

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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February 2012



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**Front Cover:**

Naval Service Reserve.  
Photo By: Airman Neville Coughlan

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to 2012, this month our **On Parade** pages are filled with your photos. Our **In Focus** pages look at an International CIED/IED course that was run late last year, and an insight to the International Militaria Collectors Club (IMCC). We have a very interesting article on an Unarmed Combat Course held in the DFTC recently. **Action Stations!** is an article on our Naval Service Weaponry with a pullout poster of the OTO Melara 76mm Gun. Our centre spread is a photographic diary update from the 105 Inf Bn in Lebanon. In **Strategic Review** this month Wesley Bourke talks to Col Meehan about the Command and Staff School. Our **In Reserve** feature is from the Naval Service Reserve foot drill competition held in Haulbowline. The **History** section this month shows you how much history there is already around you. Also, in **Sport** we have a picturesque look at Comdt Mark Brownen's latest dive in Antarctica, **Sports Round-Up** we have Handball and X-Country and finally our other regulars - **Tac Aide**, **Reviews** and **What I Do**.



On Fri 13 Jan, Cpl Damian McAlinden the winner of the CMC Markets Competition that ran in An Cosantóir is seen here presenting the cheque for a €1,000 to his nominated charity Our Lady's Hospital. Pictured (l/r): Johann Fox (Our Lady's Hospital), Cpl Damian McAlinden (Gov Blds) and Jennifer Treacy (CMC Markets). We would like to congratulate Damian, and again like to thank CMC Markets for their generous donation.

In Dec, DF Press Officer Comdt Neil Nolan was presented with a special version of the Connect Newsletter by Lt Col Tom Aherne (Oic PR Sec) on his leaving the section for overseas service, we wish him well. We welcome in Comdt Denis Hanly as our new DF Press Officer.



*Wayne Fitzgerald*

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

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## Writing articles and letters

**Ideally we would like articles and letters submitted in by email or disc (CD/DVD). Hardcopy articles are also accepted.**

As a general rule, we look for 2-3 page articles with 600 to 700 words per A4 page. Larger articles are considered, though they may be spread over two issues or submitted to the 'Defence Forces Review' publication with the author's approval.

All material submitted should have a military related topic or be interesting to our readers.

**Sending in a photograph**

When sending photographs in, especially by email, please consider the following:

- Save as jpeg format
- File size: No less than 1.5Mb and no bigger

than 3Mb (as jpegs)

- Resolution: 300 DPI
  - Dimension: 150x100mm (6x4in) minimum
- Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs, burn them to disc and post in! Clearly mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'. Also submit a short note with details like:

- Who took the photograph
- What was the occasion
- Where did it happen
- Who is in the photograph (left to right, back to front, rank, first and surnames)

If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

**If you can't do this, please send them in as big (size) as you can, unchanged or unedited.**



# ON PARADE



## STATE PATHOLOGIST VISITS MP SCH ▲

Professor Marie Cassidy (State Pathologist) visited the students from the 18th MP Officers Cse MP Sch DFTC late Nov 2011.

Photo: Lt Col John O'Loughlen (OC MP Sch)



## CHARLIE-252 ▲

Group photo of the staff of 103 Sqn, No 1 Ops Wing present on the 25th Nov 2011 for the last day of service for Sgt Séamus "Stretch" Scully (back row, 4th from right), and this date also marked the milestone of CASA CN 235 call sign 'Charlie-252' reaching its 30,000<sup>th</sup> flying hour.

Photo: Armn Paddy Reilly (105 Sqn)



## BEST APPRENTICE ▲

Pte Eamonn Slattery, who won Best Apprentice in Fitting in the Centre of Craft Studies, was presented with a medal by the sponsor Mr Ger Neff (Neff Design), also pictured is Mr Matt Cotterell (Head of School, Mechanical & Process Engineering), Mr John Twohig (Head of Craft Studies) and Mr Michael Loftus (Head of Faculty of Engineering & Science).

Photo: Comdt Joseph Moran (CSSC, DFTC)

## SSU STAFF RETIRE

Members of the SSU, DFTC who retired during 2011 had a presentation in the NCOs Mess Ceannt Bks recently. Front L/R: RSM P Doyle, Cpl P Balfe (Retd), Comdt T O' Keffe, Sgt J Gallagher (Retd). Back L/R: Sgt John Downey (Retd), Sgt B Power (Retd), Cpl J McCabe (Retd), Sgt D Whyte (Mess Mngr).

Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (DFTC HQ) ▼



## ◀ CAMP SHAMROCK POST OFFICE

A presentation was made by Kevin McCormack ONE (formally 30 Inf Bn) on behalf of An Post to Lt Col Philip Brennan (OC 105 Inf Bn) for the Troops of the 105 Inf Bn now in Lebanon.

Photo: Kevin McCormack



## WELL DONE

Pictured at the 2011 conferring of National University of Ireland (NUI) awards on students of the Institute of Public Administration L/R: Dr Maurice Manning (Chancellor of the NUI), Dr Brian Cawley (Director General IPA), Comdt Karl O'Sullivan (First Place, Master of Economic Science in Policy Analysis and joint winner of the Whitaker Prize), Dr Frank Murray (Chairman IPA Education Committee) and Dr Attracta Halpin (Registrar NUI). Photo: David O'Mahony (IPA)

## THE LAST DINNER ▼

On the 16th Dec, Officers serving and retired attended the last ever Officers Mess Dinner in Columb Bks Mullingar. The photo includes 3 Cols, 5 Lt Cols, including Lt Col Ray Yorke (OC 4th FAR), 6 Comdts, 9 Cpts and Lts as well as Army Chaplin Fr Robert McCabe. Photo: Lt Col Noel Murphy







### SAY 'CHEESE' ▲

Noel Cloak (PC ONE) with An Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny TD., at the launch of Noel French's book on WW1 Meath Falling Soldiers. Photo: Noel Cloak



### RESERVE WEDDING ▲

Ptes Brian Carney and Clodagh Collins, both with HQ Coy, 32nd Res Inf Bn. Pictured on their wedding day, the 29th of Dec with their friends from HQ Coy at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. Brian joined the RDF in 2005 and Clodagh in 2007. They got engaged in the Glen of Imaal in 2008 (a total surprise to Clodagh). Photo: Ian Sims

### FOND FAREWELL ▼

On the 8th Dec in the NCOs Mess McKee Bks a presentation was made to members of DFHQ CIS Coy to mark their retirement. L/R: Cpl Peter Daniel, Cpl Lorraine Gleeson, Sgt Michael Coleman, Sgmn David Skelly. Photo: Sgt Brian Guilfoyle



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY ▼

Capt Luke Mullins (Retd) celebrated his goth birthday on the 6 Jan, he is seen here with some friends of the Cavalry Club and members of Ceannt Officers Mess. L/R: Col George Kerton (Retd), Lt Col Tony Bracken, Lt Col Pearse McCorley (Retd), Col Noel Joyce (EO DFTC), Capt Luke Mullins (Retd), Col Hugh O'Connor (Retd), Lt Col Eamonn Cullagh (Retd), Lt Col Jim Burns and Lt Col Gerry Cooney. Photo by Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)



### IN HIS MEMORY ▲

The Family of the late Pte Les Farrell (DDFT) who sadly passed away last year presented his collection of music tapes, CDs and Hi-Fi, DVDs and player, and a Playstation with games to the Defence Forces. Les's daughter Kathrina had asked that these be passed on to troops serving overseas. Pictured are Major Gen Ralph James (DCOS Ops), Mrs Susan Farrell and Katrina. OC 105 Inf Bn, outlined his intention in a letter to open the 'Pte Farrell Recreation Room' in Lebanon in his memory.

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ▼

Some members of the Patrick Sarsfield Branch ONE pictured at the Royal British Legion, Limerick Branch Remembrance Sunday celebration at the war memorial Perry Sq. Limerick. L/R: Simon McInerney, Joe O'Mahony (Pres) and Zadio Kasadi (Associate Member). Photo by Eddie Lillis





# IN FOCUS

## EXERCISE GREENZONE

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY CPL NOEL COSS AND A/SEA DAVID JONES

In October 2011 the Ordnance Corps ran its 2nd International C-IED/IEDD Course (Counter Improvised Explosive Device/Improvised Explosive Device Disposal). The Defence Forces standing in this field is globally recognised, with 35 nations seeking places on the course. Taking place in the Cork area, Greenzone had students from Holland, Germany, USA, Italy, Romania, Spain, Belgium, and Israel.

Students were presented with a whole range of devices and scenarios that they could possibly encounter either at home or on overseas operations. Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) are essential to their approach. The students are expected not to just go up and blow the device up but they have to forensically take it apart for analysis; Defeat the Device, Training the Force, IEDD, and Attack the Network. The scenarios took them from Kilworth, to Fort Davis, Cork Airport, to Cork City Railway Yard. C-IED/IEDD is a multi-agency and holistic approach. Working alongside the students were Weapons Intelligence Teams and Engineer Specialist Search (ESS) Teams.

"We placed 48 IED's in the training area. With limited

equipment but with a lot of knowledge, the students found every single one of them, commented Comdt Lane, "And no student was taken out by an IED. That's a remarkable statistic. It's all down to TTPs."

All troops going overseas today are given C-IED training and personal Tactical Aid Memoires (TAMs) that they can keep with them and study, this is having a huge impact. In 2007 the Ordnance Corps ran a questionnaire with troops deploying overseas: What is an IED in your own words, 80% didn't give an answer. This year with the 105 Inf Bn 90% gave a correct answer, which is a very significant improvement.

After being introduced to the students and viewing a team in action, Brig Gen Pakenham gave his appreciation of the work of both the Ordnance and Engineer Corps for their work in the area of C-IED/IEDD, especially in enhancing peoples training and awareness. He commented that, "C-IED/IEDD training is imperative not just overseas but also at home. Even as this course was taking place in the 1 S Bde area alone the Ordnance Corps and ESS Teams were called out to deal with several separate devices." ■





# International Militaria Collectors Club (IMCC)

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD  
PHOTOS BY CPL PAUL MILLAR



On 12 November last, An Cosantóir visited the IMCC Fair at The North Star Hotel, Amiens St., Dublin. We were very impressed by the vast array of memorabilia on show, most notably were Irish, American and German memorabilia from WWI/II and the early 60s/70s. We met some very interesting people on the day, in a warm atmosphere where conversations were shared over complimentary tea and coffee. With an estimated footfall of 200+ recorded on the day, it made it a successful end of year fair. The IMCC is a non-profit organisation, joining the club entitles a member to free entry to all the fairs, a newsletter, advice and free advertising in the newsletter, as well as many other benefits. An annual membership costs €15.

