



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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## EXERCISE 'ULLAMH'

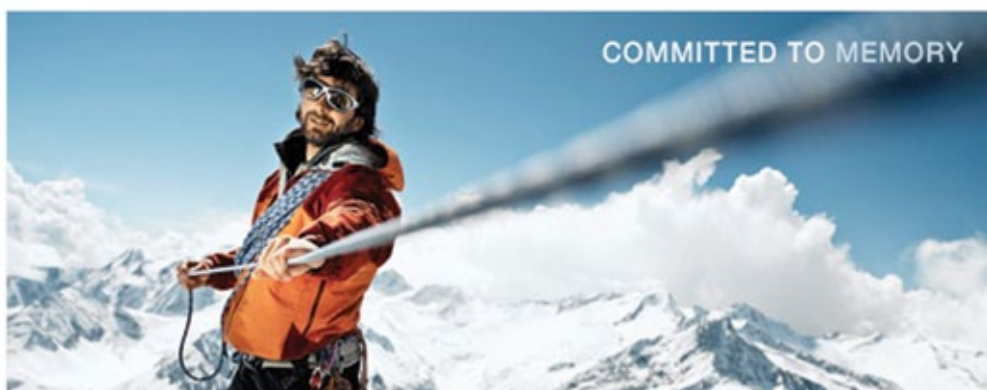
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**Front Cover**

Pictured are SOF members from the Army Ranger Wing. Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne

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# Editorial

**H**ello and welcome to our February issue, in which terrorism and security are to the fore.

We start the issue *On Parade* with your photographs from around the Defence Forces community. First up for *In Focus* is Sgt Rena Kennedy's piece looking for DF personnel to get involved in the Defence Forces 1920-22 commemorations - *Do You Have Family Links with the Early Years of Óglaigh na hÉireann?* This is followed by reports on two reunions: one involving two three-star training buddies meeting up 38 years later and the other about former comrades of 1 Pl, A Coy, 8 Inf Gp, UNFICYP, who gathered in Custume Bks, Athlone, in 2017 to mark the 50th anniversary of their tour of duty.

In *Veterans News*, Caroline Carr, from the Donegal County Museum, writes about the recent unveiling of a plaque in Letterkenny that commemorates a WWI hero *Pte James Duffy VC*.

Our front-cover feature looks at December's Exercise 'Ullamh', which saw the DF's largest counter-terrorism exercise in support of An Garda Síochána take place at key locations around the city.

Continuing with our main theme, Cpl Lee Coyle's *Defeating the Device* looks at IED/EOD training on the 23rd Ordnance Young Officers Course. This is followed by a report on the third International Protection of Civilians Course, which was held recently in the

UN School recently and included students from the UK, Spain, Mexico and Israel.

Next, Dinos Anthony Kerigan-Kyrou looks at what we can do to be proactive and lessen threats by *Defining Our Approach to Cybersecurity*.

In our *Strategic Review* feature, *Shadow on the Sun*, Paul O'Brien MA looks at one of the worst attacks on UN peacekeepers in recent years.

From the 'Enemy's' Viewpoint, by CQMS Michael Barrett, 7 Inf Bn RDF, looks at how reservists supported their PDF colleagues on an exercise in Kilworth Camp during the NCOTW's last All-Arms Standard NCOs Course.

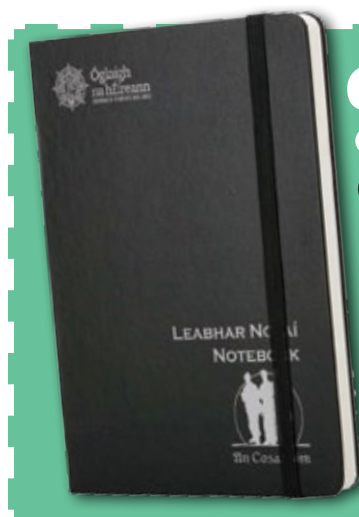
Then we meet a DF veteran whose bespoke military equipment could help save lives, before our first *History* piece looks at the *GPO Witness History Visitors Centre* in the heart of Dublin, where we are brought back to that fateful Easter in 1916. This is followed by our second history article, James Scannell looks at a WWII naval battle in *The Destruction of Force Z - 10th December 1941*.

Our *Sports* pages feature a roundup of the latest series of representative GAA games involving the DF, Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank, and An Garda Síochána.

All this, plus our regular features: *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews*, and this month's *What I Do*, which carries the first interview in our 'Eldest Veteran' series.

*Wayne Fitzgerald*

**Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor**



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### ON TARGET FOR MANY YEARS

Pictured is Reservist Cpl Bill Smith, 2 Bde Tpt Gp being presented with a memento by Lt Ultan Coen, RDF, 2 Bde Tpt Gp on the occasion of his stand down from the RDF after 40 years' service, in 11 Fd S&T Coy, Tpt Coy 62 LSB and currently, 2 Bde Tpt Gp. Bill was a stalwart of unit shooting teams for many years and holds the distinction of being the first unit member to win the RDF All Army Individual Pistol title. Bill also won Bde titles in the team event in 2011, 12, 13 and 2017. Bill has been a member of Dublin Fire Brigade for many years.  
*Photo: Sgt Frank Nolan RDF, Tpt Sch, Tpt Gp, DFTC*



### THANK YOU TEAM-ALPHA

On the 9th January *An Cosantóir* visited Daniel Technologies/Team-Alpha.ie to thank them for sponsoring our Gear Review page from April 2012 to our December 2017. Sarah Stritch from Daniel Technologies/Team-Alpha.ie is pictured with Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald. *Photo: Cpl Lee Coyle*

### KILDARE GAA HANDBALLER OF THE YEAR

Tpr Brendan Higginbotham 1 ACS was named as the Kildare GAA Handballer of the year 2017. He is pictured with his award and Comdt James Sharkey, OC 1 ACS. *Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne*



### PROMOTIONS

Pictured is Cpl Leonard Healy being presented his new rank markings on his promotion to Cpl by Acting OC 1 Bde CIS Coy, Capt Kate O'Flynn in Collins Bks, Cork on 21st November 2017.  
*Photo: A/Coy Sgt Cormac Byrne, 1 Bde CIS Coy*



### ROBERT FISK VISITS DUNDALK

Beirut based Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk recently visited Aiken Bks, Dundalk on request from Lt Col Mark Hearn and Lt Col John Kilmartin, OC 27 Inf Bn, to view a weapon that he donated to the museum in the Bks. The weapon a short magazine, Lee-Enfield (SMLE), No 1, Mark III, who Mr Fisk was presented on the occasion of his 70th birthday by Mr Walid Jumblatt, Chairman of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party and prominent Lebanese Druze Leader in Beirut. Mr Fisk's father, William, fought in World War I and would have used a similar weapon. Pictured are Lt Col Mark Hearn and Mr Robert Fisk.  
*Photo: Cpl Lee Coyle*

### PROMOTIONS

Pictured is RSM Pat Balfe being welcomed in to 2 Bde MP Coy on his recent promotion to the unit by Comdt Emmett Harney, APM 2 Bde on the 14th December 2017. *Photo: Cpl Barry Donnelly, 2 BDE MP Coy*





## ▲ FR JAMES GILMORE BRANCH ONE

Pictured are the members of the Fr James Gilmore Branch of ONE who held their AGM recently. *Photo: Dessie O'Hara*



## ▲ NEW BLOOD

Former *An Cosantóir* staff member Cpl Noel Coss's son Adam, who passed out as a 2-star private with the 147th Recruit Platoon, 3 Inf Bn 'The Bloods' in Stephens Bks, Kilkenny on the 12th January 2018. Pictured L/R: Luke, David, Noel, Adam, Ellen and Jake Coss. *Photo: Noel Coss*



## ▲ DANCON 25KM BATTLE RUN

Congratulations to Comdt Adrian Watson on winning the DANCON 25km Battle Run in EUTM Mali. Comdt Watson is currently serving with the EU Training Mission in Mali, and beat 234 other competitors from 23 nations, with a time of 2hrs 40mins.

He is pictured with other participants: L/R: Sgt Richie McGrath 1 Bde Tpt Coy, Comdt Adrian Watson 7 Inf Bn and Cpl Dan Foley, DFTC Tpt Gp - all members of No 10 IRCON serving with MFHQ Bamako, Mali. *Photo: Sgt Richie McGrath*



## ▲ RETIREMENTS

On the 9th January 2018 a presentation was held in Ceannt NCOs Mess, DFTC, Curragh Camp for the retirement of two DFTC Senior NCOs CQMS Liam Tiernan CIS Gp and Coy Sgt Paul Hanley DFTC HQ. *Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne*



## ▲ PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Pictured are the winners of our *An Cosantóir*/Defence Forces Photographic Competition sponsored by Barker Photographic Ltd in Cork. Pictured L/R: Paddy Barker, Henry O'Brien, John Doyle and Cpl Neville Coughlan. Thank you to all 48 entries, and big thank you to Barker Photographic Ltd for the €600 worth of prizes. *Photo: Barker Photographic*

# DO YOU HAVE FAMILY LINKS WITH THE EARLY YEARS OF ÓGLAIGH NA HÉIREANN?

BY SGT RENA KENNEDY, PR BRANCH



British troops watch over Dublin City during the War of Independence.



Sgt James Pearse, DFTC, great-grandson of James Connolly reading out the Proclamation at Liberty Hall during the State's commemoration in 2016. Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan

Soldiers and officers of the Free State Army during the Irish Civil War (1922-1923). Photo: Pictorial Press Ltd



National Army roll call in Limerick during Irish Civil War, Wednesday, 26th July 1922. Photo: National Library of Ireland

**T**he Defence Forces had a very successful year during 2016 with involvement in all State ceremonial events marking 100 years since the Easter Rising. It was a momentous and memorable year playing such a pivotal role in the State's programme marking the centenary.

Starting on 1st August 2015, marking the centenary of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa at Glasnevin Cemetery, through to the distribution of national flags to schools, the military parade on Easter Sunday, and the many other events throughout the country, members of the Defence Forces did their families, parishes, and their country proud.

In the early planning stages of the public relations campaign for the centenary year, we put out a call to all DF members who had lineage to those who served and fought in 1916. This uncovered a number of extraordinary stories of currently serving members and their antecedents.

PR Branch ensured that those with the strongest links would be used in high-profile roles throughout the year, as often as was practicable. An

example is Sgt James Pearse, DFTC, great-grandson of James Connolly, who was entrusted with reading the Proclamation at Liberty Hall during the State's commemoration of the significant contribution of James Connolly and the Irish Citizen Army to the events of 1916.

Also on that day, Sgt Robert Delaney, DFTC told the story of his great-grandfather, Capt Christopher Poole, of the Irish Citizen Army, who served in the St Stephen's Green garrison. These first-hand family accounts were invaluable in briefing the media on the unbroken chain that links the Defence Forces back to the foundation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913.

Capt Gearóid Ó Briain, Air Corps, a great-grandson of Cathal Brugha (who fought at the GPO), carried the national flag with pride during the military parade on Easter Sunday 2016.

