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AN COSANTÓIR

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THE RESERVE DEFENCE FORCE
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The Irish Defence Forces supporting blood donation awareness

The IBTS would like to thank all those from the Defence Forces who have supported us in promoting the importance of giving blood and platelets.

The IBTS is responsible for supplying blood and platelets to hospitals nationwide.

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Front Cover

Contact drills during the recent RDF Potential NCOs course.
Photo by Armn Jamie Barrett

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

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our September issue, which is mainly focussed on the volunteers of the Reserve Defence Force, who, along with their full-time colleagues, trace their origins back over a hundred years to the founding of Óglaigh na hÉireann in 1913.

As always, our issue starts with your photographs, sent in from all areas of the Defence Forces community, in *On Parade*, before *Veterans' News* looks at the recent visit to Sweden by members of IUNVA.

Our first feature looks at the launch, by the chief of staff and Minister Paul Keogh, of this year's Fuchsia Appeal, ONE's main annual fundraising event to help support veterans who have fallen on hard times.

Starting our look at the RDF we have a short introduction into how the reserves support their full-time colleagues. Then, in *Revitalising the Reserve* Lt Col Gerry Maguire (AR), HQ DFTC, looks at the background to, and new syllabus for, the upcoming RDF Potential Officers course, to be held in early 2019.

Next, in *Learning the Basics* army reservist CQMS Michael Barrett, 7 Inf Bn, shares his experiences of training recruits in the Army Reserve. He follows this up in *Urban Warriors* with a look at recently trained soldiers, including reservists, conducting FIBUA drills.

Showing Their Potential, by Lt Fergal Fitzgerald, (AR) 2 BTC, features the first all-army RDF Potential NCOs course, conducted by 2 Bde Training Centre in Cathal Brugha Bks and attended by students from around the country.

Moving away from the reserves, Cpl Lee Coyle's *Exercise Redcap* looks at the final exercise of the 66th MP Probationers course conducted early this year.

On 4th July we visited the Air Corps Fire Training Facility in Baldonnel to see how the students on the Initial Aviation Fire Fighters course were learning their trade.

In our *Strategic Review* article, *Bloodbath in Yemen*, Paul O'Brien looks at one of the lesser known, but very vicious, conflicts that have been taking place in the Middle East over the last decade.

In the first of our short *History* articles we visit the National Transport Museum, hidden among the old, scenic grounds of Howth Castle Demesne. This is followed by an interview with 92-year-old Lt Col Jim Dawson (retd), in our search for the Defence Forces' eldest veteran.

Our first *Sports* piece, by Sgt Rena Kennedy, looks at the sporting achievement of Pte Ciamh Gray and her Wexford Youths ladies in the UEFA Champions League. Next, CPO Cian McParland looks at the *DF 10 Mile Road Race*, which starts and finishes in Haulbowline Naval Base in Cobh every year.

For our book review slot we look at the long-awaited *Witness to War Crimes - The Memoirs of an Irish Peacekeeper in Bosnia*, by Col Colm Doyle (retd), which was launched in McKee Bks recently.

All this, plus our regular features, including *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, and *What I Do*.

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald



FUCHSIA FLAG FLYING HIGH FOR VETERANS

ONE's Fuchsia Flag was raised at the Dundalk County Council offices on the 16th July 2018. Our photo shows Eamon Docherty, Jim Mc Eneaney, Frank Larrigan and Damian Higgins from the Michael McNeela Branch of ONE.



COL KEVIN KNIGHTLY HONOURED

On 30th May 2018, Brig Gen Howard Berney, GOC 2 Bde presented a Jadotville Medal to Kevin and Clare Knightly, the son and daughter of the late Col Kevin Knightly at Cathal Brugha Bks. Col Knightly joined the DF as a Cadet with 26th Cadet Class in December 1951 and he was commissioned on 23rd November 1953. He deployed to the Congo as an Lt in June 1961 with the Armoured Car Group 35 Inf Bn and in that September he commanded the section of Ford armoured cars under command to A Coy at the action in Jadotville. He was, along with the two Armd Car crews and personnel from A Coy and some from C Coy, held captive from 17th September to 25th October 1961 when they were freed in a prisoner exchange with the Katangan forces. He served a second tour in the Congo with the Armd Car Gp, 39 Inf Bn (April to October 1963). Col Knightly died on 23rd July 2003. Photo: Lt Col Gerry Cooney Retd

UK INSTRUCTOR

VISITS NCOTW

NCO Training Wing, Military College Coy
Sgt Dave O'Reilly is pictured presenting CSjt John Eastwood of the Infantry Battle School, Brecon, in Wales with a momento to mark his visit to the NCOTW.
Photo: Sgt John Greene, NCOTW



COMMODORE JOHN BARRY COMMEMORATION IN WEXFORD

Pictured recently at the Commodore John Barry day in Wexford is Lt Cdr Eddie Mulligan, Mayor Jim Moore, Minister with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Kehoe TD and Lt David McKenna. Photo: Patrick Hogan



THE GLENGARRY CLUB

Pictured are members of the Glengarry Club in Dublin Castle recently. The Glengarry Club is an organisation that has been set up to bring current and former Cavalry Corps members, PDF and RDF, and their families together, predominately through social media. The Club is open to anyone who wore a Cavalry Corps Glengarry at any time in service and of any rank. It is also open to family members of anyone that served in the Corps. Currently we have over 400 members, in many different parts of the world, who share photos old and new and make enquiries that get members to reminisce about their loved ones. We recently attended the UN 60th Anniversary in Dublin Castle, and this was the first time we have attended any event in full uniform. Anyone that wishes to get in contact can do so by sending a request to The Glengarry Club through Facebook or also contact me, Paul Kearney on 086 6613 083. We plan on expanding our activities to social trips away that all members can attend. Photo: John O'Byrne, NC & JO'B Photography





▲ TRIM CASTLE

Members of the ONE's Royal Meath Branch unveiled a memorial stone to the men and women who served in the Defence Forces both at home and abroad. The event took place on 24th June 2018 in the Pratt Memorial Park, Trim, Co Meath. They would like to thank all the dignitaries and branch members from around the country, the Civil Defence, An Garda Siochána, members of the public and the St Brigid's Athy and District Pipeband. *Photo: Noel Cloak P.C.*

▲ 16TH IRISH DIVISION AT GUILLEMONT

Pictured at the Wreath Laying ceremony to the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont France on Sunday 1st July 2018 is Brig Gen Philip Brennan with Ms Carol Walker MBE, Director of the Somme Association. Members of the Roger Casement Branch of ONE, who also paraded and laid a wreath, accompany them. *Photo: Cpl Michael J Whelan, Air Corps Museum*



▲ PRO 14 FINAL

Pictured are members of the Defence Forces male and female rugby teams who carried the Pro 14 team flags onto the pitch at the Pro 14 Final on 26th May in the Aviva Stadium. *Photo: Capt Damien O'Herlihy AR, 2 Cav Sqn*



▲ ARTILLERY CORPS 95TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

On the 5th of July, the Artillery Club's Gala Dinner, marking the 95th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps took place in McKee Bks, Dublin. *Photo: Armn Denis Fox, 105 Sqn*

▲ RBL ANNUAL ECUMENICAL CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, 7th July, the Royal British Legion (RBL) Republic of Ireland, held their Annual Ecumenical Ceremony of Remembrance and Wreath laying at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens in Islandbridge, Dublin. This annual event commemorates those who lost their lives in the two world wars, in particular, the estimated 60,000 Irish men and women from all parts of Ireland who served and died in them. *Photo: James Burke*

▲ IRISH VETERANS VISIT THE US

Pictured are members of the Irish UN Veterans Association (IUNVA) and the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) with State Representatives Kevin Honan, Paul Donato, Steve Ultrino and Gerard Cassidy, and Dept. of Veterans Services Director Kevin Jarvis at Massachusetts State House in the City of Malden on the 30th May 2018. *Photo: Office of Mayor, Gary Christenson*



A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

From the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS)



Winston Churchill, rehearsing the speech he was to give to the House of Commons after the Battle of Britain in 1940, came to the famous sentence about the RAF - "Never in the history of mankind have so many owed so much to so few". His military assistant interrupted and asked him - "What about Jesus and his disciples?". Churchill changed the wording to "Never in the field of human conflict...."

As with our own Defence Forces, at IBTS, we owe a massive debt of gratitude to a small number of people who everyday give so that everybody may benefit. At any given time, only 3% of the eligible population actively engage in giving blood. But in our lifetime, 1 in 4 will require a blood transfusion. Even by Churchill's standards, that's a lot of people relying on a small army of dedicated blood donors!

The IBTS needs to collect 3,000 donations weekly to ensure a safe and sustainable blood supply to the countries hospitals 365 days a year. But here is an interesting fact – if all donors stopped giving today, by this time next week, we would be struggling to supply those very hospitals. That is because at any time, IBTS aims to maintain a supply of 7 days of each blood group – thus ensuring it has enough to meet hospitals needs, but also not too much so as not to have blood outdated, and the limited number of donors using up their 1 in 90 day opportunity to give blood.

For platelets, it is even more immediate as platelets must be used within 5 days of collection.

Platelets are small cells present in the blood of all healthy people. They are essential to enable blood to clot properly. They are used in the treatment of Leukemic and cancer patient, burns victims and new born babies.

How can the Defence Forces help? Maybe it's the sense of public service, maybe it's an understanding of the benefits of blood and platelets, or maybe it's just the free snacks and soft drinks, but Defence Forces personnel and the wider emergency services sector, make up a significant part of that 3% giving blood and platelets regularly.

The IBTS and patients are very fortunate to benefit from these donors' continuous efforts, but we are asking for more donors to come forward. If you are interested in becoming a platelet donor please call: Dublin: 01 4322833 or Cork: 021 4807429 and check your eligibility at www.giveblood.ie

We started with Churchill so naturally we finish with Dr Suess who may have had platelet and blood donors in mind when he said, "To the world you may be one person – but to one person, you may be the world." ■

The Values of Donating Blood

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

An Cosantóir recently met up with Pte Anto Kenna, 2 Bde HQ who was rewarded for his 100th donation to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service back in February 2018.

"I started off giving pints of my O+ blood in 1986, I was about 22 and was 6-years in the Defence Forces at that time. Up to 2012 I had donated 54 pints of blood, and from then I was donating platelets. I reached 46 donations of platelets in February making a total of 100 in total."

Thinking back to 1986, what was your reason for donating blood? "My 7-year old cousin living in the USA developed leukaemia. While visiting him and seeing his condition and blood transfusions, as a family member I was asked if I would donate a pint of blood, which I did. Since then I have been donating irregularly. In 2002 I lost my own son to cancer and this pushed me on to keep donating."

Anto has now amassed 112 donations of blood and platelets, he said if it wasn't for his superiors and colleagues for allowing him attend his appointments. "I've been actively encouraged by my boss Comdt Dave Foley to attend my clinic appointments for platelets and I think more commanding officers and senior NCOs should encourage young healthy soldiers to donate blood/platelets regularly. I'm happy to keep donating." We believe that Comdt Foley has now also started to donate platelets.