The club was founded in 1995 by a group of like minded individuals who wanted to learn more about

militaria, avoid costly mistakes and gain access to new items for their collections. From these humble beginnings grew a club that is now in its 17th year and growing stronger every year. We hold five fairs a year, four in the North Star Hotel and an annual fair in Christ Church Old School in Gorey, Co. Wexford. The Gorey event is different from our usual fairs as the venue allows re-enactors to set up displays and mingle with the collectors and dealers. This has become a very popular event in the club calendar in a very short time.

The fair times are 10am-3pm Admission to the fairs is €4 (current members free). There is no early entry to the fair except for those who are taking a table. This ensures that everyone gets a chance to see what is on offer as soon as the doors open. No photography or recording at the fairs is permitted without prior arrangement

with the committee. The sales of edged weapons to persons under 18 years of age is not permitted.

**The dates for 2012 are as follows:**  
The North Star Hotel, Amiens St.  
Dublin 1

- 18th February
  - 12th May
  - 18th August
  - 10th November
- The Old School, Gorey,  
Co. Wexford
- 30th June

The IMCC would like to thank everybody who has supported the fairs and made 2011 a good year for collecting despite the difficult situations many people face.

For further info on the IMCC please contact: Eddie Wyer (Hon. Treasurer) 0863410159 or Mark Hayden (PRO) 0861602228 ■

info@internationalmilitariacollectorsclub.com  
www.internationalmilitariacollectorsclub.com



Collector Ray Ronan



Paul Cullen and Noel Talbot



Old An Cosantóir's, now collector's items



Eddie Wyer offers some advice

# WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



## EUROPE

After more than a year, **Bosnia** feuding politicians have formed a government. Political leaders from all sides hope that the development will ease the country's path to EU accession candidate status.

New **EU** sanctions target Iran nuclear program, saying it will starve the country's nuclear program of funding. The sanctions freeze the assets of Iran's central bank in EU nations and ban the importation of Iranian oil to those countries. They also block EU countries from exporting petrochemical equipment and technology, or trading diamonds and precious metals with Iran.

## AFRICA

Boko Haram, a fundamentalist Islamic group, claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in **Nigeria**, including one on Christmas Day that killed 40. Police claim hundreds of IEDs in soft drink cans had been found in the city of Kano, where violence raged last week.

Four **Kenyan** officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, will stand trial on human rights violations that are alleged to have occurred after the 2007 election, the International Criminal Court ruled. More than 1,000 people were killed and 350,000 displaced, according to the Kenya Red Cross.



## THE AMERICA'S

38 **Haitian** migrants died when their overcrowded boat sank off the coast of Cuba. The Cuban Civil Defence rescued 87 people, including four children and seven women. They have been moved to an international migrants' camp at Point Maisi.



**Mexican** authorities have captured Felipe Cabrera Sarabia, the alleged security chief of 'Sinaloa' the country's biggest drug cartel. More than 40,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence in Mexico since Dec 2006.

The **South American** trade block Mercosur (Common Southern Market: is an economic and political agreement among Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), announced it would ban any vessels flying the flag of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) from entering its ports.

**Cuban** President Raúl Castro pardoned over 2,900 prisoners, 86 of which were foreigners. The President said he would not be abolishing restrictions on foreign travel by Cubans.

## MIDDLE EAST

**Arab** League observers arrived in Syria in an effort to persuade Bashar Asaad to withdraw his forces from towns, free political prisoners, and talk to the opposition. Clashes continued, some troops were withdrawn and some prisoners freed, but no talks were held.

Dec 18 saw the last US convoy to leave **Iraq**, ending nearly nine years of war that cost almost 4,500 US and tens of thousands of Iraqi lives. Still fragile it faces insurgents, sectarian tensions, and an Arab region in turmoil.



A dozen bombs went off across **Baghdad** on Dec 22, only a few days after the last American troops left Iraq. Ethnic tensions rose after Iraq's Shia Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki said that the Sunni Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi was charged with terrorism.

Ten day **Iranian** naval exercises in the Gulf increased tensions with the West and pushed up oil prices. Fears that Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz, which provides an outlet for one fifth of the world's oil has caused the rise. Iran warned the US not to send an aircraft carrier back into the Gulf.

## ASIA

**North Korea's** dictator since 1994, Kim Jong Il, died on Dec 17 last of a suspected heart attack. His funeral was a massive communist fanfare of military splendour, in North Korea's capital Pyongyang. Taking the throne is his third son, Kim Jong Un (20's). His uncle, Jang Song Taek may prove to be very influential in his nuclear tipped regime.



**Myanmar** celebrated its 64th anniversary of independence from Britain. Just prior to the first visit of a British foreign secretary since 1955, hundreds of prisoners were freed and sentences shortened for others. Democratic activists claimed most of these prisoners were not political. America said it was not enough to merit lifting sanctions.

A typhoon in the **Philippines** claimed over 1,200 lives. The navy, local fisherman, police and fire-fighters have joined forces in the hopes of finding more survivors. The country has packed more than 60,000 homeless citizens into schools and gymnasiums.

Commodore Frank Bainimarama, **Fiji's** Prime Minister, announced the Pacific island would lift a state of emergency and draft a new constitution. Bainimarama came to power via a coup d'état in 2006.



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# Minimum Force, **MAXIMUM EFFECT**

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**D**efence Forces personnel are faced with many different jobs, ranging from ATPC/ATCA duties at home to peacekeeping and peace-enforcement missions overseas. Consequently, our personnel have to be trained to face a multitude of different scenarios. Thankfully, many of these duties are undertaken without the need to resort to force. Even when they do, it is to be hoped the end can be achieved through an authoritative command or at worst by a wrist-lock and a pair of handcuffs.

Not only is it vital for the soldier to be able to determine the proper level of response to an incident but also that he or she is able to apply that response. To that end, Defence Forces personnel are taught unarmed combat, with the principle of applying the 'absolute minimum use of force necessary' drilled into them from day one.

Unarmed combat instructors are trained in the Defence Forces Physical Education School (DFPES) in the DFTC.

The course is open to all officers and NCOs and students do not need to have any prior experience.

"Some students

coming on the course do have martial arts, like judo or karate for example, or boxing experience," said instructor Cpl Denis Haden, "but it isn't necessary as the unarmed combat course is a mixture of everything. The key thing that we tell them from the start is that unarmed combat is totally a form of self-defence; the only time it can be used offensively is as an absolute last resort."

The three-week instructors course is intense and physically demanding, students need to be fit. While students don't need to have unarmed combat experience they do need to be fit. Once instructor Sgt Jim Maguire blows that whistle, it's all go. Over the three weeks the students learn everything from simple voice procedures all the way up to dealing with a hostile person armed with a rifle.

"The course is designed to address most things guys may come across, whether it's in a ATPC role at home or on an overseas operation," explained instructor Cpl Leonard Smith. "The students learn everything from arrest-and-restrain techniques, basic blocks and strikes, to using weapons of opportunity; that is basically anything that you are carrying or anything you may come across that can be used against an opponent."

Students are taught how to defend themselves in a multitude of scenarios and while I expressed my understanding of how you could be taught to defend yourself against an unarmed person I told my hosts that I had my doubts about it being possible against someone armed with a pistol or a rifle. As a consequence of my Doubting Thomas attitude I soon found myself armed with a Steyr facing Cpl Smith. With the rifle in my hands I felt fairly confident that I was in charge and soon got fully into my part as 'an armed aggressor'. However, my confidence, and my aggressive instinct soon got me too close to Cpl Smith and just as quickly I found my Steyr was in his hands and I was on the ground!

A major aim of the course is to teach the students how to identify the level of force they need to use to deal with any given situation, so without even realising it the students are getting lessons on conflict resolution.

"The course revolves around the first two degrees of force we are allowed to use, unarmed restraint and weight of numbers," Sgt McGuire said. "All the techniques, such as arrest-and-restraint or the use of batons, are taught from the perspective of the minimum use of force. They are taught to assess each situation. For example, if confronted by someone with a knife, is it neces-





sary to use a high-level of force or will voice procedure achieve the desired result? Or if someone doesn't have a knife do you really need to hit them with a baton? They are taught to always look for the least level of force necessary to deal with the situation."

It is hoped that these newly qualified unarmed combat instructors will go back to their units and pass on their knowledge and skills. However, the skills they have learned are like a set of new tools, they have to be maintained in good condition. All the instructors agreed that this is not as simple as going back to their unit and running a course in two years time without any training in between courses. Sgt McGuire emphasised, "They have to keep up their training and skills. The more training they do the better their skill level will be. They should train regularly with their colleagues or even come back here to instruct on the next course. Constant practice is the only way to maintain your skills." ■



## The Students' View

### CPL DARREN MAHONY, NO 1 OPS WG



I am a 4th degree black-belt in Kenpo Karate, which is also primarily a self-defence discipline. I thought the course was very good. The instructors were excellent and they really know their subject. I found the areas of handcuffing, weapons retention and disarmament very interesting. As a civilian martial arts instructor you don't often come across these military style techniques. I am a crew leader in 103 Sqn but I would like to instruct unarmed combat either in the Military Training Sch in Baldonnell or here in the DFTC.

### CPL COLM MCNAMARA, MP SCH



As an MP you do unarmed combat on the Probationers Course, the MP Standard Course, and the Prison Officer Course. The instructors course brings you onto the next level. Some of the techniques, like taking a knife off somebody, I had never done: it's a lot easier than I thought. With the new skills I have acquired I will now be able to go back to the MP Sch and instruct on unarmed combat.

### LT COLM KIRBY, 1 CAV SQN



As cavalry we must also be able to operate in the dismounted role in ATPC operations, overseas, and in combat, so we need to be able to apply COD 6 procedures if required. Unarmed combat is very helpful in areas such as public disorder training, where you could use the arrest techniques we learned here. The course was very physical and the skills certainly enhance your confidence. It will be great to bring things like battle PT and unarmed combat into my unit as regular activities. There are two other instructors in my unit so between the three of us we will be able to run courses for the unit.

