Theatre Exploitation Laboratory Demonstrator (TELDO) (18 month concept to "market"), the Multi National Theatre Exploitation Laboratory (MNTEL) and the Joint Deployable Exploitation Analysis Laboratory (JDEAL) under the aegis of the European Defence Agency.

The development of a national C-IED doctrine is also underway. The recently concluded Home Made Explosives (HME) and Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) courses and the upcoming C-IED Instructors course are proof of an adaptable approach to the concept of 'lessons learnt' and an ongoing commitment to the 'comprehensive approach' across agencies and services.

WIT training has emerged from the need for improved planning and interagency co-operation in C-IED operations, and this 'need' needs to be constantly addressed.

In February the Ordnance School conducted its second WIT course, qualifying 12 personnel as weapons intelligence investigators, and bringing the number of Defence Forces WIT investigators to over 50 since the first courses were conducted in 2011.

The course brought together EOD, military police and C-IED instructors over a three-week period and was divided into two phases. Phase one was of one week's duration in which data and analysis of IEDs, weapons, explosives, electronics, photography and forensics was delivered, along with explanations of the concepts and thinking underlying the necessity for weapons technical intelligence and the need for WIT in current operations. Phase two assessed the students practically as WIT

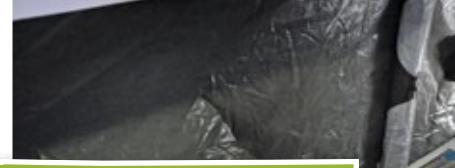
members and investigators and assessed the assimilation of knowledge and forensic exploitation techniques to Level 1 standard, culminating in an exercise that focused on post-blast analysis and the delivery of Level 1 reports

However, from a WIT perspective there remains work to be done to harmonise relations among organizations, and the examination of forensic and technical exploitation capability with multi-service/inter-corps concepts of operation is at a nascent stage here. Fruitful discussion and co-operation with the military police exists with regard to forensic exploitation but the utility of weapons technical intelligence and its associated teams needs further communication and acceptance at both the tactical and operational level.

It was very clear from our student feedback that Level 1 WIT qualifications would enhance the technical expertise of any soldier and provide obvious benefits in terms of intelligence gathering and force protection, but also that a WIT team can become a primary educative and informative pillar in a unit's development of a threat assessment.

Successful technical and forensic exploitation, which is the role of a WIT, has been proven to provide an alleviation of the costs of technological surprise in terms of personnel, money and equipment by delivering better intelligence to commanders when planning and prioritising their operations. WIT is also a direct contributor to the doctrinal C-IED lines of operation: attack the network, defeat the device and prepare the force.

The military decision-making processes must consider the myriad technical provisions that emerge from the deliberations of WIT investigations. Some of our students for example, were veterans of recent tours of duty in the Middle East and expressed, from a purely tactical standpoint, the value potential of a WIT in terms of the exploitation of an IED incident with the consequent data yield on incident geometry assisting friendly forces to recognise where an IED is emplaced or initiated.





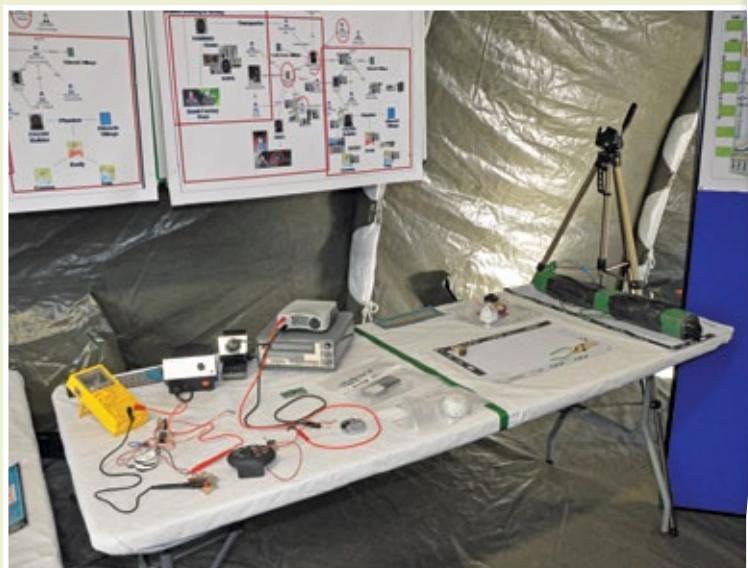
Ironically from an Irish perspective, weapons technical intelligence has been part of the Ordnance Corps' culture going back over 40 years to the commencement of the 'The Troubles'. It was put to some of us as students back in 2011 that we have in fact been compiling WIT Level 2 reports for years, although not in the modern C-IED context.

The Defence Forces has sole responsibility for EOD operations within the state and is legally engaged as aid to the civil power for EOD operations. Therefore, the relationship with our police force is not ad hoc in nature, which often characterises weapons intelligence exchange relationships when it comes to in other jurisdictions and theatres. The Irish experience conveys the long established practicalities of the interagency relationship, which is evidence that it is achievable conceptually.

Ideally, a WIT Team is part of a holistic, coordinated approach incorporating multiple units, disciplines, functions, and processes that support technical and forensic exploitation. Level 1 teaching provides the basics and of its own has proven responsive practical utility given the right combination of skills to examine scenes, collect evidence and exploit. The preventative function at level 1 is covered by training. The existence of specialist facilities such TELD and JDEAL brings us up to the realms of triage, biometrics, electronics and intelligence fusion, which requires indoctrination at national and European level. The scope of such facilities is of national and European import and their function and vision needs to be known by a wider technical and intelligence audience.

Finally, it is the duty of a WIT investigator to inform and educate. (It actually says so in the WIT Manual 2011.) The Irish Defence Forces have just trained 12 more WIT personnel and the enthusiasm at the course debrief was palpable. Soldiers have instinctive survival traits that Weapons Intelligence in

its complexity, when taught properly, grasps. It is essential that this expertise is not wasted or skills allowed to fade, and that the



successful completion of WIT courses is comprehended by the soldier and his superiors as having lasting worth and intrinsic value. ■

# SHARP SHOOTERS

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**A**t the start of this year five of 18 applicants were selected to undergo a photography course in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, with 105 Airborne and Imagery Squadron.

The four-month course, which is running from March to July, incorporates everything the photographer needs to produce top quality pictures as well as digital image manipulation using Photoshop.

Starting with basic camera settings, black-and-white film development and printing, the course moved on to lenses, shutter speeds, frame rates, F-stops, and colour.

By the time they finish the course the students will have learned a great deal about the fine art of digital photography and will be qualified to take everything from aerial images to passport photographs.

The instructors on the course, all from 105 Sqn, are Sgts Karl Cosgrave and Damian Faulkner, and Cpl Pat O'Meara and Brian Doherty.

Some of the tasks of No 1 Ops Wing and 105 Sqn that will see these new photographers utilising their skills include search-and-rescue top cover, escort surveillance and monitoring, army co-operation and reconnaissance.

The main task, however, is inshore and offshore maritime patrolling with the Air Corps' two Casa CN 235s. The two aircraft carry out daily patrols of the Irish Economic Zone, an area of approximately 132,000 sq miles that covers 16% of the EU's sea fisheries (almost five times the land area of Ireland), and is one of the most productive fisheries in the world. On these patrols, which can last up to eight hours, the photographer and his two sensor and radar operator colleagues record and collect data on all vessels that are encountered.

In addition, 105 Sqn photographers can be requisitioned (if available) by units throughout the Defence Forces to take photographs of training exercises, parades and special events.



*Laura Mc Hale*



## Vox Pops

### Gnr Jamie Martin, 2 Arty Regt, Athlone

"The course is great. I was interested because I studied photography in college while doing a degree in film. I also completed the 1st PR Photography Course last year in the MP Sch, Mil Col, and I've been a regular contributor of photographs to An Cosantóir and to the Defence Forces' social media pages over the last number of years. I'm originally from Dundalk but I'm happy to move to Baldonnel if successful."



### Pte Emmet Long, 3 Inf Bn, Kilkenny

"I chose this course as I have an interest in photography and I wanted to further my career. I had no previous knowledge of photography but after completing the bulk of the course I now feel I'm a decent enough photographer. I've passed all the exams so far but we still have a Photoshop exam and our final general test to go."



### Armn Aiden Friel, No 1 Ops Wing

"I've been serving for just over a year in 102 Sqn since recruit training. I completed the Ground Attendants Course which was four months long and enjoyed working in 102 Sqn. I've also completed a number of other courses already including the six month Commpop course in the School of Signals in the Curragh. I'm really glad I got this course, as photography was my hobby and now I can get the chance to make it a career."



### Armn Dillon Lacey-Byrne, No 1 Ops Wing

"I've been serving for just over a year in 102 Sqn since recruit training, I completed the Ground Attendants Course which was four months long and enjoyed working in 102 Sqn. I've also completed a number of other courses already including the six month Commpop course in the School of Signals in the Curragh. I'm really glad I got this course, as photography was my hobby and now I can get the chance to make it a career."



### Arwn Laura McHale, No 1 Ops Wing, Baldonnel

"I started my DF career with 2 Fd Arty Regt in McKee Bks but shortly after the reorg moved the unit to Athlone I got the Ground Attendants course in Baldonnel. After that I completed the Flight Attendants course, where I got to work with great people and travel a lot. I'm very grateful for the opportunities and experience so far, but to go for promotion and to extend my contract I needed more points, so I applied for the Photography course. It has been a long course but well worth it and I've now gone all the way from a 105mm gun to a 10-mega-pixel camera!"



BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

## Protac, which has a military equipment store on Market Green in the Curragh Camp, has been providing bespoke equipment and accessories to DF members for 20 years.

The business's owner, former 2 Inf Bn and CTD East corporal Seán Curtis, is a third generation soldier; his father having served with 5 Inf Bn during the Emergency, and his late grandfather fought in the War of Independence and went on to serve in the newly formed Free State Army.

Seán's military equipment business began with manufacturing belt pads, map cases and tac-aide covers. Responding to increasing demand, Seán registered Protac as a limited company in 1995 and began production on a much larger scale.

