



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

www.dfmagazine.ie

(ESTABLISHED 1940)

Price: €3.00 (Stg £2.70)

March 2012



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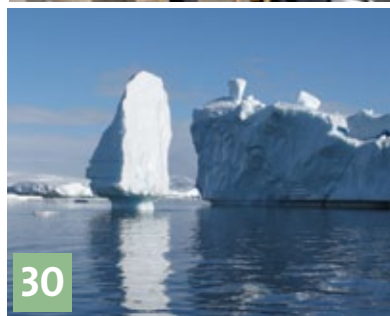
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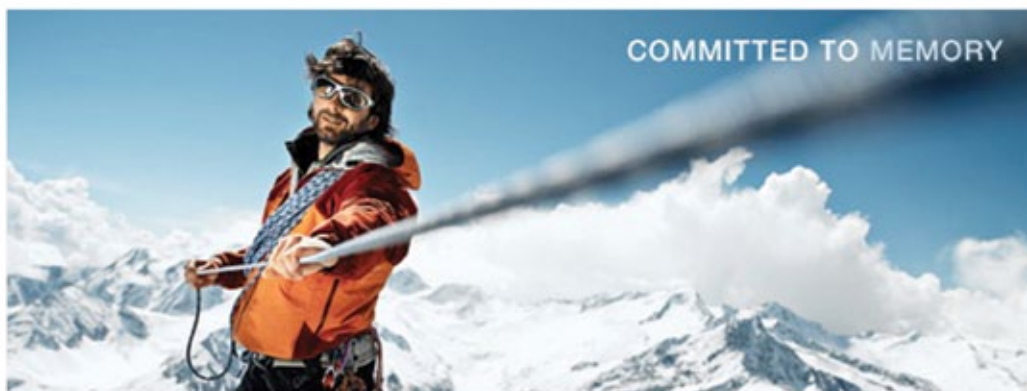


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Tel: +353871344135
Email: info@jmpublishing.ie

PRINTER:

Turner's Printing Co., Ltd

The fact that an article appears in this magazine does not indicate official approval of the views expressed by the author.

© Published by
Oic Public Relations Section for the
Defence Forces at
DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks,
DFTC, Curragh Camp,
Co Kildare, Ireland.
Tel: 045 445312

Front Cover:

120mm Mortar Shoot
Photo By: Airman Neville Coughlan

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to this month's issue, I would like to thank you for your continued contributions be it a photo, article or just a point in the right direction, and to encourage more of you to do so, as the saying goes "*it's your magazine*", so we can try to provide you with a well balanced military magazine. It is great to see the magazine growing month by month, and we are delighted with the results. **On Parade** pages are spilling over with your photos. **In Focus** this month takes a look at The Curragh Hospital and The Irish Naval Association (INA). Our main articles this month are SERE Survival Instructors Course held in the Air Corps and the 1st International CIMIC course held in the UN Sch, Curragh Camp recently. **Battle Stripes UK** is an article by Sgt Gerry Duff (Cadet Sch) who travelled over to the Infantry Battle School (IBS) in Brecon, Wales last year. Our **Def-Tec** centre spread is on the RUAG 120mm Mortar. Our **In Reserve** feature is by Capt Joe Sargeant (62 Res Inf Bn) on the 2nd RDF Standard Officers Course held in 2011. In **History** this month Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC AC) tells us about the DH Chipmunk. Our **Sport** section has Part Two of Comdt Mark Brownen's latest dive in Antarctica, we have an extra book review on a historic graphic novel by a former member of the DF and our other regulars - **Tac Aide, Reviews, Noticeboard** and **What I Do**.

I would like to welcome Jim O'Connor who recently joined us through FÁS for work experience as a photographer; "I hope you don't mind getting dirty Jim! Enjoy".



Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

NOTICE: WE STILL HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF A5 AN COSANTÓIR 2012 DIARIES AVAILABLE @ €10EA WITH FREE P&P. PLEASE CONTACT CPL FINOLA LAFFERTY ON 045 44 5312 OR SUBS@MILITARY.IE TO ORDER.

For more Defence Forces photographs, check out:
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Writing articles and letters

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

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

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

Sending in a photograph

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

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

than 3Mb (as jpegs)

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

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

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

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

ON PARADE



COLOUR PARTY ▲

Pictured here is the Colour Party of the Thomas Ash Branch ONE at their La Na bhFiann: Joe McElligott, Jer Galway, Tom O'Connor, Sean McGrath, MI McNamara I/C, Dan Finucane (American Legion), Sean Fitzgerald and Pat O'Hara. *Photo: Joe Hanley*



◀ FOND FAREWELL

Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC Air Corps and Dir of Mil Aviation) bids farewell to Armn Joe Byrne who retired early Feb after 35yrs honourable and loyal service to the DF. He has been a stalwart of the Air Corps HQ staffs for many years and he is wished a long and happy retirement. *Photo by: Col H O'Keefe (CAS Ops)*



ON SONG ▲

A Massed Bands Concert in aid of the DF Benevolent fund was held at Cork City Hall on Fri 27 Jan. The concert by the band of 1st S Bde also featured Cork's very renowned Soprano, Cara O'Sullivan. *Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy (1 S Bde Press Office)*



◀ BEST WISHES JOHN

Pte John Lackey (SSU) went on an NCOs Course in 2009, during the course he suffered a stroke and is now practically blind and suffering from other severe medical problems. The SSU held a benefit night for Pte Lackey on the 26 Jan in Ceannt NCOs Mess where €3,000 was raised. John retired from the DF on the 3rd Feb 2012 after 21 years service. Pte John Lackey is pictured here with his wife and son receiving a cheque from Lt Col K Butler (OC SSU). RSM P. Doyle, Lt G Costelly, Comdt S. Ramsbottom, Cpl M Duggan, Sgmn B. O'Shea, BQ D. Flanagan, Pte D. Danagher, Pte C. Bartley, Mr. Liam O'Keefe, Sgt M. Whyte, Comdt R. Foley. *Photo: RSM P. Doyle*