### L/SEA JOHN MCCARTHY, LÉ AOIFE



One of our primary duties in the Naval Service is policing our waters, mainly in the fishery protection and drugs interdiction roles. As a member of the armed boarding teams, unarmed combat is part of our training because, for example, when you are clearing and securing a vessel you may be required to restrain a belligerent member of the crew. This course is excellent and gives you the skills and confidence needed. For drug interdictions you are armed because of the potential dangers but 'minimum force' still applies.





## SOLDIERS AND CHIEFS

THE IRISH AT WAR AT HOME  
AND ABROAD SINCE 1550

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# Action Stations!

BY WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY A/SEA  
DAVID JONES

**A**s an island nation the sea is vital to Ireland's security, and also to its economic wellbeing given that 92% of trade in and out of Ireland is by sea.

These trade routes need to be policed and protected. Our waters also include many valuable state assets such as fish stocks, gas and oil, which all need protection too. In addition, we need to prevent our territorial waters from being used for criminal activities such as arms-, drug-, and human-trafficking, bearing in mind that the crews of such vessels can be armed and belligerent. The Naval Service

is the only armed state body policing our waters and is therefore the foremost agency responsible for patrolling and protecting our seas and their resources.

The weapons on Irish Naval Service ships, while primarily there as a deterrent, are important in the Naval Service's role in protecting our territorial waters. One of the biggest challenges faced by all maritime agencies around the world today is drug interdiction; it is a constant global battle in which the Naval Service plays its part. Drug cartels will do anything to get their narcotics through and ►



consequently Naval Service crews have to prepare for the worst case scenario as they have no way of knowing how a belligerent crew will react. In drug interdiction operations the guns of the NS ship, or ships, involved are armed and manned to provide cover for the boarding teams.

Each Naval Service vessel is equipped with an array of primary and secondary armaments. LÉ Róisín, LÉ Niamh, LÉ Orla, and LÉ Ciara are equipped with the 76mm Otto Melara, a high-precision weapon, with a range of up to 17kms, that it is capable of engaging surface-, air-, and shore-based targets. The gun is gyro-stabilised, fully automated, and equipped with a Radamec fire control system.

LÉ Eithne carries the Bofors 57mm L/70 Automatic Gun, an all-purpose weapon capable of firing up to 300rpm at surface- and air- targets up to 13kms away. It is remote-controlled and gyro-stabilised, with an optical and laser fire-control system.

LÉ Aoife, LÉ Aisling and LÉ Emer are armed with the close-range Bofors 40mm L/70 Automatic Gun, which fires 300rpm.

Secondary armaments include the Browning .5" HMG, the 7.62mm GPMG, and the Rheinmetall 20mm Rh-202 Naval Cannon, a precision, close-range naval armament with a high rate-of-fire of up to 1,030rpm and special mount design that allows the firer to remain in the upright position for all elevations of firing.

Many other navies utilise particular weapons on vessels specific to particular jobs. For example, some employ 20mm weapons only on vessels exclusively assigned to fishery protection. "We do

not have that luxury," said Lt Donncha Cahalane, "as our Naval Service has multiple roles. We also have to think of challenges 30 years in advance, as that is the average life of our ships. Drug cartels are getting more and more sophisticated: An Garda Síochána has come across gangs armed with a variety of assault rifles, RPGs and other anti-armour weapons, and we have found 20mm cannons on detained vessels. If we had anything smaller than a 76mm main armament these belligerent crews may decide to make a stand."

Lt Cahalane and CPO David Hughes said that groups like the Somali pirates or the Tamil Tigers found it easy to acquire illegal arms up to 20mm cannons but they were never able to get anything as sophisticated as the 76mm Otto Melara. "You have to keep one step ahead of them all the times" continued Lt Cahalane. "Drug cartels are building and using submarines to transport narcotics, although they currently lack a transatlantic capability. These are very resilient people who are investing a lot of money: we have no choice but to plan for the worst-case scenario."

Apart from drug interdiction operations, the need for a display of force from NS ships is less now than it used to be in the past. Years ago it wasn't unheard of for an illegal fishing vessel to make a run for it. "If a vessel is not compliant, crews are trained to initially train the guns as if we are going to fire across their path," L/Sea Michael Kelly explained. "Usually that would get them to stop. If not we would be given the order to fire across the bow, then above the water line at the bow, and finally below the waterline.

Thankfully, incidents like this are far and few between nowadays."

In the 1970s and '80s there were also IRA gunrunning ships to contend with. "What you find with something like an IRA arms ship," said L/Sea Kelly, "is that the crew will try to sink it rather than let us board it."

The Naval Service and its gun crews are also called upon to augment the protection of visiting foreign dignitaries. For example, LÉ Eithne is equipped with air surveillance radar, which it can use to monitor the airspace on the approaches to Shannon or Dublin airports.

The weapons systems have also proven invaluable overseas. During the Defence Forces deployment to Liberia the Naval Service provided shore-cover with the 76mm Otto Melara for the ARW advance deployment. "The ARW were very comfortable in knowing that the ship had a weapon that could cover them up to 17kms inshore, and provide accurate high-explosive fire at up to 80rpm," said Lt Cahalane. "Furthermore the vessel was able to follow the ARW as they moved along the shore, with the weapon system covering them the whole time."

Navigation hazards are something land-based people might not think of and would be surprised how often the Naval Service has to sink a damaged vessel or floating container that has fallen off a ship. "You get this in stormy weather," explained L/Sea Colm Holahan: "Containers falling off cargo ships or even a semi-submerged damaged fishing boat. In bad weather we would not be able to tow them back to shore, especially as we could be 300 miles out to





sea. You can't leave them there as they are a navigation hazard: a large oil tanker or cargo ship would never see them. After obtaining permission from their owner we would have to sink them."

While some of the weapons are the same, such as the Bofors L/70, naval gunnery is a lot different to the Artillery Corps. The training for firing at sea has to take into account that both the weapon platform and the target are likely to be moving. Consequently, some Naval Service weapons employ fire-control systems, adding to the complexity of the training. Gunnery training is conducted in the Gunnery Training Section, which is part of the Line Training School, Naval College. Gunners have to go through a number of sea gunnery (SG) courses, while sub-lieutenants undergo an officer gunnery course.

"Recruits start off with a seven-week SG 3 course," CPO Hughes explained. "This qualifies them to work as a No 3 on the Bofors 40mm and as No 1 and No 2 on the secondary armaments, the Rheinmetall, the .5, and the GPMG."

Gunners only progress to the next course, the SG 2, after a minimum of two years at sea. This course qualifies them as a leading gunner and No 1 on the Bofors 40mm and the 76mm Otto Melara. "The SG 2 also qualifies them as captain-of-the-turret on the Radamec fire-control system," L/Sea Michael Kelly said. "They monitor the system but can't see the target, that's left up to the firing officer on the bridge, so it takes a while to get used to."

After another two years at sea they can undergo the SG 1 course, which qualifies them on the Bofors 57mm.

Both the Otto Melara and the Bofors 57mm have gyro-stabilisers to allow the weapon to remain accurate at sea. For the other weapons, such as the Bofors L/70 and the secondary armaments, it's down to practise and experience. "In the gun bay we have simulators for the Bofors L/70, the Rheinmetall, and the HMG," CPO Hughes said. "On the SG 3 course we gradually introduce them to motion bit-by-bit and teach them how to train the gun onto target. They really don't get used to it, though, until they go to sea and gain experience."

Each vessel has a gunnery officer on-board who is in overall charge of the weapons, both during an exercise and in a live boarding operation. The gunnery course for officers is somewhat different than the gunnery crew. "The lieutenant's position during firing is on the bridge. They need to know how the guns operate and what the leading gunner is doing at all times," said CPO Hughes. "We teach them what can go wrong and what generally does go wrong so they can pass information on to the captain. If the call comes: 'Round is not in the chamber position, it is half-cocked and loaded!' the captain needs to know whether it's safe or not."

Another challenge faced by the gunnery crew is the salt and the sea. The leading gunner is responsible for the maintenance of all ordnance on board the vessel and on his courses learns the maintenance routines for all the weapons. A vessel cannot go on patrol if its weapons don't have a fit-for-firing certificate. The artificers in the Dock-

yard inspect the weapons every three months, prior to issuing the certificates. "In winter the weather may be so bad that you may not even get to take the cover off the weapons for the first two weeks," said CPO Hughes, "so maintenance can be tough. You might be lucky and get a week of good weather when you can get all your maintenance done." Everyone agreed that it is a constant battle with the salt, especially with the PVs, which only have a plastic cover over the Bofors and the spray still gets in. "They have to be continuously washed down, oiled and greased," L/Sea Kelly continued, "but there's no alternative; the weapons have to be operational at all times."

Naval gunnery is intense and demanding. There is a lot of detail and a lot of responsibility goes with it. Where an army artillery piece generally uses up to five or six crew, the equivalent naval guns only use three. "The responsibility we put on our crews is tremendous," Lt Cahalane said. "Just take the 76mm Otto Melara. This is one of the most expensive and best assets in the Defence Forces and at the end of the day it is a Leading Seaman who is responsible for it. What has to be recognised is the amount of work and effort that has to go into maintaining and keeping them serviceable, especially in a maritime environment. There are electrics, gas, and oil involved in the guns' operation, it's a hugely complicated system, and we only have three artificers to look after the four of them when you're alongside. At sea it's all down to the leading hand." ■

# A PICTORIAL UP-DATE FROM LEBANON

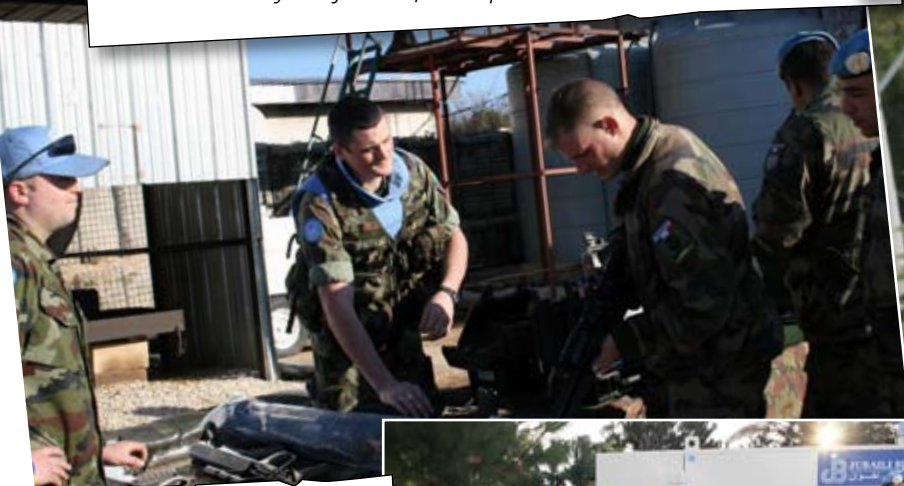


Dec 25th 2011, Christmas day was viewed from a different perspective for the troops of the 105 Inf Bn this year, as the Bn maintained its intense programme of patrols and security duties throughout the festive period. The cooks of the Bn worked feverishly from the early hours that morning to prepare what was a Christmas dinner of note for over 400 troops.