Each of the carriers of the flags of the Five Entities on the parade had family links to 1916, as did the parade MC, Lt Patrick Wilson, 2 AR, whose great-grandfather fought at the Royal College of Surgeons. Sgt Murt Purfield, 2 AR who was involved in the 21-gun

salute to mark the conclusion of the parade, and who was also present at the commemoration at Boland's Mills on Easter Tuesday, was yet another with a direct link to the 1916 rebels.

When we looked for serving members with links to 1916 we received many submissions referring to family lineage back to 1922 and beyond and as a result we are now requesting submissions from personnel who have family links back to the War of Independence or the establishment of the National Army in 1922.

One such impressive record is held by Cpl Seán 'Kesh' Reilly, 1 MIC, whose family has unbroken service to the State since 1922: Sean's grandfather, Ben Reilly, served from July 1922 to January 1962; Seán's father, also Ben Reilly, served from March 1961 to August 1992; and Seán enlisted in November 1979.

**You need not have such continuous service in order to get in touch or make a submission. We are looking forward to receiving all correspondence, which can be emailed to: [rena.kennedy@defenceforces.ie](mailto:rena.kennedy@defenceforces.ie) ■**

# Reunions at home and overseas

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

BY COMDT RETD JOE FALLON DSM

**O**n the 17th May 2017 members of No 1 Platoon, A Company, 8 Infantry Group UNFICYP, gathered in Custume Bks, Athlone, to mark the 50th Anniversary of their six-month tour of duty in Cyprus in 1967. No 1 Pl under Lt Joe Fallon had two sections from Custume Bks and one from Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa, Galway. The Pl Sgt was George Tiernan, who had served in Jadotville in 1961.

A Coy was commanded by Comdt Jim Flynn DSM, and had a total of four platoons, two from the Curragh Training Camp, one from the Eastern Command and one from the Western Command.

The 8 Inf Gp was commanded by Lt Col James Beary and had its HQ in Xeros in North West Cyprus. The Group had three operational Companies, which rotated every two months. B Coy was provided by the Southern Command while the third Coy (ICA Coy) consisted of an infantry platoon, a cavalry troop and an artillery troop, hence the name ICA.

The eleven members of No 1 Platoon who had died in the intervening years were remembered with a minute's silence at the commencement of the reunion celebration. The thirteen members who gathered in the NCOs Mess are deeply grateful to Lt Col Johnny Whitaker, OC 6 Inf Bn for his support in the preparation of the reunion. The members are also grateful to the IUNVA Posts in Athlone and Galway for their support. ■



## REUNITED AFTER 38 YEARS

BY FR DAVID MURPHY CF - PHOTO: LT PATRICK WILSON, 2 BAR



**I**n June 1979 David Murphy joined the Defence Forces, he completed recruit training in November 1979, and was awarded 'Best Recruit'. A week later he began his three-star course in Stephens Bks, Kilkenny. Here Pte David Murphy was buddied up with the future RSM of the CIS Corp, Private John Murray.

Little did the two men know but they would become life long friends, striking up the kind of unique friendship found during army training. They completed their three-star training in February 1980 where Pte Murphy was awarded 'Best Soldier'. He was also selected to represent the Defence Forces and the young people of the Diocese of Ossory when Pope John Paul II visited

Ireland. Here Pte Murphy presented an oak sapling to the Pope, symbolising the young People of Ireland growing up and spreading the faith.

Pte David Murphy completed his NCOs course in 1981 and was promoted to Corporal, he went on to study for his Leaving Certificate in September 1982 and sat his exams in June 1984.

In September 1985 Cpl Murphy began studying for the Priesthood in St Peters Seminary, Wexford Town. His ordination took place on the 2nd June 1991 for the diocese of Ferns. He served in two parishes in Co Wexford until Fr Murphy re-joined the Defence Forces as a Chaplain in July 2016. Fr Murphy was then tasked with conducting a relief in place operation during the leave of Fr Pat Mernagh CF serving in UNDOF with 55 Inf Gp. Here he was reunited with his old buddy from their three-star training 38-years ago. ■

# WWI Hero Remembered: Pte James Duffy VC (1889-1969)

BY CAROLINE CARR, DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM

**O**n 23rd November 2017, in Letterkenny, Co Donegal, an Ulster History Circle blue plaque dedicated to Pte James Duffy VC (1889-1969) was unveiled by his daughter, Mrs Nellie O'Donnell.

James Duffy was born in Gweedore, Co Donegal, on 17th November 1889 and as a young baby was brought to live in Letterkenny. He was working at Brown's Shipyard in Glasgow when war was declared in August 1914. Aged 25, he enlisted in the army on December 1st 1914 and was posted to 6th Battalion, Royal Inniskillings Fusiliers, 31st Brigade, 10th (Irish) Division. The battalion was sent to Gallipoli, then to Egypt, and in September 1917 took part in the British invasion of Palestine.

In 1917, Pte Duffy was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the defence of Jerusalem. His citation, which appeared in the London Gazette on 27th February 1918 read: *'For most conspicuous bravery at Kereina Peak, Palestine on 27th December 1917, displayed whilst his company was holding a very exposed position. Private Duffy, a stretcher-bearer and another stretcher-bearer went out under heavy fire to bring in a seriously wounded comrade. When the stretcher-bearer was wounded, James returned again to get another man. Both men went forward into the line of fire and the relief stretcher-bearer was killed. Private Duffy then went forward alone, and under heavy fire succeeded in getting both wounded men under cover and attended to their injuries. His gallantry undoubtedly saved both men's lives, and throughout he showed an utter disregard of danger under heavy fire.'*

In early summer 1918, he was transferred to the regimental depot and on

July 25th King George V presented him with his VC at Buckingham Palace.

James, the only WWI VC recipient from Co Donegal, also received the 1914 Star, the British War Medal, the British Victory Medal (1914-1918) and the 1937 King George VI Coronation Medal.

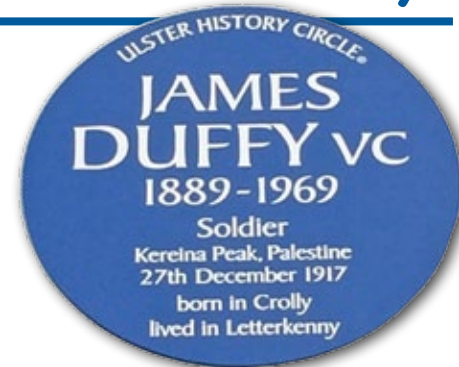
After the war James returned to Letterkenny where he married Maggie Hegarty in 1919 and worked at loop fishing and drain digging. He and Maggie, who died in 1944, reared eight children. James died on 7th April 1969 at his home in Drumany and is buried in the Conwal Cemetery, Letterkenny.

At the unveiling, Chris Spurr, chairman of the Ulster History Circle said, *"James Duffy made a long journey from his birthplace among the hills of west Donegal to the mountains of Palestine, and it was there that his valour brought him lasting honour. One hundred years after Private Duffy won the Victoria Cross, the Ulster History Circle is delighted to commemorate this heroic soldier with a blue plaque in Letterkenny. The Circle would like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque, and Donegal County Museum for their assistance."*

After the unveiling, a reception was held in Donegal County Museum, at which there was a short talk on Pte Duffy VC and a poem commemorating him was read.

Replicas of Pte Duffy's medals are now on display in Donegal County Museum along with those of Capt Henry Gallagher DSO, who was commissioned into the Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1914.

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme all of Capt Gallagher's fellow



officers were killed or wounded during the advance, and as he carried on with his platoon he shot a number of German snipers who were firing on the wounded.

After he reached his objective, with only nine of his platoon still with him, Capt Gallagher went back into no man's land to collect the wounded, including an officer he carried back to his own lines. Two nights later, a search party he formed rescued a further 28 men from no man's land.

Capt Gallagher was recommended for a Victoria Cross but did not receive it as 36th Division had received its quota and was instead awarded the Distinguished Service Order. He was killed at Messines Ridge on 7th June 1917 while leading his men in action. ■

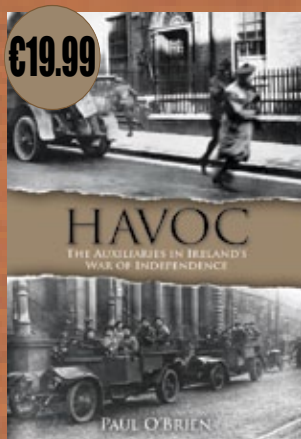




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# Exercise 'Ullamh'

*Preparing to support An Garda Síochána in the event of a major terrorist incident*

## Exercise 'Ullamh'

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS SGT KARL BYRNE AND ARMN JAMIE MARTIN

**O**n Wednesday 6th December 2017, Dublin was the main focus as the Defence Forces conducted its largest exercise in recent years, involving a number of key locations around the city, including the airport and port.

Speaking of the exercise, Maj Gen Kieran Brennan (DCOS Ops) said, "This was the Defence Forces' biggest deployment so far in an exercise to ensure that we were fit for purpose."

He also referred to the back-up that the Defence Forces provides on a daily basis to An Garda Síochána (AGS) through activities such as the deployment of bomb-disposal teams and providing armed escorts for prisoners in transit.

Exercise Ullamh ('prepare'), conducted in conjunction with AGS, involved over 500 military personnel and assets from all three services, and was spearheaded by the Army Ranger Wing (ARW). The genesis of the exercise stemmed from the new cabinet sub-committee on security, 'Committee F', which directed that multi-agency exercises should

be carried out in response to the recent wave of terrorist attacks across Europe and the UK.

The main aim of the exercise was to practice how the Defence Forces would mobilise, deploy and conduct operations in conformity with standard operating procedures (SOPs) if requested by AGS to assist in dealing with a major terrorist incident.

The exercise provided an opportunity to practice various operational and tactical training procedures (TTPs), including deployment of the ARW, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams and engineer specialist search and clearance (ESSC) teams, and included a DF joint task force (JTF) commanded by GOC 2 Bde, as the 'incident' had occurred within his operational area of responsibility.

Exercise Ullamh also allowed the DF to evaluate its interoperability with AGS, whose input included the on-scene commander and tactical elements from the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and Armed Support Unit (ASU).



The scenario for the exercise claimed that six self-radicalised individuals armed with knives and machetes had carried out an attack on civilians in a DART station during evening rush hour. Reports indicated up to eight fatalities and more than 20 serious injuries to members of the public. AGS had immediately deployed the ERU and ASU, wounding and capturing one attacker. However, the other five had escaped.

Gardaí raided the last known address of the arrested terrorist where they discovered Jihadist paraphernalia, bomb-making equipment, and AK47 magazines and ammunition. AGS immediately requested the assistance of an EOD team, which was urgently dispatched from Cathal Brugha Bks. Other sensitive information, including photographs and plans of Dublin Airport, were also discovered, while additional intelligence indicated the possible existence of two other terrorist bomb-making sites within the Dublin area.

At 0600hrs a number of platoons were dispatched from barracks around the country to assist AGS with putting a cordon into action to contain the terrorists within a defined area. They also secured the perimeter of Dublin Airport, where an Air Corps EC135 was deployed to provide aerial surveillance and oversight communication if needed. At the same time *LÉ Ciara*, which was on a routine patrol of the Irish Sea, was diverted to secure Dublin Bay and instructed to have her boarding teams and their high-speed RIBs ready to deploy.