READY FOR DUTY

New Corporals were promoted to 2 E Bde MP Coy on 25 Jan. Pictured (l/r): Cpl Kelly, Cpl Smyth, Comdt Priestley (APM & OC 2 MPC), Coy Sgt Barrett, Cpl Cantwell and Cpl Cummins. *Photo: Cpl Donal O'Connor*



◀ LORD MAYOR PRAISES ONE

The Cobh Branch of ONet received a wonderful start to the New Year, with an invitation to visit the Lord Mayor of Cork Councillor Terry Shannon at the City Hall. The Mayor praised ONE for the charitable work for the benefit of Ex-Service Personnel who have fallen on hard times. *Photo by: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh (PRO South Area Council ONE)*

IN REMEMBRANCE ▼



Pictured at the 1942 'Irish Poplar' Tragedy Commemoration Ceremony in Cork Harbour. The following lost their lives in the tragedy on 12th Dec 1942: Frank Powell, William Duggan, Patrick Wilshaw, Frank Lloyd (All Marine Service) and John Higgins of the Cork Harbour Commissioners Pilot Launch, may they rest in peace. *Photo by: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh*





A TRUE GENT ▲

After 43yrs of outstanding service to both the 5 Inf Bn and the Defence Forces, Sgt Marlo Brien retired on the 2nd Feb 2012. Were he was on honoured with a Stand-down Parade and march pass, it was also acknowledged that he was a friend to all who have served. He is pictured here with the 5 Inf Bn Pipe Band. *Photo: Sgt Anthony Byrne (5 Inf Bn)*

WITH PRIDE ▼

Pictured on 2nd Feb 2012 at the presentation of a cheque from PD-FORRA to the Curragh Pride Resource Centre, are (l/r) Jim Daly, Sean Dempsey, Butch Kelly, Hank Dempsey, Brendan Kelly, Tom McLoughlin, Naomi Brennan (Chairperson of Curragh Pride) with C/S Mick Fennell (PDFORRA) and Miriam O'Brien (Project Co-Coordinator Curragh Pride). *Photo: Capt David Slattery (HQ DFTC)*



FUND RAISING ▼

RSM Noel O'Callaghan (4 FAR) hands over the proceeds of a music night €500, which was the last fund raising event to be held in Columb Barracks, Mullingar to Pat Gavin and Kate Madden of Aspen Counselling Service in Market Point in Mullingar. *Photo: RSM O'Callaghan (4 FAR)*



IRISH WOLFHOUNDS ▲

Members of the 5th Inf Bn pictured with Irish Wolfhounds at the funeral of the late Sgt Patrick O'Hora (RIP). Sgt O'Hora used to look after the Wolfhound mascots when they were in Collins Barracks Dublin. Great to see that the coats for the dogs were kept. *Photo: Eddie Bourke (Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland)*



HAPPY COUPLE ▲

Gnr Andy Creevy (4 FAR) married his sweet heart Nicola Maguire on St. Valentine's Day in St Barbara's Chapel, the last ceremony to be held in the Chapel before the closure of Columb Bks, Mullingar on 28 March. Pictured with the happy couple are OC 4 FAR Lt Col Ray Yorke and RSM Noel O'Callaghan. *Photo: RSM O'Callaghan (4 FAR)*

SAVE A LIFE ▼

A recent handover place of a sponsored defibrillator, this was a joint venture through the Fr. Gilmore Br (ONet) and Veolia Environnement and presented to ONet HQ for use in Brú Na bhFiann. Pictured (l/r): ONE members Sean Shinnors (Sec/PRO), Conor Swords (Chairman), Claire O'Donovan & Guy Jones (from Veolia), Brid Quinn & John Whelan (Treasurer). *Photo Sean Shinnors*



IN FOCUS

THE CURRAGH MILITARY HOSPITAL AND THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY CPL NOEL COSS

The Curragh Military Hospital has a long and varied history. Over many years its staff has treated British troops, World War Two internees, and IRA prisoners, as well as countless numbers of our own troops and their families since the Irish Free State Army took over the hospital from the withdrawing British Army in early September 1922.

One of its busiest periods was during the 1970s when many prominent Republican prisoners were treated there, including a number who had gone on hunger strike in Portlaoise Prison. Many of the current sisters of the Army Nursing Service (ANS) came to the hospital during the '70s, and they speak very admirably of this period in the hospital's history. Staff Sister Miriam Hyland told us that when she came in 1976 there were 34 sisters in the hospital providing full-time care 24/7, 365 days a year for soldiers, and from 1983/4 to their families as well.

The Curragh hospital was the first to be licensed to inoculate against yellow fever within the Defence Forces and over the last five decades the majority of our troops who have travelled overseas on UN peace-keeping missions have received their inoculations there.

In the current era, the hospital's main function is in the area of occupational healthcare, with the sisters specialising

in vaccinations and operating the family clinic (the only one in service in the DF) and is centred on primary care. With only five sisters remain-

ing the hospital provides out-patient and specialist clinics to soldiers, and GP care to their families. With the reduction in staff, the hospital now provides only a 9-5 military medical facility and the family clinic.

With an average service of 32 years and a combined service of 158 years, the remaining sisters have some great memories, and also some tragic ones, from over the years.