Pte Anto Kenna pictured with his award for 100 IBTS donations. Photo Armn Jamie Barrett

An Irish Volunteer Remembered

BY LT SEAMUS SHANNON, 12 INF BN



The most well known IRA prisoner held in the New Barracks in Limerick during the War of Independence was Capt Thomas Keane, OC C Coy, 2nd Bn IRA, based in Limerick City. Thomas was born on 28th February 1887 to Thomas and Johanna Keane of Bonfield Lane. Following the death of his father he moved to 55 Clare Street. A carpenter by trade, the younger Thomas Keane was employed by the Great Southern and Western Railway. On 15th February 1914 he married Helena O'Sullivan.

At the time of Capt Keane's arrest they had two children, Margaret and Charles, and were expecting their third child, a boy who was born on 24th Sept 1921, four months after his father's execution.

On Sunday May 1st 1921 Tom Keane and Volunteer Henry Clancy were ordered to collect two C Coy revolvers from Captain Casey, OC A Coy, who was also working in the local area. The weapons had been left in A Coy's dump after an unsuccessful rescue attempt of IRA members Peadar Dunne and MP Colivet who were being held in Ordnance Bks.

The two men met with Capt Casey in Ballysimon, picked up the weapons and were returning home, when a Black and Tan and RIC patrol suddenly appeared on the main road, and within seconds they were surrounded. They were arrested and brought back to Limerick. In a desperate bid to escape, Henry Clancy, despite being handcuffed, jumped from the vehicle but was killed in a hail of bullets.

Capt Keane was subsequently tried by field general court martial on Saturday 14th May 1921, charged with unlawful possession of arms and waging war against the Crown Forces, and was sentenced to death on 4th June 1921.

As the hour of his execution approached, crowds gathered on the road outside the barracks in a show of defiant support. In an attempt to disperse the crowds many were brutally beaten by the Black and Tans, leaving some with serious injuries.

Following his execution Capt Keane was buried in the grounds of the gaol. However, during the Truce his body was retrieved by his C Coy comrades and following a fitting public

funeral, he was laid to rest beside Henry Clancy in the Republican plot at Mount Saint Laurence Cemetery. Captain Keane was the only man executed by the British forces outside of Dublin and Cork during the War of Independence.

Captain Thomas Keane was held in the upmost regard by his comrades, and the values he displayed reflect the physical and moral courage, integrity, respect, selflessness and loyalty, to which we should all aspire as serving members of the Defence Forces, and which have been adopted as the expressed values of our organisation.

Today we remember the patriotism of Capt Tom Keane and the ultimate sacrifice he made while performing his duty in the service of his country. ■



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

IUNVA VISIT TO SWEDEN

BY JIM CASEY, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN IUNVA PHOTOS MARTIN ROE

On Monday 28th May, the day after our annual wreath-laying ceremony, a group of IUNVA members, accompanied by Sgt Maj John Murray, made their way to Dublin Airport for a flight to Sweden at the invitation of Swedish UN veterans. The group comprised myself, IUNVA National Chairman, Jim Casey; National Welfare Officer, Mick Thompson; Post 1 President, Michael Colton; Post 1 Chairman, John Egan; Anto Byrne of the IUNVA Pipe Band; museum curator, Ronnie Delaney; Mick Monaghan, John Toomey and Joe O'Brien (Post 1); Des Keegan (Post 5); and Martin Roe (Post 27).

On arrival we were met by a number of Swedish Congo veterans, including our contact, Per Carlborg. A two-hour bus drive brought us to Enköping Barracks, set in beautiful woodland, where we were to be accommodated.

Tuesday 29th May (International Peacekeepers Day), saw us on the road at 0600hrs to attend Sweden's main Veterans Day ceremony. On arrival we were introduced to Head of Veterans' Affairs for the Swedish Armed Forces, Col Torbjörn Larsson, and Sgt Maj Daniel Nybling. (The Swedish government and army show great respect to their veterans, with a Veterans Affairs Department staffed full-time with a colonel and a sergeant major. The government allots €500,000 annually to the Swedish veterans organisation and meetings between the latter and the Veterans Affairs Department are held regularly to organise events and finances.)

We were seated in the VIP area, along with the King of Sweden, Minister of Defence Carl Peter Hultqvist, and Swedish Armed Forces Supreme Commander, General Micael Bydén, from where we watched the very professional and enjoyable ceremony.

Afterwards, I was approached by Minister Hultqvist, who said he would be honoured to meet our party. Everybody fell-in, including Sgt Major Murray, and the minister was introduced to each member of the group, who gave a brief description of their UN tours of duty.

Col Larsson then asked if we could wait another 15 minutes before lunch as General Bydén also wished to meet us. On the general's arrival we fell-in again and were introduced to him individually. He then gave a short speech on our excellent role in UN peacekeeping and paid his respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We are sincerely grateful to these gentlemen for taking time out of their busy schedules on the day to speak with us.

The next day we set off early for a guided tour of the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. This was followed by a boat trip around the city, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Another early start on Thursday brought us to Kungsängen, home of the Swedish Armed Forces International Centre (Swed-int), where we were welcomed by Col Laura Swaan-wiede.

We were briefed on the training of personnel for overseas service that takes place in the centre by Lt Col Gustaf Dufberg, and by Lt Col

Arthur Armstrong (retd), formerly of the Irish Defence Forces, who is on the Swedint staff.

After lunch we visited a military museum, and then held a wreath-laying ceremony, attended by the Irish ambassador, before travelling to the ambassador's residence, where Ambassador Dympna Hayes talked with us and gave a speech on Ireland's UN activities, past and present. Later, Anto Byrne brought the house down with his pipes.

The next morning we were up at 0400hrs in preparation for our journey home.

No words can adequately describe our gratitude for the hospitality and courtesy shown to us by our hosts. Their organisation was faultless and the standard of catering, accommodation and transportation they provided were second to none.

I want to thank the members of our group for their excellent punctuality for all events and for their dress and deportment, which were a credit to them. I must make special mention of our piper, Anto Byrne, our photographer, Martin Roe, and Mick Thompson, for the groundwork. Also to Sgt Major Murray, who was always a great ambassador for the Defence Forces. ■



'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother'

ONE'S ANNUAL FUCHSIA APPEAL

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE



(l/r): ONE National President Tom James, Admiral Mark Mellett, Minister Keogh, ONE CEO Ollie O'Connor and ONE Chairman Brig Gen Colm Campbell Retd.



DF Veterans supporting the launch in Merrion Square.



Members of Dáil Éireann and the General Staff supporting the launch with veterans.



On 27th June, The Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) launched their 10th annual Fuchsia Appeal in aid of Defence Forces veterans who have fallen on hard times. The launch took place at the national memorial on Merrion Square, where the Defence Forces regularly honours members who gave their lives in the service of the state; a place that has become synonymous with respect to our fallen comrades.

Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, launched the appeal, which was attended by Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD, and other VIPs and members of the General Staff.

ONE continues to carry out their primary objective: 'to ensure the welfare of ex-service personnel by way of providing accommodation to homeless, elderly or disabled members in need of such domestic accommodation and shelter and other assistance that may be required.'

The Fuchsia Appeal raises much-needed funds to assist ONE in providing accommodation for homeless, elderly or disabled former members of the DF who are in need. ONE does this through its three hostels in Letterkenny, Athlone and Dublin. The largest of these, the six-storey Brú na Bóinne, located just off Smithfield in Dublin city centre, can accommodate up to 30 residents, while Beechwood House (Letterkenny) and Custume House (Athlone) can each accommodate seven. Residents are housed and provided with long- or short-term care on a means tested basis.

The Fuchsia Appeal is launched to coincide with the month of the National Day of Remembrance (July), which commemorates all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. On the 8th July, Ireland celebrated its 60th Anniversary of unbroken service to Peacekeeping with the United Nations in Kilmainham Hospital.

In his speech after greeting those attending the launch, ONE CEO Ollie O'Connor thanked Minister Kehoe, DoD Sec Gen, Maurice Quinn, and Vice Admiral Mellett, for their continued assistance with veteran needs.

He also explained: "Residents stay here for many reasons, including marital breakdown, financial difficulties or other

social reasons that render them homeless. It is our aim to offer accommodation to those in need at a particular time in their life, with the intention for them to move on when their life has become more settled."

Ollie went on to outline ONE's plans to expand its network with a further 11 veteran support centres around the country, and he also praised other veteran associations for their support of veterans.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Kehoe said it was fitting to have the launch at the national memorial, considering that 87 members of the Defence Forces have lost their lives in the service of peace. A few weeks previously on Sunday 13th May 2018 Minister Keogh spoke at the Defence Forces Veterans' Day at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Bks saying: "For 60 years the men and women of the Irish Defence Forces have contributed to the cause of peace all around the world in places like Lebanon, the Congo, the Golan Heights, Chad, Liberia, East Timor and Syria, to name but a few; serving with honour and distinction.

"The Fuchsia Appeal raises valuable funds greatly needed to look after the needs and welfare of ex-service personnel. Indeed, the word 'cuimhnímis', meaning 'let us remember', is stamped on the Fuchsia Appeal badge in remembrance of those who have served and those who have given their lives while serving...We will not forget them."

This year the Fuchsia badge received great prominence when all cabinet members wore it on the National Day of Commemoration and An Taoiseach also wore and it when he met Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex during the recent royal visit.

ONE constantly needs funding to support our veterans, and they are seeking corporate sponsorship from companies who might like to sponsor a room in a hostel, or sponsor a veteran's support centre, or support their efforts in any other way. ■

The registered charity's contact details are: ONE HQ, Brú na Bóinne, Smithfield Market, North King Street, Dublin 7. Ph: 01 485 0666. Email: info@oneconnect.ie or visit www.oneconnect.ie



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

RESPECT

LOYALTY

SELFLESSNESS

PHYSICAL COURAGE

MORAL COURAGE

INTEGRITY

DEFENCE FORCES VALUES AWARDS 2018



IS THERE SOMEONE IN YOUR UNIT WHO, YOU THINK, HAS THESE QUALITIES?

WHY NOT NOMINATE THAT INDIVIDUAL FOR ONE OF THESE AWARDS?

AN INDIVIDUAL, FROM ALL RANKS, CAN BE NOMINATED BY FILLING OUT THE NOMINATION FORM AND FORWARDING IT TO YOUR UNIT COMMANDER.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK ON THE INTERNAL IKON INFORMATION PORTAL



STRENGTHEN
THE NATION

“He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother

*The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to
Who knows where
Who knows when
But I’m strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother*



Please support the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel's annual Fuchsia Appeal.

The Fuchsia Appeal raises funds for the ONE's charitable objective of providing accommodation & other assistance to ex-service personnel in need.

The Fuchsia emblem is a fundraising badge of remembrance and a symbol of honour to those currently serving in the Defence Forces.

The Reserve Defence Force Supporting the Frontline



BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

"In seeking freedom, and in volunteering to fight for it, the hopes of the women and men who formed Óglaigh na hÉireann were to awaken 'the light of hope' and offer a liberating vision in what Liam Mac Uistín's poem describes as 'a desert of discouragement'."

President Michael D Higgins speaking at the Garden of Remembrance on 24th November 2013, the centenary of the foundation of the Irish Volunteers

Volunteering with the Reserve Defence Force (RDF) affords an individual the opportunity to learn new skills through different courses and camps throughout the year, while still pursuing their full-time occupation in 'civvy street'.