The ERU, supported by DF personnel, searched three houses in South Dublin. (The majority of operations took place at the site of the old Odlum's flour mill on Alexandra Road in Dublin port, where a four-storey office block was used to simulate an apartment block where a terrorist bomb-making factory was located.) This operation included ARW anti-terrorist teams clearing the building floor-by-floor and room-by-room while dealing with any threats they encountered in an appropriate manner.

Paul Kehoe TD, Minister with Special Responsibility for Defence, said of Exercise Ullamh, *"It is vital to ensure that the men and women of the Defence Forces are prepared to support An Garda Síochána in the event of a major terrorist incident. This exercise allows the Defence Forces to build on their capabilities and preparedness and develop their procedures with An Garda Síochána."*

Echoing the minister's remarks, Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM said, *"The primary purpose of today was to exercise our plans and our ability to provide the military capability to support An Garda Síochána in the event of a major terrorist incident. The exercise was a success; we have identified lessons from it and we will continue to build on them in future exercises."* ■



**M**illions of people around the world have been maimed and killed by mines, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). There are an estimated 110 million AP mines in the ground throughout the world (figures from [www.care.org](http://www.care.org)) and every year about 26,000 people become victims of these weapons. There were also over 6,000 IED explosions reported between 2011 and 2015.

IEDs are commonly constructed from whatever is at hand, such as mines, unexploded ordnance and even homemade explosives. UNDOF has reported that people are risking their lives harvesting minefields to obtain explosives to build IEDs.

One of the largest IED blasts took place in Somalia in October 2016, when a truck packed with explosives was detonated in a busy marketplace, killing more than 300 people and injuring over 500.

Looking closer to home, we are all too familiar with the damage IEDs can cause, due to their frequent use during the Troubles, including the Omagh bombing in 1998, which killed 29 people.

The use of such devices, however, is not only the province of terrorist groups anymore as criminal gangs are starting to use them to attack or retaliate against their rivals.

The DF Ordnance Corps provides a vital service to the state at home and abroad, and last year EOD teams responded to 100 call-outs, which resulted in 29 IEDs being found and dealt with. The Ord Corps also conducts training in improvised explosive awareness for other agencies, such as the Garda Technical Bureau, and a recent exercise conducted with the Garda Technical Bureau involved dealing with a bomb manufacturing facility.

The training of personnel to deal with the threat of IEDs at home and overseas is vital, and *An Cosantóir* visited the current Ordnance Young Officers (YOs) course to see what these brave men and women have to go through to become an EOD officer and join the fight against these horrific weapons.

The 23rd Ord YOs course started just over a year ago and when it finishes these officers will be qualified for EOD tasks. The course is affiliated with Carlow IT and successful students receive a master's degree in engineering. Candidates for the Ord YOs course must have an engineering or science degree. Following selection by interview, the successful candidates undergo their complex training over a period of about two years (the current course is 23 months).

The course is broken into 12 modules cover-

## DEFEATING THE DEVICE

### *The 23rd Ordnance Young Officers*

REPORT & BY CPL LEE COYLE

ing a wide range of topics. EOD is covered in three of the modules: Advanced Conventional Munitions Disposal (which covers disposal of light and heavy weapons like guided weapons, rockets, air-dropped bombs, and even torpedoes); IED Defeat; and finally CBRN Device Defeat.

There are six students on the current course, one captain and five lieutenants. Their first exercise, conducted after nine months' training, covered intermediate conventional munitions disposal, and when we visited the students they were on their second exercise. This took place during their IED Defeat module and was being held at multiple locations around the Curragh Camp. The exercise would assess the students and give them a chance to put into practice the skills and knowledge they had learned on this module.

Arriving at the first of the exercise locations, we could see the EOD truck parked up with its robot deployed in the distance, where it was being used to view a device attached underneath a car.

The student under assessment was busy working out the data that he was getting back from the robot, and using it to figure out if it was a viable device, how it was built, and how it could be defeated. As he instructed the operator to change the robot's camera angles in order to obtain different views of the device, we could hear him methodically talking himself through what he could see: *"There's the battery...what way is it connected to the rest of it?...where is the initiator?...maybe a tilt switch..."*

A detailed analysis of the device was being noted on a whiteboard and from this information a plan would be formed, bearing in mind that the supervising instructor had told the student that it was important to preserve the device intact if forensics were to gain vital intelligence from it.

At the second location, the scene was similar, with a robot deployed, only this time the device was inside the vehicle, providing a greater challenge for the student to gain the necessary information.

I had already noticed that the

crews of each of the EOD teams worked with great speed and efficiency; when something was needed it was produced quickly and put to use to help get the information required to defeat the device.

I asked one of the training officers about how much time it normally takes to defeat a device. He told me, *"There is no normal time; it takes as long as it takes. This can be a couple of hours or more than 24 if it's a complicated device. We have had exercises run more than 12 hours without being fully completed."*

As we left the exercise I had a good feeling, knowing that the professionalism demonstrated by these students will contribute to the safety and security of our troops and civilians at home and overseas for many years to come.

The students will undergo many more exercises before they finish their course, and we will hopefully visit them again as things get ramped up for the final few months of training and the exercises get more challenging.

For info about EOD and the Ord Corps, visit [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie). For more about the use of mines and IEDs across the world, see [www.care.org](http://www.care.org) and [www.halotrust.org](http://www.halotrust.org). ■



## PREPARING FOR ANY EVENTUALITY

**One of the course training officers spoke to me about the training and exercises Ord Corps personnel go through, and about the most challenging exercise that he had participated in.**

*"As part of the CBRN Device Defeat Module of a previous course, a multiple agency exercise was conducted at Dublin Airport, incorporating the airport police and fire service.*

*"The scenario was that a passenger had been seen acting suspiciously on a flight and that a number of passengers had been taken ill with respiratory difficulties.*

*"We were called in as the CBRN responding team and when we arrived at Dublin Airport the individual who had been acting suspiciously had been taken into custody. We were tasked with clearing the scene, and we set up on the runway apron.*

*"We had a number of three-man entry teams who had to enter the aircraft in Cat 4 Romeo dress and bomb suit. Manoeuvrability in the suit is restrictive and the confined space inside the aircraft made for a tough working environment.*

*"It was also a very public operation as Dublin Airport remained open during the exercise, so there were aircraft operating close by with passengers onboard.*

*"Another challenge was that in the scenario a number of passengers had left the aircraft with their carry-on luggage, all of which had to be screened, extending the area of concern outside the aircraft.*

*"The supposed device used in the attack was a homemade hydrogen-cyanide gas generator that included an explosive component designed to crack two containers, thereby mixing the chemicals and releasing them as a hazardous gas. However, when he tried to initiate the device during the flight, it had not fully initiated, although some gas had been liberated. Nevertheless, we had to work under the assumption that the whole plane was filled with this noxious gas.*

*"It was a very successful exercise; the training benefits of these types of exercises are staggering and it is for this reason that we carry them out."*

# PROTECTING the Civilian Population

BY CPL LEE COYLE PHOTOS AS CREDITED

**T**he United Nations Training School Ireland's (UNTSI) third International Protection of Civilians Course was held recently in the DFTC. In addition to DF personnel, there were also students from the UK, Spain, Mexico and Israel. I also attended the course in order to provide *An Cosantóir* with this report.

This course stemmed from the changing nature of conflict internationally in recent years, with civilians becoming deliberate targets during many wars of the 1990s. It was very clear that civilians had become pawns to be used during a conflict, and this propelled the protection of civilians to the forefront of international concern. During that period the media and public opinion held the UN Security Council partly responsible for the genocides in Rwanda in 1994 and Bosnia in 1995, for not taking more preventative and responsive action.



Nigerian peacekeeper Capt Joseph Eranga (centre), serving with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) holds a child during an evening patrol in Monrovia. Photo: UN Photo/Albert González Farran



A young student looks into the demining robot's camera during a mine awareness activity held at Blat Public School, south Lebanon. Photo: UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz



**"The plight of civilians is no longer something which can be neglected, or made secondary because it complicates political negotiations or interests. It is fundamental to the central mandate of the Organisation. The responsibility for the protection of civilians cannot be transferred to others. The United Nations is the only international organisation with the reach and authority to end these practices."** - Report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, 1999

UNIFIL peacekeepers salute a Rumaysh inhabitant with the help of a local translator during their first all-women patrol in town. South Lebanon, December 13, 2017. Photo: UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz



*A local student gets a chance to use the metal detector that locates mines underground at UN 7-2 position in the vicinity of Marjayoun, south Lebanon. January 6, 2016. Photo: UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz*

In response to this criticism, the UN Security Council passed its first protection of civilians (POC) resolution in 1999, and in 2006 it directed its peace-support missions to prioritise POC. The mandate of any UN mission lays down its operational tasks and Security Council Resolution 1674 (2006) deals directly with the protection of civilians in a UN-sanctioned mission, directing that if there is a POC mandate for the mission area it supersedes any other mandate tasking.

Threats facing civilians during a conflict are wide ranging and can come from many sources, direct and indirect. These can include a threat to life, physical integrity, freedom, or property, and threats of sexual violence, abduction and forced recruitment.

The course started with a look at the inception of POC and the driving factors behind it. It also looked at some incidents where things went wrong on missions, identifying the main failing components and how such failures could be avoided in the future.

We were then taught about POC mandates and how they are conceived for each potential UN mission. The development of the mandate begins with a technical field assessment of the country or territory where the deployment is envisaged. This analyses and assesses the overall security, political, military, humanitarian, and human rights situation on the ground, and the implications for a possible operation. If the Security Council determines that deploying a UN peace-support operation is the most appropriate step to take, it will formally authorise this by passing a resolution that sets out the operation's mandate and size, and details the tasks it will be responsible for performing.

The UN Security Council has developed a three-tier approach to POC mandates: dialogue and engagement; the establishment of a protective environment; and physical protection. These are designed to reinforce each other and operate simultaneously. Using this three-tier approach, the best POC plan is designed. This will include four phases: prevention; pre-emption; response; and consolidation. These will then be integrated into civilian, military and police components, and participating contingents' planning processes.

To help us understand how these various tiers and phases work on the ground, the course examined current missions and their POC mandates. The main focus was on the POC mandate of UNIFIL, beginning with a short look at the history of the conflict in Lebanon, followed by an in-depth look at the situation there since 2007, and how the

POC plan has been implemented and changed over time.

This study was then used as the basis for a classroom exercise dealing with a fictitious country that has a conflict with a neighbour and also has internal radical extremists who are in conflict with the neighbouring country and their own government. We were then given a variety of scenarios and divided into syndicates to examine them from a POC and mission-mandate perspective.

This syndicate work was very productive as it gave us a chance to get to know each other and to put what we had learned to the test, as well as seeing what our reactions would be to different threats and how we would decide what actions were required to provide the most protection for the civilian population.

We also got to hear from guest lecturers from other international agencies that work in conflict zones, providing relief in many different forms. A guest from Plan International gave a presentation on child protection and highlighted the importance of protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, as they can be the most vulnerable during a conflict.