An interesting little fact we came across was a door on the now decommissioned chapel, which carried a sign saying 'The blessed sacrament is not revered here' and yet it still houses statues made by a Benedictine monk in the 1970s.

Whatever the future holds for the hospital, we hope the long-standing ghost story of the army nurse in her grey uniform and red cape doing her rounds in Ward 7 in the middle of the night doesn't put off any prospective tenant.

We would like to thank Lt Col C Browne (Rtd), Lt Col M Murphy (OC CMH) and the sisters for kindly speaking to us and allowing us to visit. ■



Sister Deasy cares for a young family member Aaron Fitzgerald.



This document is an AFC. 348, dated 6 June 1904, from OC 11th Hussars asking for his men to be inoculated on a Sunday, and the hospital's OC replying that Sunday was not convenient.



Members of the newly formed Army Nursing Service outside the Curragh Hospital in 1922, the only person identified is Sister Mary Ward (back row centre) from Kilfenora Co Clare, who was Lt Col Browne's great-aunt.



The remaining members of the ANS at the Curragh: (l/r) Sisters Margaret Grelish, Merriam Hyland, Sheila Deasy, Marion Cleary. (Not in the photo is Sister Finola Neylon.)

The Naval Association

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS BY TOM LAWLOR

The Naval Association was established in 1962 and termed An Cumann Chab-laigh. The Naval Association and its Constitution was approved in May 1977 by the then Minister of Defence, Mr Oliver J. Flanagan, TD. Membership of the Association is restricted to serving and retired Officers, NCOs and Ratings of the Naval Service, the Naval Service Reserve (formally An Slua Muiri) and the Marine Service (1939-1946) and the Maritime Inscription (1939-1947).

At a meeting held at the Stella Maris Seafarers Club, Dublin on March 24th 1992, an Executive Council was elected and the first branch of the association was formed and subsequently called the Leading Seaman Michael Quinn Branch after L/S Quinn DSM who in 1990 gave his young life (27) in an attempt to rescue 16 stranded Spanish Sailors from their stricken trawler Nuestra Senora de Gardtoza, (Our Lady of Gardtoza) on rocks off Bantry Bay.

The aims of the Association are:

- To promote Social, Cultural, Educative and Sporting Activities.
- To establish a comprehensive listing of all ex members of the different sections of the Naval Services since 1939.
- To render Aid and Assistance, when necessary.
- To promote and further interests in matters appertaining to the sea.
- To maintain the sea faring traditions of the Irish Nation.

Active Branches of The Naval Association have been established in Dublin, Waterford, and Limerick.

On Sept 11th 2011, The Irish Naval Association was invited to participate with the RNA at their Bi-Annual commemoration ceremony to the Cenotaph in London. With over 360 Shipmates parading in Whitehall London with 62 Area and Branch standards and the National Standards of the Royal Naval Association (RNA), The Royal Marines Association (RMA), The Association of Wrens (WRNS) and the Irish Naval Association (INA).

Prior to the ceremony in London, the INA spent the preceding evening with the RNA Birkenhead Branch. Where a great evening was had by all, with a singing competition taking place between the two organisations, and according to the RNA "The Irish Association contingent lead the singing but the drinking competition was declared a draw!" INA National PRO Terry Cummins presented the chairman of the Birkenhead Branch with a framed embroidered INA Crest. The Irish Naval Association also wants to say a big thank you again to their Secretary Tony Cheyney and Becky and all the lads for a great evening...

For further info: The Naval Association, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Naval Service Reserve HQ, Rathmines, Dublin 6 Ph: 01 2986614 email: navalas-sociation@eircom.net Web: <http://homepage.eircom.net/~navalassociation/index.htm> or Declan Pendred National General Secretary Ph: 087 6998724 ■



Irish Naval Association President Gerry Kennedy, laying a wreath at the Cenotaph memorial.



Note the privileged position given to the association at the Cenotaph.



Commodore Mark Mellett DSM (FOCNS) and Lt Malachi O'Gallagher (Retd.) INA after receiving the Christy King Asgard Award at the presentation of the NA Service Medal awarded by National President Gerry Kennedy Naval Association.



Irish Naval Association General Secretary Declan Pendred parades our Colours.



WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



EUROPE



Only 43% turned out in **Croatia** to vote on European Union membership. The vote was passed two-to-one. Having completed its negotiations with Brussels last year and, assuming no hiccups, Croatia will become the EU's 28th member on July 1st 2013.

The Serbian-dominated northern **Kosovo**, voting in a two day referendum that asks: "Do you accept the institutions of the 'Republic of Kosovo'?" Probably 99% voting will say no. The vote has been organised by the four Serbian municipalities of northern Kosovo. Kosovo declared independence four years ago this month.

The **Serbian** government are positioning themselves for a Serbian general election likely to be held in early May. Serbia hopes to gain candidacy status for EU membership at the end of Feb. Their attempt to gain candidacy status in December fell flat. So far none of the three conditions set have been met.

The **European Union** agreed to block imports from Iran in order to make it halt its nuclear programme. The European Union banned all new oil contracts with Iran and existing contracts must be phased out by July 1st. Iran urged Arab states not to increase production of oil in response to the sanctions.

THE AMERICA'S

The **US** prepares to build its first new nuclear power reactors in three decades, concerns about an early generation of plants have resurfaced since last year's disaster in Japan. It's the same design that was used at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, where three reactors melted down after the station was struck by the tsunami that followed Japan's historic earthquake in March 2011.

38 people died during a prison riot in Monterrey, **Mexico**. Inmates took a guard hostage as clashes broke out, but it is unclear what caused the clashes. This happened in a part of the prison where most inmates are serving time for federal drug trafficking offenses. Authorities have not indicated whether the dead are inmates or employees.