Dec 17th 2011, B Coy, 105 Inf Bn, organised a children's party, in conjunction with Fr Marios Khairallah and other locals, which was held in the church hall in Ayn Ibil. The party drew 500 children



from all of the nearby villages including Rmeish, Ayn Ibil, Dibil, Alma, Tibnine, Yaroun, Al-Bass Palestinian Refugee Camp (Tyre), and BRASHIT. Irish Bagpipers played a number of traditional tunes as well as guitarists who also played a number of Christmas favourites. Santa Claus greeted all the children and gave each child a gift bag and refreshments. A Theatre play was conducted by a group from Beirut. This was a very important event for the local community and Irishbatt and was made all the more special by the fact that everything purchased for the event came from money raised by the troops of Irishbatt.



Dec 29th 2011, B Coy 105 Inf Bn hosted a Pln from the FCR at UN Post 6-50. B Coy Comdr Comdt Robert Hurley provided a display of some of the equipment at Irishbatt's disposal. Likewise Lt Bachelier provided a display of FCR Equipment. Picture shows Pte O'Halloran explaining the Accuracy international Sniper Rifle to FCR soldiers. The event was enjoyed by all present and demonstrated the excellent working relationship between Irishbatt and the FCR as we move towards a New Year operating in South Lebanon as one under the UN.

Dec 15th 2011, the 105 Inf Bn 'Irishbatt' had the privilege of welcoming the Force Commanders Reserve (FCR) Commander, Col du Gardin to Camp Shamrock, UN Post 6-5. The FCR Commander was rendered full military honours. This visit by the FCR Comdr was very much welcomed by Irishbatt and certainly improves and strengthens our relationship with the FCR.



Dec 23rd 2011, Irishbatt in association with UNIFIL provided a generator for the village of Haddathah, South Lebanon. It will be used to provide electrical power to half of the village for 6hrs a day, the other half is being powered by an existing generator. The money was raised by soldiers of both the 104 and 105 Inf Bns. This was also an important occasion for the soldiers of Irishbatt given the long history shared by them and the people of Haddathah. Lt Col Philip Brennan, presented the generator to Mustafa Mansor, Mayor of Haddathah, who spoke of how much the generator meant to the village and thanked both Irishbatt and UNIFIL for its provision.



Dec 11th 2011, Irishbatt had the distinguished pleasure of welcoming Mr Julian Harston, Leader of the United Nations Strategic Review Team into Camp Shamrock, UN Post 6-5. Mr Julian Harston recently retired as an Assistant Secretary General in the United Nations. Mr Harston received a brief delivered by Lt Col Philip Brennan OC Irishbatt, and his staff. Mr Harston thanked Irishbatt for their hospitality and continued good work in South Lebanon.

Dec 7th 2011, Sector West Commander, Brig Gen Lamanna Carlo visited Irishbatt. He was warmly received by Lt Col Philip Brennan at UN Post 6-5 Camp Shamrock, where he was rendered full military honours and then briefed by OC 105 Inf Bn and his staff. He reviewed some of the equipment at the disposal to 105 Inf Bn, he then visited two Irishbatt Posts on the Blue Line, UN Post 6-52 and 6-50, where he received detailed situational briefs from troops stationed in both Posts.

Dec 3rd 2011, 105 Inf Bn Irishbatt had the pleasure of hosting a visit of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) to Camp Shamrock UN Post 6-5. The UNDPKO was accompanied by Deputy Commander Sector West Col Tom Quirke and were welcomed to Camp Shamrock by Lt Col Philip Brennan (OC 105 Inf Bn), where full military honours were rendered to the visiting delegation. The UNDPKO were very impressed with Irishbatt in terms of its personnel, hospitality, equipment and overall capabilities offered to UNIFIL.

Pictured at the Tibnine Monument recently are L/R: Monsignor Eoin Thynne, Lt Col Philip Brennan and Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (GOC 1 S Bde) with honour guard.

Polish Officers from UNDPKO met with their countrymen serving with 105 Inf Bn.

Jan 14th 2012, The UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon visited UNIFIL HQ in Al Naquora, South Lebanon. The 105 Inf Bn's flag party was led by Capt Padraig Duggan who carried the National Colours. Lt Col Philip Brennan OC 105 Inf Bn represented the Battalion and the people of Ireland on this international occasion where 36 other Troop participating countries were also present.

Pictured at an office call to UNIFIL FC, L/R: Lt Col Philip Brennan, Major Gen Alberto Asarta Cuevas (Force Commander UNIFIL), Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (GOC 1 S Bde) and Col Tom Quirke.



# SAME BUT DIFFERENT - LEBANON 2011

BY RSM NOEL O'CALLAGHAN (104 INF BN) 4 FD ARTY REG



*Irish patrol along the Blue Line*

In 1978 a savage conflict in Lebanon had plunged this beautiful country into a battle zone in which turmoil, death, darkness and chaos reigned over the people who lived there. It was into such an arena that Irish troops were deployed under the flag of the United Nations peace-keeping force with UNIFIL. The mission was intended to bring peace, hope and some normality to ordinary people caught up in an extraordinary situation, and to ensure basic human rights were protected, including freedom of movement for the Lebanese people. It was often a highly dangerous, daunting and seemingly endless task, not helped by the insanity, hatred and ferocity of the conflict. It was a mission that was to last over 20 years, with a heavy cost to the Irish as 46 of our soldiers who went to do their duty there lost their lives. As a very young soldier I served on two occasions in the early missions in 1978 and 1981.

After my last tour of duty there in 2000/01 I felt that after over 20 years commitment to keeping the peace we were leaving Lebanon with a sense of achievement,

and with a vast improvement in the quality of life of the Lebanese people and to the infrastructure within the UNIFL area of operations.

In 2006 the Irish returned to Lebanon after conflict had broken out again, and for a short period we again played our part in securing a safe and secure environment for the people.

After that mission I believed the Irish had seen the last of Lebanon and I never expected to return there for another tour of duty. Yet now in 2011 the Irish have returned to South Lebanon, where conflict still simmers in the background, to support the Lebanese government in securing peace and holding the Blue Line in accordance with the UN mandate.

The intervening years have not changed the landscape, which can be beautiful but harsh when it comes to patrolling under the heat of the sun, with dust, flies and mosquitoes added-in just for good measure.

Counter-IED drills are key to patrolling; nothing is left to chance, as patrols are long and hard and everyone





RSM Noel O'Callaghan



A Mowag Piranha III APC coming back from patrol

is always on their guard. Our role is much different now, and more difficult, but Irish people are resilient by nature and Irish soldiers have brought that resilience to many war zones over the past 53 years. Our soldiers are renowned in the UN community for their exemplary and courageous conduct in carrying out dangerous and challenging UN peacekeeping duties. It is the very reason we have been invited back here. ■



Members of the 4 Fd Arty Reg from Columb Barracks, Mullingar, prior to going on patrol, with the Mullingar signpost that has travelled to Liberia, Kosovo, Chad and now Lebanon with members of the regiment.



# DEVELOPING A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

In this feature **Wesley Bourke** interviews **Col Michael Meehan**, Sch Comdt, Command and Staff (C&S) School, the Military College, about the School's activities and future plans.

**An Cosantóir:** What courses are conducted in the Command and Staff School and can you tell us something about them?

**Col Meehan:** The Command and Staff School delivers two career courses at the highest level of Defence Forces officer development, the Senior Command and Staff (SC&S) Course and the Senior Officers Strategic Leadership Course.

The SC&S Course is a nine-month residential course, conducted annually. The aim is to develop flexible minds that will enable our graduates to analyse and conceptualise in a military context, in order to make timely and logical decisions that will enhance effectiveness throughout the full range of military environments, both at home and abroad.

Syllabus includes: Deployable Joint Staff Element HQ (DJSE) training; defence studies and international relations; command leadership and human resource management; strategic studies; military history and campaign analysis; joint- and combined operations; crisis management operations and stabilisation studies. The course also includes a Regional Security Studies module, which encompasses briefings in Brussels on operational and strategic developments within the European Union.

Successful graduates are conferred with an MA LMDS - Master of Arts

degree in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies - in partnership with NUI Maynooth.

The Strategic Leadership Course is the final formal officer development course and is part of the Defence Forces' commitment to life-long learning, an area that is now part of the currency of personal development across the world in all walks of life, where the need to commit to continuing education and development is accepted as the norm.

The aim of the Strategic Leadership Course is to promote a culture of reflexive leadership among senior officers who have responsibility to define how the DF can best position itself within an evolving, globalised, post-modern context. The course explores current understanding and future trends in leadership and management; the challenges pertinent at the strategic level of the organisation; and how the DF, as an organisation, interacts with its external environment.

The course is designed to benefit the strategic level of the DF by creating, as stated by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann in his opening address to the Strategic Leadership Course, "a talent pool of strategic leaders and thinkers at all levels of the organisation and to cultivate and refine the managerial and leadership talents required to move the organisation

towards its strategic objectives".

Successful graduates are awarded a Certificate in Strategic Leadership, at Level 10 (Doctorate level), from NUI Maynooth.

**An Cos:** What is your vision for the C&S School?

**Col Meehan:** My vision sees the C&S School catering for the professional education of senior officers by developing future DF Senior Leaders who are critical and dynamic thinkers, innovators and rational decision-makers who pursue professional excellence and are capable of understanding and functioning in the complex military, economic, information and diplomatic environment.

**An Cos:** Why is the development of critical thinking so important for the military profession?

**Col Meehan:** A number of central themes and threads run through all aspects of education in the C&S School. On the SC&S Course the educational ethos seeks to expand and develop broad visions after extensive and systematic analysis. The three pillars, which support the





course are: the furtherance of excellence in the officer's profession; the use of the military decision-making process to reach balanced outcomes; and the further development of critical thinking among students.