Lt Col Donal Bracken (Retd) from the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) gave a talk on the problems with combined humanitarian aid, how the OCHA conducts itself, and what it does in helping to deliver humanitarian aid to those who need it.

Comdt J. Marley gave a lecture on security sector reform and disarmament demobilisation and reintegration (DDR). This is one of the new and highly-talked-about topics in recent years and deals with the aftermath of a conflict and how a country moves forward. This can involve the setting up of a government, police force, schools and hospitals.

One of our last lectures was about the integration of a gender perspective in POC, as we were told that in many cultures women and children have few rights and their experience of conflict may be different to men's.

Personally, I really enjoyed this course. I learned a lot and it opened my eyes to the bigger picture involved when serving overseas on a UN mission. It was also interesting to get different views and approaches from the international students on the course, whose experiences were different from mine as many of them had served with other missions and in other countries than I had.

I would highly recommend this course, particularly to anyone who has served, or wishes to serve, overseas. The next course is scheduled to be held in UNTSI in November 2018. ■



*Pictured are students and instructors from the 3rd International Protection of Civilians Course, UNTSI. Photo: Armn Adam Murphy*



# Defining Our Approach to CYBERSECURITY

BY DINOS ANTHONY KERIGAN-KYROU



**I**n January the media announced there may be critical vulnerabilities on computing devices across the world. Despite this bleak news there is, actually, much we can do to be proactive and lessen threats. Before addressing this, let's look at the background to this rapidly changing problem.

Cybersecurity is an issue that blurs the boundary between what is considered 'military' and 'non-military'. This is a real test for NATO and its Partnership for Peace (PfP), of which Ireland is a key member. NATO has traditionally referred to cyber defence rather than cybersecurity. It was not until the PfP Consortium/NATO Cybersecurity Curriculum in November 2016 that NATO began referring to cybersecurity as a

concept that moves beyond the exclusively military environment toward the holistic security of NATO partner nations. In Ireland, the 2015 White Paper on Defence correctly points to emerging security challenges that are more diverse and less predictable. They comprise a broader concept of national security involving state and non-state actors. These include climate change, transnational organised crime, terrorism, energy security, forced migration, and challenges to cybersecurity, technology and cyberspace - the environment in which communication within computer networks occur. Computer networks increasingly not only include traditional computers with keyboards and monitors but also nearly every aspect of civilian and military life.

Cybersecurity is the protection of our personal, organisational, and governmental information from unauthorised access and control. At a personal level it's about protecting our own information, for example email or financial records, from theft or ransom. Cybersecurity is essential for keeping intellectual property safe from espionage, which is of critical national importance to Ireland as we have many companies investing in the very latest R&D. Cybersecurity is key to securing our connected critical national infrastructure: telecommunications, energy, water, and transport. The National Cyber Security Strategy states that cyber is central to government, the economy, critical national infrastructure, and every citizen. Cyberse-

curity is vital for defending the security of Ireland and the entire EU.

Cybersecurity includes preventing nefarious use of the internet. Almost every crime has a cyber dimension, often using freely available messaging apps encrypted to a military level of security. The 9/11 attacks were possibly the first terrorist atrocities where the internet was used in planning. Today the internet is the key tool for indoctrination, recruitment, financing, planning and execution of terrorism.

Cybersecurity has developed a further dynamic that will play a key role in the future of defence. The 'internet-of-things' (IoT) is becoming central to our everyday lives (including our cars, home appliances, even children's toys), our critical infrastructure, as well as our defence. The IoT consists of interconnected devices ('things'), receiving and transmitting data. These contain automated sensors and actuators performing critical functions. They are, in effect, small computers running software and firmware (a computer program stored within the hardware).

The IoT will be used in maritime, land, air, and space environments. It will integrate intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to accurately identify threats. It will facilitate more autonomous defence systems and vehicles. The IoT will enable huge advancements in EU Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) capabilities.

To put this development in some context, maritime vessels will soon comprise multiple IoT connected to control systems via the internet. The power management, loading and stability systems, alarms, bridge control console, electronic chart display and information system, automatic identification system, navigation decision support, voyage data recorders, computerised automatic steering, global maritime distress and safety system, and GPS - to name just a few - will all become IoT devices.

However, the IoT creates vulnerabilities that are an often-overlooked part of cybersecurity. Dr Stefan Lüders, Head of Computer Security at CERN says that around a third of CERN's newly purchased IoT devices fail the most basic cybersecurity tests his team throws at them. Dr Lüders told me that he thinks IoT cybersecurity "is getting worse". IoT cybersecurity is now one of the main priorities of the US Dept of Defense.

Future Defence Forces missions may

well depend on the security of cyberspace and the internet-of-things. Contrary to popular belief there is no separate internet for critical infrastructure or for the military environment; it's the same internet used by everyone.

The Defence Forces possess a great advantage in progressing cybersecurity because of the expertise and central role of the CIS Corps. The heart of their work is providing efficient and effective communications and information systems. As Cpl Audrey Doyle said in November's An Cosantóir, the expertise within CIS ensures the maintenance and updating of the systems, switches, and routers that are the backbone of the Defence Forces' computing network. CIS develops the sophisticated and secure systems that the Defence Forces depend on for their global communications. This world-leading knowledge within CIS is crucial for the cybersecurity of the Defence Forces as the technology becomes ever more interconnected.

In addition to this first class technological advantage, two other aspects are vital. At the governmental level coordination is increasingly occurring with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) Ireland, An Garda Síochána National Cyber Crime Bureau, Dept of Justice and Equality, DC-CAE, Dept of Defence, and all government departments working closely together to address cybersecurity challenges.

At the EU level cybersecurity coordination is equally critical. There are at least 188 national intelligence services across the EU and countless numbers of regional and police agencies. It is crucial that the EU acts as an intelligence fusion centre for all these agencies to address cybersecurity challenges. It is not only technical information that needs to be shared but intelligence cooperation also needs to create an ongoing visualisation of the cybersecurity threat landscape facing Europe; this is the wider picture that helps to show how nefarious actors are using the internet to undermine EU security. Europol EC3 European Cybercrime Centre, and ENISA, which deals with critical infrastructure and the IoT, are central to this. Cyber coordination across the entire EU is needed, especially with EU military staff. Nefarious actors have no problem collaborating and sharing information and they'll always be one step ahead unless we do likewise.

Finally, the human factor of cybersecurity is rarely discussed, but it is an essential

element. Ensuring effective cybersecurity is about the early identification of problems - recognising them when they are minor, before they become major - and then dealing with challenges in a resilient way. We should follow the specific guidance of Europol EC3, An Garda Síochána, NCSC Ireland, and other government departments.

It is also about management, people and process. Cybersecurity requires information sharing; organisations need to work holistically, empowering each and every person with a shared responsibility to identify problems. Not a single employee or contractor has a role that can now be considered separate from cybersecurity. All civilian and military personnel should be able to identify cybersecurity concerns as early as possible in a no-blame environment.

In *Defence Forces Review 2017* Comdt Frank Byrne writes about the 'Just Safety Culture' in aviation where the reporting of errors is encouraged and honest mistakes are not punished, thereby allowing everyone to learn. This approach is precisely what is needed in this new interconnected environment. Moreover, the Just Safety Culture has to be continually maintained according to Comdt Byrne, with constant effort and engagement to demonstrate and promote it; this should be no different for cybersecurity. As Comdt Jonathan Marley, Head of the Command, Leadership and Management Programme at the Command and Staff School says: *"It is vital that we place cybersecurity awareness at the forefront of professional military education; embedding the appropriate mindset in our organisational culture. The initiatives being introduced by the Command and Staff School in 2018 and 2019 will represent positive steps in that direction."*

Indeed, awareness is the key. While we will never achieve 100% security we can make it as difficult as possible for nefarious actors. We need to be continually learning from cybersecurity challenges, however they are caused, and identifying problems at the very earliest opportunity, whether as individuals, across business and government, or within the Defence Forces. ■

**About the Author:** Dinos Anthony Kerigan-Kyrou is responsible for cybersecurity training within the Senior Command & Staff Course.

He is a co-author of the Partnership for Peace Consortium/NATO Cybersecurity Generic Reference Curriculum.



# Shadow on the Sun

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

**In early December 2017, a dark shadow once again drifted across the African continent as 15 Tanzanian UN peacekeepers were killed and 43 wounded with one still missing, in what has been called one of the worst attacks on peacekeeping personnel in recent years.**

Heavily armed militants opened up their attack at dusk on 8th December, firing mortars and RPG rockets at the peacekeepers' remote FOB at Semuliki, located 45km from Beni, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) North Kivu province. The attack was followed up by small-arms fire, with the peacekeepers returning fire.

In an attempt to relieve the peacekeepers, the Congolese army travelled from their base several miles away but was ambushed en route, sustaining five casualties before being forced to withdraw.

The DRC, a country the size of Western Europe, holds vast stocks of mineral resources, many of them still not exploited. The Congolese people suffered for decades under

a brutal regime when their country was a Belgian colony, achieving their independence in the early 1960s, but internal conflicts have been ongoing for decades.

The attack on the UN base lasted four hours with the Tanzanian peacekeepers managing to hold their position and repulse the attack. Reinforcements eventually arrived on the scene and the wounded were evacuated from the area, with the most seriously wounded being sent to more advanced medical facilities in Goma.



MONUSCO United Nations peacekeepers from Uruguay patrol a street in Goma, eastern Congo.



The UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), established in 2010, is currently the UN's largest peacekeeping mission and has suffered 121 fatalities among its military, police and civilian personnel. The FOB that was attacked was home to the mission's rapid intervention force, which has a rare mandate to go on the offensive. This was the third such attack on a UN base in eastern Congo in recent months.

As well as the tragic deaths of the UN personnel, the well coordinated and complex rebel operation destroyed two APCs, an ambulance and a truck. The loss in personnel is the most serious suffered in a single day by the UN since 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed in an ambush in Somalia in 1993.

An official report says that the attack was carried out by suspected militants from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an extremist Islamist group that has been active in the area, launching a number of bloody attacks on military and civilian targets.

Director of the Congo Research Group at New York University, Jason Stearns, describes the ADF as an armed

where armed militias in the south and east of the country continually attack government installations and civilian settlements. With elections pending, and possible future negotiations for power within the DRC, armed groups are positioning themselves to control lucrative mineral deposits. Thousands have been killed and millions displaced as the situation escalates.



UN peacekeepers patrolling past the deserted Kibati village near Goma. © Reuters



Islamic group whose regime is based on a strict interpretation of the Sharia. The group is composed of converts and strong in numbers but is not thought to have significant links to other Islamic extremist groups in Africa or the Middle East. Though a video has recently emerged showing fighters claiming allegiance to Islamic State, it is more than likely that this refers to the group's ideology rather than the organisation itself.

In recent months, in an effort to defeat the insurgency, UN forces and Congolese military have mounted operations against the insurgents, resulting in numerous fire-fights. UN peacekeepers have been on the offensive in the region, gradually gaining and securing ground and protecting the populace from marauding groups of rebels.

Problems in the region stem from a number of rival militia groups that control parts of the mineral-rich eastern Congo enclave. Since the official end of the 1998-2003 war, millions have died, mainly from hunger and disease.