The RDF's main function is to provide support to the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) in fulfilling its various roles, such as defending the state against armed aggression and aid-to-the-civil-power (ATCP) operations. This is done in a variety of ways, including assisting with training exercises and augmenting Naval Service personnel on fishery protection patrols.

In 2005 the land element of our volunteer reserve forces, formerly known as An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ), was given the more modern title of the Army Reserve (AR/Cúltaca an Airm) and the naval element changed its title from An Slua Muirí to the Naval Service Reserve (NSR/Cúltaca na Seirbhís Cabhlaigh).

Almost 100 years after the forming of the Irish Volunteers (Óglaigh na hÉireann), the completely volunteer RDF underwent another re-organisation in March 2013 in line with the Single-Force Concept, which embedded the RDF into PDF units, ensuring a single chain of command and allowing scope for greater collective training and operational effectiveness. In the AR existing RDF units were disestablished and the personnel posted into RDF companies/batteries/squadrons within PDF units. The NSR was reformed into the Dublin Unit Naval Service Reserve (DUNSR), Limerick Unit Naval Service Reserve (LUNSR) and Waterford unit Naval Service Reserve (WUNSR).

In the 2015 White Paper on Defence the government recognised the part played by the RDF and committed itself to retaining and developing the reserve. Chapter 8, paragraph 7.6, states: 'The Government recognise the valued public service given by volunteer men and women of the RDF to the State.' And later: 'Reserve forces can offer a cost-effective means of mitigating this risk and Ireland has retained a Reserve Defence Force in one form or another since the foundation of the State. The Government recognise the important role that the First Line Reserve (FLR), Army Reserve (AR) and Naval Service Reserve (NSR) have played in contributing to Ireland's defence capability, and, in particular, to the spirit of voluntary service that has been the hall-mark of members of the Reserve.'

On 13th July 2018, Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM announced the appointment of Col Brian Cleary, Director Combat Support & ISTAR, to oversee the RDF. This appointment has been well received by the Reserve Defence Forces Representative Association (RDFRA).

Volunteer military service has a long and noble tradition in Ireland and its value is also recognised in many other countries throughout the world. General James H Doolittle, a Reserve officer in the US Army Air Corps who was recalled to active duty during World War II, famously said: *"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."*

If you are interested in joining the RDF, keep an eye on DF social media platforms for announcements regarding recruitment. Applications are only accepted through www.military.ie. ■



Revitalising THE RESERVE

BY LT COL GERRY MAGUIRE (AR), SSO RDFTE, HQ DFTC

Since the RDF reorganisation in 2013 and the implementation of the single-force concept (SFC) there has been no new Army Reserve (AR) officers commissioned due to a number of factors, including the 'bedding in' of the SFC structure and the small number of new corporals coming through the system. Currently, the average age of an AR lieutenant is 47 and many sub-units are critically short of the young officers essential for the continued development and viability of the AR.



In late 2017 submissions were made to the ACOS and DJ7 highlighting the high age profile of AR lieutenants and the growing shortage of young officers across the organisation. Subsequent to these submissions J7 approved the setting up of a working group of AR officers from DFHQ, both brigades and the DFTC, to look at updating the potential officer (PO) syllabus, which dated back to 2007 and no longer reflected the requirements of the SFC.

AR recruit, two to three-star, and potential NCO syllabi had all been rewritten since 2015 and it was essential that the PO syllabus was aligned with these. Before the PO syllabus could be rewritten it was necessary to decide what kind of new officer was required by the SFC. After discussions with many relevant stakeholders and the Cadet School, the term 'professional checker' emerged to describe what a unit commander required from a newly commissioned officer, and closely mirrors the approach of the Cadet School in training cadets.

To be of most benefit to his/her unit, a newly commissioned AR officer must be able to complete/supervise a number of essential tasks, such as unit administration, range practices, and security duties.

With the objectives identified the working group began their work on developing a suitable syllabus.

The newly produced draft syllabus will qualify newly commissioned officers in a number of key areas such as range management, regimental security duties, and unit administration through IKON. This will give the new officer a number of tangible skills that will significantly benefit his/her new unit and CO.

Syllabus hours increase from 329.50 in the 2007 version to 522 in the new version, completed over 10 weekends and four weeks full-time training over two calendar years in the Cadet School. Subject to DJ7 approval, it is hoped this new syllabus will soon replace its predecessor.

However, merely producing a new PO syllabus on its own would not begin the process of rebuilding the AR officer ranks, a PO course would also be needed. A training-needs analysis (TNA) was produced for DJ7 that showed, based on known retirements on age grounds and reasonable estimates of future promotions, that 65 of the 110 AR lieutenant appointments would be vacant by Q4 2020. It was the conclusion of the TNA that the only solution to this shortfall in AR officers is the scheduling of a PO course in 2019/20.

To allow for the maximum number of suitable candidates, and to minimize the impact on reducing the number of younger NCOs (potentially solving a shortfall in young officers by creating a shortfall in young NCOs), it is suggested that reservists of any rank who hold a university degree will be permitted to apply for RDF PO courses. This development would create a significantly larger pool of potential candidates and ensure a stream of suitable young officers in sufficient numbers to ensure long-term viability of the SFC and the RDF.

In anticipation of the approval for a PO course commencing in 2019 and the consequent selection of candidates in Q4 of 2018, it is vitally important that all Army Reserve sub-unit commanders actively encourage the identification and nomination of suitable candidates as a matter of urgency. ■

Learning the Basics



REPORT & PHOTOS BY CQMS MICHAEL BARRETT, AR, 7 INF BN

Recruit training is a common denominator for all members of the Defence Forces; a vital physical and mental rite of passage. We all had to go through it, regardless of which branch of service we enlisted in. This basic training provides an introduction to fundamental military skills and knowledge and the military mindset that new entrants will require in their career.

In the army context, regardless of whether permanent or reserve, the purpose of recruit training is to turn raw civilians into skilled soldiers.

Recruit training for RDF recruits is based on a standard syllabus containing several core subjects designed to produce physically fit, disciplined, motivated soldiers. To this end, on Saturday 26th May, 22 RDF recruits of 7 Inf Bn had a field day of basic training in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin.

Almost all these recruits had begun the process of joining the Defence Forces during the latter half of 2017 and were finally

attested in early 2018. Since attestation they have been attending weekly parade nights in barracks, while also supporting 7 Inf Bn's other RDF elements with several requested tasks, including assisting with battalion shooting team practice on Gorleston rifle range. This particular tasking gave rise to a training opportunity for the recruits themselves in the form of learning range familiarisation and judging distance.

However, the field day in May was to be their own first full training day in Cathal Brugha Bks; a necessity to help them to prepare for their two-week full-time training block, due to take place later this summer.

The recruits' training and instructional NCOs are all members of C Coy (RDF) 7 Inf Bn, which is the unit currently tasked with all RDF recruit training in the city. As the premier infantry battalion in the Dublin area, 7 Inf Bn has a vast array of Defence Forces assignments to fulfil, and the role of the battalion's three reserve companies (C, D and E Cos) is to support and, if possible,

augment the PDF companies in whenever way we can.

The C Coy training day in Cathal Brugha Bks included rifle marksmanship, foot drill, and a physical fitness assessment. Foot drill is almost always the first practical lesson that any recruits will receive; a necessity designed to get troops from one location to another in a smart and soldierly manner. As a result, recruits will spend much initial training time on the barracks square.

The early stage of training also involves the recruits learning to organise themselves, to be on time, to work as part of a team, and to answer their officers and NCOs correctly. They may not realise it at first, but they are being conditioned for military service.

Then there is weapons training. Each recruit has already been allocated a personal rifle, the standard issue, A1 version of the 5.56mm Steyr rifle, and they must learn to maintain this weapon in full working order.

They will learn how the rifle's mechanism works, and will learn how to strip, clean and assemble it, to load, aim and fire it in a safe and efficient manner, and to keep it firing when things go wrong.

The Steyr rifle is the soldier's first weapon that they are introduced to in what could be a long career in the Defence Forces, and it is the weapon with which he or she will learn the fundamental importance of safety precautions, as well as confident handling of a weapon.

As the soldier rises in grade and experiences other weapons, such as the general-purpose machine gun (GPMG) and M203 gre-

Close-order foot drill, always awkward at first, becomes progressively refined. Feet can become sore in these early days from wearing unfamiliar army-issue boots, but this early training period is the time to break them in.

All drill commands and instruction from their NCOs must be reacted to immediately. This sharp 'ask no questions' attitude again has a practical purpose as it invokes alertness and instant obedience; something, which in actual combat can save, lives and win battles.

The recruits slowly learn to manage their time and organise

Range familiarisation in Gormanston Camp



Pictured are RDF students and instructors in Cathal Brugha Bks.



The Mod A1 version Steyr rifle



Cpl Patrick Mulhall instructing the recruits on foot drill



nade launcher, will be introduced and mastered, but their basic grounding on the rifle will mould all their future weapon handling skills. In addition to operational activities the rifle also plays a role in ceremonial events, so recruits also learn arms drill on the barracks square.

Alongside these practical military skills, recruits are being conditioned to the mindset required for military service as Defence Forces' values, attitudes and standards are impressed on them during the early months. Their uniform and cleanliness all come under scrutiny by the training NCOs. All buttons must be closed, boots must be polished, and DPM trousers and shirts creased. Stubble may be fashionable as a civvy, but not while you're in your Defence Forces uniform. Haircuts must be short and neat for males, long hair tied into a neat bun for females. Uniform dress and deportment must be top notch.

Training NCOs continually identify and point out minor uniform errors to the recruits. These minor corrections may seem tedious to some, but they serve a practical purpose, teaching recruits how to pay attention to small details - it's the small details in combat situations that may decide the outcome of a battle.

themselves for the important things. It's still early days yet, but they are on their way to becoming fully trained and qualified soldiers.

For the junior NCOs on the instruction staff this is a good learning process too, as they get to practice their instructional and leadership skills. It takes time and effort to develop these skills, and the corporals on the instruction staff have at the very least 10 years' service with the RDF, during which they have amassed the necessary experience and skills to fulfil their role.

As for the recruits, a lot more training lies ahead in 2018. While the two-week training block will be their main challenge, more training will follow that, including passing the standard DF fitness test.

Further down the road they can look forward to fulfilling the all-important role of supporting our PDF comrades in 7 Inf Bn on such tasks as mission readiness exercises, unit tactical exercises, career course exercises, ceremonial duties, and any other requested tasks or duties in barracks or elsewhere. ■

Cpl Eimear Ni Phalluinc instructor on arms drill



URBAN



REPORT & PHOTOS
BY CQMS MICHAEL
BARRETT, AR 7 INF BN

WARRIORS

Fighting in built-up areas (FIBUA) is a type of combat that we have seen taking place in several conflicts in recent decades. Consequently, the development of the particular skills required in FIBUA has become standard practice with armed forces around the world, including the Defence Forces, which has a range of FIBUA training programmes.

Between Monday 28th May and Friday 1st June, Dublin-based 7 Inf Bn conducted a Young Entrants (YE) FIBUA Course for 20 students (19 PDF and one RDF). Two of the students were NCOs, the remainder being three-star privates who had enlisted into the PDF as recently as 2017.