Mexican President Felipe Calderon called on US officials to stop gun trafficking across the border, saying it would be the best thing America could do to stop the brutal drug violence. "The criminals have become more and more vicious in their eagerness to spark fear and anxiety in society," said the President. "One of the main factors that allow criminals to strengthen themselves is the unlimited access to high-powered weapons, which are sold freely, and also indiscriminately, in the USA."

MIDDLE EAST



The **Yemeni's** president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, went into temporary exile after a deal with the opposition. Power will be transferred to a new government.

An Arab League backed UN Security Council resolution, which condemned the violence in **Syria** and for President Bashar Assad to step down, was blocked by China and Russia. The Arab League suspended its observer mission in Syria. Fighting in Syria intensified as government forces launched a heavy rocket and artillery assault on the rebel town of Homs. The US closed its embassy while many European and Gulf states withdrew their ambassadors.

AFRICA

The UN announced that the famine in Somalia had ended. The UN said that over one-third of **Somalia's** population still needs emergency aid.

In **Egypt's** Sinai region, Bedouin tribesmen released 25 Chinese workers they had kidnapped. Relatives of the tribesmen had been arrested for a bomb attack in 2004. The Egyptian government agreed to retry the relatives.

ASIA

At least two Tibetan protesters were killed in clashes with security forces in south-western **China**. This is the latest in a series of clashes following protests on government controls in the region.

Myanmar's reforms are paying off. The European Union said it is going to lift visa restrictions on Myanmar's president and other officials. The United States restored full diplomatic relations. The move came after landmark visits by senior United States and European officials.

Nine dissident groups (out of twelve) in **India's** north-eastern state of Assam agreed to a ceasefire. Some 700 dissidents laid down their arms at a formal ceremony in return they received roses from India's home minister.



Airstrikes in the **Philippines** killed a dozen militants, including senior members of the Jemaah Islamiah and Abu Sayyaf groups. The dead included a Malaysian, Zulkili bin Hir, with a bounty of \$5m on his head.

Further moves were taken in **Afghanistan** to see an end to the fighting there. Afghan president, Hamid Karzai and American officials, held preliminary talks with Hizb-e-Islami, a powerful militant group with ties to al-Qaeda. US defence secretary, Leon Pametta, said NATO forces in Afghanistan would be withdrawn mid-2013. This is nearly 18 months earlier than planned.



NURTURING THE SURVIVAL INSTINCT

BY WESLEY BOURKE
PHOTOS BY ARMIN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

In a Connemara valley in the middle of a winter's day, gale force winds drove heavy black clouds overhead and turned hail and rain into skin-piercing needles as we waited for the arrival of the students of the Military Survival Instructors Course. Out there, somewhere, were the fatigued, ravenous students struggling through the last stage of their final exercise, a 96-hour marathon designed to test everything they had learned on the four-week course conducted by the Air Corps Military Training and Survival School (MTSS).

A month earlier and things had begun a lot more sedately back in MTSS. Survival courses are based on different levels of SERE (standing for 'survival, evasion, resistance to interrogation, and extraction') training. SERE training is becoming a prerequisite for deployment overseas and now forms part of recruit, NCO, and cadet training.



NURTURING THE SURVIVAL

Level A courses are little more than an introduction to the subject and are generally geared towards reporters and NGO personnel heading to 'hotspots'. Level B is the basic course, where students learn to build a shelter and obtain food and water, and receive lectures on escape and evasion. Level C is the advanced level, which trains and tests the student comprehensively in all aspects of SERE.

The Military Survival Instructors Course is a Level C course and also incorporates the 'instructor' element, which enables successful students to teach the subject and conduct courses at unit level.

"SERE training doesn't only apply to operational situations," Cpl Declan Ryan (MTSS Instr), "If something was to go wrong on an exercise at home, say very bad weather comes in during an exercise in the mountains and a section or platoon gets cut off, having troops with SERE training means that we know they can survive for at least 24 hours.

They can build a shelter, make a fire, get water, and keep warm and relatively dry."

"While at home Defence Forces personnel would rarely find themselves in a survival situation for more than 24 hours, as we are never too far from assistance," added Flt Sgt Jay Curley (MTSS Instr), "our personnel regularly deploy overseas to very harsh and hostile environments. In the past, while operating in Congo and Lebanon, we have had personnel cut off, who have run out of ammunition, food and water, and in some cases captured and interrogated. SERE training prepares you to cope with such eventualities."

The Military Survival Instructors Course spent their first week going over the basics and principles of SERE and tips on aspects of survival as varied as ways of obtaining food to putting together a survival tin, which is a box of essential items that can be of assistance in a survival situation. (The survival box must be small enough to fit into a shirt

pocket.) From the start of the second week the tempo of the course picked up, with the commencement of practical exercises in addition to ongoing lectures and demonstrations of techniques, such as building a shelter and starting a fire.

In a reciprocal arrangement with the Irish recce unit for the upcoming EU battle-group, the students, under supervision of the DS, instructed the recce personnel in basic SERE and conducted a 24-hour exercise for them. The recce troops learned about 'the rule of threes' in relation to approximate survival durations: three minutes without air, three days without water, three weeks without food. They also learned how to filter water, make a fire, build a shelter, and how to skin and prepare a rabbit, something that some of the onlookers would not be in a hurry to put into practice judging by the grey faces. In return, recce personnel provided search teams to the MTSS staff for a 48-hour exercise, which tested the instructor course in escape, evasion and conduct-after-capture procedures and skills.