Political turmoil also adds to the problem as President Joseph Kabila has continuously ignored calls to step down since his second mandate expired over a year ago. Kabila has ruled the country since his father's assassination in 2001, but with the continued violence in the region, democratic elections have been postponed until December 2018.

This crisis has led to a breakdown in law and order,



In a statement after the incident, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, "I condemn this attack unequivocally. These deliberate attacks against UN peacekeepers are unacceptable and constitute a war crime." He continued, "I call on the DRC authorities to investigate this incident and swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice. There must be no impunity for such assaults, here or anywhere else."

While the thin blue line continues to hold in the DRC, the future looks bleak. Observers state that the situation is deteriorating rapidly and with UN deaths on the rise, the question of whether the mission will continue is one that must be high on the agenda of the UN General Assembly. ■

# From the 'Enemy's' VIEWPOINT

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



Between 20th and 24th November 2017, the NCO Training Wing (NCOTW), Military College, ran an exercise for the students of the current PDF All-Arms Standard NCOs Course in Kilworth, Co Cork.

This tactical exercise was strongly supported by the Dublin-based 7 Inf Bn, who over the 72-hour duration of the exercise had over 140 personnel in Camp Lynch and the Kilworth training area, in a wide variety of support and staffing roles.

One of the roles for the 7 Inf Bn support troops was the deployment of an enemy party to act as hostile elements during an exercise involving the NCOTW student platoons. This 16-strong enemy party consisted of ten RDF and six PDF personnel.

Presenting themselves as supporters of an unnamed Middle-Eastern terrorist organisation, and wearing a mixture of foreign camouflage gear and civilian dress, the initially unarmed enemy group was to confront and antagonise the course students in their forward operating base (FOB).

Over the duration of the 72 hours on the ground, the hostile elements were to be observed in their encampment by recce teams and a UAV, as they received weapons, practiced contact drills, set up minefields and barbed-wire em-

placements, and received training on the deployment of IEDs.

The final confrontation was a night-time assault on the enemy encampment by the course students who were transported to their target in Mowag APCs.

On a practical level for the enemy party, admin in the field in late November, with almost 16 hours of darkness each day, meant everyone had to refine their night-time military skills, in order to have confidence in operating during darkness. This included the use of night vision equipment (NVE), honing weapons drills, the proper loading and storing of ammunition by touch, and refining personal admin in the dark, and also very cold and wet, environment.

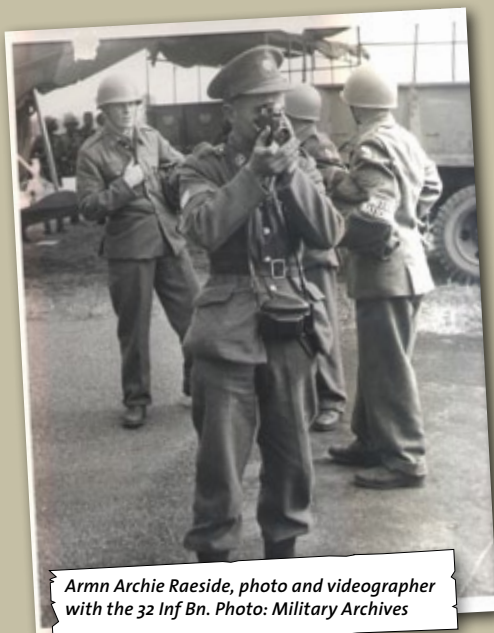
Despite heavy rain on the second night, the exercise continued to its planned conclusion, with the hostile elements getting their just desserts in the final assault!

After 72 hours on the ground we got 'ENDEX' and the 7 Inf Bn personnel returned to Dublin in convoy, with the troops looking forward to assisting the NCOTW again in 2018. ■



# History of the 32 Inf Bn, ONUC Congo

BY CAPT BOB SEWARD (RETD)



Armn Archie Raeside, photo and videographer with the 32 Inf Bn. Photo: Military Archives

**T**his history of the 32 Infantry Battalion was written 57 years ago, and as you can appreciate, had deteriorated in condition due to the poor quality of the paper used and the typewriter of the era. I have spent some time restoring the work with help from the Military Archives.

It is now in book form with the intention that the valuable history of our first unit to serve overseas will endure for future generations.

The late Colonel Desmond Hassey prompted this publication in its current format. Colonel Hassey was my Commanding Officer and OC 'B' Coy, 32 Inf Bn in the Congo in 1960. He gave me a copy of the original history of the 32 Inf Bn requesting that I, "do something with it". He was concerned that due to its poor condition i.e. faded print, unbound pages, that it would be lost to posterity. Due to procrastination on my part, the work has only just been completed. It is in book form and the original content has not been altered.

On completion of the work the book was presented to the Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, along with Col P Flynn Retd, Col George Kerton Retd (Chairman of McKee Officers Club) and Capt Bob Seward Retd.

The book has been distributed as follows: Military Archives, Military College, UNTSI, Collin's Bks Museum, Cork and a copy to the family of the late Col Murt Buckley, OC 32 Inf Bn.

I am indebted to Capt Sean Flynn (Retd) for his encouragement and for giving me relevant photographs. I would like to acknowledge the help and support of the staff of Military Archives. Who furnished missing pages and some interesting photographs, which were included. I am very grateful to Annemarie O'Donovan who patiently helped me to decipher the writing, and who typed the entire work.

Many of those who served in the 32 Inf Bn have gone to their eternal reward. Their memory lives on in those of us who still survive, and who thankfully meet regularly through organisations such as the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE), and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA). Maintaining the very warm bonds of friendship forged in the Congo, as though we are all wrapped in an invisible flag.

Below is a letter of appreciation from Helen Cuddy, daughter of the late Col Murt Buckley OC 32 Bn, Congo 1960. ■

Dear Captain Seward,

What a wonderful insight into the life of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in the Congo. This book will be treasured by all the Buckley family. We thank you for this valuable history.

So many memories flooded back of that night in July when our father on arriving home from work late into the night told us he had "news" for us on his appointment to be OC of the first Battalion to the Congo. This news was met with disbelief initially, then shock, then pride. Though very young at the time we understood the honour this appointment has and the significance of this mission for the Irish Army. Our lives were consumed by "The Congo" and youthful excitement and pride for our Daddy was the prevailing feeling in the home. Of course our mother kept all her concerns to herself, being an Army nurse she was well versed in the ways of the Army. She knew the responsibility, duty and honour of this position. Reflecting back on that time little did we know that it was history in the making and that the role of the Irish Army was to change forever and what a significant role that has been since, in overseas service and reputation.

His homecoming was memorable and I recall his immense gratitude that all his men came home safely. His Congo experience has always been special in our lives. He was a quiet, reserved man and spoke to us about that time with pride and humility. The many familiar names in the photographs and the enduring friendships / comradeship and shared experiences were always so special in his life thereafter. He retired in very good health and conducted an active life in farming into his mid 80's. He engaged with life until his death at 93 years, being sharp in mind 'til the end.

Our heartfelt thanks to you for your colossal work in carrying out the 'orders' of Col. Hassey.

"All of you wrapped in an invisible flag and none more special than the men who donned the Blue Beret with Buckley's Volunteers.

Go raibh mile maith agat, agus le mo gach dea ghuí.

Helen Cuddy (Buckley)

My sisters Eilish, Mary, Bernie. My brothers Mortimer and Michael join with me in thanking you.

Ps: This letter is written with the Parker Pen my father brought me from the Congo!



# THE 5 C'S OF SURVIVAL

THE '5 C'S OF SURVIVAL' WILL HELP OPTIMISE WHAT YOU CARRY TO ASSIST IN A SURVIVAL SITUATION OR DANGEROUS SCENARIO. IT IS BY NO MEANS THE ULTIMATE GET-OUT CLAUSE, BUT IT DOES OFFER THE BEST MEANS OF INCREASING YOUR CHANCES IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO. PLUS IT IS NOT SITUATIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY DEPENDENT.

BY JOE PRICE

**This list helps make your kit multi-use and provides some of the hardest things to replicate in a survival situation with each item having more than one use. The 5 C's breakdown as follows. We will look at each component in more depth in further issues.**



## Cutting

Your knife is your life in the field. Choosing one should be given as much thought as any primary tool. There are a lot of knives on the market. It needs to be low maintenance, ideally between 4-6 inches in total length, and either full-tang or made with a strong, moulded, polymer handle.



## Cordage

Cordage is one of the hardest things to replicate in the field. Carrying even a 100 feet of good quality paracord or bankline can be a major asset for simple things like replacing a broken boot lace, improvising a sling for your primary firearm or helping with building shelters and lashings.



## Container

Containers should be single walled stainless steel bottles. This allows for boiling water, cooking and making tinder for future fires. Try to keep the bottle measurements universal, such as 1 litre. That way you can measure your water intake, manage it and use water purification tablets in correct quantities, eliminating the need for second-guessing in the field.

## Cover

Besides your clothing, a basha or tarp takes care of most cover needs. Something small such as a DD Ultralite hammock weighs little and packs up easily to fit in a standard cargo pocket giving you hundreds of configurations and shelter options.



## Combustion

Besides cutting, one of the most important things on this list is combustion. The ability to make fire is often overlooked and should never be a given. Fire keeps you warm, disinfects water, cooks food, and hardens wood for tent stakes and improvised traps. A Bic type lighter wrapped in a bicycle tube is preferable to a Zippo. The inner tube helps prevent gas leaking and also can be used as an ignition source. Wrapping your Bic type lighter in duct tape gives you another material for repairing gear.



Joe Price is a 'Living to Learn' survival enthusiast, a member of the Irish Bushcraft Club and an Irish Ambassador for Mora Knives. He works in The Camo Shop [thecamoshop.ie](http://thecamoshop.ie)

## IRISH INVENTION

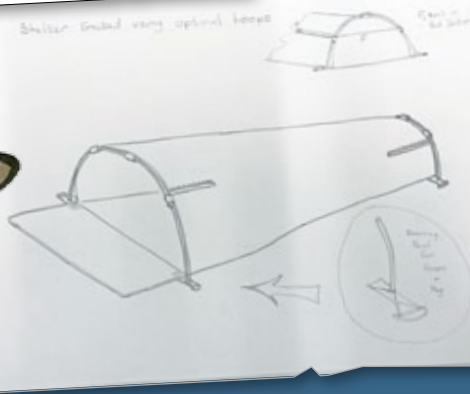
← SHELTER BAG →

## COULD SAVE LIVES

BY SGT WAYNE  
FITZGERALD  
PHOTOS BY SGT  
MICK BURKE  
AND PROTAC



Eileen and Sean Curtis with their daughter Netanya Curtis-Douglas at the launch.



In November 2017, PROTAC launched their latest series of tactical equipment the R-Bag range. PROTAC is an Irish owned, design and manufacturer of bespoke tactical equipment since 1987. They have produced belts, pouches, map cases and webbing kits that many Defence Forces personnel have used over the last few decades.

The R'Bag range combines a backpack with a stretcher, shelter (bivi) or range shooting mat. The stretcher was designed by Eileen Curtis and her husband Seán a Defence Forces veteran.