The aim of the course was to qualify personnel to young entry level and to ensure personnel can operate in an effective and efficient manner on FIBUA operations.

The course began on a Monday morning in Cathal Brugha Bks with a series of lectures delivered by course i/c Sgt Richie Charters (B Coy, 7 Bn). These included information on the various types of urban terrain, the composition of the materials that make walls and buildings, uses and limitations of radio signal equipment, functions and best uses of AFVs and armour, and the method of approaching and entering buildings.

Practical lessons overseen by the instructors over the following days included such things as how to climb ladders safely while carrying weapons and kit, how to drop from heights and avoid injuries, the best methods to enter doors and windows, clearing buildings room by room using fire and movement techniques.



These practical lessons utilised some disused buildings within Cathal Brugha Bks.

The culmination of the course was Urban Warrior, a 24-hour exercise in the Multi Training Facility (MTF) in the DFTC. Sgt Wayne Eastwood, a vastly experienced instructor from 7 Inf Bn, arrived to assist the course for this most demanding segment of the course, and a detail of four RDF personnel from the battalion's reserve units also arrived to provide an enemy party for the exercise.

The course students, instructors and support elements departed barracks and arrived in the DFTC on a Thursday to begin the exercise.

FIBUA by its very nature is an exhausting experience. All operations are performed employing tactical movement, and for effective urban operations infantry troops must carry a lot of extra equipment, such as ladders and door-smashing tools, while wearing body armour and helmet.

FIBUA training is time consuming and relentless. A lot of fire-and-movement drills are required to move over what are relatively short distances, possibly only a few meters. Large amounts of blank ammunition are required, and each soldier has

to carry several hundred rounds of ammunition distributed over his/her battle-vest and daysack, along with thunder flashes and smoke grenades.

A large amount of energy is required and expended by a soldier when conducting FIBUA training, so water is a constant need, and soldiers learn by trial and error to carry as much water as they can, adding even more weight to be carried.

The day of Exercise Urban Warrior proved to be very hot and humid, and this also had to be overcome by the students in order to fulfil the exercise demands.

Logistically, FIBUA is also highly demanding. As mentioned earlier, ammunition is used in very large amounts by individual soldiers during fire and movement and also by support weapons, so resupply of ammo and water is constantly required, regardless of the weather. For this purpose, part of Urban Warrior included a replenishment exercise, to simulate a platoon of troops lifting and carrying forward heavy ammunition supplies to forward units. Several dozen sand-filled ammo boxes and water-filled jerry cans were provided to the course students to reflect the reality of the physical demands required. They were then timed as they moved these items to a supply drop over 200m away, while dealing with obstacles and debris.

A casevac drill was also included to test the students, who had to carry two 'wounded' back over obstacles to a safe area. Again this was a timed effort, with one team ending the clear winner.

These scenarios and drills demonstrate the vital importance of

physical fitness in effective FIBUA, even in peacetime training exercises such as Urban Warrior. It doesn't take long for trained soldiers to acquire the expertise required for FIBUA, but physically it's not easy, and the fitter you are, the less difficult you will find it. ■



SHOWING THEIR POTENTIAL



BY LT FERGAL FITZGERALD AR, 2 BTC

PHOTOS BY ARMN JAMIE BARRETT & SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

The first all-army Potential NCO course for members of the Army Reserve (AR) was recently completed in 2 Brigade Training Centre (2 BTC). Comprising of students and instructors from 1 Bde, 2 Bde and the DFTC, the course crossed the start line in September 2017. The range of civilian jobs represented by the students, who came from Mayo, Galway, Louth, Dublin, Kerry, Meath (one via Latvia), Derry, Offaly and Cork, included validation engineer, distiller, solicitor, retail, IT, purchase officer, electronics, aviation security, trainee accountant, landscaper, fisherman, undergraduate, medical engineer, retail manager, software developer, and a fire fighter.

For many, the journey began long beforehand, with course briefings in each formation, and refresher training taking place at local unit level to prepare students for a pre-course assessment day held in Cathal Brugha Bks, which saw students assessed in drill, knowledge of section weapons and map reading.

Module One of the course concentrated on military instructor training, where students focused on the theory and practice of military instruction, leading on to student-led lessons in the classroom and on the square. Classroom assessments held in Gorleston Camp in January tested the students' ability to control a class and deliver effective and accurate instruction in a safe manner, and lecture skills assessments afforded students the op-

portunity to present on a topic of their choice, provided there was a military connection. Presentations ranged from The Winter War and The Latvian Junior Guard to the History of Dun Uí Mhaolíosa in Galway.

February saw a move away from the barracks environment and down to the Curragh Plains, where students practised their navigation skills by day and by night. This was followed by a series of distance-learning tasks, in which students prepared route cards and navigation assessments during the week.

In March, with snow still on the hills, the students completed their day and night navigation assessments in Wicklow.

The final phase of the course took place in the Glen of Imaal as the course completed six days in a forward operating base (FOB) in Stranahealy Wood. Within an hour of arriving in Stranahealy, and mid-shakeout, a member of Donard Community First Responders approached seeking assistance for a hill walker experiencing chest pains on Table Mountain. In this case, the diversity of RDF skillsets came to its own, as between students and instructors the course had two paramedics, an emergency first responder and two emergency medical technicians, who were dispatched to assist. The team made their way to the casualty, who could not be airlifted from his position due to dense cloud cover. Using the course GS, the hill walker was transported to

Cemetery Hill to RV with the Coast Guard rescue helicopter for airlift to Beaumont Hospital.

We occupied our FOB for the remainder of the patrol phase, during which each student was assessed in planning and leading a patrol, and delivering a detailed brief and patrol report at the end of each patrol. (This took place during our recent heat wave, with each student consuming on average of six litres of water per day.)

Midway through the full-time training block, the course received lectures on rifle marksmanship and coaching techniques and with support from 2 Transport Group, completed exercise 'White Patch' on Number 1 Range, Kilbride Camp, where each student acted as a coach to firers on the range, detecting and correcting faults.

The final week of training saw the course back on the ground in the Glen of Imaal for the offensive phase (section in attack) in Coliga Wood and Brennan's Farm. Rolling attacks were the order of the day, as students honed their orders, drills and command skills in various section-in-attack scenarios. No amount of lectures,

of the Potential NCO course on successfully completing their training: *"You have come through an arduous period of training designed to test you physically and mentally and to equip you with the core competencies required to take up a junior leadership role within the Defence Forces."*

Brig Gen Berney also congratulated the new junior leaders and thanked them for their continued commitment and dedication to the Army Reserve. The parade finished with a march past the main flagpole in Cathal Brugha Bks, where Brig Gen Berney took the salute.

Commenting on the course, the class president, Pte Ruben O'Leary, says: *"The Potential NCOs course has a reputation for being extremely challenging. While it was difficult for us at times, it created group cohesion and brought us together as a team. The standard on this particular course was very high and I think the ultimate result of this was an increased level of student morale."*

"Our instructors lived up to the military instructor values of being firm, fair and friendly. They pushed us hard during training but were available to help during downtime in the evenings if needed,"



While presenting scrolls to students' Brig Gen Howard Berney, comments on Cpl Tommy Kelly 2 Bde Tpt Gp All Army Marksman badge (Tommy won the All Army Individual Pistol Competition in 2013), with instructor Sgt Ciaran Curran AR behind.



Lt Fergal Fitzgerald leading the platoon of newly promoted Cpl's to the viewing stand to salute Brig Gen Berney.

demonstrations or walk-through/talk-through could prepare the prospective commanders for initial contact followed by roars of "Contact front!" and our early attacks didn't always go as planned. Steadily, however, through drill and teamwork the six section battle drills became second nature, with students successfully completing their assessments at the end of week two.

Aside from time on training, the course also raised €3,800 for the Peter McVerry Trust, a charity set up to reduce homelessness and the harm caused by drug misuse and social disadvantage. The money was raised by the course doing a sponsored climb of Carrauntoohil and through Tpr Brendan McCarthy walking the Wicklow Way in 23 hours.

In July just gone, eighteen students held their passing-out parade on the main square of Cathal Brugha Barracks with GOC 2 Bde, Brig Gen Howard Berney, taking the parade.

The CQMS Gerard P Doyle Memorial Trophy, awarded for Best Student, was presented to Pte Stephen Burke (7 Inf Bn) by Ms Natasha Doyle.

The winner of the Laoch an Chúrsa award, presented to the student who best embodied the Defence Forces values of loyalty, respect, selflessness, physical and moral courage, and integrity, was selected by the students on the course. The recipient, Pte Ruben O'Leary (1 Engr Coy), was presented with his award, jointly, by Sgt Fiona Holohan (Vice President RDFRA) and Brig Gen Berney.

OC 2 BTC, Comdt William Collins, congratulated the members

and they were extremely helpful. As class president I saw firsthand how the instructors considered and facilitated the students' every need, even if at times the students were unaware of it." ■



Students and instructors pictured with GOC 2 Bde Brig Gen Howard Berney. The course raised €3,800 for the Peter McVerry Trust charity.



EXERCISE REDCAP

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE AND ARMN JAMIE BARRETT

The Military Police Corps is an essential part of a functioning military, providing security services at military barracks and bases around the world. They also conduct military law enforcement functions, carry out investigations of minor crimes, and perform a wide range of patrolling duties. A high degree of specialised training is required to fill the MP role and the basics of this are learned on the MP Probationers Course.

In May, the 66th MP Probationers Course conducted their final exercise in late May of this year. Codenamed 'Exercise Redcap', this was the culmination of 16 weeks' hard work for the 26 students and was designed to put them through their paces in a wartime scenario and to test them on the various skills they had learned throughout the course. The exercise was supported by RDF MPs, who stepped in at section level to make up numbers, and also played roles in some of the scenarios during the week. A ComOp course also contributed to the week-long exercise by providing signals and sending data packets back and forth to higher HQ.

For the students on the MP course the exercise began the evening before the main convoy was due to depart from the DFTC, when their first task was to conduct a route recce from the DFTC to the exercise location in the Glen of Imaal. The information gathered during this recce would be used to pick out locations along the route where the probationers would



set up manned control points and where directional markers would be needed. This tied into the wartime scenario, as MPs would traditionally be required to control traffic and supplies going to and from the battlefield. The large distance to the exercise location provided the probationers with their first main challenge.

On the morning of the departure for the Glen of Imaal the probationers paraded in their section rooms at 0600hrs and each student was given specific tasks and locations that they would be manning for the move. Everyone manning a location on the route would be in possession of a Pointman's card; these contain details of the route such as distance and dangers, and also a sketch map of the area.

The main convoy departed the DFTC at 0800hrs. It passed through each control point successfully, and by 1200hrs the main convoy and all students were in location for the next phase of the exercise, setting up an MP hide. This is essentially similar to a patrol harbour, only on a larger scale to accommodate vehicles and other equipment inside the perimeter, while also insuring 360-degree cover. From the hide the probationer's would get their taskings from MP Coy HQ, which is part of Bn HQ. These tasks would be varied throughout the week and would be centred on a conventional battlefield environment.