Inculcating critical thinking permeates every element of the course. In Semester 1 during the Land Component phase, students are encouraged to hone their analytical and communication skills at the military tactical level through a series of progressively challenging staffing exercises conducted both in the classroom and on the ground. These exercises test students both individually and in groups. But critical thinking is also encouraged and nurtured throughout other elements of the course: for example, through exposure to new ideas and concepts, through research and through reflexive thinking and learning. Students are encouraged to 'think outside the box' both in their classroom participation as well as in assessed assignments in areas such as defence and international studies, command leadership and HRM studies, strategic studies, stabilisation studies and joint studies.

The ability to think critically is vital for the military officer in dealing with complex scenarios that can be thrown up by the uncertainties of a rapidly changing modern world. It is no longer enough to be just technically competent and knowledgeable – a different mindset is required in this new environment, otherwise one will not survive.

Another development since 1999 has been the attendance of international officers on the SC&S Course, and to date we have had students from Algeria, Austria, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Germany, Malta, Pakistan, Sweden and the US. In addition to the rich knowledge and experience that these officers bring, which are of obvious practical benefit, they also provide an alternative perspective to problem solving by challenging the mental models of their Irish counterparts. Interaction with our visiting students challenges potential stereotyping and offers alternative perspectives in the decision-making process.

It is important to note that the MA LMDS programme compliments and enhances this educational effort by

developing further the qualities of independent and innovative thought. This dynamic and flexible programme has adapted and developed through feedback from instructors and students, as well as two comprehensive external reviews – the most recent in 2010. The workshops and group work conducted with students have adapted to raise the bar in terms of the quality of research while simultaneously developing the critical faculties of the student officer.

#### **An Cos: How important is military education in the 21st century?**

**Col Meehan:** Successful organisations are receptive, learning organisations that have the ability to grow and adapt. The DF is a learning organisation and in reality has been since its establishment. One just has to look at the foresight of the military mission to the US in 1926 that led to the establishment of the Military College. Successful military organisations need to be intellectually agile in order to out-think and out-smart their adversaries. To quote Eric Hoffer; "The central task of education is to implant a will and facility for learning. It should produce not learned but learning people." This learning has to be contingent and continuous. Our military education curriculum must be broad enough to provide new academic horizons and deep enough to whet intellectual curiosity for all Officers, NCOs and Ptes.

The current environment in which we operate is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous, with an exponential rate of change. In order to survive in this environment, officers, and indeed all ranks, must develop their ability to think critically and use the concept in their decision-making. Critical thinking helps the military leader master the challenges faced in this ever-changing environment. It can help the officer, or NCO, to understand how to bring stability to a volatile world. The strategic setting has now become more complex and ambiguous, requiring officers and NCOs to be able to think, analyse, persuade and adapt, rather than applying well-rehearsed procedures. In addition, the intellectual content of routine military work now has a higher intel-

lectual content for more officers than previously, stemming from work at the operational level.

The military education process has been a major contributing factor in the successful prosecution of our missions overseas since 1958. Irish officers have successfully held senior command appointments in a variety of missions over the years and capable, well-trained educated officers and NCOs have often supported them. The appointment of Lt Gen Pat Nash as Operation Commander EUFOR TCHAD/CAR and Col Michael Beary as Mission Commander EUTM Somalia continues this trend and reflect again the success of our military education systems.

#### **An Cos: Are there any new developments in the pipeline for the C&S School?**

**Col Meehan:** The introduction of the MA LMDS has contributed greatly not only to the standard of education in the DF but also to the good standing of the DF in various circles of public, academic and business life. The recent introduction of the Strategic Leadership Course has continued this positive developmental momentum. In addition, many members of the DF have privately undertaken studies outside the organisation up to and including doctorate level. This has created a large pool of intellectual capital. In order to mark the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the MA LMDS an academic conference is scheduled to take place UNTSI on 08/09 March. The theme of the conference will be 'Military Education in the 21st Century'. The conference will also showcase some of the achievements and initiatives made by the DF in the area of senior officer education. During the conference we will be launching the publication of a book commemorating the 10th anniversary of the MA LMDS and showcasing excellence in research. Indeed the conference itself, the first of its kind, represents an important step in encouraging critical thinking and high quality research, as well as establishing the credentials of the Military College and the Defence Forces Training Centre as centres of excellence in military education. ■

# OSCLAÍG RANGA-MÁIRSEÁIL

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN





The Naval Service Reserve (NSR) is an integral part of the Naval Service. NSR personnel augment the crews of each naval vessel, allowing regular seamen to take shore-leave. As well as going to sea NSR units are tasked throughout the year with other duties. Among these are ceremonial duties.

The Naval Service takes ceremonial drill very seriously and it is not uncommon at a Naval Service passing-out to see a platoon form an anchor on the march. The annual NSR drill competition took place on November 5th in Haulbowline. Drill competitions are still a regular part of the Reserve syllabus. As well as being an excellent team-building exercise a drill competition allows Reserve units stationed around the country to come together to meet and interact with their fellow reservists.

In teams of eight to ten, the four NSR units turned out in their best No 1s and put on what can only be described as a great drill display. We are used to guards-of-honour and parades, but can you remember when you last saw an actual drill display. It was absolutely fantastic. There were drill movements and commands used that this writer has never heard of. "Chun mall chéim athraigh, go mall máirseáil!" (Break into slow-time, slow march!) or "Druileáilainn Speisialta!" (Special drill!). The choreography was entirely up to them, making for some very unique displays. After demonstrating foot- and arms-drill each unit had their own special drill movement. Each movement, from lines to forming circles, then criss-crossing each other, were met with loud rounds of applause.

The end result left all four teams very close. However there can be only one winner, and Waterford came out on top. Obviously, the untrained eye could not see what the judges did, so what were the judges looking for? "We are initially looking at their march onto the square," said Lt Cdr Tom Hopkins, "and all four units did extremely well in that. Next, the presentation of uniforms was excellent, particularly from Dublin and Limerick. The other thing we were looking at was the timings of the feet and arms. Its drill competitions like this that can tell us the standard of each unit so that if a ceremonial order comes in for a particular area we know that the unit is very capable."

All judges agreed that a great effort was put in by all four units, particularly, they emphasised, when you take into account that the NSR are part-time personnel. The resilience all four teams displayed in getting over these difficulties was highly complimented.

"It was a team effort," said a cheerful L/Sea Jonathan Duggan (Waterford NSR), drillmaster of the winning team. "Waterford has no square, so we had to travel twice a week to Stephens Bks, Kilkenny. With guys working, out at sea and with other commitments it was very difficult to get a team together that could train twice a week. For me, I had to learn how to command my voice and build confidence. It was certainly worth it though." ■

*Drill Competition judges were: Lt Bernard Heffernan, Lt Cdr Tom Hopkins and Lt Donald O'Reagan*





# The Irish Defence Forces 1940-1949: THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S REPORTS



**AUTHORS:** MICHAEL KENNEDY AND VICTOR LAING **PUBLISHER:** IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION  
**ISBN:** 9781906865061 - HARDBACK **PRICE:** €75.00

**O**n the outbreak of WWII Ireland declared that it would adhere to a policy of neutrality that was declared with little consideration of the necessary military resources to defend it.

In the years preceding the commencement of hostilities very little effort was made to ensure that the Defence Forces were sufficiently manned and equipped with even the minimum requirement to offer resistance to any enemy, except an internal one. Consequently, when war was declared the Government was in the position of the householder who has not paid his insurance policy and sees smoke wafting through his hall door.

Just like the improvident householder, the government found it impossible to claim when the emergency had occurred. Britain had enough problems filling orders for her own forces so was not in a position to fill Irish requirements. In addition there was always the possibility that in the event of the treaty ports not being made available to the Royal Navy by the "Eire"

government it was likely that they would have to be forcibly reoccupied. It therefore made no sense for Britain to provide Ireland with the means to oppose any such reoccupation.

The Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces was given the difficult task of defending the country with the meagre forces that were available and what could possibly be raised within the country. This publication provides a fascinating insight into that process followed by the Chiefs of Staff from 1940 until 1949. Most of the story is told in the first five reports dealing with "the Emergency" but the later ones give a very good insight to the measures taken, or not taken, during the post-war period at the start of the Cold War.

The Irish Manuscripts Commission and Military Archives are to be complimented on this monumental publication of the yearly Chief of Staff reports for the period 1940 to 1949. These reports are extremely detailed, covering all aspects of the development of the DF and a frank account



Maj Gen L Archer



Photographs courtesy of Military Archives



of the difficulties encountered. They provide a remarkable insight into the transformation of an undermanned, under equipped and under resourced organisation in 1939 to a force of two divisions that took the field in 1942 for a period of extended exercises.

The bulk of the reports are those by Lt Gen Dan McKenna with only that for the year 1948-1949 being the work of Lt Gen Liam Archer. These are valuable documents covering a period of great national importance. They provide a wealth of detail not only for military historians but also for a much wider audience. The annual statistical data provides information not only on the development of the DF but also tables of equipments procured, civilian properties taken over or targeted for takeover, personnel figures including discharges and enlistments, crime returns listing both military and civil offences, the diseases suffered by the troops, and assistance rendered to the civil authorities such as turf cutting, harvesting and more, in fascinating detail.

Lt Gen McKenna's first report clearly shows that prior to the fall of France the war was a matter of some indifference to the majority of the population. It must have been frustrating for him to see that this had permeated even the Dept of Finance. Consequently, the men and materiel necessary for the defence of the country were not to hand. It is very hard to understand that the recruitment authorised at the outbreak of the war in September 1939 was halted eight weeks later on grounds of expenditure. In fact there were 1,400 fewer men in the forces in November of that year. However, it is only fair to say that if the "Phoney War" lulled Britain and France into lethargy it is not surprising that it also happened in neutral Ireland.

The unleashing of the Blitzkrieg in the West culminating in the fall of France in June 1940 roused the country to the possibility of an invasion. This frightening prospect instigated

a recruiting drive and between May and September 1940 nearly 23,000 men were inducted into the ranks.

Recruiting the required manpower was one thing but providing the necessary arms, ammunition and equipment presented severe difficulties thanks to the lack of preparation during peacetime. In every report McKenna appealed for the most basic items of military hardware, in particular mortars, anti-tank weapons, air defence equipment and all kinds of ammunition. However, only minimal quantities were received. Indeed, the hostile attitude of the Churchill Government ensured that most such orders were unfilled. It is interesting to note that his concern for the manpower shortages meant that the possibility of introducing conscription was a recurring theme in McKenna's reports.