Eileen told me the stretcher was originally designed for combat medics and was approved for service by the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD), where it is currently in service. Speaking about the now world registered patent design concept, Eileen said, "I like the idea that these bags could save someone's life."

The bags were tested by Tier-1 operators, who helped develop the R-bag range, the stretcher bag is now in service in a number of specialist military and police units in Europe. The Shelt-R'Bag was then developed on from the Stretch-R'Bag.

At their launch in the Green Isle Hotel in South Dublin, Sean said, "This is the best piece of equipment we have

designed in 20-years in the business." The R'Bag range was on show to members of An Garda Síochána, Civil Defence, Dublin Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service who viewed the range before they went global at Europe's largest military and police equipment show – Milipol 2017 in Paris. Milipol 2017 had 1,005 exhibitors from 53 countries, and 29,939 visitors from 151 countries, who would be mainly government procurement officials, who go to view the 'best of the best' and latest equipment for their respected military, police and specialist units including Special Operations Forces (SOF) ([www.en.milipol.com](http://www.en.milipol.com)).

Speaking about the Shelt-R'Bag Sean said, "This system would allow a section to take their equipment into an APC or helo without having to take their large backpacks." With the add-ons, you can equip with side pouches and attached specialist equipment to the MOLLE (Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment) system on the front. Sean added, "You can get a lot of kit into these bags. The R'Bag contains an inner bag with straps that allows you to remove the outer bag to make the stretcher or shelter etc."

Sean said the R'Bag range is being received very well not only in the military/police sector but within scouting, mountaineering, mountain rescue, Red Cross, Civil Defence



Curragh Camp. The Kildare Enterprise Board is fully supportive of the initiative that sees

PROTAC negotiating with partners to have the R'Bag range manufactured in Ireland, for international dis-

tribution, which will, in turn, bring jobs to Kildare.

The R'Bag range is available in a variety of military and civilian colours. Sean said, "I think every group heading into the hills should carry one Stretch-R'Bag and in winter conditions a Shelt-R'Bag could prevent hypothermia." Mountain Rescue Ireland's 2016 statics show that their 12 teams had a total of 405 callouts with over 300 separate incidents where more than 50% of these incidents required helicopter assistance.

The largest PHECC recognised EMT training provider in Ireland, Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) highly recommends the Stretch-R'Bag.

The stretcher bag is not for spinal injuries, as its ideal purpose was for battlefield casualties where every second counts. In the hills, large amount injuries occur in hard to reach locations mostly because of improper footwear or fatigue. With the Stretch-R'Bag, the majority of these injuries can be brought down to a roadway to get access to emergency services if required.

The R'Bag range starts from €90 for the Seat-R'Bag – Seating Mat which is ideal for picnics, concerts and walks. Next is €150 for the Range-R'Bag – Range Mat ideal for shooting both sport and operationally. This is followed by the popular €190 Stretch-R'Bag – Emergency Stretcher and the latest €165 for the Shelt-R'Bag – Emergency Shelter which comes in olive green, black, multi-terrain pattern (MTP) or a variety of non-tactical colours across the range. ■



**The R'Bag range has over 60-years of combined experience in the development and manufacturing for the civilian, military and emergency services industries.**

**The R'Bag range has been perfected and field-tested over several years to provide the highest quality.**

*The pricing system allows the customer to purchase a complete system or buy an entry-level bag and upgrade later. Because the zips are NATO standard, the R'Bag range is compatible with equipment you already own.*

#### **MILITARY VERSION:**

Shelt-R'Bag C/W internal bag: €165  
Hoops and bungee kit: €30  
Lid pocket and side zips: €40  
Side pouches (PLCE): €50  
Front MOLLE panel: €25  
Side MOLLE panels: €30  
GTAS Panel: €15

#### **COLOURS:**

Bag: MTP, Olive or Black  
Shelt-R'Bag: MTP, Olive or Orange  
  
Civilian version colours:  
Bag: Grey, Red or Black  
Shelter: Orange  
Stretch-R'Bag: Same colour scheme  
  
Stretch-R'Bag C/W internal bag: €190  
Spinal protection panel: €70  
Medical side-pouch: €60

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# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

## AWARD WINNING GPO WITNESS HISTORY VISITOR CENTRE

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD  
PHOTOS BY CPL LEE COYLE & GPO WITNESS  
HISTORY CENTRE

**"IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:** In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom."

Part of the 1916 Proclamation, which was read by Patrick Pearse at the GPO on Easter Monday 1916.

**O**n 4th January, An Cosantóir visited the award-winning GPO Witness History attraction in the heart of Dublin City. GPO Witness History, a permanent attraction that opened on Good Friday 2016, is owned by An Post and operated by Shannon Heritage. The visitor centre tells the story of the 1916 Easter Rising and modern Irish History through interactive touch screens, audio-visual booths and authentic artefacts.

The GPO has a very significant association with the 1916 Easter Rising as it was used as the headquarters of the rebel forces for the six days of the Rising, and of the seven signatories of the Proclamation, only two, Thomas McDonagh and Éamonn Ceannt, were not based in the building during the rebellion.

British forces bombarded the GPO during the battle and only the front facade and the pillars remained of the historic building that had been constructed between 1814-1818. This year marks the two hundredth anniversary of the opening of the original GPO and An Post have launched a commemorative

stamp to mark the occasion.

The rebels had chosen the GPO as it was the post and telegraph hub in Ireland and held the main communication line back to Britain and it was centrally located.

Our tour guide, Alex Goodman, was a knowledgeable and pleasant host. She started the tour with a brief talk on British rule in Ireland from the 1700s up to the Home Rule period in the late 1800s. As we moved downstairs to the start of the displays, we encountered five hand-drawn figures on posters, which Alex explained represented the protagonists of the period leading up to the Easter Rising; the 'Socialist', representing the Irish Citizens Army; the 'Republican', representing the Irish Volunteers; the 'Suffragette', a movement for the right to vote representing the women of the period, including Cumann na mBan; the 'Home Ruler'; and the 'Unionist'.

Alex explained that the Easter Rising wasn't initially popular with the citizens of Dublin as the city was being bombarded to rubble; 3,500 Dubliners had been arrested; and there had been

a large number of civilian casualties, including 40 children. It was the rapid execution of the leaders of the Rising and the severity of British military rule that swayed the populace in their favour.

Around the main wall of the exhibit, there are information booths containing witness accounts of the Rising, with connected artefacts and documentation.

Pointing out a portrait of Seán Mac Diarmada, Alex told us that he became a close friend and most trusted lieutenant of Thomas Clarke and was one of the most wanted men by the authorities because he was the main recruiter of young radical nationalists for the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB).

Another notable item on display is the story behind the forged 'Castle Document' used to trick Eoin MacNeill into supporting the Rising. However, after the loss of the gun-running Aud and the arrest of Roger Casement, MacNeill had withdrawn his support for an uprising and countermanded a mobilisation order for the Irish Volunteers, with the result that instead



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of having 6,000 volunteers for Easter Sunday, only 1,000 mobilised on Easter Monday to strike against the most powerful empire in the world at that time.

We then viewed a near 20-minute CGI video on a massive 13ft 'D' shaped semicircular immersive screen. This film was a mixture of animation and actors depicting the action at key points during the rebellion, was excellent and added realism to the events as we watched the rebel commanders, like Pearse, Plunkett and Clarke, in action, before switching to the British Forces view, and back again.

Highlights of the video included seeing Winifred Carney, Cumann na mBan member and aide to Connolly, with her typewriter in one hand and her Webley revolver in the other; the attack on the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park; rebel troops digging trenches in St Stephen's Green; and the mention of a young Michael Collins who was in the GPO as an aide to Joseph Plunkett.

After the video, Alex brought us

around the inner circle of the main exhibit, which had large displays containing original artefacts and replicas relevant to the Rising and the GPO. Touchscreen information monitors are available on all displays, and it is fair to say it would take hours to cover the whole exhibition in detail.

Alex then described the rebels' escape from the GPO on a large map of the city centre, pointing out Moore Street, where they were forced to enter civilian homes to hide and the nearby laneway where The O'Rahilly died.

We ended the downstairs part of the tour at a large print of the famous photo of PH Pearse's surrender to Gen WHM Lowe. On Pearse's right (nearly obscured except for her feet and coat) is Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell (Cumann na mBan), who was entrusted to carry the subsequent surrender dispatches to the rebel commanders.

On the way back up the stairs, there is a large display with all the names of those who received a military pension associated with serving inside the GPO during the Rising.

There is a lovely gift shop and café on the 1st level with access to the courtyard where you can stand in the heart of the GPO and where there is a memorial by artist Barbara Knezevic containing 40 limestones representing the 40 children who died in the rebellion. There is also a display of flags ranging from the Norman period, through centuries of British rule, up to the Irish tricolour and ending with the Irish presidential flag.

GPO Witness History has won numerous awards since opening including the Micheletti Award at the European Museum Academy Awards. This prestigious award is the European prize for innovative museums in the world of contemporary history, industry and science. The visitor centre also won 'Best Cultural Experience' (over

100,000 people) and the Irish Tourism Industry Awards.

The GPO Witness History visitor centre offers great group rates, with guided tours for groups of ten or more. There are also concessions for families and students. This is an excellent addition to Dublin's 1916 attraction list and certainly one I would highly recommend on any visit to the city. ■

## OPENING HOURS ARE:

Monday to Saturday 10:00am – 5:30pm (last admission 4:30pm);  
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 12:00pm – 5:30pm (last admission 4:30pm).

## TICKETS:

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**EMAIL:** info@gpowitnesshistory.ie



# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

# THE DESTRUCTION OF FORCE Z

## 10th December 1941

BY JAMES SCANNELL

In October 1941, as Japanese military planners finalised the details of their attack on the US Pacific Fleet lying at anchor at the Pearl Harbour naval base in Hawaii, using aircraft launched from aircraft carriers, the British decided



HMS Prince of Wales leaves Singapore on 8th December 1941.

to strengthen their forces in South-east Asia in an attempt to prevent the expansionist Japanese from entering WWII on the Axis side. To this end, the battleships *HMS Repulse* (laid down in 1915, armed with 6x15-inch guns, 15x4-inch guns, 2x3-inch guns, 1x12-pounder field gun, 5xmachine guns, 10xLewis machines guns, and 10x21-inch torpedo tubes) and *HMS Prince of Wales* (laid down in 1939, armed with 10x14-inch guns, 16x5.25-inch dual-purpose guns, between 64 and 88 two-pounder pom-pom anti-aircraft guns, 8x40mm Bofors guns, and up to 38x20mm Oerlikon guns) were sent to Singapore. The two capital warships (the only ones the Allies had in the western Pacific at that time), along with with the destroyers *HMS Electra*, *HMS Express*, *HMS Jupiter* and *HMS Encounter*, were designated 'Force Z'. However, the group was missing the aircraft carrier *HMS Indomitable*, which was severely damaged while

completing working-up trials and had to be drydocked, thus removing the element of air cover.