One of their main tasks during the week was the security and maintenance of the main supply route (MSR) to the forward edge of the battle area (FEBA), which was located a few kilometres from the hide.

In the scenario the MSR changed daily, either due to being compromised or the FEBA changing as the front line moved. The only information provided by higher HQ was a start and end location for each MSR. Each section was then required to carry out a recce patrol based on this information and then mark and maintain the new route. There is a lot of planning involved in this activity as the route must be marked clearly and properly so that it can be easily followed, and MSR security and clearance patrols need to be planned and carried out throughout the day.

On one of the MSR security patrols the students came across a road traffic accident (staged by RDF personnel) involving members of the local population. This difficult situation had to be dealt with quickly as things soon became aggressive and was in danger of turning into a hostage situation.

Other problems for the probationers to deal with over the week included tampering to signage along the MSR and other damage and blockages on the route. All obstacles and dangers noted on the MSR had to be reported to higher HQ, which kept the students busy on their patrols.

Another challenging task the students received was setting up a POW and straggler post. In this scenario they came across a number of displaced people while on patrol that they had to detain and identify. These detainees were put into four categories and segregated from each other until their identity could be ascertained.

This was a very demanding scenario, with RDF personnel again playing a great role as the POWs and stragglers; some playing injured civilians crying out for assistance, while others were quiet and acting strangely due to shell shock. Mixed in with these were a few combatants from both friendly and enemy forces.

The students stepped up to the mark in all these scenarios and put their training into good use, dealing with every aspect of the exercise with professionalism, and showing the confidence required of junior leaders.

It was a busy week for the students as they conducted their various patrols, set out signposts, maintained routes, and dealt with POWs and stragglers, while also having to cope with the security and defensive aspects of their hide, which was open to attack throughout the week.

The RDF personnel involved, who came from MP Sch DFTC, 1 Bde MP, and 2 Bde MP, said the exercise and working with the MP course had been a great training opportunity, while in turn the exercise organisers expressed their gratitude for the excellent assistance provided by their RDF colleagues throughout the week. ■

Vox Pops



PTE KEITH CALLAGHAN, 7 INF BN

"It's a really good and enjoyable course, and it's nice to do all the MP stuff and get an insight into it. Although the exercise is really tough, mentally and physically, we are getting through it and

we're all pulling together as a team. The set up of the whole exercise is very well done and the instructors are really experienced and have helped us a lot.

"The RDF guys are playing a great part as well and they've made the exercise scenarios realistic."



PTE ANN KENNEDY, 12 INF BN

"The course is very interesting, particularly the investigation end of the job, but this exercise is tough; there's a lot to keep track of and it's keeping us on our toes, trying to guess what will

happen next, which makes things very realistic and keeps us thinking on our feet. The instructors are very helpful when you need some guidance on what to do next, and they will point you in the right direction."



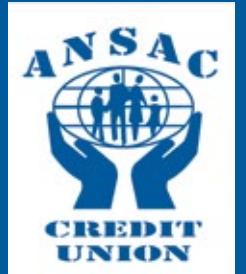
SGT ALAN SHERLOCK, IN- STRUCTOR MP SCH DFTC

"The course is going very well. The students are 16 weeks in and they have another six weeks remaining. Their first six weeks covered the infantry practical phase; things like patrolling and section tactics. After that they went straight into the policing side of things, which is very heavily knowledge based.

"This exercise is a culmination of all the work they have put in so far and is centred on a wartime routine. They will be tested on a number of aspects they've learned about, like route signing, processing of POWs and IDPs, and a wide range of incidents that may arise on the ground."

MONEY MATTERS

BY ANSAC CREDIT UNION



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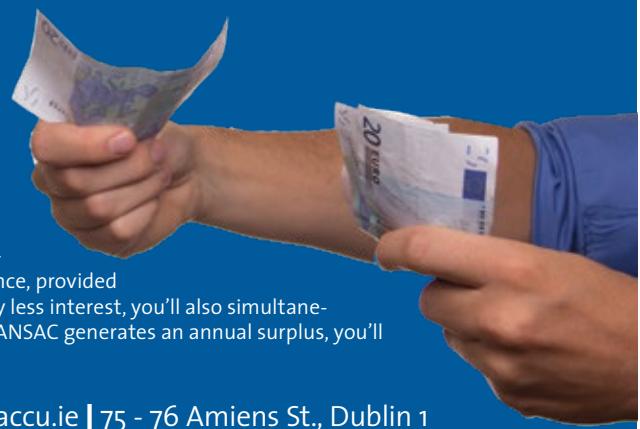
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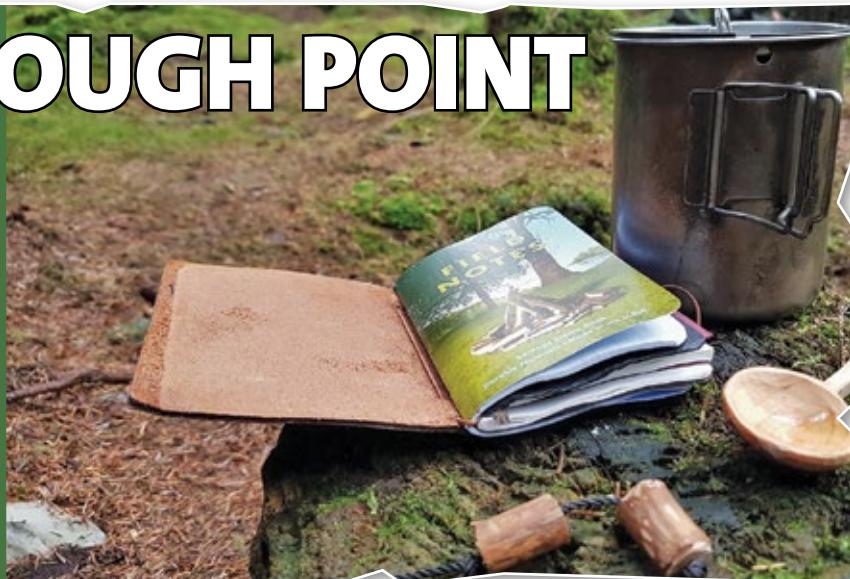


Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann
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THE PLOUGH POINT

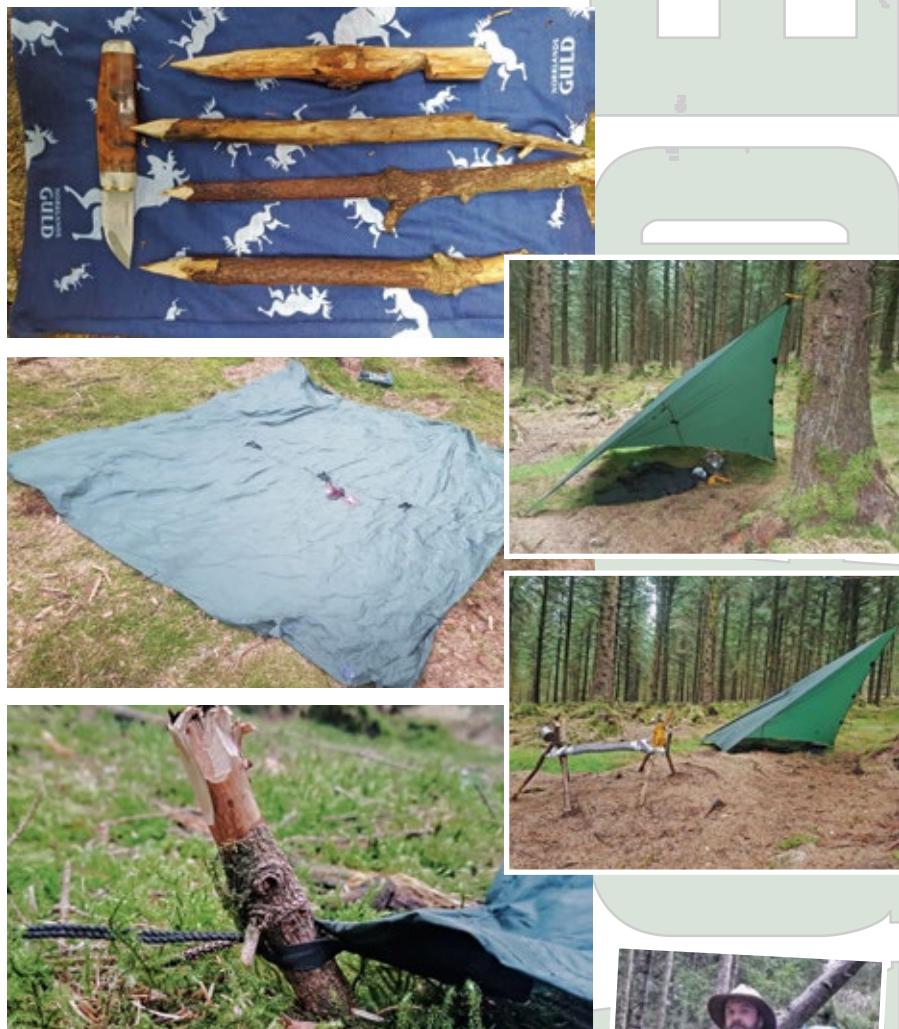
BY JOE PRICE

This month sees us drawing closer to the end of one of the nicest summers in quiet awhile. While out over the past weeks I have been caught in some very fast moving rainstorms and showers. So I thought I would share a quick deploy shelter set up using a standard 3m X 3m square tarp. The tarp I am using is a DD 3x3 ultralite but any square tarp with corner tie outs would get you out in a pinch.



- First thing you want to do if you don't have them to hand is to make 3 tent stakes. They don't have to be complicated. Find thumb sized sticks with a natural crook and break them over your knee. If you're lucky they will break with a point but if not a quick sharpen with any knife will give you a quick and serviceable stake.
- Next you want to pick a tree or you can use trekking poles and tall limbs. But a tree is your easiest option. When you pick your location (flat, out of the wind, free of debris) lay your tarp down with one corner facing the tree.
- Raising that corner to head height, tightly fasten it to the tree. You can use a bungee, karabiner or a marlin hitch, which is my preferred method.
- Once the first corner is attached high on the tree. Take your pre-made stakes and pull out the furthest corner directly in front of the tree. This becomes the back point of the plough. Then simply pull tight and stake out the other two remaining corners.

The plough point is a very good configuration to have in your arsenal and with a little bit of practice can be deployed and up in under 7 minutes. It requires little to no use of existing kit supplies and is a good way to get out of the elements if caught out.



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

He works in The Camo Shop www.thecamoshop.ie and you can follow the ‘Living to Learn’ community online:

www.facebook.com/groups/livingtolearn/



FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

INITIAL AVIATION FIRE FIGHTERS

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY ARMN JAMIE BARRETT

On 4th July, *An Cosantóir* staff visited the Air Corps Fire Training Facility in Baldonnel to see the five students of the Initial Aviation Fire Fighters (IAFF) course being put through their paces on a hot summer's day in Casement Aerodrome.

The students learn a variety of skills on the six-week course, including basic fire-fighting skills such as hose running, branch, pump and monitor operation, breathing apparatus and search-and-rescue techniques, with a large focus on teamwork throughout. At the time of our visit the course was in its fifth week, culminating in a final exercise. Week 6 sees the probationary fire fighters go 'on station' with the Crash Rescue Service (CRS) to learn procedures before going on shift.