"Probably the biggest difference between something like a wilderness survival course and a military survival course," Flt Sgt Curley explained, "is that a civilian can light a big signal fire and wait to be rescued but military courses are taught from the point of view of probably operating behind enemy lines. Therefore we concentrate on teaching DARs (designated areas of rescue). Also, from the military point of view, conduct after capture is an important aspect. All you are required to give is what is laid out in the Geneva Convention: number, rank, name and date of birth."

Back in Connemara we watched the teams of three come in, exhausted, drawn and in some cases like zombies. "This is a really tough exercise," Flt Sgt Curley said. "These guys have been on the ground in this weather for four days now, with no rain gear, no tents or sleeping bags. We dropped them off wearing combats and boots, with a water bottle, a knife, and their survival tin for company. Our DSs kept an eye on them and monitored their actions. They received a small amount of uncooked food that they had to cook for themselves using the skills they had been taught. They were given a number of DARs that they had to navigate to and lie up in for designated periods of time."

Unknown to the teams as they straggled in, there was another 10km hike ahead of them before the exercise ended. "These are a good bunch," Flt Sgt Curley said. "They've got through so far and they'll all finish out alright. This is a very demanding, challenging course, both physically and mentally, but we expect a lot from our students: if they can't hack it physically and mentally, then how can they instruct others on how to do it?" ■



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CIMIC Partners of Peace

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMN BILLY DOYLE (105 SQN)

Since the end of the Cold War it has become very apparent that there is no single military solution to resolving the increasingly complex and intra-national conflicts that characterise our times. This – and the failures of peace-keeping in places like Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda – have led to a far-reaching reappraisal of the military role in PSO. The UN, NATO, the (EU), and other regional actors, have all increasingly adopted a more comprehensive approach to peace-building. This sees the military working closely and systematically with other actors to deliver an integrated effort in peace-building and crisis-response. Consequently, militaries now find themselves needing to co-ordinate, co-operate and integrate with UN police/aid agencies, local interests, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as never before. Civil-military co-operation (CIMIC) and CMCoord (civil-military co-ordination) have become part of the necessary preparation for PSO deployment.

UNTSI (UN Training School Ireland) has run CIMIC courses for DF personnel for almost ten years. Following the experience the School gained on Exercise VIKING 11, a Swedish-run international CIMIC CPX which saw more than 70 non-military personnel successfully incorporated into a brigade level PSO simulation in 2011, it was decided that the time was right for UNTSI's CIMIC course to adopt a more international and interagency type syllabus. And so, last winter, UNTSI ran its first International CIMIC Course.

The move proved highly successful as 29 students arrived to undergo 1 CIMIC International in mid-November. As well as students from our European neighbour states including the UK, Austria, Germany and Macedonia, others arrived from as far afield as Chile. While most were of a military background the students did include police officers from Romania and three civilians from our Dept of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Rapid Response Corps.

Two weeks of intensive training saw the course explore CIMIC-related issues such as international humanitarian law and human rights law; civil-military activity within the estimate process; and the UN OCHA Cluster system in post-conflict and humanitarian crisis settings; as well as looking at the practical skills of village assessments, siting CIMIC centres, and the development and management of quick impact projects (QIPs).

The UNTSI team conducting the course was headed-up by Lt Col Mick Dolan, with Comdt Rory Finegan leading on day-to-day issues and bringing everything together, ably assisted by Sgt Martin Breslin. Capt Conor Galvin (UNTSI/RDFTA) was exercise director for 'MissionPoint', the course field exercise. Guest instruction was provided by Maj/Padre Steve Moore and Dr Peter Gizewski (Canadian Armed Forces Centre for Operational Research and Analysis), Maj Alan Rees (AMC UK Armed Forces), Mr Arthur Hendrick (DFA RRC/Irish Aid), Mr Josef Reiterer (UN OCHA), Lt Col S Heinz (NATO Civil-Military Co-operation Centre of Excellence) by video link, and Col Ger Aherne (OC 4 W Bde).

The course included instruction on both CIMIC and CMCoord, and the difference was seen as an important one. "CIMIC is designed to enhance the commander's aim and support the commander in an operational scenario," Comdt Finegan pointed out, "so CIMIC works as a force multiplier that also has a humanitarian aspect. CIMIC teams are now part of our overseas structure and their role really came to fore in Chad where they worked very closely with the IDP (internally displaced person) camps."





Military personnel and civilians both have their own culture and ways of doing things on PSOs, and misunderstanding between them can often lead to friction. As Comdt Finnegan explained, the CIMIC course is designed to teach both sides to bridge those differences in order to operate better together. “One of the modules on the course is on cultural differences,” he said, “and is specifically designed to show military personnel how to deal with, and understand,

civilian actors, and vice versa.”

CMCoord addresses the same issues but from a rather different perspective. “CMCoord is about facilitating and protecting humanitarian operating space in response operations where both humanitarian/civilian and military actors are present,” explained Capt Galvin. “We see it as an ongoing and essential dialogue and interaction between these civilian and military actors. We also see it as an increasingly

necessary and learnable skillset for all personnel deploying into a UN-led mission. But it doesn't happen without a lot of work and a lot of practice."

The course field exercise, 'MissionPoint', was designed to provide this practice. Set within an intensive two-and-a-half day scenario based on an early, post-conflict context, the exercise involved five CIMIC teams having to deal with a fully-staffed UN OCHA office, UN family agencies, various NGOs/aid agencies and the remnants of local authority, including religious leadership. The incidents staged involved less than helpful government military forces, a minority militia, IDPs, alleged massacres, forced displacements, and the media. Essentially, most of the various scenarios a CIMIC team may encounter overseas.