Seán says: "The business started off with the development of a belt pad and has continued to add new products up to our current combat vest. We always use DF members, both PDF and RDF, as a sounding board for developing our products. Military equipment has come a long way since I went into this business and I'd like to think we helped. In addition to members of the Defence Forces we have supplied equipment to foreign military personnel, including many operatives from Special Forces units like GSG9, GIGN, SKS, Cobra and the French Foreign Legion."

Protac products have appeared in many films and TV shows over the years, most notably Ultimate Force, starring Ross Kemp and written by former SAS Bravo Two Zero veteran Chris Ryan; US show Law & Order SVU; and Reign of Fire, starring Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey.

Seán's wife, Eileen, did most of the initial manufacturing, making the belt pads, tac-aide holders and kidney pouches. However, when the orders started to multiply they expanded to a factory in Newbridge, eventually employing 24 machinists. In 2000 they opened the Protac shop in the Curragh Camp.

The business was expanding beyond their expectations, but it was putting a lot of pressure on Seán and his health began to be seriously affected. As a result he made a decision to semi-retire by outsourcing all the manufacturing and concentrating their efforts at working in their shop and their online store [www.protac.ie](http://www.protac.ie).

Employing five staff, they still have the capacity to design and tailor samples and prototypes of bespoke equipment for local purchase and for the international market. The shop is still busy, selling many accessories and hard-to-find kit to PDF/RDF personnel on courses or passing through the camp, and to their regular customers who include members of An Garda Síochána, retired DF members, military enthusiasts, campers and scouts.

Protac sells everything from waterproof matches and knife, fork and spoon sets, to survival kits, extra webbing pouches, camo cream, torches, knives, map reading essentials, boots, model kits and paints, to clothing, including the now essential Snugpak jacket.

However, Eileen told us: "There is no one item that's a best seller, everything sells."

Seán is also the chairperson of AIME (Association of Military Enthusiasts), which runs the largest indoor military show in Ireland, a military vehicle and re-enactment show called Salute!, in the National Show Centre, Swords, every August.

In celebration of 20 years serving the wider Defence Forces community Protac are offering readers of *An Cosantóir* a chance to **win a €200 voucher** to use in-store or online.

**Question: How much is a pair of Viper Special Ops Gloves on protac.ie?** Email your Answer to [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) by August 19th.

They are also offering free shipping to *An Cosantóir* readers until 1st September 2015. (Use free shipping code: ancosfreeship)

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[www.facebook.com/protacmilitary](http://www.facebook.com/protacmilitary)



Minister for Finance Charlie McCreevy with Eileen and Seán at the opening of the new Protac store in the Curragh, from *An Cosantóir* February 2000 article 'Top Gear' by Sgt Terry McLaughlin.



Eileen and Seán outside the Protac store in 2015.

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# RESERVED JUDGMENT

## 7 Inf Bn RDF Recruits

BY RECRUIT EOIN O'SHEA



**B**ack in May, as I awaited attestation, I wrote an article about what faced recruits joining the RDF. Since then, 35 of us have sworn our oaths, joined 5 Platoon, D Coy, 7 Inf Bn, based at Cathal Brugha Bks, and begun our training. Training evenings to date have seen us handling administrative matters, attending lectures on DF regulations and military law. We have taken our first steps (literally) in terms of foot drill, with orders as Gaeilge. Back in the day, my school Irish involved more 'Bhí faoin tuath faoi bhrat bán sneachta', and far less 'Le heatraibh ó dheis-deasaig!'. Needless to say, it's been a steep learning curve concerning even the basics. However, despite many mistakes there's no mistaking the sense of growing pride we take in progressing towards the goal of serving as enlisted personnel in the Army Reserve.

As someone interested in human behaviour, I can't help but be struck by how quickly we are learning to change mindset – working together as a unit (or trying to in our early way, at least).

Our NCOs treat us with a strict fairness; we are supported but not pampered. We have much to learn but also much to lean on – including each other, recently met as we are. Against the backdrop of Cathal Brugha Bks square, our collective wish to progress and begin full-time training (FTT) later in the summer grows every week.

The members of our platoon, all but one of whom are male, joined for different reasons and this month I want to present a sample of their varied goals and experiences to date.

### RECRUIT SEÁN O'TOOLE

"My father served in the PDF for 25 years and I've a number of relatives who have served as well. I was attracted to the RDF as I saw it as the perfect start into a long-term career in the military. Gaining practical experience in a military setting would be a great asset to have going into the PDF, as the culture shock wouldn't be as much as for the 'average Joe' enlisting out of a



civvie job. Plus, I could never, ever pass up the opportunity to become a soldier, part-time or not.

"I hope it will give me an insight into the military way of life, give me valuable discipline, and teach me the basics of the standard two-star infantry private – and of course to give me that extra little bit of confidence when the PDF opportunity comes.

"My long-term aspiration is to join the Army Ranger Wing. It's the hardest challenge you can face in the Defence Forces but I'm going to give it everything I have and then some. Also, I'm greatly interested in boxing, which I'd like to continue within the army. In terms of a unit, I would like to serve with 7 Inf Bn PDF as I've grown to know the barracks, the people, and how the battalion operates; it's close to home and it's also where my military career has begun."

### RECRUIT CIAN FUSCO

"I have applied for a cadetship in the PDF and have taken the preliminary tests. I joined because I knew that training with the RDF would give me a taste of military life and help me to confirm whether I truly wanted it. I hope it'll be recognised, too, that I'm dedicated to doing this when the time comes to review my commitment.

"I'm interested in the military because of the opportunities available to me as a young man. I never had myself pegged as a guy that would sit at a desk for hours on end but wanted to do something where I was valued at my craft."

"As for our training here so far, it took a little while to get used to marching everywhere and being disciplined about everything, regardless of the task."

### RECRUIT LAURA HAYDEN

"Initially I didn't think too much about being the only female in the platoon. But then my friends and family started asking: 'How many other girls are in your platoon?' When I said I was the only female, I received quite surprised reactions from them all and while this gave me a strong sense of pride, I must admit that I also started to worry about a couple of things. Mainly, the reception I would receive from the rest of the recruits and also the physical aspects of training."

"Thankfully, my worries about discrimination/sexism were quickly eased when our A7 lectures covered these issues early on. They were further eased by the respect and equality that I am shown on parade each week. In terms of the physical aspect, the fact that I will have no other females to compare my fitness level with has only made me more determined and motivated to improve my physical strength and ability in order to prove my worth when PT comes around."

"My ultimate goal is to join the PDF, something that has always appealed to me and I feel that the RDF is a great gateway into doing so. In the meantime I hope to pass-out successfully as a two-star private and I look forward to forming a strong bond with my fellow recruits."

"I can honestly say the parade every Wednesday evening is the highlight of my week and I can only hope this enthusiasm continues to grow with the rest of my journey."

"Young people can benefit greatly from joining the RDF and learning many great skills that can be applied across all aspects of their lives. These include discipline, respect, unity, routine, time management, and wellbeing. I also feel that the RDF gives young people the opportunity to express their patriotism in a healthy way."

### RECRUIT STEVE BURKE (WHO STANDS OUT AS THE MOST EXPERIENCED MEMBER OF THE PLATOON, HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE PDF.)

"The RDF gives ex-soldiers the chance to continue to represent and serve Ireland as a soldier, especially for those who are too old to re-enlist. It provides an opportunity to continue to practice the discipline and training that army life offers. The Defence Forces allows a person to grow and learn in a way that no other organisation does and the RDF allows an ex-PDF member to continue this growth and to enjoy the challenges and rewards offered by the Defence Forces."

"I hope the current integration continues, whereby training is brought fully in line with that of the PDF, and that the RDF is assigned a proper, fully designated role within the Defence Forces and given the opportunity to perform tasks and duties alongside the PDF."

"We must reach a standard that allows us to take part in overseas missions and to further contribute and prove our worth to the Defence Forces and the state."

"The new recruits face a number of challenges. They will need to adapt to military life and discipline in a very short space of time. They will be expected to perform and learn to a very high standard and they will have a lot of information to take on board, as well as being physically and mentally challenged. They must be of a mindset that allows them not to break under pressure and they must learn how to keep their kit clean and in proper working order."

Many recruits are already volunteering for further training opportunities over weekend periods and a related desire is to assist the PDF in various future exercises. As well as those wishing to join their permanent colleagues in due course, further RDF/PDF integration seems unanimously popular among those with whom I have spoken. It is nevertheless borne in mind that only those meeting comparable standards to PDF personnel would, or should, be included in any further integration, especially beyond training exercises.

Seeing shared operational duties occurring within other nations' military forces, some in the platoon are hopeful of serving on overseas operations someday. Only time will tell if this is an opportunity that will emerge for RDF personnel.

With a short time to go before FTT commences we are working on improving our fitness as best we can in our own time, further getting to grips with both theoretical and practical military basics, and already looking forward to our passing-out as two-star privates of the Army Reserve. ■



Pictured getting their issued kit are Recruits Graham Bolger and Craig Lawlor (5 Pl, D Coy, 7 Inf Bn) with CQMS Reddy at the Clothing Stores in Cathal Brugha Bks. Photos by: Pte David Hogarty, 2 Bde HQ



# An Escort

2 Cav Sqn performing an Escort of Honour for HM Queen Elizabeth II, during her historical visit to Ireland in 2011. Photos by: Cpl Greg Dorney ret'd



# WITH HONOUR

BY SGT STEPHEN CONRAN, 2 BDE CAV SQN

**T**here are a few occasions that stand out for me during my 15 years in the Defence Forces as moments where pride and a sense of honour have genuinely moved me: being promoted to NCO in 2004 as my family looked on; marching proudly past the GPO for the 90th Anniversary of the Easter Rising; and being part of the Irish team that won first place in the international category in the Royal Marines' Commando Speed March, in Scotland in 2009.

These are certainly cherished memories. However, it is without hesitation or reservation that I confess that the single greatest privilege for me to date has been becoming the first RDF soldier to ride a motorcycle in a ceremonial escort of honour (EOH) with my unit, 2 Cav Sqn.