Capt Jane O'Neill (506 Sqn), Fire Officer and OiC of the course, briefed us on the exercise scenario: "A troop-carrying rotation flight on final approach to Baldonnel develops an engine fire, which spreads to the undercarriage and the oleo strut (a pneumatic/hydraulic shock absorber located on the landing gear). The fire then develops into an internal fire requiring casualty rescue."

Flt Sgt Willie Norton (506 Sqn), who has 40 years' experience in aviation fire fighting explained the simulator where the exercise was to take place: "The Air Corps Fire Training Facility is state of the art and regarded as one of the best in the country. It can simulate the undercarriage and engine fire of a Boeing 737 passenger plane, a Gulfstream IV jet or a CASA Maritime Patrol aircraft, including the correct height of each aircraft. It is constructed in 6mm plate steel, and when lit can reach 1,000°C; it's now nearly 400° inside."

The Fire Training Facility, with its state-of-the-art fire equipment, is located in a remote area of the aerodrome, and is used to train personnel on all aspects of aviation fire fighting, such as crash-rescue drills and life-saving techniques.

The Initial Aviation Fire Fighters course is conducted under the auspices and certification of the International Fire Training Centre (IFTC), based in the UK. The IFTC instructor/assessor for this exercise was Ricky Wilson, who is a regular visitor to Baldonnel.

As the exercise started and flames billowed from the simulator, the crew of Rescue 9 got their call. (The Air Corps currently operates two Austrian-made Rosenbauer Panther 6x6 rapid-intervention fire tenders [RIFTs], designated Rescue 8 and Rescue 9.) The crew commander, Cpl Nigel O'Shaughnessy, and his team of five students were at the crash site in less than a minute. (The Air Corps Fire Service is required to meet a three-minute response time to any location in Baldonnel.)

The crew quickly got the 737's engine fire under control and then hosed down the exterior of the aircraft to enable a rescue. A short ladder was placed against the fuselage and BA (breathing apparatus) Team 1 entered the aircraft with smoke immediately billowing out of the door. Shortly after, the rear door of the aircraft was opened and the fire fighters sprayed water out of the exit with their hose. (Later, Cpl O'Shaughnessy explained: "Discharging a hose from inside an aircraft through an open door or window draws the smoke out." The simulator safety officer, Sgt John Dominican, added: "It won't take all the smoke out, but it will give the operators a better view inside the aircraft.")

Over the radio we heard BA Team 1 saying they had found a casualty, and within seconds two crew members brought the casualty



to safety before heading straight back into the aircraft. Within minutes we heard 'Casualty!' again over the airwaves, and the fire fighters soon appeared with another casualty.

Everything that was required was carried out very quickly, which is exactly what is required in such an emergency, and in no time the exercise was over. Although it had been quick and efficient it must have been far from easy operating in such conditions, with intense heat and thick smoke and loaded down with equipment, all while wearing breathing apparatus.

After the students had made the scene safe, put away all the equipment, and rolled up the 40ft hoses, they lined up proudly in front of Rescue 9 with their instructors.

The IFTC's Ricky Wilson, who has spent 35 weeks in Baldonnel over the last 17 years instructing and assessing Air Corps fire fighters, gave us his opinion on the exercise: *"Their level of training is excellent but the real work starts next week when they go on station and start working on a crew. We are only giving them the building blocks so they can continue to develop on specialist courses and maybe progress on to a Crew Commanders course."*

Lt Col Barry Sills (OC No 5 Sp Wing and Base Commander) and Comdt Dominic Noone (OC 506 Sqn) attended the final exercise and afterwards Lt Col Sills spoke to the students. *"Having watched the exercise we could see your confidence and how you worked as a team,"* he said. *"You can see your camaraderie after the last number of weeks training together. I would like to thank you for the effort so far; stick with it and keep up your fitness and your mental fitness, as you can see you'll need it 'on crew'."*

Lt Col Sills also thanked Ricky Wilson for his continued instruction during the training and accreditation assessments.

Successful students at the end of the course will receive an aviation fire fighters certificate that is recognised worldwide throughout the aviation industry.

Another Initial Aviation Fire Fighters course will be conducted early in 2019, so anyone interested should keep an eye out for a notification in routine orders and on unit noticeboards. ■



Pictured in front of Rescue 9 are the students and instructors along with OC No 5 Sp Wing, Lt Col Barry Sills, OC 506 Sqn Comdt Dominic Noone, Capt Jane O'Neill, Flt Sgt Willie Norton, Sgt John Dominican and IFTC's Ricky Wilson.



Vox Pops



PTE IGGY MITCHEL, MCKEE BKS COY

"The weather is really hot, 30°, so working in this heat is really tough. I was looking for a new challenge after spending 12 years in the Printing Press. In 2002 I was in the Engr Corps and was called up on the fire-fighters strike, I was on call in the fire station in the DFTC."



PTE KEVIN FOLEY, ORD COY, DFTC

"I started my career in Baldonnel as I did the recruit training part of my armourer artificer apprenticeship here. Fire fighting is another hands-on trade, but it's more physical, although working on weapons gave me a prior knowledge of mechanics, welding and hydraulics. The heat is hard going, but I'm enjoying it. I'm looking forward to the challenge and a shorter commute as I live locally."



PTE GERRY HOEY, 27 INF BN

"I've always had an interest in doing this course and I'm glad to be finally on it. This is a very physically demanding course, but it's definitely the best course I've done since joining the Defence Forces. I'm looking forward to starting the shift work and being on call."



PTE SEAN MULHOLLAND, 27 INF BN

"This is a massive difference to the infantry training I'm used to. I've a big interest in aviation and I've been training for a private pilot's licence for the last few years. A lot of the terminology is the same and I feel both qualifications complement each other. Like the others have said, it's a physically tough course, and I'm happy to be getting through it."



BLOODBATH IN YEMEN

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

It seems as if the Middle East has been on a knife edge for decades, with civil wars, coups and uprisings commonplace after the region's countries threw off their colonial shackles. Much of the current bout of strife arose out of the Arab Spring of 2010 that fuelled hopes of democracy spreading throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Ten years later and dreams of freedom have been dashed, with war, pestilence and death now a daily occurrence throughout the region. Yemen became one of the casualties of this tragedy.

Since 2015, Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country has been wracked by a bloody war between Houthi rebels (mainly Shia Muslims from the Zaidi sect) and supporters of Yemen's internationally recognised, Sunni Muslim dominated government.

Known officially as the Republic of Yemen, it is the second largest country on the Arab Peninsula, at 527,970 sq kms (203,850 sq

miles). Occupying the southern end of the peninsula, it is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden and the Guardafui Channel to the south, and the Arabian Sea and Oman to the east.

Since the 1960s the country has been on the cusp of oblivion with its internal strife being fuelled by neighbouring countries taking sides in its various conflicts.

In 2011, President Ali Abdullah Saleh dealt with Arab Spring demonstrations that had spread to Yemen heavy-handedly. The deteriorating situation saw the Saudi Arabian dominated Gulf Co-operation Conference (GCC) broker a deal that saw President Saleh stepping down, with a promise of immunity from prosecution. In 2012 Saleh handed over power to his deputy, Adb Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Part of the GCC's peace deal included the establishment of



a federal Yemeni state comprised of six autonomous regions. However, this proposal was rejected by the Houthi movement, a mainly Shia Muslim military/political group formed by members of the Zaidi sect, who had been involved in a low-level conflict with government forces for over a decade from their stronghold in Northern Yemen.

The new president struggled to deal with many of the problems afflicting the nation, including al-Qaeda attacks, a separatist rising in the south, divided loyalties in the military, corruption, drought, famine and mass unemployment. In response to the situation, Houthi forces attacked the capital, Sana'a, in September 2014, taking total control of the city in January 2015. The Houthi action prevented President Hadi from establishing the planned federal state and he

fled to Aden (the bustling port city and former British possession), and then on to Saudi Arabia.

Yemen's neighbours were not happy with the situation, particularly as it was believed the rebels were receiving arms and support from Iran. A coalition of Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia, launched a military campaign (Operation Decisive Storm) in March 2015 to defeat the Houthis and restore President Hadi and Yemen's government. Saudi combat aircraft pummeled targets in Yemen with state-of-the-art weapons systems while ground forces prepared to invade.

Jihadist militants from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and affiliates of Islamic State (IS) have also taken advantage of the chaos by seizing territory in the south and carrying out a number of deadly attacks in the region. This has drawn US forces into the conflict as they hunt down suspected militants.

Ground troops from the Arab coalition landed in Aden in August 2015 and helped drive the Houthis and their allies out of much of the south over the next few months. However, the Houthis have managed to hold Sana'a and continue to fire mortars and missiles across the border into Saudi Arabia.

Fighting has intensified in recent months, with coalition ground forces, supported by air strikes, slowly driving the Houthis back from their positions. In response, the Houthis have used snipers and IEDs to slow down the coalition's advance. Casualties have been heavy and the advance slow as roadside bombs, often disguised as rocks or sacks of wheat, are detonated as advancing troops pass by.

The launch of missiles into Saudi territory has prompted the coalition to tighten its blockade of Yemen, an action they say is necessary to stop the smuggling of Iranian weapons into the country – an accusation Iran denies. However, the UN says that this blockade could trigger 'the largest famine the world has seen for many decades'. In addition, aid workers have warned that the assault on Hodiedah's port, known as 'the mouth of Yemen', could shut down the vital route that supplies 70% of Yemen's food and humanitarian aid. At the time of writing, three days of fighting in and around the port have resulted in multiple casualties, although the port is still functioning. The attacking coalition forces are insisting that the Houthis surrender unconditionally; rejecting proposals that would see the rebels remain in the city while the port would be placed under UN control.

It is almost impossible to calculate the casualty figures within the country but as of March 2018, it is estimated that 10,000 Yemenis have been killed by the fighting, with more than 40,000 casualties overall. The bombing of towns and villages has caused mass civilian casualties as well as leading to the displacement of over three million. ■



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HIDDEN HISTORY IN HOWTH: THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT MUSEUM

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE

The Howth Peninsula on Dublin's east coast features the 15th century Howth Castle, the medieval ruins of St Mary's Abbey, a 19th century Martello Tower, and fantastic views of Dublin Bay and Ireland's Eye island.

Tucked away in the grounds of Howth Castle is the National Transport Museum, which is operated by the Transport Museum Society of Ireland (TMSI), a registered charity set up for the purpose of preserving and displaying vintage commercial vehicles.

On the 24th July, *An Cosantóir* visited the museum, where our guide was retired Dublin Airport fire officer and TMSI Hon Sec, John Curran, two of whose sons are serving in the Defence Forces: Capt Donal Curran, a CASA pilot with the Air Corps; and RDF Sgt Ciaran Curran, 2 BTC, a former member of the PDF and now Dublin Airport fire fighter/paramedic. John's enthusiasm for the museum's historic vehicles was evident from the moment we met him in front of the two vehicles on display at the entrance: a 1938 Leyland Terrier APC and a 1979 Timoney APC, which John describes as the museum's "gate guardians."