The orchestrator of this exercise was Capt Galvin (AR), who runs the MSc course in Development Practise (MDP) in UCD/TCD. (MDP students are preparing for working lives in NGOs, governmental/international aid agencies and other civilian development organisations.) A key module on the second year of this course looks at working in post-conflict settings and particularly at the Oslo and MCDA Guidelines on the use of military and civil defence assets in complex emergencies. "MDP students joined us as part of the CIMIC exercise," he told us, "staffing the various civilian organisations used in the scenarios and playing local politicians, IDPs and rebel militia. In addition to the obvious gain for the CIMIC students, the MDP students also gained firsthand experience that will stand to them when they go on to work abroad with the likes of the UN, or NGOs like Concern or Save the Children."

As well as MDP students, RDFTA personnel and members of the DFA Rapid Response Corps also contributed to help make the scenarios more realistic. We met Declan Power, a consultant with the DFA, running the UN Regional Office. At the time he was not a happy man and was making a plea on international television for the CIMIC teams to get their act together. Somewhere along the line somebody was not doing their job. Paul Rafter was being equally 'troublesome' in his role as Head of OCHA.

"Courses like this are great," said Declan when we spoke with him after he had an an-

COL IAN MOLES, 38TH BRIGADE TA

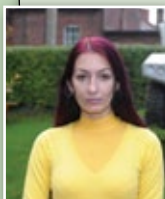


This is the first time we have come down from Northern Ireland for this kind of course. CIMIC is something we kind of pay lip-service too in our armed forces. With operations in Afghanistan and Iraq we lost touch with the softer approach and CIMIC work that we had developed in Bosnia, for example. However, we now have a CIMIC group called MSSG (Military Assistance and Stabilisation Group) working with PRTs (Provincial Reconstruction Teams) in Iraq.

There were two reasons for us coming on this course. Firstly, to relearn and develop our CIMIC skills, gaining the knowledge and expertise the Irish Defence Forces has gained on its extensive UN missions. Secondly, the course gave us an opportunity to interact with our counterparts in the south. This in itself is of great importance to us.

The course was very good: great fun. The group of students came from a wide geographical and experience background: military, police, NGOs. I actually met a Chilean officer, Charles McCarthy, whom I had previously worked with in Bosnia many years ago. It's a small world. The scenarios were very good and very realistic.

CARMAN MEHI, ROMANIAN POLICE OFFICER



This course was an excellent opportunity for me to come to Ireland and take part in an international course. CIMIC is very important for me as I want to deploy overseas with the UN at a later date. Overseas as a police officer I will have to work with military, NGOs and international organisations so it is very important for me to learn these skills.

The course was very good. It gave both theoretical and practical information. We were then able to apply this information in the scenarios during the final exercise organised by Capt Connor Galvin, which was very good. I learned a lot, not just about how to interact with other people and agencies but also about myself. The scenarios put us under pressure: they were very realistic and presented us with situations we may face in the future.

MAJ CHARLES MCCARTHY, CHILEAN ARMY



Although an army officer I am working in the Chilean Joint Peace Keeping Centre, which is similar to your UNTSI but also includes civilians and police. As well as instructing I am also head of Research and Development.

I got a lot out of this course, not just from a CIMIC point of view but also getting to see how your centre works. For me this was great as I can compare and bring home with me knowledge of how you do some things differently.

From a CIMIC perspective it was an excellent course. This is a developing field and is becoming an essential part of overseas operations. I previously served as a Liaison Observation team commander with SFOR in Bosnia, so I found it a little easier in the exercises to get into the dialogue. I also had an understanding of the planning process: who needed what information and what agency we needed to get information from.

It was a very good course both from a civilian and military point of view. The military needs to understand how civilian agencies work, and the civilian agencies need to understand how we work. Exercises such as we conducted allow both parties to train for this.



gry but ultimately productive meeting with the CIMIC duty team. "When you look at the Scandinavian countries they are great at mixing up military, police and civilians in planning and training, so when they go overseas they are much more adaptable. An exercise like this is a great step forward."

We also met 'Gerry Dooley' a spokesman for the local minority, 'Pastor Lewis' and 'Fr Kelly' religious leaders in the local community, 'Capt Martin Logan' and his uncle 'Col Paul Logan', and of course 'Jude McGrath' the rebel militia leader. In reality; We also met Capt Gerry Gaulle, Coy Sgt Alan Lowry, Sgt Maj Christy Bourke, Capt Jack Fahy (all RDFTA), Prof Paul Walsh (UCD), and Kieran O'Loughlin (RRC) masquerading as various characters from community spokesmen to rebel militia.

Media relations are an important aspect covered on the CIMIC course and we were also given a part to play in 'MissionPoint'. Along with Cpl Fergal Foley and Sgt Dave Rooney

(DFAVS), and MDP student Sinead Harris, Billy and I were roped in to play the part of a roaming media team, with a brief to 'make the job a little bit more difficult' for the CIMIC teams! Initially the teams couldn't figure out how the reporters knew about, and got to, incidents before they did but then again the reporter of course has the skill of talking to everyone and promising all sides their story will be heard.

Understandably, it is not easy talking in front of a camera and being asked tough questions such as 'What is the UN doing about protecting the IDPs?' One wrong word and you could end up derailing the whole mission. At one point the CIMIC teams started to get irate with us as we were becoming a problem. Things came to a head when we ended up in the CIMIC house before a meeting they had organised between two religious leaders. Two students tried to use their rank, which of course meant nothing to us as civilian reporters, and we were finally escorted out at gunpoint by

two peacekeepers!