The function of the EOH is to add dignity and prestige to ceremonial occasions. The motorcycle escort also controls the pace of the motorcade, with precision timing incorporated into the escort, working in conjunction with all branches involved in the given ceremonial event, and often working in tandem with the national broadcaster.

This most prestigious and coveted duty has a long history with this unit, going back to the 1950s.

In 1959 the then 2 Motor Squadron escorted Eamonn de Valera to his inauguration to become the third president of Ireland, and the unit, in its various guises, has been present as part of the inauguration ceremony of every president since.

Escorts of honour are also often provided for state visits and have included Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, and US presidents Kennedy, Reagan and Clinton. In 1963 President Kennedy was so impressed by the performance of the motorcycle escort that he insisted on shaking the hand of every participant and presented each with a tie-pin as an acknowledgment of his gratitude.

On Thursday 30th April 2015, I proudly took part in escorting the ambassadors of Chile, Egypt, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, to Áras an Uachtaráin to present their credentials to President Michael D Higgins, before escorting them back to the Dept of Foreign Affairs.

The road (excuse the pun) to this landmark event - both for the unit and the RDF as a whole - has been a long one. Understandably, 2 Cav Sqn was cautious about widening the pool of motorcyclists for ceremonial escorts given the importance of maintaining standards and traditions. However, the unit was open to the concept when first raised and at all levels personnel were extremely supportive of its implementation.

In terms of my motorcycling background, I am not a novice, which certainly helped. I completed my dispatch riders (DR) course with 2 Cav Sqn at the age of 23 in 2006, while on attachment from 62 Res Cav Sqn (which has since been amalgamated with 2 Cav). This course was comprised of PDF personnel with the exception of me and one other RDF member (who has since joined the Western Australia Police Force).

We completed our DR course on the Kawasaki GT550s (now out of service), which was a great thrill, knowing those bikes had been used on escorts of honour from 1990 to 1998 before becoming part of the training fleet.

I got an even bigger thrill in 2007 while part of the integrated reserve element with 2 Cav Sqn when I completed my advanced motorcycle training on the blue Honda Deauville NT650s, the EOH bikes of the day.

This was only bettered when I got the privilege of riding the current Honda Deauville NT700s in an EOH, which gave me a feeling of immense personal satisfaction.

Since completing my DR course and subsequently obtaining my civilian motorcycle license, I have always had motorcycles and commute on them daily. I'm an avid motorcycle enthusiast and a member of the Green Knights Military Motorcycle Association (Chapter 59). I have restored several motorbikes, including an old Kawasaki GT550, done up to Army specification, a replica of the motorcycle I completed my DR course on.

The lead up to taking part in this honourable duty, required several additional voluntary days of training to learn 'the ropes' in relation to formation driving, procedure en route, protocol at the Áras, uniform preparation, motorcycle cleaning, etc.



*Escort of Honour group shot at Cathal Brugha Bk. Sgt Stephen Conran is pictured front row 4th from left with his PDF 2 Cav Sqn colleagues.*

In my initial motorcycle training I had been curious as to why there was so much emphasis on being able to push the motorcycle from 'A' to 'B', for which I could see no use other than self recovery. However, it wasn't until arriving at the Áras for EOH training some years later, that I realised the importance of being able to quickly and silently move a bike with the engine off, this being a requirement when positioning the

bikes on parade; an arduous yet strangely satisfying task.

Thinking back, I recall being offered the DR course at a demanding time in my life and I had my doubts as to whether I could commit to it. I'm glad I did, because to get such a massive return on that investment all these years later, not to mention the acquisition of a lifelong skill and interest, is something I am truly grateful for. It also confirms my belief that investment in RDF training on a personal level is extremely worthwhile.

The culmination of this training, opening an opportunity to RDF personnel, and the consequent shift in mindset, is extremely telling, in my opinion, of the successful ongoing implementation of the single-force concept. While the responsibility is on us all, RDF and PDF, to make it work, the onus is squarely on RDF personnel to make the grade and fulfil our role, and to seize opportunities and exploit objectives when they present themselves. I for one am confident and inspired by my experience that this can be achieved.

I am already looking forward to my next EOH, as well as to seeing others in the RDF giving the commitment and following suit.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the support from Comdt Norton (OC 2 Cav Sqn), Sqn Sgt Doyle, SQMS Daly, Sgt King, Cpl Jackson and Cpl Cunningham, who were instrumental in bringing this initiative to fruition. Thanks to the entire squadron (PDF and RDF), and especially to the personnel who comprised the EOH on the day, and who mentored and advised me, particularly 2/Lt Bunney (OIC) and Sgt Mahon (NCO i/c). Special thanks also to SQMS Thomas 'TOC' O'Connell (retd), Sgt Gerry Smyth and Sgt Stevie Bracken (retd) who helped pave the way for this through their many years of high-calibre motorcycle instruction to both PDF and RDF troops alike. ■



*A 'younger' Stephen Conran on his DR course*



*Sgt Conran's Escort at Áras an tUachtaráin*

The 2 Cav Sqn are currently conducting a DR Course in Cathal Brugha Bks at present. The duration of the course is 6 weeks in which the 10 students are taught many skills including: Rules of the road, Mechanics of the motorcycle, System of motorcycle control, Correct position on the road, Handling the bike at high speed, Controlling the bike at low speed and Confidence on the motorcycle. Photos by Cpl Lee Coyle, PR Branch



# Military Living History Shows

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS BY CPL KELLY GALLAGHER

## MCVI Curragh Race Course Military Vehicle Show

The Military Vehicle Club of Ireland (MVICI) held their annual show in the Curragh Race Course on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May 2015. An Cosantóir was invited along to set up a stall to promote the magazine. The show has grown over the last 11 years with vehicles, re-enactors, living history displays, and even an ONE pipe band performing on site, from motorbikes to large trucks and armoured vehicles to the excellent re-enactors depicting different periods in history including WWI, WWII, Irish Civil War and modern armies. There was something for the whole family to enjoy with trade stalls selling a wide range of military related items.



Being the first military show of the year in Ireland it set a good tone for military enthusiasts and visitors over the weekend, walking through the displays and watching people chatting and catching up with a few 'tyre kickers', asking important questions about the vehicles and equipment, it was good to see the respect the enthusiasts have for their vehicles and for history. The Irish Defence Forces supported the show with a vehicle display and a 105 field gun, which attracted a good crowd.

From a few hundred visitors in 2004, to an attendance of about 8,000 people over the 2 days this year, with many being retired members of the Defence Forces and their families, in many ways it's a community event allowing free entry to children, retired members of the Defence Forces and senior citizens, the MVCI have put together a great show. An Cosantóir would like to thank Willie Nugent and MVCI for allowing us access to the show and we wish them every success in future shows.



## The Munster Military Vehicles and Living History Group

On Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May 2015 An Cosantóir attended the Wexford Military Show at Wexford Racecourse, which has been held in Duncannon Fort for the previous 10 years from 2004 to 2014, and was moved to Wexford Racecourse due to the temporary closure of Duncannon Fort due to essential repair being carried out.

It is one of the biggest and longest running events of its kind in Ireland and attracts one of the largest gathering of military re-enactors. It's organised by The Munster Military Vehicles and Living History Group.

The show had displays of Viking and pre Christian era tents and weapons, Celtic and medieval tools, Romans Ireland displayed life under the Roman rule with the Roman legion showing dress and weapons used during the time, WWI & WWII were covered showing Allied and Axis forces with rare vehicles and fire power.

With an attendance of 3,000 over the 2 days, it shows the high level of interest in Ireland for military history. An Cosantóir would like to thank Joe O'Toole who organised the event and all in the Munster Military Vehicles and Living History Group who allowed us access, and we wish them all success in future shows. ■





# FIELDCRAFT – PART 10

## Issuing Fire Control Orders

A successful fire control order is one which brings controlled, effective fire down on the enemy. It is essential that all trained soldiers know the meaning of the terms used in fire control and can decide quickly on the best type of fire control order to be used for each particular situation.



**Aim:** To teach the terms involved in fire control and how to issue fire control orders.

Prepare at least three Fire Control Orders of each type for use during demonstrations and section practice. Ensure that all 'indications' are clear and concise.

**The practice is best conducted as follows:**

Depict a situation to the section. Nominate a fire unit commander and write down everything he says during his fire control order. Get the section to lay rifles on targets indicated using the rifle rests.

**Discuss the fire control order with the section, paying particular attention to the following:**

Was the sequence correct? Was it the correct type for the situation? Was the range accurate? Was the indication accurate, clear and concise? Was the rate of fire correct for the situation?

**Fire Unit:** Any number of soldiers firing under one commander, e.g. a section and the section commander.

**Fire Direction Orders:** Orders that a fire unit commander receives from his superior. They may include key ranges,

special orders to withhold fire, when to open fire, at what targets and at what rates, etc, e.g. as part of his fire plan.

**Fire Control Orders (FCO):** Orders that the fire unit commander gives to control and direct the fire of his soldier.

**Arc of Fire:** The ground for which a fire unit is responsible and in which it engages targets.

**Axis of Fire:** The approximate centre of the arc.

**Field of Fire:** The area of ground on which an individual soldier or a fire unit can fire effectively.

**Concentrated Fire:** The fire of all weapons of a fire unit directed at the same point.

**Distributed Fire:** The fire of all weapons of a fire unit distributed over a wide target.

**Issuing Fire Control Orders:** Indicate arc of fire and reference points.

**Before giving a fire control order, the following should be assessed:**

**The Target:** Is it near enough, clear enough and vulnerable enough to justify opening fire? Would it be better to wait for a more vulnerable target or more complete surprise?

**Weapons:** Which of the weapons available would obtain best results, or should all weapons be used?

**Type of Fire:** Normal or rapid. Rapid fire is used to cover movement in the final stages of an assault. On other occasions, it is justified only if it will make surprise more complete or if the target is particularly vulnerable. Give a snap fire control order only when it is impracticable to control the time of opening fire. When engaging a wide target, direct distributed fire along its width.