Inside the main building the size of the collection was evident, with wall-to-wall vehicles, some nearly touching the ceiling. The displays, some of which are over 100 years old, include everything from bicycles to double-decker buses, and trams to fire engines.

John then brought us to see more of their vintage DF vehicles including a 1939 Morris CDSW gun tractor, a 1945 Austin K6 lorry, a 1938 Landsverk APC, a 1971 Unimog APC, a 1933 Leyland Retriever, and a 1953 AEC Matador truck that John told us "was one of the vehicles that carried the coffins of the soldiers killed in the Congo at their State funeral in 1961".

John says that while the facility where the vehicles are displayed and restored is very basic, they are thankful that the vehicles have been saved so that everyone can see and touch them, "Some of these vehicles go back to the foundation of the State and in some cases, prior to that," he told us.

Pointing out a tram our guide informed us that the last trams to run in Ireland were the Hill of Howth trams, which ran until 1959, 10 years after the last Dublin City trams ran. Pointing out one particular tram John said, "Our predecessors saved that so that future generations could see it. It has 15 coats of paint which also protects the mainly wooden body against the elements and a preservation against corrosion." He also told us that in its day, Dublin had the second largest tram system in Europe, after London.

Currently, the museum is turning down vehicles as they have run out of storage space in Howth and at another facility in Co Wicklow, where vehicles are stored awaiting preservation.

The TMSI has 30 active members who help run the museum and preserve and maintain the collection. John encourages serving members of the DF and veterans to come and see their collection of historical DF vehicles, and says: "Perhaps, some of them may even consider becoming members, lending their expertise and giving some TLC to our military vehicles or other vehicles they may be interested in."

Since its inception in 1949 the TMSI has survived largely through its members' contributions, admission fees from visitors, hiring out historical vehicles to films, and public donations. The museum has also received some welcome assistance over the years from CIÉ, Fingal County Council, and the Heritage Council, and

in recent years they have been very fortunate to receive much-needed grants from the Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, which has effectively helped to keep the museum open and to enable the TMSI's ongoing work. The TMSI believes that the State has at last recognised the importance of a National Transport Mu-

seum and is very optimistic about the future safety and security of this important collection of vehicles. ■



Contact information

National Transport Museum, Heritage Depot, Howth Demesne, Howth. Ph: +353 (0)1 8320427 (during opening hours only). Email: info@nationaltransportmuseum.org or visit www.nationaltransportmuseum.org

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MEETING THE DEFENCE FORCES' ELDER VETERANS: LT COL JIM DAWSON, ARTILLERY CORPS

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT MICK BURKE

As part of the joint Defence Forces' 'Eldest Veteran' interview series, run in conjunction with *Ireland's Military Story* magazine, *Military Archives* and the *National Museum of Ireland, An Cosantóir* met with 92-year-old Co Kilkenny man, retired Lt Col Jim Dawson, in Limerick City.

Jim Dawson was born on 12th April 1926 in Callan, Co Kilkenny and moved to Cappa near Kilrush in Co Clare aged 7.

"I have always joked that I was born in the Workhouse in Callan as in fact my father had rented the master's quarters there."

When Jim was 14 he served in the Local Security Force (LSF) were his father, a Garda Superintendent was in charge. In 1946 Jim went to the Cadet School in the Military College to start his cadetship with the 20th Cadet Class. 2/Lt Jim Dawson was commissioned into the Artillery Corps aged 22. His first posting was to Magee Bks in Kildare Town to undergo his 6-month Artillery Young Officers (YOs) course, before being posted to McKee Bks with the 2 Arty Regt.

Later he was posted to the 1 Arty Regt in Ballincollig Military Post (later called Murphy Bks), in addition he became an FCÁ training officer for the Tralee Bn, Dingle Bn and Killorglin Bn. Jim married his first wife Nellie in Ennis in 1954.

After 3-years in Ballincollig it was further down south Jim went, to serve on Spike Island with the Coast Defence Artillery. Now promoted to Capt, Jim was in charge of 6-inch guns batteries on Spike and they had other forts in Cork Harbour with 9.2-inch guns at Camden, Carlisle and Templebready. Nellie also lived on Spike with him, and at one time he was the only officer living on the island.

"Spike Island was a tough posting; in the summertime you would see friends and family but in the winter it was a lonely place to live and work. After 5 and half years we were ready to move. I remember asking for a posting other than Capt QM in Ballincollig and the answer came back was 'QM Ballincollig' I took it to move off of Spike Island."

Jim regaled us with many a tale of life on Spike and in Ballincollig on how they required and purchased food for the ration scale – even passing a QMG's inspection.

In 1961 Jim served overseas with the 1st Inf Gp known as the 1-inch group to go out and reinforce the Irish troops in the Congo. *"As Capt QM I had to fight to get equipment for my men, as other QMs were Comdts. In Leopoldville we got the proper uniforms and out of the bulls wool. The Congo was tough, I think we lost 3 soldiers on that mission."*

After the Congo it was back to Ballincollig before travelling overseas again to UNFICYP in Cyprus with UN HQ. *"The Greeks were running the show in Cyprus, aggravating the Turks – we had to maintain the peace and not pick sides."*

During the 1970s the now Comdt Jim Dawson served in Portlaoise Prison as I/C Security when the IRA tried to breakout, but no one escaped, *"there were attempted break outs in the North and in the UK the same year."*

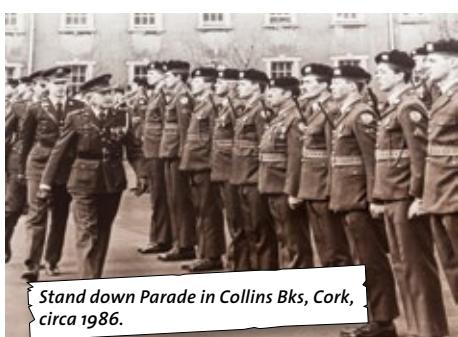
Jim lost his wife Nellie to cancer in the late 70s. Jim was the Assistant Bde Adj't in 1 S Bde Comd for a while, then in 1977 he was appointed as OC 23 Inf Bn FCÁ. In 1978 he promoted to Lt Col as Comd QM and then District Barracks Officer now known as the Barrack Services Officer.

Jim also escorted Robert Fisk around Southern Ireland and Bere Island whilst he was researching and writing about the Defence Forces. *"Not that he needed it, as he was well knowledgeable of the country."*

In 1980 Jim married his second wife Peggy whom he met in Tralee. Jim stayed on for an extension in 1984 to his retirement in 1986 still in Comd HQ. Sadly his wife Peggy passed away in 2014 also to cancer. Jim still speaks very fondly of his military career and enjoys meeting up with his military friends and colleagues often. ■



On the range in the Curragh, circa 1948



Stand down Parade in Collins Bks, Cork, circa 1986.

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A LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

BY SGT RENA KENNEDY

Pte Ciarnh Gray is from Portlaoise and joined the Defence Forces in 2014. Growing up she played every sport possible concentrating mainly on soccer and GAA. She was Laois County goalkeeper for 10 years and won numerous underage, Junior and intermediate Ladies Football county championship titles with her home club. While playing with Laois she won Leinster titles from U14 to Minor, a Leinster senior title and was awarded a ladies GAA All-Star award recognising her skill in the net.

Trying to combine playing both Ladies GAA and soccer to a high standard was challenging at times but Ciarnh persevered and played at the very highest level at soccer representing her country at U15, U17 and U19, playing in various competitions all across Europe. Her soccer playing days started with Portlaoise AFC when she was eight years old and she progressed playing with Midland, South Leinster before being called to the national squad.

Earlier this season Ciarnh signed for Wexford Youths Ladies team who are the current Continental Tyres Women's National League Champions, having won the 2017 title by two points.

Tom Elms' team are unbeaten domestically this season, with 13 wins and 1 draw from their 14 league games. They'll face main rivals Peamount United in the League Cup final next month.

In August they played in the UEFA Champions League as Ireland's representative. The games held in Belfast were against European giants and Dutch Champions Ajax as well as Icelandic Champions Thor/KA and Northern Ireland Champions and hosts Linfield Ladies.

This competition runs a little differently to the Champions League and Europa League in terms of how

the qualification process works.

Wexford Youths were in a group of four teams and the team that finished at the top of the group qualified for the next round.

The results didn't go Youths way with two losses and one win; however Ciarnh certainly enjoyed the experience, *"It's absolutely incredible, I'm playing with and against the finest calibre of players."*

Ciarnh is currently working in the office of the Comdt of the Military College in the DFTC, and is very appreciative of the support she receives from her colleagues, *"I'm very fortunate that the Defence Forces facilitate me as they take great pride in their members playing sport at a high level"* added Ciarnh, who has also represented the Defence Forces in games against League of Ireland teams and against the Royal Air Force.

We wish Ciarnh every success in her professional and sporting career. ■



DF 10 MILE ROAD RACE

BY CPO CIAN MCPARLAND, NAVAL COLLEGE PHOTOS BY A/B DAVY JONES & ARMN JAMIE BARRETT

The Defence Forces athletic calendar has various events ranging from 60m indoor to a half marathon on the road. One distance that was missing from the range of events was a 10 Mile Road Race. In early 2013 an idea at morning coffee in the NCOs Mess in the Naval Base quickly became a reality.

A committee of Naval Service athletes of all ranks was formed, to flesh out the possibility of hosting the Navy's first ever DF athletic event. All aspects of organising an event were explored including route measuring, catering, entries and many more. The NS BPEO Lt Cdr Grace Fanning and CPO Cian McParland brought a proposal to the Secretary of the DFAA Comdt Neil Taylor and chairman of the DF Athletics Committee Comdt Noel Conway, which was approved.

The event was scheduled to be held in July 2013, and as news spread of a new event, entries quickly arrived into Haulbowline. Amongst the 150 entries received included athletes from Finner Camp in Donegal down to Collins Barracks, Cork.

Race day arrived quickly and as the competitors descended on Haulbowline Island, the race committee machine swung into action. Registration was completed without any major issues and the athletes took their places at the start line on Haulbowline Bridge. The ships horn of *LÉ Eithne* signalled the start of the race and athletes made their way out towards Ringaskiddy. The route led out to Ringaskiddy and through winding country roads to Currabinny Woods to the halfway mark. The return leg back to the Naval Base with undulating terrain was a challenge for even the experienced runner. The first man past the finish line under the iconic archway at Logistics HQ was Pte Paul Buckley of 6 Inf Bn, Athlone with the first female Pte Maebh Fenton of 12 Inf Bn, Limerick. One by one competitors passed the finish line with some impressive personal bests despite the tough course.

The event concluded with refreshments in the Naval Catering Centre followed by the presentation of prizes by then FOCNS Commodore Hugh Tully. The event was a great success and had now cemented a place in the DF annual athletics calendar. The event is now entering its 6th year and has added the 'Dermot Bates Perpetual Cup' and the 'Thomas Kelly Perpetual Cup' for the male and female champions. Both Dermot and Tom are retired Warrant Officers (Sgt Maj equivalent) and champions of athletics in the Naval Service during their service.