As the war in Europe came to an end the reports became oriented on the post-war world security scenario. The one for 1945-46 shows that the stand-off between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers had been accurately identified and was the target of future planning. It is apparent from the documents that wartime neutrality was regarded as a temporary expedient and the changed environment should not have precluded other arrangements. "Apart from the possibility of

the State having to assume military obligations if admitted as a member to the UN or of entering into any defence commitments such as are being organised by the Benelux states, it may be doubted whether it will be possible for the State to remain neutral in the next world conflict." (Report 1947-48, p615.)

"The Emergency" was a major milestone in the development of the Defence Forces. This publication deals with it in a very thorough manner, detailing many positive aspects but also the negative ones. Michael Kennedy and Victor Laing have rendered a great service in presenting such a valuable book. It is an essential source for any history of the Defence Forces or of Ireland during WWII and its aftermath. ■

**LT GEN COLM MANGAN DSM (RETD)**



Lt Gen McKenna

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

## A JILDY SOLDIER

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & B/W COURTESY OF MILITARY ARCHIVES

*Over the years I have interviewed many veterans. Their stories of Korea, the Congo, Vietnam, and Lebanon have all transported me back to a time long before I was born. The world was a lot different than it is today. No computers, no fancy CIS equipment or DPM uniform, no Mowag APC's to transport you around the battlefield, you go back far enough and the jet aircraft and helicopter were only making their first appearance. History however is right on our doorsteps and most of us don't even realise it.*

**W**e all grew up being told tales from our Grandparents, Grand uncle or aunt. 'When I was your age there were no cars around, we had to walk to school'. Times always seemed harder, especially when they went on about the depression and rationing during the war. No fancy Chinese or Italians then. The mistake many of us make however is we do not record our family history. It is only when a grandparent passes away that we realise those stories will never be told again. I am fortunate to have one grandparent left. Patrick (Patsy) O'Neil from Glebe House, Crumlin Village Dublin, born on August 1st 1921. He is now 90 years of age. Patsy saw many changes in Ireland from the early days of the Free State, the birth of a Republic, and onto the Celtic Tiger. The story our readers will be interested in is his time serving in the Defence Forces during the Emergency Years; known to others as World War II. Hopefully his story will inspire you to record your family history.

"At the outbreak of the war, I was studying carpentry in Bolton Street College. There was much talk of the war in Europe. As German armies moved east and west nobody knew whether Ireland would join the Allied powers or wait and see if the Germans would come over to us." While some young men seeking adventure went off to join the British forces Patsy joined the rapidly expanding Irish

Defence Forces. At the wars outbreak the Defence Forces only numbered 5,915 regulars and 14,470 in the reserve. By 1943 the regular force had reached just under 41,000 while the reorganised Local Defence Force numbered 106,000. Volunteers like my grandfather were known as E-men (Emergency men) or Durationers (those who had enlisted for the duration of hostilities). Money and equipment was scarce, food, fuel, tea, cigarettes, were all rationed. Turf battalions were even formed to make sure homes were heated.

Mobilisation saw the formation of two divisions and two independent brigades. The 1st Division, under Maj Gen M. J. Costello, had its headquarters in Cork while the 2nd Division, under Maj Gen Hugo McNeill, had its headquarters in Carton House, Maynooth. The independent 5th and 8th Brigades were based in the Curragh and in Rineanna (Shannon Airport) respectively. My grandfather joined C Coy, 25 Inf Bn, 5th Brigade based in the Curragh. For a Crumlin man Nass was considered the frontier.

"I remember sheep shit and soldiers. The only nice thing about it was the trees as you drove in. There was no doubt training was hard. We had the British pattern uniform, helmet and forage cap. We had another name for the forage cap which I won't repeat. You'll see pictures of other lads wearing a German style uniform. This was the Vickers helmet that had been issued back in

the 30's. You made friends with men like 62 Sanders. We called them by their last name and their army number. We were issued the Lee Enfield .303 rifle, lovely weapon. The drill on this rifle was really impressive, I remember it clearly. On parade was the best "Fix... Bayonets". When you saw a whole battalion doing that it was an amazing sight."

"I was trained on the .303 Enfield. I also did a course on the Lewis and Vickers machine guns. These machine guns like today you had to have a crew. The Lewis was on a bipod and had a round magazine whereas the Vickers was on a tripod and was belt fed."

"The Enfield was my favourite. They weren't all in good condition as some were old and had to have repair work done. Five rounds in the small black magazine and one up the breech. One of my proudest days was being awarded the marksmanship badge. With the Enfield you didn't pull the trigger, you squeezed it gently."

25 Inf Bn was mainly tasked with guarding K-lines and Tintown. These were the camps where the Allied, Axis and IRA internees were kept during the war. Ireland of course was neutral, so any Allied or Axis sailor or aviators that happened to crash or get beached on Irish shores was interned. "In the Curragh all the sentry posts were elevated. So you would have full view of your section of the camp you were guarding. There were two men in each box. Nine boxes in total. A guard house



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



on the gate. There were also PA's (MP's) knocking about which you had to watch out for. It was very monotonous, you got very tired both physically and mentally doing this day in day out. The guard commander used to do spot checks on us to see if we had fallen asleep. Two hours on four hours off."

"One thing all prisoners had in common was giving you the sign for a cigarette. We knew it as getting a fix. A friend might say 'give us a fix' and it would break your heart to break a cigarette in two."

"We rotated around the German, Allied and IRA camps. Now there was a different arrangement for the different prisoners. The Germans and Allies used to get day passes and some even got jobs in the local areas in Kildare town, Newbridge or Kildare. The Germans were an intimidating bunch. I remember one time escorting a German officer down to the Military Hospital. I was ordered not to let him out of my sight. Now I was only 5'4", looking up at him he didn't look too impressed."

"The IRA were locked up 24/7. They did terrible things back then too and the government were determined not to let them get up to anything. Going home on leave people would ask you did you ever shoot anyone. Apart from the odd warning shot all we ever shot were the sheep getting caught up in the barbed wire. In saying that the IRA were always trying to tunnel out. There were some very ingenious engineers in their ranks. We'd watch them dig away and then catch them just before they finished it. It kept them busy so we didn't mind."

"For the most part we didn't get much leave. It all depended on how the war was going. My sisters came up a few times to Newbridge on the bus. I would go and meet them and they'd bring you some food or a clean shirt. If they brought food this was the best. The food in camp was terrible. I remember the CQMS counting out three potatoes that were black. We lived off loaves of bread, butter and jam. The canteen in the camp sold everything for a penny. A bun and a cup of tea or a piece of Gurcake. Now if you had 2pence you could get a Wad this was a big cake with cream in the middle."

"One sad story I remember from 1941; we were all playing football one day and got the call to report to the hospital to give blood. There had been a training accident in the Glen of Imaal. 16 lads had been killed. We had to carry in the bodies. There was blood all over the truck. We all got a reality check that day."

For most of the Emergency C Coy 25 Inf Bn was stationed in the Curragh. However it regularly took part in exercises outside of the Curragh area. Taking the young men to parts of the country like Cork, The Blackwater, Castle Annagh Camp, New Ross, Abbeyleix and Bawnjames. "In the summer of 1942 we took part in big manoeuvres. Now we marched everywhere. Our objective was to cross the Blackwater. The march down took us through places we'd never heard of or been. We were regularly allowed bivouac in old estates like Silversprings House Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. That was in July. We then went on to Wexford where we stayed in a camp in Bawnjames. We didn't mind marching through the countryside. We could buy things off the locals and the girls were always very pleasant to us."

"The Blackwater manoeuvres took place in August and Septem-

ber of 1942. We had to cross the Blackwater with full battle dress. Most lads couldn't swim so we had to form human chains. The current would try and grab your legs. Sometimes a chain would break upstream and lads would come drifting down and we'd have to catch them.

"Near the end of the war I was given indefinite leave to finish my apprenticeship. My CO called me in and explained because the war was winding down, I was approved to go finish my trade so I would have it when I was discharged. Now I had just completed my NCO's course and I wanted to get my corporals stripes. Alas back up to Dublin I went. On return to the Curragh 18 months later I was handed my discharge papers and the offer of a Martin Henry suit. I took two shirts, two trousers and a pair of boots instead for work. I never got to find out whether I passed my NCO's course or not. Everyone was being demobilised. On discharge Éamon de Valera gave us a 100 pound. That was it, the Emergency was over."

*\*Jildy - Anglo-Indian military slang, originally meaning haste in a military sense, now more so used to acknowledge a smart well turned out soldier.*



**Emergency period photographs are from the 25th Inf Bn, from the Hanley Collection at Military Archives. Military Archives are launching an online collection of these photographs on [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie) as part of our photo identification project, where they will be asking members of the public for their help in identifying individuals in the photographs through feedback online. More photograph albums for different eras will follow in due course. ■**

# Dive in Antarctica

BY COMDT MARK BROWNEN

Part 1



Following a successful diving trip in the Arctic, at 78° north, by two members of the Army Diving Group (ADG) and two members of the Garda Dive Unit, the four divers decided to try to dive in Antarctica.

Two years of research followed, including a search for ships that take divers to Antarctica. We eventually found an Australian company running a former Finnish research ship, the MV Polar Pioneer, registered in Russia and crewed by Ukrainians working out of Ushuaia in southern Patagonia, who were taking divers to Antarctica; they were also affordable - it sounded perfect! They ran two trips per season with 12 divers each trip so places were limited but as our budget wasn't that of a TV documentary crew this ship was the one for us. Unfortunately, as payment day loomed a career course, a wedding and an overseas trip ruled the other three out, so I was now going on my own.

The MV Polar Pioneer was 235ft long (roughly 15ft longer than LÉ Aisling) with an ice-strengthened hull - not an ice breaker - but with a hull capable of operating amongst the ice floes and in thicker ice than normal ships. The total passenger and crew numbered 56. Facilities on board were basic but comfortable and most importantly it had a good diver support container, which was used by both scientist and tourists, depending on who was chartering the ship. While the ship ran expeditions it also supplied and supported some of the Antarctic research stations. These operations included the transfer of scientists and their equipment and a resupply.

As it was late February and nearing the end of the Antarctic summer the weather for the two-day crossing of the Drake Passage, the infamous strait separating South America and Antarctica, was expected to be good. However, I quickly learned that 'good' for a Russian sailor and 'good' for me were two very different things. After I spent the first day falling out of my bunk and crawling to the toilet during the 'good' weather, I was not looking forward to the bad weather!