**A fire control order should be given always 'CLAP':**

**C** - Clearly, calmly and concisely.

**L** - Loud enough for the soldier to hear it above the noise of battle.

**A** - As an order.

**P** - With pauses to allow for target identification and sights to be set, if applicable.



French soldiers on patrol driving past ethnic Hutu troops from Rwandan government forces, near Gisenye, about 10kms from the border with Zaire. Photo by: © Pascal Guyot/pascal Guyot/AFP/Getty Images



# The Devil's Dance Floor

## UNAMIR AND THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

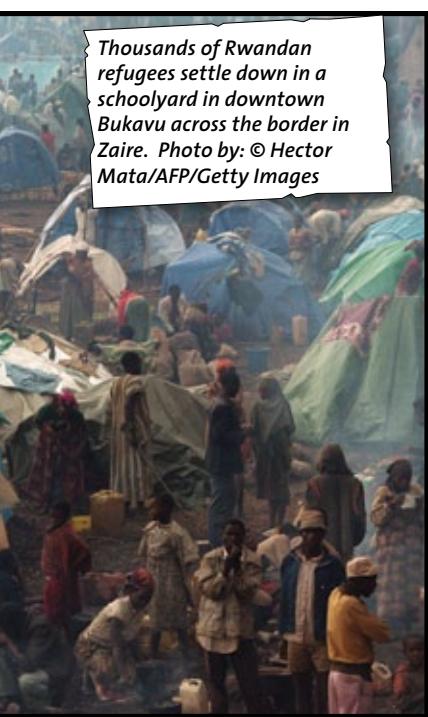
BY CIAN MORAN

Rwanda is a tiny but densely populated country in East Africa, a little bit larger than Munster but with a population of over twelve million. Historically, two major ethnic groups, Hutu and Tutsi, have dominated Rwandan society. The short, dark Hutus formed the majority and were traditionally farmers, while the minority Tutsis who are generally taller and thinner have traditionally been cattle herders.

As Rwandan society rated cattle as a sign of wealth, the Tutsis were seen as the elite. Their dominance was increased during German colonisation and again after World War I when Belgium took control of Rwanda. This caused resentment among the Hutu majority and following Rwanda's independence, ethnic violence forced many Tutsis to flee the country.

In 1988, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) was formed in Uganda among Tutsi refugees and Hutu dissidents, who then invaded Rwanda in 1990, leading to the Rwandan Civil War. Initially, the Rwandan government under President Habyarimana held firm, backed by France, Zaire and Belgium. However, under the leadership of Paul Kagame, the RPF forced the Rwandan government into signing a peace agreement in 1993. The resulting Arusha Accords called for a provisional government with power shared between the Tutsis and Hutus.

Thousands of Rwandan refugees settle down in a schoolyard in downtown Bukavu across the border in Zaire. Photo by: © Hector Mata/AFP/Getty Images



As both Habyarimana and Kagame feared extremists would take advantage of the power vacuum, in 1993 a UN peace-keeping force was authorised under Chapter VI of the UN Charter. The UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) was created with the mandate to contribute to security in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, monitor the cease-fire and the repatriation of refugees. UNAMIR was to be led by Canadian Major General Roméo Dallaire and to have some 2,500 peacekeepers. As a Chapter VI mission, UNAMIR was intended to help maintain an existing peace agreement rather than enforce peace. Such a small and lightly armed force would be of little use if violence



Rwanda refugees. Photo by: © Peter Turnley/CORBIS

erupted, as was possible in Rwanda, which was polarised by decades of ethnic conflict.

This swiftly became apparent when Maj Gen Dallaire was contacted by an informant who warned that Hutu extremists outraged by the Arusha Accords were stockpiling weapons, training militias and compiling lists to exterminate Tutsis. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations denied Maj Gen Dallaire's request to move against the extremists. On 6th April 1994, President Habyarimana's plane was shot down in dubious circumstances. It is unclear who was responsible but, claiming the RPF was behind it, Hutu extremists seized control and began murdering moderate Hutus such as Prime Minister Uwilingiyimana.

Following the neutralisation of moderate Hutu leadership, extremist attention soon turned to the Tutsis with Rwandan army roadblocks being set up and extremist radio stations announcing Tutsis as targets. An orgy of violence swiftly took place with Rwandan soldiers and militiamen massacring hundreds of thousands of Tutsis.

In the face of such violence, troop-contributing countries were reluctant to risk their peacekeepers' lives. After ten of its peacekeepers were massacred protecting Prime Minister Uwilingiyimana, Belgium sought to withdraw its troops from UNAMIR, raising the risk of total UNAMIR withdrawal. Although the UN Security Council opted to maintain UNAMIR, its numbers were drastically reduced so its members could do little against the genocide. Overall, 800,000 people were killed; around three quarters of Rwanda's Tutsi population alongside thousands of moderate Hutus.

According to the Czech ambassador to the Security Council, Karel Kovanda, the Council spent 80% of its time discussing pulling out UNAMIR and 20% of its time trying to broker a ceasefire (which Kovanda compares to wanting Hitler to reach a ceasefire with the Jews). As a small, lightly equipped operation, UNAMIR was simply unequipped to intervene in genocide. Maj Gen Dallaire appealed for more troops, arguing that with just 5,000 peacekeepers, he could secure Kigali then fan across Rwanda to protect civilians. Although the UN eventually agreed to expand UNAMIR to 5,500 troops and many African nations offered to contribute

## 1994 Rwandan genocide

April 6  Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana is killed when his plane is shot down

April 7  Encouraged by the authorities, Hutu extremists start killing Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Kigali. Within hours violence spreads across the country

April 8  The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) - Tutsi-led rebels fighting the regime since 1990 - marches on Kigali

April 9-16 Westerners are evacuated

April 21 At the height of the massacres the UN withdraws all but 270 of its 2,500 peacekeepers for security reasons

May 17 UN Security Council condemns "acts of genocide may have been committed"

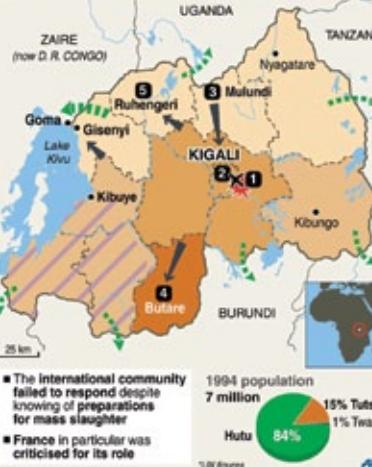
June 23 France launches Operation Turquoise, which sets up a safe zone but lets genocide leaders escape to Zaire

July 4  The RPF captures Kigali, the government collapses, massacres stop

July 13  Two million Hutus flee Rwanda

Sources: UNR, US Congress

The massacre of Tutsis and moderate Hutus lasted 3 months. 800,000 killed



peace-keepers, they lacked the resources to supply and equip them without extensive Western aid, which was not forthcoming.

Meanwhile, the RPF had resumed its military campaign and their 20,000 troops went on the offensive. Disciplined and well trained, they made striking progress under Kagame's impressive leadership against the undisciplined Rwandan military. Faced with the Rwandan government's collapse, the French intervened. The Rwandan government was Francophone and Paris had long supported the regime with investment and military aid. As such, they were reluctant to see Rwanda fall to the Anglophone RPF.

Under Chapter VII of the UN Charter the Security Council authorised a French military operation, Operation Turquoise, to set up a safe zone in Rwanda's south west. (The rapid deployment of French soldiers showed how quickly a professional military could have mobilized against the genocides.) Meanwhile, by 18th July 1994 the RPF decisively defeated the Rwandan military and swore in the Hutu, Pasteur Bizimungu, as president. This caused an exodus of tens of thousands of Rwandan government soldiers and officials to the French safe zone and on to refugee camps in Zaire. French soldiers did not disarm the fleeing genocidaires and they swiftly took control of the refugee camps and led guerrilla raids into Rwanda, leading to the current war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Although Operation Turquoise saved thousands of civilians, it allowed the mass escape of Hutu extremists and soldiers to Zaire where they could regroup. Maj Gen Dallaire argued that

Rwandan government soldiers fire heavy artillery at rebel positions. Photo by: © Alexander Joe/AFP/Getty Images



Rwandan children are escorted by government militiamen in Kigali. Photo by: © Abdelhak Senna/AFP/Getty Images

instead of creating a new Chapter VII mission, French forces could have bolstered UNAMIR, which simply lacked the mandate and strength to be effective amidst the genocide.

Maj Gen Dallaire spent 70% of his time battling UN logistics and his superiors prevented him from taking a proactive approach. Even with the troops at his disposal, UNAMIR had the potential to save even more civilians from the undisciplined and poorly armed genocidaires if it had the authority to do so: General Ndindiliyimana of the Rwandan Gendarmerie advised Maj Gen Dallaire that the genocidaires would "melt away" from an assertive UNAMIR.

Despite the worsening situation, UNAMIR's mandate remained the same, preventing it from effectively deterring violence and protecting civilians. Had UNAMIR the military capabilities to operate, even in Kigali, it is difficult to imagine that the genocide would have been so successful. Nonetheless, UNAMIR had notable successes. Maj Gen Dallaire cited the effectiveness of peacekeepers from Ghana and Tunisia. Many peacekeepers scoured Rwanda for survivors, with Senegalese Captain Diagne Mbaye having a particular gift for delivering civilians to safety until he was killed by a mortar round.

Overall, UNAMIR personnel protected over 30,000 Rwandans, as the genocidaires were unwilling to commit atrocities if foreigners were present. This allowed ten peacekeepers and four military observers to save hundreds of Rwandans at the Hotel Des Mille Collines.

The issue of intervention shows the importance of UN mission mandates. UNAMIR's mandate ignored the high risk of violence and deployed a peacekeeping force that was shackled when genocide broke out. Although numerous states condemned the decision to withdraw UNAMIR's troops, none were prepared to mount an intervention and the Rwandan genocide highlights that even when the Security Council is willing to allow intervention, states will often balk at deploying troops, even if many lives could be saved for very little risk.

Cian Moran is a PhD candidate and Hardiman Fellow at NUI Galway where he is researching military intervention under international law. He is also a serving member of the RDF.