Day two was a different story. The UNTSI team had clearly debriefed the CIMIC students and talked about how to handle the media. Each team subsequently appointed a designated media liaison officer, who in turn spoke to us very courteously, answered all our questions very politely, and made sure we didn't get in the way.

Similar learning could be seen across the various encounters the CIMIC teams experienced as they tried to deal with escalating tensions and a rising number of incidents within their AOR. 'MissionPoint' was certainly presenting the CIMIC teams with opportunities to turn 'talk' into 'walk' as they practiced the skills and guidance 1 CIMIC International had exposed them to over the previous fortnight.

1 CIMIC International very clearly gave course participants a lot to work with and to think about. As a first venture into bringing a comprehensive approach to bear on CIMIC training, UNTSI has also learned lessons. "Future iterations of the course will build on the strengths of this first one," notes Lt Col Mick Dolan (Chief Instructor, UNTSI). "There will be a strong emphasis on the practical and tactical, and the various UN, EU and NATO doctrines will be explored further. We also will build-out the scenarios of 'MissionPoint' so that they reflect even more accurately the challenges of working in this incredibly difficult but necessary area. Planning has already started for these, in fact." ■

SINÉAD HARRIS, MDP STUDENT.



I served with the US Peace Corps in Ethiopia and as part of my MA placement I spent three months with the Rwandan judicial system working with the international mission there. The current module we are studying on the MDP is post-conflict reconciliation. Prior to this exercise we had a week in the classroom where we learned the different aspects of CIMIC and R2P in the humanitarian space.

I was with the media team during the exercise and enjoyed acting as a journalist. It was interesting to see how military and civilian agencies respond to the media. With a media presence the situation can change very quickly as people do not know how to speak to, or contain, the media.

The CIMIC teams quickly picked up that whatever they said could be quoted later. People were very nervous and unsure and this was very evident on the first day when we walked all over the CIMIC teams going wherever we wanted and talking to whoever we liked.

However, they clearly discussed this that night because the next each CIMIC team had appointed a media liaison officer to answer our questions and contain our movements.

It was good experience to be exposed to civil-military engagement and see how the two react to each other.

THOMAS CAFFERY-OSWALD, MDP STUDENT.



My mother is from Mayo and my father is a Swedish diplomat, so I spend my childhood travelling and living in different countries. Living in places like Zimbabwe, I developed an interest in pursuing a career in overseas development. As part of my placement in Rwanda I worked in commercial tea farming. Economic development is a crucial part of a country's, and region's, growth and stability.

I was aide-de-camp for Capt Galvin and liaised with the different groups, seeing if they had any problems or if anything was needed. I also did a bit of role playing in which I was a local farmer whose sheep had been knocked down by a Norbatt truck. I also played a Raheen IDP who came in from Stranaheely after my house had burned down.

As we hadn't much of an idea about CIMIC it was great for the MDP students to get this opportunity, as at some point we are going to be working in scenarios like these.

We quickly learned that a small slip of the tongue can lead to people getting into serious trouble. You have to choose your words very carefully and know what is going on by using the formal channels and talking to the various agencies.

It was very interesting to see how the military act around civilian agencies, not willing to give away too much information, and then the civilian actors arriving late, or not turning up at all, to briefings.

MELAINE KERMARC, MDP STUDENT.



We do not have a master's programme like this in France. The MDP course takes a very holistic approach to development and in Rwanda I worked with the conservation and development agencies.

As part of this exercise I was a Raheen rebel and later a Raheen IDP. To be honest before this exercise I never really had a good impression of any military, or any understanding for that matter. In the French context our interventions are generally in the post-colonial world and I had developed a negative opinion of the military.

The exercise was very interesting, seeing all the different complexities working inside the military; the rank structures, the different offices, and how they work in achieving their goals.

As 'a rebel' I had a front-line view of what was going on and the interaction between the civilian agencies and the military. Sometimes, when both turned up at a scene it was total confusion. A lot of the time they simply didn't know how to talk to each other. The military are used to giving orders, while the civilians were that little bit more relaxed. What really struck me then was the way we, the rebels, were spoken to at times. If I had been a real rebel I would have shot them!

It was a great learning experience.

THE RUAG 120MM MORTAR

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS AIRMAN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & SHAYNA ALLEN

The Ruag 120mm mortar which was reintroduced into the Defence Forces in November 2008, was recently put through its paces by students on a Young Officers (YOs) Course with the Artillery School, Combat Support College, DFTC. On this course the students learn: ranging, ballistics, fire controls systems (computers and graphical control instruments), operational procedures, surveillance and target acquisition, fixation and survey, organisation, deployment and operating procedures, tactics and targeting.

The weapon system is primarily a 120mm mortar but has the added bonus of an insert that allows the calibre to be reduced to take 81mm rounds. The Ruag 120mm can fire high explosive (HE), illumination, and smoke rounds to a maximum range of 8,200m, or up to 9,200m depending on the respective altitudes



of the mortar and its target and weather conditions. However, the planning range for operational use is 7,500m. A properly trained and experienced mortar team can get the weapon into action in three minutes.