We finally arrived at the tip of the Antarctica Peninsula after passing left of Elephant Island made famous by Tom Crean and Ernest Shackleton. Our route was to take us down





the western side of the peninsula. We passed South Shetland, through the Gerlache Strait and down below the Antarctic Circle, where it was expected the ship would encounter thicker ice and eventually be forced to turn back. This eventually occurred in the vicinity of Adelaide Island and Arrowsmith Peninsula.

Prior to disembarking and actually being allowed to visit Antarctica all items of clothing and footwear, including all of our dive kit, was screened and vacuumed (mandatory procedures under the treaty that governs any Antarctic travel) to remove any foreign seeds, bugs, or even animals, that could contaminate the environment or introduce new species that could affect the ecosystem.

The ship continued south and eventually as we neared the ice the mandatory check-out dive was carried out by our polar dive guides. The nearest decompression chamber for a 'bend' was over 800 miles north at this stage and while there were two doctors on board, one a specific decompression specialist for the divers, it would be a long painful wait for a helicopter and an even more painful experience when the bill arrived!

The water was colder than anywhere I'd dived previously, including the Arctic trip. All the diving equipment carried required backups, due to the extreme temperature it would be operating in. Although the average water temperature of between -20°C and -40°C may not sound too bad, when you are immersed in it under the ice for up to 24 minutes - the longest dive I managed to achieve - it becomes very obvious why your kit needs to be freeze protected and why you need so many thermal layers under your dry suit. Face and hands were the only areas that were not freeze protected, with the result that any metal in the dive kit tended to freeze to face and lips, leading to some painful experiences when trying to take kit off! However, this problem was alleviated by applying a coating of Vaseline to the areas of exposed skin.

The freezing of kit while on the dives was a major safety issue as malfunction or failure at depth could have serious consequences. Consequently, every diver was required to carry a large amount of surplus and replacement kit, which accounted for the large excess baggage charges involved on the trip!

Malfunctions occurred primarily due to ice forming on the inside of various items of kit. The water temperature also caused computers to fail due to the effects of the cold on the batteries. Even with the layers the intense cold affected co-ordination and dexterity, which was a limiter on your dive time as the sensation loss meant malfunctions could not be dealt with properly.

Following the check-dive we proceeded to the first proper ice dive at Cuverville Island. Prior to any dive an ice assessment has to be carried out, which takes into account air and water temperatures, current strength and the ice condition itself. If an iceberg is being dived, its size, structure and erosion damage visible all need to be considered. If the ice assessment is bad then another berg is sought out, as an iceberg collapsing or moving, or indeed turning over as occurred during one dive, can be a little disconcerting! The ideal icebergs were those that had beached and were stuck fast due to their size as these allowed us more freedom to dive them through and around them.

**To be continued...** ■



## DF CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

The DF X-Country Championships 2011 was hosted by DFTC in the Curragh on 23 & 30 Nov. The competition was organised by Comdt Tom O'Keeffe, Cpl Pat Byrne and the staff of the DFPES on the same course as the 1998 CISM World X-Country Championships. Cpl Pat Byrne (DFTC), emerged from a strong field to win his 11th DF title. 4 W Bde won the DF Snr Championships for the 9th time in the last 12 years. 2 E Bde had something of a resurgence by winning the Jnr Men's team race, lead home by Lt Mark Conway who won the individual title. 1 S Bde broke a long period of 4 W Bde dominance by a good win in the Masters Race lead home by Sgmtn Colin Merritt, who subsequently finished 2nd in the Senior Men's race. Capt Maeve O'Grady (2 E Bde) won the Ladies title, leading home 2 E Bde to their 2nd team win of the competition.

### Senior Men 10km

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cpl Pat Byrne	DFPES	33.48
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sgmtn Colin Merritt	HQ 1 S Bde	33.57
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cpl Eddie O'Neill	B Coy 3 Inf Bn	34.28

### Team Winners 4 W Bde

Pte Noel Kelly, Pte Paul Buckley, Cpl Stephan McKeigue, Pte Ian Ward, Pte Anthony Devaney, Pte Gavin Crawford

### Junior Men

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lt Mark Conway	DFHQ	20.40
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pte Ian Ward	6 Inf Bn	21.30
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pte P Mitchell	6 Inf Bn	21.37

### Team Winners 2 E Bde

Lt Mark Conway, Pte Conlan, Pte Hannigan, Pte Dunne, Pte Finlay, Capt Noel Conway

### Masters 6k

#### O/40

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sgmtn Colin Merritt	HQ 1 S Bde	20.02
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sgt Eamon Casey	HQ 1 S Bde	22.14
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pte Tom Thompson	28 Inf Bn	22.31

#### O/45

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sgt Noel O'Regan	31 Res LSB	23.04
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sgt Coffey	DFTC	23.36

#### O/50

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sgt Bishop	DFSM	22.27
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tpr Hayes	TISK	23.31
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pte McCormack	6 Inf Bn	24.01

#### O/55

1 <sup>st</sup>	Coy Sgt Willy O'Riordan	HQ 1 S Bde	26.25
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sgt Terry Grogan	USAC	28.36

### Team Winners 1 S Bde

Sgmtn Merritt, Sgt Casey, Sgt O'Regan, Tpr Hayes

### Ladies 5 km

1 <sup>st</sup>	Capt Maeve O'Grady	DFHQ	20.43
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cpl Mary Molloy	1 MPC	20.51
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tpr Siobhan Tierney	2 Cav Sqn	21.03

### Team Winners 2 E Bde

Capt O'Grady, Tpr Tierney, Cpl Jones-McGuinness, Capt Fitzpatrick

## DEFENCE FORCES HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY CPL ERIC O'BRIEN (USAC)

The first DF Handball Championships to take place in over 15yrs was held in the Handball Centre, Pearse Stadium, Galway on 01 Dec 2011. Taking part were 16 competitors across a range of ages and categories representing all services and corps of the DF.

It was an open tournament, due to the absence of championships or leagues in recent times, there was no mechanism available to properly and accurately seed competitors. As a consequence this led to some interesting ties, with first timers showing the 'old sweats' a thing or two, and even beating the

more experienced handballers in some instances to advance in the tournament. It was a knockout event with games lasting either ten minutes or first to score 21 being declared the winner. The timed format

concept was aimed at giving novice handballers a chance to play against more experienced handballers and to enjoy the higher tempo of play. Competitors who lost their first round match then went into a Junior competition, which had the same knockout format.

The main focus of the event was to reignite an interest/participation in the sport. The response was positive with most looking forward to the next tournament regardless of their results on the day. The DF plan to further develop handball throughout 2012 by introducing Bde Championships and open days at local level, as well as introducing the 'One-Wall' discipline of the sport. 'One-Wall' has become the most popular form of handball and is of particular interest to personnel who are new to the sport or indeed returning to it.

The event finished with Pte Colm Jordan (1 Fd Eng Coy) winning the Senior title and Cpl Eddie Clifford (3 Inf Bn) winning the Junior title. Pte Jordan is no stranger in the handball world and was the firm favourite from the outset. With that said there were one or two competitors who didn't get to compete against him on the road to the final who are relishing the opportunity to test their mettle against him in 2012. DF Pers interested in getting involved should contact their BPEO.



Pte Colm Jordan (1 Fd Eng Coy) returning a ball to win a match. Picture by: SS John Geelan (1 Cn Cois)





# NOTICEBOARD

This page is designed to give our readers an easy-to-follow list of upcoming events or notices for our wider Defence Forces Family. Readers that want to submit notices that may be of interest to others should keep their notices to the point, include contact details and send by email to: [magazine@military.ie](mailto:magazine@military.ie) or by post to: Editor An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland. PS. Our old noticeboard will still be made available on [www.dfmagazine.ie](http://www.dfmagazine.ie)

## Cavan Barracks Reunion

Dún Uí Néill will close in the late spring of 2012.

The CO of Dun Ui Neill Bks, Comdt Tom Mc Guinness, will hold a reunion of all serving members, ex members and the families of deceased members of men and women who served within the current military barracks in Cavan.

The reunion is an opportunity for old military friends to meet and reminisce prior to the closure of the Bks. The function will be held on **Friday 24th of February 2012 @ 8pm.**

**Anyone requiring further information should contact the following persons;**

Cecil O'Reilly (087 9201913)

Jeremiah Loughnane (087 0970164)

We look forward to meeting all our former members and friends again and please feel free to bring along old photographs etc. on the night.

## Uniform Services:

### VOC Medal Mounting Service:

Competitive prices, contact Vinny on 01-8475617

### Lanyards made to order:

Competitive prices, contact Brian on 087 2971982

### R. Johnston Master Tailors:

Phone: 01 8204378 / 086 3531664 or visit [www.rjohnstonmastertailors.com](http://www.rjohnstonmastertailors.com)

## Curragh Military Museum

**Opening Times:** Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 2.00 to 5.00pm; Closed Friday, Saturday and Bank Holidays.

**For all queries, contact:** 045-445342 or

**email:** [curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie](mailto:curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie).

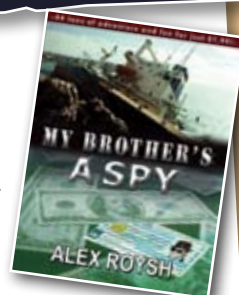
# SUDOKU

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## FEBRUARY Q&A COMPETITION



1. What New York Red Bull's player recently signed a loan deal back to Arsenal FC?
2. What was the Irish/UK No1 single for Christmas 2011?
3. A Co. Waterford call centre company Eishtec, created 250 jobs recently by winning what major UK phone operators contract?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win a signed copy of Alex Roysh's book 'My Brothers A Spy', reviewed last month. Last month's winner of Paul O'Brien's book *Blood on the Streets, 1916 and the Battle for Mount St. Bridge* was Joe Fitzgerald, Newbridge Co. Kildare

**Simply fill in the blanks spaces with the numbers 1-9.**

**Every row, column and 3x3 block must contain all nine digits with no number repeated in:**

- Each of the nine vertical columns
- Each of the nine horizontal rows
- Each of the nine 3x3 boxes

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8	6	4	7	9	5	1	2	3
7	1	9	2	3	6	8	5	4
3	2	5	4	1	8	6	7	9



# REVIEWS

reviews

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## BOOK

### THE FIGHTING IRISH: THE STORY OF THE EXTRAORDINARY IRISH SOLDIER



**Paperback:** 380 pages

**Publisher:** Constable & Robinson [www.constablerobinson.com](http://www.constablerobinson.com)

**ISBN:** 978-1849015158

**Price:** €10.99 ([amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk))

**FOR OVER** hundreds of years, young Irishmen have left Ireland aboard ships bound for war or a chance for adventure. The Fighting Irish have been found in all corners of the world, wearing many different uniforms and under many flags. Ireland has provided some of the world's best soldiers. Whether they were fighting for or against the British Empire, Napoleon, or in the Americas, in two World Wars and not forgetting they're still serving in UN Peacekeeping missions across the globe, the Irishman is a born soldier.