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# Disaster in the Dardanelles

BY TERRY MCLAUGHLIN

**I**n early 1915 as trench warfare along the Western Front settled into stalemate, conflicting ideas about how to break the impasse started to emerge on the Allied side. Mainly these fell into two categories, 'westerners', who thought the war could only be won on the battlefields of Flanders and France, and 'easterners', who believed that opening another front in the east was the way forward.

Prominent easterners included the Minister for Munitions and future Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, who wanted to 'knock away the props' by attacking and defeating Germany's allies in the east, and Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty and political head of the Royal Navy.

Churchill supported a plan to force the Dardanelles (a narrow, 38-mile long strait, varying from four miles to one mile in width, between the Gallipoli peninsula and the western coast of Turkey) to gain access to the Sea of Marmara for the Royal Navy, which would then be in a position to bombard Constantinople. Gaining control of the Ottoman capital would allow passage through the Bosphorus into the Black Sea. Having a route from the Mediterranean through to the Black Sea would allow Britain and France a direct resupply connection with their ally Russia in the east. At the time land routes were cut off by the Western Front, sea routes to the far north were impassable in winter, and the German High Seas Fleet controlled access through the Baltic Sea.

In addition to the advantages of the direct connection with Russia, Churchill also believed Germany would be forced to move large amounts of manpower and equipment from the Western Front to assist their Ottoman allies.

Two landing sites were selected. One, just north of Gebe Tepe, would be assaulted by the newly-formed Australian New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), and would become known as Anzac Cove. Secondly, at Cape Helles, at the southern tip of the peninsula, the British 29th Division, which included several regular Irish regiments that had arrived back from service in India, would make landings at five beaches and Burma after the war broke out.

Due to the Ottoman Empire's poor performance in the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 and against the Russians in the Caucasus in 1915, Allied commanders believed they would not face much opposition. This was a fatal underestimation. At Gallipoli the Turkish soldiers were defending their motherland from invasion and they were well led with a number of German officers as well as Lt Col Mustafa Kemal, a fearless military man who would later become the leader and founder of modern Turkey under the title of Kemal Ataturk (Father of the Turks). Also the four-week delay between the naval attacks and the troop landings gave the defenders time to put in place a large number of fortified positions dominating the high ground overlooking the beaches. Unsure of exactly where the invasion would take place the Turks held the bulk of their forces in a central location ready to move rapidly to wherever they were required.

During the hours of darkness before sunrise on April 25th the untested ANZACs came ashore without meeting any opposition and started to move slowly inland.

The commander of the 29th Division, Maj Gen Aylmer Hunter-Weston, chose to wait until daybreak for his force's landings in order to avoid confusion in the dark. The fate that awaited the



Members of the 7th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers preparing to leave Royal Barracks (Collins Bks) in Dublin for Basingstoke in April 1915. They were amongst the Irish troops who were inspected by the King at Basingstoke. Photo: National Museum of Ireland



Irish soldiers prior to their departure from Royal Barracks (Collins Bks) in Dublin for action in World War One. Photo: National Museum of Ireland



King George V inspects the 29th Division in March 1915 just before they embarked for Gallipoli.

Receiving permission from the War Cabinet, Churchill at first attempted a purely naval operation. Two attempts in February and March by a combined British/French fleet failed, losing several ships to mines and fire from the numerous Turkish forts and mobile artillery batteries that lined the Dardanelles.

Realising that a naval operation on its own would not be sufficient, plans were quickly drawn up for a land invasion of Gallipoli with the intention of taking control of the forts from the landward side.

invading troops depended on which beach they landed at. Opposition was minimal at three of the beaches but not at 'V' and 'W' beaches where the Turks laid down a withering hail of rifle and machine gun fire.

At 'V' Beach the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers were the first to disembark from the SS River Clyde, which deliberately ran aground as close to the shore as possible. Such was the ferocity of the fire they faced, that of the

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first 200 men to leave the ship, 149 were killed and 30 wounded within minutes. Of the Dublin's 25 officers and 987 other ranks only one officer and 374 other ranks made it ashore.

The battalions landing at 'V' Beach suffered a 70% casualty rate and such were the losses suffered by the Dublin's and the Munsters, they were temporarily amalgamated into a single unit, which they immediately christened 'the Dubsters'.

Despite the appalling carnage the Turkish force had not been large enough to prevent the landing altogether, although it contained it to the area around the beach.

It is an indication of the heroism displayed during the Gallipoli landings, that 15 Victoria Crosses were awarded; six to the Lancashire Fusiliers, who had 600 of their 1,000 strength killed or wounded at 'W' Beach, and nine to the soldiers and sailors at 'V' Beach for their actions during the landings and as they fought their way off the beach the next day.

In case it is thought that it was only the Allies who suffered so badly, it is worth mentioning the Turkish 57th Infantry Regiment defending the heights of Chunuk Bair.

Facing an Allied assault with their ammunition expended and only their bayonets left to fight with, the 57th received the following order from the commander of the 19th Division, Lt Col Mustafa Kemal: "I do not order you to fight, I order you to die. In the time which passes until we die, other troops and commanders can come forward and take our places." In honouring their order every man of the regiment was either killed or wounded. (As a sign of respect, the 57th Regiment has never been reformed in the Turkish Army.)

On April 27th Mustafa Kemal's 19th Division attacked the ANZACs in an attempt to drive them back to the sea. However, with the support of naval gunfire the ANZACs held out through and the following day the Turks had to switch their focus to defend an attack on the village of Krithia by the British 29th Division and their French allies.

The fate of the campaign hung in the balance with the Allies suffering 3,000 casualties before their advance stalled with the arrival of Turkish reinforcements. The failure of the attack on Krithia signalled the end of any chance of a quick Allied victory in Gallipoli and, just like the Western Front, the campaign settled into a war of attrition.

Over the following months attack and counterattack took place with little changing other than the casualty roll. In a last, desperate gamble on August 6th the Allies landed two more divisions, one of which was the newly formed volunteer 10th (Irish) Division, north of Anzac Cove at Suvla Bay. However, the new offensive soon stalled and trench warfare again reigned supreme.

Fighting continued until the Allies finally gave up their attempt to take the Dardanelles in December and began to evacuate the beaches. The last Allied troops embarked their ships on January 8th 1916, after a campaign that saw approximately 188,000 Allied casualties and 175,000 Ottoman.

The political repercussions of the Gallipoli campaign were severe in Britain where Asquith's Liberal government was forced into coalition with the Conservatives. Churchill was demoted to a minor cabinet post in May 1915 before resigning from the government in November to serve in France where he commanded a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers before returning to office as Minister of Munitions in Lloyd George's government in 1917. ■



A British soldier at Gallipoli grave. © PA Wire



5th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers in the trenches at Gallipoli, 1915. Photo: Mary Evans / Robert Hunt Collection / Imperial War Museum

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# IRISH OFFICERS IN THE BRITISH FORCES, 1939-45

BY STEPHEN O'CONNOR

**W**hile we are in the midst of a period of major centennial commemorations, let us not forget that 70 years ago Europe was emerging from the catastrophe of the Second World War. In 1945 Britain's Dominions Office estimated that 45,000 men and women from Éire had served in the British forces during the war but recent research suggests that the real figure may have been as high as 60,000. Of these volunteers approximately 8,000 served in the commissioned ranks. These Irish officers made a significant contribution, serving in every theatre and in every capacity. They were fighter aces in the Battle of Britain, tank commanders in the deserts of North Africa, infantry leaders on the beaches of Normandy and in glider landings behind German lines, protected Allied convoys in the Atlantic, and flew perilous bombing missions over the industrial heartland of Nazi Germany. But why did they go to war?

There is no simple answer to this question and perhaps as many reasons as there were officers. Yet some common motives emerge from the testimony left to us through memoirs and oral history interviews.

Early in the war there was a noticeable Irish influx into the British officer corps as the country benefited from the large numbers of Irish working or studying in the country. For example, Group Captain Thomas McGarry had come to London in 1937, aged 18, as he could not find employment in Ireland. He became a police constable but when war broke out, in spite of the police being immune from conscription, he joined the RAF. "Can't say I was fighting for a flag or anything like that," he said. "I was fighting for what I thought was right; wouldn't make any difference who was involved."

Major James Hickie, a Tipperary-man and nephew of the commander of the 16th (Irish) Division in the Great War, joined up three days before Chamberlain declared war. This despite being only months away from completing a five-year engineering apprenticeship after which he had been intending to sit the examinations for membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in London. "I have been asked why, as an Irishman, I chose to join the British Army," Hickie recalled. "In my family there is a tradition of service with the British armed forces; there was then a common citizenship. England had done a lot for me, so joining up seemed the right and natural thing to do."

Many Irish officers were influenced by family traditions that pre-dated Irish independence. Captain John Jermyn, a law student, joined the British army in late 1939, aged 21. He said: "My mother's only brother was killed at Gallipoli in World War One. He was a second lieutenant in the Royal Munsters and was 19; in some foolish way I felt that perhaps I should take his place."

Lieutenant Commander Cornelius Glanton came from a Cork family immersed in the Royal Navy, where his father and three of his uncles had given 22 years' service. Unsurprisingly he joined the navy in 1939. "My father didn't put any pressure on me," he said, "but he was very, very happy. In the 1930s there was a huge exodus of young men from County Cork, and West Cork in particular, most of whom joined the navy."

Throughout the war the unionist section of the Southern Irish population proved a reliable source for recruitment as they continued to regard themselves as being part of the British Empire and had a strong sense of allegiance to the king.

Typical among these were the sons of middle-class Protestant families with strong family and educational ties to England. For them, joining up "was something that was taken for granted". Officers such as Peter Ross and Brian Inglis had attended British public schools and knew friends and relatives who were joining up or were enduring the Blitz. In such families it was common to regard men of military age who stayed in neutral Ireland as 'white feathers' or cowards. Peer pressure and the feeling of obligation were intense.

Peter Ross, a Trinity College student and former pacifist, was



Irish Officers in the British Forces, 1922-45

STEVEN O'CONNOR



Elizabeth Chamberlain, Women's Royal Naval Service with her WRENS colleagues. Courtesy of Simon Parsons

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with friends when he heard the news that Poland had been invaded. After a long silence his friend remarked: "That means war for us." Ross recalled: "For me, as for everyone, there was the shock realisation of a career interrupted, perhaps finished."