Five days after Force Z arrived in Singapore the attack on Pearl Harbour took place, and the next day, December 8th, Japanese forces began landing on the Malayan Peninsula. That evening Force Z headed north to intercept Japanese troop-transport ships reported heading for the north of the peninsula and planned to attack them off Kota Bharu. As he set sail, Force Z commander Admiral Tom Phillips, flying his flag on *HMS Prince of Wales*, commanded by Captain John Leach, was advised that his request for Hawker Hurricane fighters to provide air cover had been declined as none were available, and while at sea was informed that no air cover or aerial reconnaissance would be available due to the Japanese overrunning airfields in northern Malaya.

By contrast, the Japanese invasion fleet was supported by 99 bombers, 39 fighters, and six reconnaissance aircraft.

On the afternoon of December 9th Force Z was well inside the Gulf of Siam, encountering rainy and cloudy weather conditions, when it was spotted by the Japanese submarine I-65, and by three Japanese aircraft at dusk, eliminating their element of surprise. Admiral Phillips opted to return to Singapore, unaware that the Japanese invasion fleet was only 15 miles ahead of him.

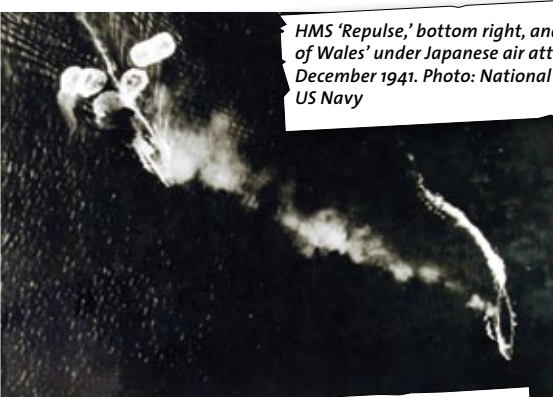
On the way back, Admiral Phillips received a message (based on an incorrect report) that Japanese troops were landing at Kuantan, midway down the east coast of Malaya. Changing course, he sailed through the night to this location, unaware that during this voyage his fleet had been spotted by Japanese sub-

marine I-58 which, unable to transmit a sighting report, fired five torpedoes, all of which missed. Arriving at dawn off Kuantan, Phillips found no landings were taking place, but when the presence of a Japanese tugboat was reported to the north he decided to sail in this direction to investigate further.

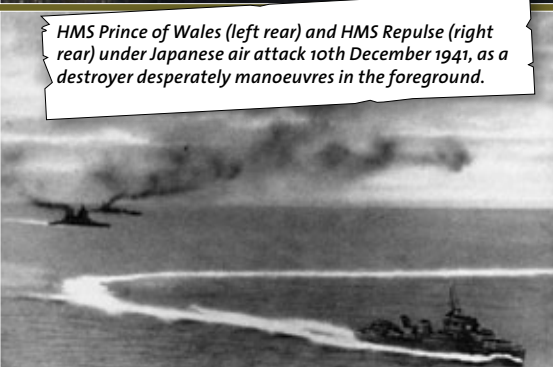
By this time, however, the commander-in-chief of the Japanese invasion forces, Admiral Nobutake Konda, was receiving a steady stream of reports about Force Z and ordered all available naval aircraft to attack it that morning, while his fleet of warships sailed southwards to intercept the British vessels. Operating from bases in what is now Vietnam, numerous Japanese aircraft armed with torpedoes and bombs headed out over the sea searching for their quarry.

Around 11am on December 10th, Force Z was spotted by a Japanese reconnaissance aircraft 70 miles southeast of Kuantan. Very quickly Japanese warplanes headed for this location with nine twin-engine bombers mounting an attack on *HMS Repulse*, recording only one hit on her, which was not of any significance. Half an hour later both the *Repulse* and the *Prince of Wales* came under a sustained attack during which the latter was struck by several torpedoes, losing headway and developing a severe list. On the *Repulse*, Captain William Tennant watched as vast quantities of smoke rose from the *Prince of Wales*, which in addition to listing to port was sailing erratically, and after trying to execute a turning manoeuvre, began to heel over as more water poured into her hull. When he saw 'ship not under control' indicated by flag signals and when he received no response to his series of signals sent to the stricken warship, Cap-

HMS 'Repulse,' bottom right, and HMS 'Prince of Wales' under Japanese air attack on 10th December 1941. Photo: National Museum of the US Navy



HMS Prince of Wales (left rear) and HMS Repulse (right rear) under Japanese air attack 10th December 1941, as a destroyer desperately manoeuvres in the foreground.



Force Z under attack.



Escaping from HMS Prince of Wales.



tain Tennant sent an emergency radio signal to Singapore stating that Force Z was under attack, the first indication that the naval authorities there had of the attack.

After evading high-level Japanese bombers, Captain Tennant reduced the speed of *HMS Repulse* to 20 knots and brought her nearer to the *Prince of Wales*, but still received no response to his signals. Then the two British ships came under attack from Japanese tor-

pedo planes. At a range of 2,500 yards, the planes launched their torpedoes, one of which struck the *Repulse* amidships, but she maintained her speed while putting up a hail of anti-aircraft fire. In the same attack, the *Prince of Wales* was struck by two more torpedoes, rendering her unmanoeuvrable and reducing her speed to 8 knots. Then the *Repulse* came under attack again from all directions, sustaining four torpedo hits and developing a heavy list to port.

Certain that his ship could not survive the damage, Captain Tennant ordered everyone on deck and then gave the order to prepare to abandon ship and launch the Carley floats. As the crew went through well-rehearsed drills, over 200 men waited on the starboard side for the order to leave the ship, which was given when the ship's list reached 30 degrees. While swimming to the Carley floats, many men choked to death in the oil that had escaped from the ship's ruptured oil tanks.

As the men struggled in the oil-covered water, the Japanese aircraft overhead refrained from strafing the survivors in recognition of their gallantry and in part out of sympathy for the Royal Navy, which had been used as a pre-war model to develop the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Shortly afterwards, at 12.33pm, when her list reached 70 degrees to port, the *Repulse* rolled over and sank. Admiral Phillips, on board the *Prince of Wales*, which was still afloat and steaming at 8 knots, ordered the destroyers *Electra* and *Vampire* to pick up the survivors – 42 officers, including Captain Tennant, out of 66, and 754 out of 1,040 ratings – in an operation that was unmolested by the Japanese as they focused on sinking the *Prince of Wales*.

Around 12.45pm, nine Japanese bombers attacked the *Prince of Wales* and while only one bomb landed on the vessel it was enough to render her a fatal

blow as she was already filling rapidly with water from the previous attacks, despite the best efforts of her damage-control parties. The destroyer *HMS Express* eased alongside her starboard side and took off the wounded.

By 1.10pm she was settling rapidly in the water, so Captain Leech gave the order to abandon ship. However, Admiral Phillips and Captain Leech opted to go down with her and ten minutes later she slipped beneath the waves. Ninety out of her 110 officers and 1,195 out of 1,502 ratings were rescued. Minutes later, 11 Australian Buffalo aircraft arrived on the scene causing an approaching formation of Japanese bombers to jettison their bombs and return to base.

Coming on the heels of the losses at Pearl Harbour, the loss of the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse* was a major shock to the British and American authorities as these were the first two capital warships to be sunk in open sea, despite possessing an array of anti-aircraft armament. Their loss highlighted the vulnerability of warships to attack by aircraft and the need for them to be provided with air cover at sea to deter attacks from enemy aircraft based on land or on aircraft carriers. ■



# REPRESENTATIVE GAMES

## Roundup

BY GNR PAURIC SULLIVAN, PR BRANCH  
PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

### GARDAÍ REIGN SUPREME

Brave souls from An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the Defence Forces lined out in JK Brackens GAA pitch, Templemore, for the annual representative games on the 8th November 2017 in very testing conditions. Despite harsh weather and poor underfoot conditions, the game was played in a very sporting manner.

While the DF team was hampered by the club commitments of several of its most prominent players the Gardaí fielded a team full of inter-county stars including Denis Glennon and Killian Daly of Westmeath.

Aided with a slight breeze, the AGS were off the mark quickly with some clinical scores and they found the net three times in the first half – all goals patted into an empty net after drawing out the goalkeeper – and despite Peter Cunningham and Fergal McNulty scoring some fantastic points for the DF towards half-time, at the break the Gardaí were well on top by nine points.

The elements worsened in the second half and it became difficult to play any sort of free-flowing football. Despite this, both teams were committed to the cause and tried to move the ball quickly on the heavy ground. It was more of the same as the Gardaí continued to counter-attack and draw in the Defence Forces, scoring three additional goals.

It was inevitable that the DF would get a purple patch at some stage and Peter Cunningham and Stephen Fisher grabbed two consolation goals. Nevertheless, on a day that the weather dictated how the football was played, it was the Gardaí who prevailed and collected the trophy this time around with a convincing scoreline of 6-14 to 2-14.

The series is still going strong and with next year's game pencilled in for Croke Park, both sides will be hoping to have their top players available.



## DF SUFFER BANK ROBBERY!

In their second representative match, the Defence Forces hosted Bank of Ireland (BoI) in Hawkfield GAA pitch on the outskirts of Newbridge on 15th November 2017. On a perfectly calm day in a well-presented field, both teams played good football in what was a hugely enjoyable and entertaining game.

BoI, led by Monaghan sharpshooter Jack McCarron, had a selection of top-class players from across the country and looked sharp and fit, while the DF, eager to make amends for the defeat against An Garda Síochána, welcomed back several players who had missed the earlier game due to club commitments.

Both sides traded early scores and it was tit-for-tat until BoI registered the first goal on 20 minutes through Jack McCarron. However, the quality of ball to the DF's two-man full-forward line of Stephen Fisher and Anton Sullivan began to improve and the duo started to cause havoc and get some great scores.

DF management opted to place Fergal McNulty as a sweeper behind their centre-back in order to clog up the area in front of McCarron but he still was able to get the ball and find space to shoot. Slightly edging the game at half-time, BoI led by 1-4 to 0-5.

It was a game that would never have a runaway leader and as the second half began to unfold it was more of the same as both teams traded scores. On the 45th minute, the DF were reduced to 14 men after Scott Delaney received a second yellow card and when the Bank of Ireland went three points up with nine minutes remaining it looked bleak for the military men. However, in spirited fashion, the Defence Forces rallied and kicked four unanswered points leaving them one up coming into the dying embers of the match.

As the final whistle approached, the DF played 'keep-ball', which seemed a good tactic given their numerical disadvantage, until an uncharacteristic error by Ian Kilbride handed the ball to Jack McCarron, who tapped it into an empty net to win the game with the last kick of the game.

A cruel end to a cracking game of football left the final score 2-11 to 1-12 in favour of BoI. Unsurprisingly, Jack McCarron picked up the man-of-the-match award after shooting a personal tally of 2-4.



Defence Forces Team Vs Bank of Ireland



Bank of Ireland Team



## AIB SINK SOLDIERS

Having lost their first two games in the representative series, the Defence Forces were going to do everything in their power to win the remaining fixture against Allied Irish Banks (AIB) in O'Loughlin Gaels GAA pitch on 24th November.

However, when the teams took to the field and the AIB's selection was seen to include Dublin stars James McCarthy and Denis Bastick and Cork's Colm O'Neill, the Defence Forces were always going to be up against it.