Tim Newark's book tells the story of the Irish fighting man from the Battle of the Boyne to the mountains of Afghanistan. Told in the soldiers own words that were gathered from diaries, letters and journals, archives and interviews with veterans in Ireland and across the world.

The Fighting Irish: The Story of the Extraordinary Irish Soldier.

"There are tales of exile in France, storming Spanish cities for the Duke of Wellington, military adventures in Mexico and Argentina, winning Victoria Crosses in Russia and China, death-defying charges in the American Civil War, slaughter on the Western Front, deception in the Second World War, surviving torture in Korea, desperate last-stands in the Congo, and sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Tim Newark was the editor of Military Illustrated for nearly 20yrs. He is also the author of numerous works of military history, including CAMOUFLAGE that accompanied the highly acclaimed exhibition, and The Mafia at War, the fascinating history of the invasion of Sicily. He consults and writes many TV series for BBC Worldwide and the History Channel including Churchill's Bodyguard and Hitler's Bodyguard.

[www.timnewark.com](http://www.timnewark.com)

## DVD

### TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY

**Director:** Tomas Alfredson

**Genre:** Thriller

**Cinema Release Date:** 16 Sep 2011

**Rental Release Date:** 13 Jan 2012

**Certification:**

**Starring:** Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Benedict Cumberbatch, Stephen Graham, Mark Strong, Ciarán Hinds, Simon McBurney, Konstantin Khabenskiy, Laura Carmichael, John Hurt and Toby Jones

**BASED ON** John Le Carré's best-selling spy thriller, in which a semi-retired intelligence officer George Smiley (Oldman) is assigned the task of uncovering a high-ranking mole within MI6. The story starts in the early 1970s during the Cold War, when the head of MI6, 'Control' (Hurt), resigns after an operation in Budapest goes badly wrong. It transpires that Control believed one of four senior figures in MI6 was in fact a Russian agent - a mole - and the Hungary operation was an attempt to identify which of them it was. British agent Ricki Tarr (Hardy) discovers information on the Russian agent, and then the story starts to unravel, but with nearly a dozen key characters - most of whom go by at least two names - there is a considerable amount of raw information to be processed. Smiley is an old hand in intelligence circles with the aid of his associate Peter Gulliam (Cumberbatch), the pair are assigned the task of tracking down the agent, but must do so under the radar of the MI6 leadership, for the very reason that they are all under suspicion...

[www.tinker-tailor-soldier-spy.com](http://www.tinker-tailor-soldier-spy.com)



## GAME

### DEUS EX: HUMAN REVOLUTION



**IT IS** the year 2027, 25 years before the events of the original Deus Ex. This means no nanotech augmentation technology. You play Adam Jensen, an ex-SWAT specialist who's been handpicked to oversee the defensive needs of one of America's most experimental biotechnology firms. Jensen works in a security capacity for leading biotech company Sarif Industries. Following an attack on the company that leaves him horribly injured Jensen - is himself augmented. Instead of nano-augmentation, he is armed (and eyed) with more simplistic bio-mechanical augmentation. His job is, of course, to discover the cause of the attacks. The game is played out in Cyberbunk environments. The gamer gets through to the heart of the conspiracy in a number of different ways depending on the decisions made by the player at key moments during gameplay. These options include: Combat, Hacking, Exploration and Social. Choose your playing style and face the consequences of your actions: you decide how the story unfolds...

**Genre:** Shoot 'Em Up **Platform:** Xbox 360, PS3, PC **Price:** €17 (gamestop) **PEGI:** 15

**Released:** 26 Aug 2011 <http://deusex.com> © Square Enix Ltd. Trademarks belong to their respective owners. All rights reserved.

# WHAT I DO

**NAME**
**PETER CUNNINGHAM**
**RANK**
**PRIVATE**
**UNIT**
**1 CN COIS**

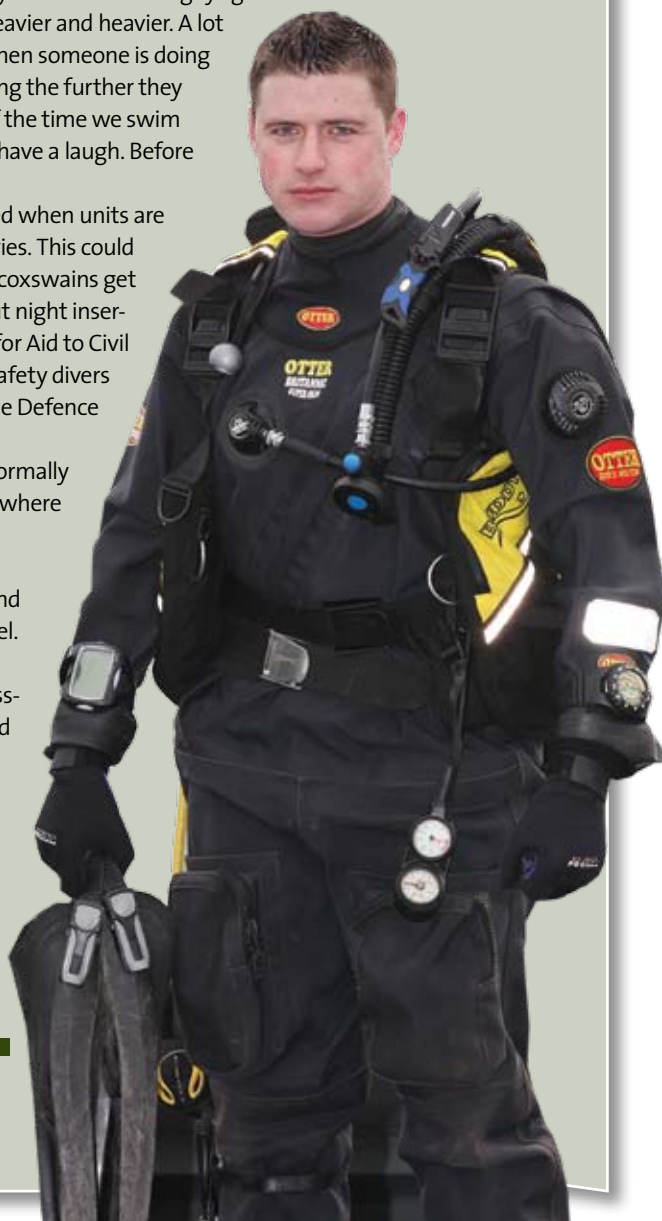

**I am in Recce Pln Support Coy in Galway. As well as my job in Recce Pln I am also part of the Army Diving Group (ADG). We are primarily sporting divers but we also give assistance to the Defence Forces. The ADG have several assets including divers, coxswains, and RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats) that are utilised by all Corps.**

We provide safety and rescue divers and cover boats for units when they are doing water confidence training, such as river crossings or jumping off bridges. This could be with cadets, recruits or a unit running a course for its personnel. Not everyone is a strong swimmer and you would be surprised how many people are actually afraid of the water. You really notice this when guys get tired, their kit and uniform is wet and getting heavier and heavier. A lot of the time it's a case of you just being there. When someone is doing a river crossing as part of their confidence training the further they go out the more likely they are to panic. Most of the time we swim alongside them, encourage them, talk to them, have a laugh. Before they know it they're at the other bank.

Safety divers and cover boats are also provided when units are carrying out exercises across rivers, lakes, estuaries. This could be a battalion exercise or a survival course. Our coxswains get used a lot for the likes of Recce units carrying out night insertions. The ADG has also been used on occasion for Aid to Civil Power / Aid to Civil Authority. We also provide safety divers and cover boats for sporting events including the Defence Forces Triathlon, and the TriAthlone.

We dive up to 40m (100ft). Cover divers are normally in shallow areas 10m-15m, Lough Rea in Galway where the survival course is run would be quite deep in places.

The ADG are always looking for new divers, and the group is open to all Defence Forces personnel. We run a beginners course in the summer, they start off in the pool in the Curragh, then progressing onto Bere Island off Cork. Once you've passed your beginners course you keep progressing. Intermediate and advance divers training and coxswains courses are ran throughout the year. We have a lot of experienced guys in our Group. They have dived from the Arctic to the Antarctic, the Atlantic to the Pacific and they pass on their knowledge and experience. It is a great sport to be involved in. To find out more about the ADG, please logon to the DF INTRANET, they are located on the DDFT's site. ■



**"The ADG are always looking for new divers, and the group is open to all Defence Forces personnel."**





# Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen & Women

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## Members Draw

### Results Sheet for 19th December 2011

**1st Prize, €10,000:** Thomas Doyle, Baileboro, Co. Cavan

**2nd Prize, €5,000:** Mike Curran, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

**3rd Prize, €2,500:** Joseph O'Donnell, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

**4th Prize, €1,500:** Gemma Lacey, Clonard, Co. Wexford

**€500 Prize:** Sinead Lynam, Clondalkin, Dublin 22; Karl Byrne, Kilminchy, Co. Laois;  
Rory McBride, Convoy, Co. Donegal; Francis Brogan, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

**€100 Prize:** Georgina Byrne, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare; Shane Michael Condon, Cork City, Cork; Stephen Kiely, Cobh, Co. Cork; Daniel Phelan, Sandyford, Dublin 16; Patrick Leigh, Ennistymon, Co. Clare; Brian Devon, Clonsilla, Dublin 15; Jason Dunne, Sallins, Co. Kildare; Jonathan Carroll, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath, John Larkin, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal; Stephen Gleeson, Baldonnell, Dublin 22; Glen O'Kelly, Tinahely, Wicklow; Brian Doherty, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal; Rachel Kearns, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin; David Carroll, Drumconrath, Co. Meath; Denis Walsh, Sarfield Bks, Limerick

## Congratulations to all our winners

*The next draw will take place in 23rd January 2012.*

75/76 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

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