Elizabeth Chamberlain's had two uncles who died in the Great War and after the outbreak of the Second World War her brother joined the British army. Elizabeth wanted to join the Women's Royal Naval Service (the Wrens). Her parents were opposed to the idea but as she recalled: "I didn't worry about getting killed or anything like that. All I wanted was to get over to England and join up. All my friends were going ... nearly all the men had joined up." She eventually became a Wren and was later promoted to third officer in the cipher section.

Even Captain Rickard Donovan, of a Wexford gentry family, who had served with the Royal Navy for the whole of the Great War and for eight subsequent years, felt it was his duty to fight again. He wrote to the Admiralty on the day war was declared offering his services. "I am not making this request with the object of obtaining employment for financial gain," he wrote, "as I am already employed and have, in addition, been giving voluntary service in the national defence for the past two years."

Donovan's request was eventually accepted by the Admiralty and by the end of the war he was serving as deputy director of the Combined Operations Division, where he played a key role in the planning and execution of the Normandy landings, for which he was awarded a CBE by King George VI and the Legion of Merit by President Truman.

Others were swept into the war on the tantalising prospect of adventure in distant lands. In 1941 Majella, a nurse from Kildare joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Majella expected the war to be over in a year and she was "eager to get into it before it ended". As a young person during the war, she explained: "The only thing you're thinking about is where you're going to go and all the excitement that goes with it."

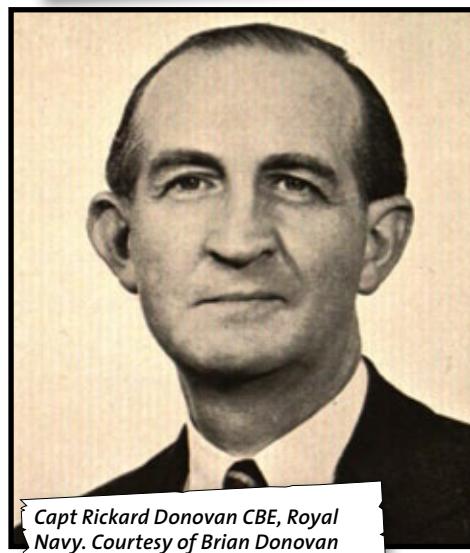
In her perception of the war as offering opportunities for adventure Majella was not exceptional. Others contrasted the prospects for adventure in the war with the boredom of civilian life in Ireland. Arthur Smith, who joined the RAF in 1943, said: "Dublin was a very boring, small place then, you know; I was itching to get away."

Some, like Captain Don Mooney, even made the frank admission that at the time they were not interested in the politics of the war: "No moral reason, we didn't know much about Hitler or anything; it was just excitement."

Ireland's neutrality during the war and our historically fraught relationship with the neighbouring island probably explain why for many years most Irish history books ignored this Irish involvement in the British forces. Yet, the passing of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe perhaps provides us with an opportunity to examine the reasons why Irish citizens decided to fight. The few accounts above illustrate the complexity of ordinary people living through extraordinary times: some were idealistic, some



Capt Rickard Donovan before WW2. Courtesy of Brian Donovan



Capt Rickard Donovan CBE, Royal Navy. Courtesy of Brian Donovan



Third Officer Elizabeth Chamberlain, Women's Royal Naval Service. Courtesy of Simon Parsons



Major James F Hickie, Royal Fusiliers, British Army. Courtesy of David Hickie

were patriotic, some were naïve, and almost all were very young. Their decision to join up sometimes derived from a romanticised idea of what war was like, while for others it came after long consideration of the consequences. In short, there was a complex mixture of motives among Irish officers who went to war, ranging from loyalty, peer pressure, family tradition and idealism, to attractive career prospects, the fear of missing all the excitement, and the appeal of travel.

**Steven O'Connor** is a historian who specialises in British-Irish military connections. He is the author of 'Irish Officers in the British Forces, 1922-45', and currently holds a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Centre for Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College Dublin. He previously held a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship at the Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin, where he completed his PhD in 2012.

'Irish Officers in the British Forces, 1922-45' published in March 2014 (ISBN: 9781137350855) is available from [www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com)

# DF TRIATHLON

## 2015



BY COMDT MÁIRTÍN COFFEY, OC B COY, 7 INF BN  
PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**T**he Defence Forces Triathlon is a Sprint event (750m swim/ 20km bike/ 5km run) that is held every summer and this year it was held on 3rd June. The DF Sprint triathlon has been held every year since 2010 in Lilliput, Co Westmeath and is run by the Defence Forces Triathlon Association (DFTA), which was founded in 2008. Although there had been Triathlons organised on an ad hoc basis prior to this, the forming of the DFTA has cemented triathlon in the DF sporting calendar since its inception. In 2008 and 2009 the DF Triathlon “piggy backed” with TriAthlone, but an opportunity (through Comdt Tom McGrath) came about in 2010 to change the location and the race has been held successfully in Lilliput ever since.

The DFTA tasking is to foster and encourage the sport of triathlon in the DF and we do this by catering for all abilities (beginners, intermediates and advanced) through our numerous events throughout the year. Triathlon Training days, the DF Duathlon (run/bike/run), DF Try a tri (zoom swim/20km bike/5km run) and the DF Open water swim camp (20-24 July 15 applications currently being taken) are all organised (in addition to the DF Tri) by DFTA to achieve our tasking.

DFTA is an affiliate member of Triathlon Ireland (TI), which is the governing body for triathlon in Ireland. DFTA have a number of TI qualified coaches to run our various training days and offer advice and guidance to all levels of triathlon to members of the Defence Forces. DFTA do not compete in triathlons as a grouping and we actively encourage members of the DF to get involved with their local club, as the club scene is the heartbeat of triathlon in Ireland. DFTA gives members of the DF the opportunity to train for triathlon as an organised recreational activity (ORT). More info and contact details can be found on our IKON site (search DFTA) or by emailing: [mairtin.coffey@defenceforces.ie](mailto:mairtin.coffey@defenceforces.ie) or [jackie.wykes@defenceforces.ie](mailto:jackie.wykes@defenceforces.ie) ■





# SPORT

## DF One-Wall Handball Championships 2015

BY SGT ERIC O'BRIEN, 1 INF BN

**T**he 3rd Annual Defence Forces One-Wall Handball Championships took place in Ballygar on 4th June 2015, with 34 players attending.

The Novice was by far the largest category, players who had only hit a ball last week were mixed in with players who had only taken up the sport a few months before, but proved that they had potential to become the next Ducksie, Brady or McCarthy, by showing a great natural talent and keen hunger to get to every ball. The Novice was eventually whittled down to S/S Conor Keegan and Pte Tomás Dunne, with some early favourites being taken out at the early stages. The final was a fine battle, but Dunne proved too strong for his opponent and took the gold for Kilkenny. The Junior Championship was a battle between Galway and Kilkenny, but the Cats were again to prove too strong for the Tribesmen, an all Kilkenny final of Pte Damien Brennan and Pte Darren Darcy. Darcy proved that anyone can take to sport in only a matter of months if they put in a small amount of training each week, and this was evident in the Junior final, but Brennan was no pushover and brought the final to a nail-biting tie breaker, eventually losing to Darcy 2-0.

The Intermediate Championships were in a round robin format, with the player to win two games being declared the winner (total aces being the next deciding factor). This saw Cpl Eddie Clifford, Pte JJ Hennessy and Tpr Stephen Smullen battle it out in front of an always packed spectator area for some excitingly close rallies and savage serves. Clifford eventually beat the two others to be declared the Intermediate Champion for 2015.

The highlight of the day was always going to be the Senior Championship, with Sgt Glen O'Kelly looking to retain his title against the current DF Doubles and 40x20 Champion (not to mention the Irish Team Captain for this years WHC), O/Mech Robbie McCarthy Jr. This match was a display of strength, skill and fitness at a high level, with both men letting no ball past them and not afraid to stand their ground. O'Kelly took 4 and 1 from McCarthy Jr, but only after McCarthy had warmed up and started returning balls only millimeters above the floor each time he hit the ball. ■

### The winners were:

**Senior Champ** - O/Mech Robbie McCarthy Jr, NS  
**Intermediate Champ** - Cpl Eddie Clifford, 3 Inf Bn  
**Junior Champ** - Pte Darren Darcy, 3 Inf Bn  
**Novice Champ** - Pte Tomás Dunne, 3 Inf Bn  
*(This now has O/Mech McCarthy holding all DF Senior Handball titles.)*

*The Defence Forces played An Garda Síochána (GS) in Galway on 19th June in the first DF v GS One-Wall Competition on the new One-Wall built there. Final score: DF 95 V 56 GS, which sees the DF winning after three previous defeats.*



*O/Mech Robbie McCarthy Jr (NS)  
Senior Champion and Sgt Glen O'Kelly  
(TIS Kilbride) Senior Runner-Up.*



### 2 Bde/DFTC Shield

**O**n 11th May the 2 Bde/DFTC Shield Final was played in the DF Sports Grounds in the Phoenix Park between Cathal Brugha Bks Team and Athlone Bks Team. The victors were Cathal Brugha Bks by the tightest of margins on a score line of 4-05 to 2-10. The teams, made up of a combination of units from within each barracks also featured a number of inter-county players (Offaly, Longford, Roscommon and Kildare), who will line out in the coming weeks in the football championship.