The game started at a frantic pace and both teams got early scores. As in the previous game, Fergal McNulty was deployed in the DF backline to cut out the supply to AIB's full-forward line but two unforced errors in defence saw AIB snatch two goals through Colm O'Neill.

This was a cruel blow to the DF but they rallied and a goal from Ian Kilbride meant that at the end of a very lively and physical half, the score was 2-7 to 1-4 in favour of AIB.

In the second half, the crowd were treated to the brilliant skill set of AIB's young Dublin sharpshooter Conor McHugh; he is surely a player that Jim Gavin will deploy in big games in 2018, as he scored some wonderful points and showcased all the talents to be a top-class player.

The game was completely under AIB's control and although the Defence Forces never gave up, it was very much a case of chasing shadows. AIB's direct play and ability to take scores from almost anywhere within the 45-metre line proved the difference in the game and they ran out easy winners on a scoreline of 4-14 to 1-9.

On a day in which some of the finest footballers in the country were on the field, Colm O'Neil was awarded man-of-the-match after notching a score of 2-4.

This fixture wrapped up a pretty unsuccessful representative series for the Defence Forces, who will be deeply disappointed and will hope to turn the tables in 2018. ■



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## GPO WITNESS HISTORY VISITOR CENTRE - 2018 TALK SERIES

GPO Witness History is proud to mark the centenary of such a pivotal year in women's history by hosting FREE monthly lectures on twelve 'Rebel Irishwomen'. The subjects were profiled by journalist and author R. M. Fox (1891-1969) over eighty years ago, initially for a New York magazine in 1930-31, and then in book format as Rebel Irishwomen in 1935.

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**Thursday, 22 February, 5:30pm** - Pádraig Yeates will speak on Constance Markievicz (1868-1927), Anglo-Irish countess, politician and revolutionary nationalist. Pádraig Yeates is a distinguished historian and journalist who has written several books on Dublin during the early twentieth-century revolutionary period.

**Thursday, 29 March, 5:30pm** - Sonja Tiernan will speak on Irish poet and dramatist Eva Gore-Booth (1870-1926), younger sister of Constance de Markievicz and a committed suffragist and labour activist. Dr Sonja Tiernan is Head of Department of History and Politics at Liverpool Hope University. She is the author of numerous books, including a biography, Eva Gore-Booth: an image of such politics (Manchester University Press, 2012) and The Political Writings of Eva Gore-Booth (Manchester University Press, 2015).

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**Last month's winner was: Niall McHugh, Co Dublin**

## FOCKE-WULF FW200, THE CONDOR AT WAR 1939-1945

**Author:** Chris Goss

**Publisher:** Crecy Publishing, (October 2017)

[www.crecy.co.uk](http://www.crecy.co.uk)

**ISBN:** 9781906535748

**Pages:** 288

**Price:** £50.00 HB



Chris Goss is a well-known and respected aviation historian who specialises in the history of the Luftwaffe in WW2. His latest tome is a comprehensive and detailed history of this famous aircraft from its inception to its demise. The Condor was the most successful anti-shipping armed reconnaissance aircraft in the Luftwaffe inventory. Chris Goss covers this in a very readable and precise style. He explains how the Condor emerges as a potent war machine operating from such diverse locations from Norway to the South West Coast of France whilst utilising the airfields of the defeated Norwegian and French Forces. Operating from these bases the Condors often in co-operation with the U Boats inflicted devastating havoc on the Allied convoys in the Atlantic and was considered a serious threat to the continued supply of material from the United States, The Empire and Allied nations.

The Condor was regularly observed by the lookout posts around the Irish Coast as they moved into the Atlantic from the base at Merignac. The three Condors to make landings in Neutral Ireland are recorded including the tragic one near Durrus, Co Cork in February 1941. Five of the six-man crew were killed. The demise of this Condor has been incorrectly reported in many publications. Unfortunately, this has been continued in this publication (P46) by claiming that it was damaged by the vessel 'SS Major C'. Many attempts have been made to identify this ship and all have been unsuccessful. However the author further on suggests an alternative cause for the loss of this Condor (P252) as more likely the result of an accident. It does little if anything to detract from the sheer quality of this important work, which has been eagerly awaited by historians and enthusiasts interested in this period.

There is a comprehensive set of appendices which are of such interest alone would provoke a separate path for further research. This is the type of work compiled by this meticulous author. There are hundreds of photographs in 288 A4 pages, many not seen before and of great interest, in addition to the many colour illustrations of this famous aircraft. This is a must-have for the aviation historian and an essential part of the reference section for ready access. No less for the general military historian/enthusiast who will find an interest in its well-written narrative and detail of a dangerous period in World history. Highly recommended. **APK**

## THE NINE YEAR'S WAR 1593-1603

**Author:** James O'Neill

**Publisher:** Four Courts Press (May 2017)

[www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)

**ISBN:** 9781846826368

**Pages:** 332

**Price:** €40.50 HB



The Elizabethan government's attempt to end the power of the local Irish Lord's and traditional way of Gaelic life was met by fierce resistance by the Irish Lords. This resistance was known as the Nine Year's War (1593-1603). The Irish were led by the second Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell from their Ulster redoubt the last bastion of Gaelic resistance in the Tudor period. In this seminal work on the conflict James O'Neill charts the military evolution of this key but curiously forgotten epic of Irish history; in not only Irish and Elizabethan terms but its effect on Geopolitics' on the European continent. It ended with the ultimate defeat of the Irish at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, which saw the last bastion of Gaelic resistance to Tudor England fail in Ulster; thereafter leading to the Flight of the Earls in 1607 which allowed in turn to the ensuing Plantation of Ulster. Had the Irish prevailed at Kinsale the course of Irish history would have been irrevocably changed.

This work superbly nests the conflict against the wider continental political backdrop and fundamentally reassesses previous interpretations of the period. The author convincingly argues that under the leadership of Hugh O'Neill as Earl of Tyrone, the Confederation that he coalesced around him presented an almost existential threat to Elizabethan England; almost as great as the Spanish threat. This work is the most forensically detailed account of the conflict to date shedding new light as to just how the Confederation prevailed as long as it did. The analysis of both the tactical and operational level is superb as is how O'Neill persistently used deception to mask his intentions and unhinge the English military effort. The effect of the campaign in England was both significant and traumatic. It is noteworthy as Prof. James Shapiro has pointed out that Shakespeare mentions 'Ireland' 31 times in his works and that the most striking thing about these allusions to 'Irish' or 'Irishman' is how concentrated they are within a very narrow time band of time, one that stretched from 1596 to 1599. England had no standing army at the time, so potential soldiers were rounded up across the land. Military service in Ireland was much feared, given the high casualty and mortality rates to the extent that unhappy soldiers often mutinied; and there was a proverb in Cheshire "*better be hanged at home than die like dogs in Ireland.*" **RF**

## MEETING THE DEFENCE FORCES' ELDER VETERANS: RQMS JOSEPH MEADE, ARTILLERY CORPS

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

As part of the joint Defence Forces' 'Eldest Veteran' interview series, run in conjunction with *Ireland's Military Story* magazine, Military Archives and the National Museum of Ireland, *An Cosantóir* met with 83-year-old Newbridge man, Joseph Meade, on the 9th January in the Curragh Camp. A former artilleryman, Joseph was accompanied by his wife Phyllis, son Gerald, daughter Sandra, and grandson Richard (1 ACS), who is the fourth generation of the family to serve in the DF.

Joseph was born in the Curragh Family Hospital on 5th July 1934 and he remembers living on Spike Island for some years when his father was serving with the Coastal Artillery in the 1930s and playing on Spike Island. He also saw the last of the British forces depart when Fort Mitchel was handed over to the Defence Forces and fondly recalls how the British troops gave out chewing gum to the children.

Joseph's father served in the Blue Hussars, which was part of the Eucharistic Ministry in 1932 and after this was disbanded he was transferred to Spike Island on promotion, where he also served in Camden and Carlisle before returning to Newbridge in 1947. Joseph grew up in Newbridge and went to work in the now famous Newbridge Cutlery factory before spending the rest of his civilian career in Irish Ropes, where he became the company's credit controller.

Joseph contributes a lot of his work success to his long service in the FCA. "There wasn't a lot of future in the army in the 1950s," Joseph says, "but I still wanted to experience military life, so I joined the FCA." Joseph enlisted in the South Kildare Unit in Newbridge on 12th November 1953, where he completed his musketry training on the Lee Enfield .303 rifle. "In those days we brought our weapons home," he recalls: "there was no threat to society like there is now. We would go out on to the Curragh Plains for our training and our range practices."

A number of years later his unit became 5 Bty of 6 Fd Arty Regt and moved to Magee Bks, Kildare Town. The regiment's other two batteries, 6 and 11, were based in Naas and Edenderry, respectively.

After some years Joseph became the Signals NCO for the 5 Bty, before undergoing quartermaster training after which he was promoted to BQMS for the Bty.

During their visit to the Curragh Camp, the Meade family visited the Curragh Military Museum, where curator Pte Dave Murray treated the family to a tour of the museum. Here Joseph was able to see the old gates of Magee Bks where he once served, and the family also viewed the priceless collection of weapons in the Sir Chester Beatty Room.

A great treat for Joseph was the opportunity to sit on a 25-pounder artillery gun, a weapon Joseph would have been associated with doing signals and admin from the OP, during his long artillery service, his last action was to fire a final shot in July 1994. As RQMS Joseph was responsible for training and admin, handing out weapons and ammunition and insuring the smooth running of

operations. He said, "I always made sure they marched on a full stomach!"

Joseph and his son Gerard reminisced together about the 25-pounder, as Gerald was very familiar with the weapon as well, having served alongside his father in 5 Bty from 1980 to 1990.

Joseph's other son, Joseph Jnr, also served in the Defence Forces with the Naval Service for a number of years before moving abroad for work, and, as mentioned earlier, Joseph's grandson, Tpr Richard Redden (Sandra's son), is carrying on the family's military tradition. He is nearing two-year's service with 1 Armoured Cavalry Squadron and has recently completed his MT Drivers course.

On 4th July 1994, Joseph Meade retired at the rank of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (RQMS) after 40 years and 48 days' service.

Joseph finished by saying he loved every minute of service in the Defence Forces and thinks military service is a great opportunity for the youth of today. ■





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# ARE YOU THE IRISH DEFENCE FORCES' ELDEST VETERAN



An Cosantóir – the Defence Forces Magazine and Ireland's Military Story have teamed up with Military Archives and the National Museum of Ireland in search for the oldest veterans of the Irish Defence Forces.

**We would like to find the eldest veteran in each Corps/Service and record their story.**

If you served or know anyone who served in the following Corps/Services: Air Corps, Artillery, Cavalry, Coastwatching Service, Construction Corps, Engineers, Infantry, Local Defence/Security Force, Local Defence Force (LDF)/ Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ), Medical, Marine/Naval Service, Signals, Transport, Military Police, or Ordnance please get in touch.

As part of an ongoing Oral History project, the Veterans accounts will be recorded and deposited for future generations in Military Archives and the National Museum, and published in both magazines.

A reception will be held in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, in the New Year, date TBC.



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