This year's event took place on Thursday 12th July with 66 athletes competing in sunny and humid conditions. The Senior Men as always was extremely competitive with PO Darren Molloy of the Naval Service pipping defending champion Pte Paul Buckley of the 6th Inf Bn by 5 seconds at the line.

The prizes were presented by Commander Neil Manning of Naval HQ representing FOCNS.

The event has also received fantastic support from PDFORRA and we are extremely grateful to ANSAC Credit Union for coming onboard as our main sponsor two years ago.

The organisers would like to thank a number of people for their

hard work in supporting the event from the beginning: Naval Service Military Police Section, Naval College staff, NS BPEO & PTIs, Naval Headquarters staff, *An Cosantóir*, DFAA, DF Athletics, Warrant Officers (Retd) Dermot Bates and Thomas Kelly. ■



Commander Neil Manning presenting PO Darren Molloy with his 1st place prize along with Comdt Noel Conway, DF Athletics Committee.

RESULTS 2018

SENIOR MALE

1ST	DARREN MOLLOY	WEU	NS
2ND	PAUL BUCKLEY	6 INF BN	2 BDE
3RD	ENDA CLOAKE	NAVAL COLLEGE	NS

MALE O/40

1ST	TOM MONKS	2 ORD COY	2 BDE
2ND	GRATTAN O'ROURKE	1 BAR	1 BDE
3RD	JIM CLEARY	SHORE OPS	NS

MALE O/45

1ST	BRENDAN McCARTHY	2 CAV RES	2 BDE
2ND	THOMAS COSGRAVE	LOGS	NS
3RD	THOMAS PLUNKETT	LOGS	NS

MALE O/50

1ST	MARK BULMAN	TPT	1 BDE
2ND	PAUL MCGRATH	28 INF BN	2 BDE

MALE O/55

1ST	MICHAEL DOHERTY	28 INF BN	2 BDE
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SENIOR FEMALE

1ST	KATE O'FLYNN	1 BDE CIS
2ND	CLAIRE GILLESPIE	ENG GP DFTC

TEAM

1ST	NS: DARREN MOLLOY, ENDA CLOKE & GRAHAM SWORDS
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AMP 24

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Contrary to popular belief, the AMP series is not a replacement of the renowned RUSH packs, but rather a brand new pack bolstering the already impressive line up.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Building on the success of the RUSH series, the AMP pack has been made to look more covert, whilst retaining the storage and layout features of the RUSH, only now they give you more.

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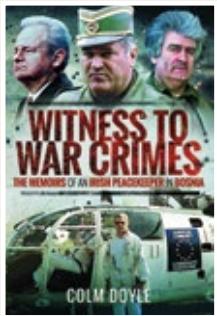
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Last Month's Winner: Tara Campbell, Co Wicklow

BOOKS BOOKS

WITNESS TO WAR CRIMES THE MEMOIRS OF AN IRISH PEACEKEEPER IN BOSNIA

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD - PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE



In McKee Bks, Dublin, on 10 July 2018, Col Colm Doyle (retd) launched his long-awaited book, *Witness to War Crimes - The Memoirs of an Irish Peacekeeper in Bosnia*, which covers his unique service during the Balkan's War in the former Yugoslavia in 1991/92.

In the early 1990s fighting that began with the collapse of the former Yugoslavia developed into the first major conflict in Europe since WWII. This book, edited by Kenneth Morrison, Professor of Modern Southeast European History at De Montfort University, Leicester, deals with a major element of this bitter conflict.

In October 1991 the author, then Comdt Colm Doyle, was serving as one of the first European Community monitors in the midst of this appalling civil war.

"Then almost immediately he became Head of the Monitor Mission in besieged Sarajevo. After six months he was appointed Personal Representative to Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia. In this long overdue memoir, he describes his role mediating, negotiating and persuading political and military leaders of all sides to halt the seemingly inexorable path to all-out civil war. He arranged cease-fires, visited prisoner-of-war camps, extricated election monitors and organised hostage releases. With his unprecedented access, Doyle's personal account can claim to be one of the most significant insights to the brutal Bosnian War." Publishers, Merrion Press.

DCOS Ops Maj Gen Kieran Brennan welcomed those present at the launch, which included members of Col Doyle's family and distinguished guests, including the acclaimed former BBC war correspondent, Martin Bell OBE, who wrote the introduction to the book.

Maj Gen Brennan acknowledged the passing the previous day of Lord Peter Carrington, the man who had presided over the diplomatic talks in the former Yugoslavia

with Comdt Doyle acting as his a personal representative.

The DCOS spoke enthusiastically about Col Doyle's Defence Forces career, saying he was held in high esteem because of his leadership style. *"Tonight is a testament to his overseas service in Bosnia, as well as being a pathfinder to Lebanon with 46 Inf Bn in*

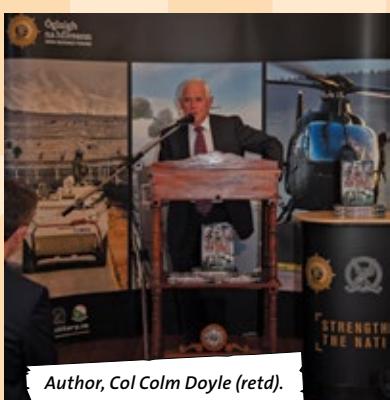
1978. This book is very timely as we celebrate 40 years of peacekeeping in Lebanon and our 60th year of continuous service with the UN."

Martin Bell, who made his name covering wars and conflicts around the world, from Vietnam to Northern Ireland, spoke of meeting and interviewing Col Doyle during the Bosnian war. *"What a wonderful man and book we honour tonight,"* he said. *"It is a moving book, bringing us back to that time and the trials of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)."*

The ICTY, held in The Hague, was the first war crimes court created by the UN and the first international war crimes tribunal since Nuremberg. Col Doyle's first hand experiences made him a key witness at the ICTY's trials of former Serbian president, Slobodan Milošević, Bosnian-Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladić, and Bosnian-Serb leader, Radovan Karadžić, held in The Hague. ■



Pictured at the launch are Col Maureen O'Brien, Conor Graham (Merrion Press), Prof Kenneth Morrison, Col Colm Doyle (retd), Martin Bell and Maj Gen Kieran Brennan (DCOS Ops)



Author, Col Colm Doyle (retd).

Witness to War Crimes - The Memoirs of an Irish Peacekeeper in Bosnia, by Col Colm Doyle (retd), ISBN: 9781785371899, priced €24.99 (hardback), is published by Merrion Press (<http://merrionpress.ie/>), and is available from all good bookshops.

NOTICEBOARD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 2.30PM (SHARP) - THE HISTORICAL AND RECONCILIATORY POLICE (HARP SOCIETY) INVITES ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL, BOTH SERVING AND RETIRED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING EVENT.

The President of the Garda Síochána Retired Members' Association (GSRMA) and the HARP Society extends a warm welcome to all police families and their friends to the sixth annual interdenominational ceremony for the RIC and DMP fallen. To be held at St Paul of the Cross Church, Mount Argus, Dublin D6W. The Garda Chaplains will officiate with a choir and band, decorations and medals (police and military) may be worn.

HARP is an affiliate of the GSRMA, for more information on the RIC & DMP Commemoration Committee visit www.irish-police.com

MILITARY HISTORY LECTURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday 9th September at 3pm - There will be a 'hands-on' History Drop-in Activity 'The Emergency' in the Museum of Decorative Arts & History, Collins Bks, Benburb St, D7. All welcome - admission free.

Tuesday 11th September at 8pm - Skerries Historical Society: Niall O'Reilly will present his lecture 'The Sinking of the RMS Leinster – October 1918' in Keane's Bus Bar, 98 Strand St, Skerries, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

Saturday 15th September at 2.30pm

- Western Front Association (Dublin Branch): Michael Carragher will speak on 'Tanks in WWI' in the Museum of Decorative Arts & History, Collins Bks, Benburb St, D7. All welcome - €3 donation appreciated.

Wednesday 19th September at 8pm

- Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society: Cormac Lowth will present his lecture 'The Sinking of the RMS Leinster' in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Rd, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome – entrance €3.

Monday 24th September at 8pm

- Clondalkin Historical Society: James Scannell will present his lecture 'The Sinking of the RMS Leinster 1918' on in Arás Chronáin, Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

Thursday 27th September at 8pm

- Bray Cualann Historical Society: Joseph E.A. Connell Jr, will speak on 'Michael Collins and the Guerrilla War during the War of Independence' in the Royal Hotel, Main St, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome – admission €5.

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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NAME

NEIL RICHARDSON

RANK

LIEUTENANT, ARMY RESERVE

UNIT

GENERAL SECRETARY RDFRA/1 MIC

BY CPL LEE COYLE



My interest in the military came from an early age, when my grandmother would tell me stories about her father, who served in World War I. These stories, along with photographs and medals belonging to my great-grandfather, intrigued me. In addition, my family has a proud tradition of military service, with both of my grandfathers serving, and there is over 200 years' worth of service on my mother's and father's sides of the family. Coincidentally, my mother's father ended his service as a company sergeant in 6 Inf Bn, a unit that I would later serve with.

I enlisted in April 2008 in 56 Res Inf Bn in Custume Bks, Athlone, and it wasn't really what I had expected. I had this image in my head that it would be non-stop shouting and screaming with intimidating people in charge, but instead it was friendly, with encouraging NCOs who threw in the occasional shout when needed.

My interest in the military prompted me to do some research into my grandparents' military history, which then turned into researching other Irishmen who had served in the two world wars. This led to my decision to go back to college to do an MA in Military History and Strategic Studies in September 2015. Over the past number of years I also wrote three books on military history.



I was really enjoying my time in the Reserves and in November 2010 I completed my Potential NCOs course. Soon after, I successfully applied for a Potential Officers course and on completing that I was promoted to lieutenant in November 2012. With the re-org of the RDF in 2013 I was posted to C Coy, 6 Inf Bn, in Mulingar.

Back in 2014, when I was working as a freelance lecturer in military history, doing talks at schools and libraries on WWI and WWII, I saw an advertisement for the job of general secretary of the Reserve Defence Forces Representative Association (RDFRA), based in the Curragh. The link between the Reserves and full-time employment attracted me to the job, so I applied for it and was the successful applicant, taking up the role that same year.

My main role as general secretary is to be a link between RDFRA and the civilian and military authorities. My tasks include helping to advance the policies of the association and its members and resolving any issues that our members come across.

Over the last few years I have seen the introduction of the Single Force concept, which has worked well for a lot of PDF units and their RDF counterparts. (I, myself, had a great experience on an exercise with PDF members on an Infantry Young Officers (YOs) course in 2015.)

In January 2016 I transferred to 1 Mech Inf Coy in the DFTC.

This move was made on the recommendation of a friend who had told me about how great the units in the DFTC were and I wanted to be part of that.

In the last two years since moving to the DFTC I have been involved in various training exercises and courses, and am about to become the platoon commander for the latest RDF recruit platoon to go through the Curragh, which I am very much looking forward to.

Outside the military I have begun my PhD in Military History, with my interest in the subject still very much alive.

For more information on RDFRA, contact: RDFRA National Office, Clarke Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare; email neil.richardson@rdfra.ie; phone +353 (0)45 45 6691; or visit www.rdfra.ie. ■



Timings:

Blocks at 1200hrs

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