*Photos: Capt Joseph Freeley, 2 Bde PIO ■*



**SSE Airtricity DUBLIN MARATHON 2015**

**Take part in the Dublin Marathon For The Down Syndrome Centre**

**October, 26th 2015**



**Support Ireland's only services-led centre for children with Down syndrome by joining our team!**

**Benefits Include:**

- Support from Dublin Marathon winner, Sean Hehir
- Pre-race training session

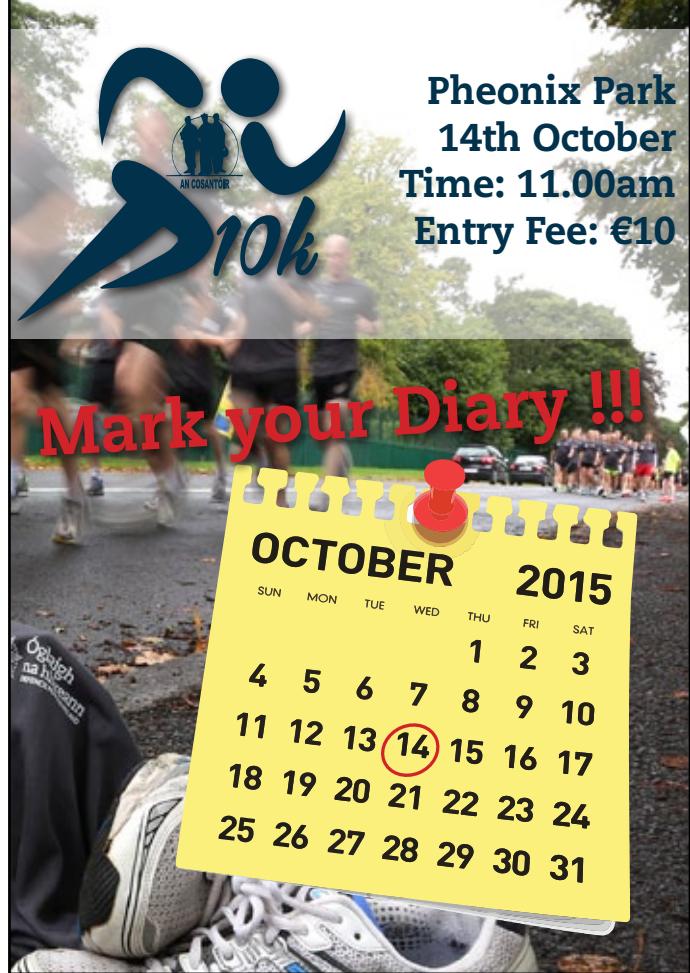
For more info call Aileen on (01) 661 8000 or email [aileen@downsyndromecentre.ie](mailto:aileen@downsyndromecentre.ie) [www.downsyndromecentre.ie](http://www.downsyndromecentre.ie)

**THE DOWN SYNDROME CENTRE**

**"Crossing the finishing line was one of the best feelings I've ever had. I'll never forget it!" -Eoin Casey**

**Si 10k**

**Phoenix Park**  
**14th October**  
**Time: 11.00am**  
**Entry Fee: €10**



**Mark your Diary !!!**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**OCTOBER 2015**

**Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann**  
**Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women**

**The O.N.E. National Golf Classic**

**Takes place in Nenagh Golf Club**

**On Monday 10th August 2015**

**Tee Times: 08:30hrs to 16:30hrs**

**Handicaps:**  
 Full GUI/ILGU Handicaps  
 Non GUI/ILGU Society Handicaps: Men: Max 14 Ladies: Max 20



**4 Person Team (any combination) - €240**  
**(Includes Hot Meal)**  
**Further Details:**  
**Contact Tony Canning 086 852 4478**

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED**  
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**Óglaigh na hÉireann**  
**DEFENCE FORCES IRISH**



**DEFENCE FORCES Triathlon Training Programme**  
**Open Water Swim Camp - Galway - 20-24th July**  
**(Timings TBC)**

Defence Forces Triathlon Association (DFTA) training will be coached by Triathlon Ireland qualified coaches in swimming each day.

All levels catered for - beginners welcome.

For more information contact Training Officer: Sgt Jackie Wykes - [jackie.wykes@defenceforces.ie](mailto:jackie.wykes@defenceforces.ie)

More info and contact details can be found on our IKON site (search DFTA).

# GEAR UP

## 5.11 RUSH 24 BACKPACK

**PRICE:** €119.99

**COLOUR:** BLACK, FLAT DARK EARTH, MULTICAM, SANDSTONE & TAC OLIVE DRAB

Our most popular purpose built tactical backpack, the RUSH24™ is designed to provide superior storage capacity and organization without slowing you down. The roomy main compartment offers three interior mesh organizer pockets to keep small accessories organised, a padded hydration pocket keeps you moving, and a fleece-lined sunglass pocket keeps your eyewear within easy reach. Dual side storage compartments offer double-zip access, a large stuff-it pocket with an integrated draw cord provides expandable storage when you need it, and contoured compression straps ensure a stable, comfortable carry. A wrap-around web platform is MOLLE/5.11 SlickStick® System compatible, allowing you to customize your storage options as you see fit. Easily the best tactical backpack choice for a wide range of applications, the RUSH24 combines superior mobility and enhanced storage with customisable functionality that excels in any environment.

**Overview:** Quite simply the best tactical backpack on the market, Roomy main storage area, Dual zipping side pockets, Hydration pocket, Stuff-it pocket with integrated draw cord, Reinforced grab-and-go handle, Wrap-around MOLLE/SlickStick web platform, Three mesh admin compartments, Zippered fleece-lined eyewear pocket and a Hook and loop nametape and flag patches.

**Specifications:** Durable 1050D nylon, Water-repellent coating, 20" H x 12.5" L x 8" D main compartment, 2070 cubic inch capacity, Adjustable height sternum strap, Two external compression straps, Contoured yoke shoulder strap system, Twin drainage grommets, Self-repairing YKK® zippers and Glove-friendly pull tabs.



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### 5.11 TACTICAL RECON OUTBOUND GYM BAG

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### 5.11 RANGE READY BAG

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**MULTICAM**

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## COMPETITION

For a chance to win the Backpack featured above worth €119.99, kindly sponsored by [www.team-alpha.ie](http://www.team-alpha.ie), answer the following question:

How much is a Princeton Tec Point MPLS LED light on [team-alpha.ie](http://team-alpha.ie)?

Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) by the 19th August 2015. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Pte David Hogarty, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

# NOTICEBOARD

## Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum

The Glasnevin Trust who manages Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum is a not-for-profit organisation and is both the guardians and storytellers for over 1.5 million people. From the ordinary to the truly extraordinary, these people helped shape the Ireland of today. We want to share their stories and times with you through tours of the cemetery, a visit to the museum or through a genealogy search for your family history. All proceeds are used to sustain and improve our cemeteries to ensure they are places of beauty, interest and intrigue. Glasnevin Museum has been the recipient of a number of prestigious awards since opening in April 2010.

### Events:

August 2014 - June 2015, WW1 Centenary Exhibition, in the Museum's Prospect Gallery  
14th March - 11th October 2015 - Daily at 2.30pm - Padraig Pearse Oration Re-enactment

### Tickets:

**Combined Museum and Tour:** €8.00 **Museum Only:** €4.00.  
**Open:** Monday – Friday, 10am-5pm. Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: 11am-5pm. Tours: Monday to Sunday, 11.30am & 2.30pm. **Contact:** Glasnevin Cemetery & Museum, Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11. **Museum Ph:** 01 882 6550  
**Email:** booking@glasnevintrust.ie **Web:** www.glasnevintrust.ie

## WORD SEARCH

**CROSS OFF THE WORDS  
IN THE LIST AS YOU  
FIND THEM.**

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

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P H S S E R D E T U L A S O L  
I P R L P X I S T X E X S L Z  
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## Drill Commands

## Q&A JUL/AUG

### WHAT DOES THE ACRONYM ANZAC STAND FOR (THIS ISSUE)?

Post your answer along with your name and address to us or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win a limited edition *An Cosantóir* Dry Flo T-shirt and DF 'Goody Bag'

Last month's winner of the *An Cosantóir* T-shirt and 'Goody Bag' was Kevin Ring, Bettystown, Co Meath. Closing date is 19th August 2015.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 11th July** (3pm) – RBL Ireland, Remembrance Saturday – Island Bridge

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

**Saturday 18th July** (12noon) – Air Corps & 7 Inf Bn Military Guard – National Memorial Merrion Sq.

**Saturday 29th August** (10am-1pm) – A morning of talks exploring Ireland's aviation heritage, with speakers including *An Cosantóir* contributors Maurice Byrne and Guy Warner. Maurice Byrne will give a lecture on Dublin born Fighter Ace Brendan 'Paddy' Finucane and Guy Warner is lecturing on aviation construction in Northern Ireland 1909-2015.

**Venue:** National Museum of Ireland Decorative Arts & History Collins Barracks, Dublin. Booking is essential and admission is free. **Email:** [bookings@museum.ie](mailto:bookings@museum.ie), **Ph:** 01-6486453 or **Web:** [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

## OF LIVING VALOUR THE STORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF WATERLOO

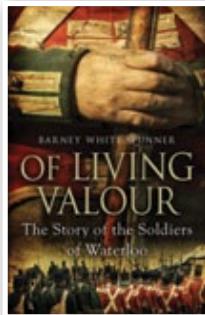
**Author:** Lt Gen Sir Barney White-Spunner  
**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster Ltd (March 2015)  
**ISBN:** 978-1471102912  
**Price:** €34.50  
**Pages:** 496 H/B

Rarely has a history of the ordinary soldiers and officers who served during the Battle of Waterloo been written, and this author, a retired British officer with his own direct experience of the world's more modern battles, has compiled a stirring account of their experiences. Using excerpts from extensive primary sources, including poignant letters home from all ranks of soldier and various contemporary accounts, along with the numerous books written about the battle from both sides, he has succeeded in bringing the human side of events to the fore.

For those looking for all the military details of the build-up and the battle itself, they will not be disappointed either, as the author has created a clear picture of events as they happened, from Quartre Bras through such 'battles within battles' as those that took place at Hougoumont and La Haie Sainte, for example.

Every little engagement is detailed and its significance in the overall ebb-and-flow is highlighted, leading to the reader being sucked in to the dramatic narrative before being enlightened as to the big picture at that point of the battle. It makes for breathtaking reading at points, while sometimes the extraordinary level of detail can lead the reader to have to re-read sections to be sure that they are 'up-to-speed' on which corps, brigade, battalion etc. was where. In fairness, this is to be expected considering that up to 200,000 men were fighting in an area only 2 miles wide by 1 mile deep.

The quotes from the original letters and accounts adds the extra colour, emotion and humour needed to elevate this history of the Battle of Waterloo above other, drier accounts, making it a fantastic read for a wide audience. **HB**



## WITH THE DUBLIN BRIGADE ESPIONAGE AND ASSASSINATION WITH MICHAEL COLLINS' INTELLIGENCE UNIT

**Author:** Charles Dalton  
**Publisher:** Mercier Press  
 (September 1, 2014) [www.mercierpress.ie](http://www.mercierpress.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1781172247  
**Price:** €13.59  
**Pages:** 256 H/B

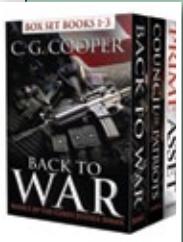


*With the Dublin Brigade* was originally published in 1929 as a result of Dalton's writing of part of his life story following 'the urgent request of one or two of my friends', to do so. In this reissue, Dalton's 1929 version appears alongside a foreword prepared by historian, Liz Gillis and the full text of the witness statement dictated by Dalton in 1950, which was lodged in the Bureau of Military History Collection (Military Archives). *With the Dublin Brigade* is confined to Dalton's personal story and situation as a member of 'F' Company, 2 Battalion, Dublin Brigade and as a member of Michael Collins' intelligence squad. The select memoir documents Dalton's early motivation to join the Irish Volunteers, his admittance into the Irish Volunteers and position as a member of the Intelligence Staff, General Headquarters. Dalton wrote this part of his story before the close of the 1920s and as a result, his commentary appears natural and his experience, genuine; furthermore, his fondness for including dialogue (he frequently recounts conversations with Rosie who provided him with intelligence ahead of the Bloody Sunday killings, Liam Tobin, Dick McKee and a friendly detective named McNamara), enhances the readability of Dalton's account and brings his character across to the reader. The book has benefited from a 'light touch' in regards to editing and referencing so it is an easy read.

The presentation of the hardcopy book is attractive and available in hardback and in a perhaps uncommon, A2 size (it is also available as a Kindle edition). Aside from the 'gift book' presentation, the positive outcome of any reissue is in the availability of such material, which up until now have only been available in select libraries or at considerable cost if purchased through specialist/rare bookshops. Considering the fast pace of new publications covering the same period that are due to be released over the coming decade of commemorations, there will always be room for a contemporaneous personal story and *With the Dublin Brigade* deserves its place in general bookstores. **LD**

## CORPS JUSTICE BOXED SET: BACK TO WAR, COUNCIL OF PATRIOTS & PRIME ASSETPOST OFFICE 1916

**Author:** C. G. Cooper  
**Publisher:** Cooper & Associates  
 (March 2013) [www.corpsjustice.com](http://www.corpsjustice.com)  
**ASIN:** BooBUAZL12  
**Price:** €0.00 Free  
**Pages:** 730



Get the first three books of the series for FREE: [www.bit.ly/1pmSnBo](http://bit.ly/1pmSnBo)

**Back to War:** Follow former US Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Cal Stokes, a Navy Cross recipient on his transition from military to civilian life, where due to a gang initiation he loses his fiancé he goes into the criminal underworld for revenge. Needing help and assistance he is introduced to his late father's company Stokes Security International (SSI), which is full of former Corps personnel who agree to help him get justice.

**Council of Patriots:** With a politician framed for murder a small group of retired politicians form the Council of Patriots to protect America. Cal Stokes and his SSI team are in Las Vegas to stop an invisible enemy that threatens to infiltrate the Democratic National Convention. They must find out who they are and what their endgame is, and more importantly who is the American politician pulling the strings?

**Prime Asset:** Cal Stokes's good friend Neil Patel has disappeared and an old enemy resurfaces which takes Cal and his men to Jackson Hole, Wyoming on the trail of the kidnapper. Then another group makes a power play that sees the team heading for a showdown in snow filled mountains to eliminate their enemy.

**Corps Justice Series order:** *Back to War, Council of Patriots, Prime Asset, Presidential Shift, National Burden, Lethal Misconduct, Moral Imperative, Disavowed, Chain of Command* along with the stand alone Corps Justice Daniel Briggs Sniper novel *Adrift* and the short stories *God-Speed* and *Running*.

## NYPD GREEN THE TRUE STORY OF AN IRISH DETECTIVE WORKING IN ONE OF THE TOUGHEST POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE WORLD

**Author:** Luke Waters  
**Publisher:** Hachette Books Ireland  
 (April 2015) [www.hachette.ie](http://www.hachette.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1473610606  
**Price:** €14.00  
**Pages:** 304

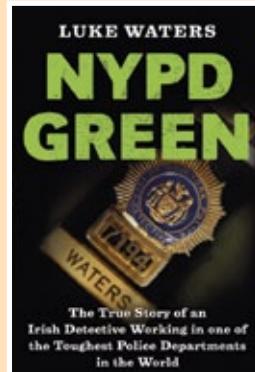
A story of an Irishman who made good of the American dream, NYPD Green tells the personal story of one of the most difficult professions there is. Luke Waters, a native of Finglas, North Dublin always wanted to follow in his grandfather and brother's footsteps into An Garda Síochána, until, as for many other Irish men and women in the 1980s – America beckoned.

After some time as a barman, Luke followed his dream and enrolled in the New York Police Dept, and he joined the ranks of the NYPD in August 1993.

Luke went on to become a detective in narcotics and eventually in homicide, in one of the toughest places in the world, the Bronx.

Luke gives a personal account of his 20-year career where he would experience the best and the worst the job had to offer, from drugs, gang warfare to the still gut wrenching 9/11 attack on America.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and could relate to the hurdles and young adult life experiences of the author. Highly recommended reading. SS



## PRIMAL REDEMPTION (THE PRIMAL SERIES #7)

**Author:** Jack Silkstone  
**Publisher:** Amazon Digital Services, Inc.  
 (June 2015) [www.primalunleashed.com](http://www.primalunleashed.com)  
**ASIN:** BooV6IVUWW  
**Price:** €5.50  
**Pages:** 286

The PRIMAL series is based on a highly skilled secret international black ops team who use cutting-edge technology, equipment and tactics, as they go up against powerful criminals, corporations and government agencies when the law or other governments won't or can't.

PRIMAL Redemption is the third instalment of the

Redemption Trilogy, which is the finale of the PRIMAL team's current battle against a renegade directorate of the CIA.

PRIMAL's island base is under large scale surveillance by CIA assets and analysts, and captured intel confirms a PRIMAL operative - thought to have been killed in a past mission - is being kept in a CIA rendition site. Bishop, Mirza, Saneh and the rest of the team have to go on all out attack, firstly to rescue one of their own and secondly so that everything they've achieved so far will not have been in vain. Going blow for blow with the CIA-backed private military companies, in different theatres of war; will this be the end of PRIMAL as we know it?

Having read all the PRIMAL books so far, I highly recommend reading them, in this order: PRIMAL: Origin, Unleashed, Vengeance, Fury, Reckoning, Nemesis and Redemption, and also the stand-alone prequels PRIMAL Mirza and PRIMAL Inception. Next to come is PRIMAL Renegade. WF



# WHAT I DO

## NAME

KELLY GALLAGHER

## RANK

CORPORAL

## UNIT

INFORMATION OFFICE,  
PR BRANCH, DFHQ

**A**t an early age I saw cash escorts travelling through Tullamore, near where I live, and ever since then I wanted to join the Defence Forces. As a young girl, friends and neighbours in the small area where I live told me I wouldn't be army material so I set out to prove myself. I joined the RDF in Tullamore at the age of 17. This quickly proved to me that the army life was indeed what I wanted. When I finished school in Ferbane Community College at 18, I enlisted into the PDF on 26th April 2004 in Monaghan Bks with 37 Recruit Platoon.

After recruit training I was posted to A Coy, 2 Inf Bn, in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin, it was a long way from home so I spent many nights living in barracks and commuting long distances on several days every week.

I completed a number of courses in 2 Inf Bn including a Public Order and 60mm Vector Mortar courses. I also did four security tours in Portlaoise Prison.

My first overseas trip was to Kosovo with 33 Inf Gp KFOR in October 2006. While forming up I completed a Specialist Search Team course (SST), which I found very interesting. I served as a line soldier in APC Coy on that mission. I also got to do a job rotation with the Swedish army and it was interesting to see how another army worked.

On return to Ireland I looked for a move to HQ 2 Bde and was sent on long-term detachment to them in January 2008 to work in the Bde Adjt Office. I enjoyed the responsibility of working in Bde HQ. While there I completed ECDL and PMS courses. I was finally posted into Bde HQ in October 2008.

From August to December 2009 I underwent a Potential NCOs course in 2 BTC but due to the embargo on promotions I wasn't promoted until May 2011.

I found being a young NCO challenging but got good advice about leadership and teamwork from the other NCOs and senior NCOs of Bde HQ.



I travelled overseas again in 2012, this time to Lebanon with 106 Inf Bn UNIFIL as Bn Sp Gp Clerk. As well as my clerk job, I got the opportunity to work closely with the CIMIC team, which gave me the chance to see a lot of the country helping on humanitarian missions around the AO. Having piqued my interest I went on a CIMIC course when I got back to Ireland.

In 2014, I looked to move closer to home. I heard of a vacancy in the Curragh with the Information Office in PR Branch. I successfully applied for the position and after an interview I was posted to PR Branch in May 2014, where I took up the position of Information NCO, responsible for the subscriptions database of An Cosantóir and Connect. My duties entail taking payments for subscriptions, answering queries, promoting the magazine and the Defence Forces at events and taking pictures for the magazine from time to time.

Working in PR Branch has shown me how important public relations are and as soldiers how important it is to display a positive image of the Defence Forces with everything we do at home and overseas.

In 2014 I completed a photography course, which has helped me with my photography skills.

In the future I intend to complete a Standard NCOs course, travel overseas again, hopefully in a CIMIC appointment, and to sign on from 12 to 21 years service and possibly beyond. ■



*"Working in PR Branch has shown me how important Public Relations is and as soldiers how important it is to show a positive image of the Defence Forces"*

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