This weapon can be mounted on a carriage complete with six rounds of ammunition and accessories (weighing 722kgs), it can be towed by any vehicle that can also transport its crew of six: a sergeant, a corporal and four gunners (one of whom is a driver). The Air Corps' EC135 and AW139 helicopters can also airlift the mortar and its crew. ■



Weapon Specifications

Calibre	120mm
Barrel length	177mm
Base plate (diameter)	95cm
Elevation Range	800-1600mils
Traverse Range	+ 90mils
Traverse by moving Bipod	+ 533mils
Total Pivoting Range	1066mils
Overall Length	235mils
Overall Width	151cm
Overall Height	107cm

Ammunition

120mm and 81mm:	High Explosive Illumination Smoke Charges 0-7
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Weights (all approximate)

Base Plate	94kg (206lbs)
Barrel	85kg (187lbs)
Bipod (mounting)	50kg (110lbs)
Carriage (with equipment)	306kg (673lbs)
Sight (with extension)	5kg (11lbs)
Accessory bag	23kg (50lbs)
Three sheet metal double containers (incl. ammn)	133kg (292lbs)
Two camouflage nets	6kg (13lbs)
Mortar, complete on carriage	722kg (1650lbs)
Speed limit (maximum)	80km/h (50mph)



Earning your BATTLE STRIPES

BY SGT GERRY DUFF, CADET SCH, MIL COL, DFTC

The British Army run their Platoon Sergeant Battle Course (PSBC) three times a year from the Infantry Battle School (IBS) in Brecon, Wales. The course, which is also open to overseas students, is designed to qualify NCOs to take up roles as infantry platoon sergeants.

Having applied for the course, I was informed of my selection in June. This left me six weeks to prepare for this very physically demanding course. I was quite nervous prior to travelling, due to my age (nearly 37), knowing how arduous the course is, and being aware of some of the excellent NCOs from the Defence Forces who had taken this path before me.

The course started on 14th August with the first event on the training programme being the combat fitness test, consisting of an eight-mile march carrying 55lbs (CEFO, day sack, helmet and SA80 rifle). The test must be completed in less than two hours and anyone who fails receives an immediate RTU. I didn't have a problem with the test but I was struck by how fast the pace was. I soon realised this was going to be a constant aspect of the course.

There were 90 students on the course, with varying degrees of service, ranging from corporals who had just completed 'Juniors' (Pot NCO Cse) to L/Sgts with 12-14 years experience. Most of the students

had at least two or three tours of duty to Iraq or Afghanistan. I was the only foreign student on the course, and I was also the oldest! However, when I was put into 2 Platoon, I got on very well with all the other students, who treated me as 'one of the lads' throughout the course.

Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA), the main training area for the IBS, consists of approx 45 km/sq of unpopulated land, comprising forests, tracks, roads, old farm buildings/barns and Ceilini Village, a purpose-built town for FIBUA training.

The first two weeks are the foundation phase of the course and consist mainly of various lectures, ranging from the combat estimate to casevac procedures. It was at this early stage that I realised how much emphasis is put on casevac. (Later, during the tactics phase, every exercise would include a casevac scenario.) This is due to the amount of casualties that have been sustained by the BA in Afghanistan (390 to date, mostly due to IEDs).

Also during the first fortnight more fitness tests (two-, three-, and five-mile) were conducted, again carrying 55lbs. These were very difficult but I gained a great sense of achievement when I passed them.

Week three was to be one of the hardest weeks on the course with Exercise 'Hard Pounding', five days

of constant platoon-in-attack during the day and patrol harbour drills and recce patrols at night. Both physically and mentally demanding, this exercise would set the bar for the rest of the course.

Week four consisted of defence and patrolling during which we occupied various defensive locations and launched offensive ops. It was another hard week but quite enjoyable.

The next week covered 'operating in complex terrain' and started with the dreaded 'Fan Dance', a platoon competition that comprises a 24km march/run over the Brecon Beacons, incorporating the summit of Pen y Fan (886m), carrying platoon weapons and kit. The advance onto Pen y Fan was tough but the weather was clear, which helped. Each platoon also had to carry a loaded stretcher weighing 18-stone over the last 4kms, which included a 160m climb. There was no hiding and I can safely say that those four kilometres seemed more like forty and it was definitely one of the hardest physical tests I've ever completed. We then deployed to Ceilini Village for three



days to conduct FIBUA ops.

Weeks six and seven consisted of the battle camp where all the skills learnt during the previous five weeks were put into practice. Exercises involved key leadership engagements (KLEs), offence/defence, FIBUA, DIBUA, FIWAF and patrolling. The course also had to construct a forward operating base (FOB), similar to ones used in Afghanistan. During our time in the FOB we came under constant indirect fire and small-arms fire from the IBS's exercise troops, Mandalay Coy, Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The first eight days of battle camp were spent in SENTA and the last four in Caerwent, an old ammo compound that is ideal for constructing FOBs and for FIBUA ops. It was during this phase that I received my command test appointment as platoon sergeant for a deliberate attack on the last morning of the exercise. During our assault on three buildings the platoon commander was 'killed' by an IED so I had to step up. This was a very realistic scenario as it has happened many times on real BA operations.

After a well-deserved weekend off it was straight into phase two of the course, live-fire tactical training (LFTT). All LFTT courses are conducted in the Small Arms School Corps (SASC) and even though I had completed the LFTT course at home in the IWW, I still learned quite a lot on this part of the course. In the BA NCOs are trained in the planning, conduct and supervision of all ranges, using all weapon systems. We were also trained in the use of explosives on the battle range, something I had never done before.

The SASC staff were constantly on hand to assist with any problems the students encountered. The range areas in SENTA are quite large in parts, which allowed us to plan very demanding, realistic exercises. I ran a night ambush using claymores and a day deliberate section-in-attack using mortars and grenades.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the IBS, where the staff employs what they

call 'big-boys' rules'. This meant there was very little shouting by the DS. The students in appointment were given tasks to complete within a certain time frame, the DS would head off and come back at the appointed time, and the task was always complete. As an NCO I found this very refreshing as there was no-one looking over your shoulder during the prep phases of operations. Mission command is used on a large scale by BA officers and the IBS was no exception: NCOs were trusted to do their jobs to a high standard and at no stage were the DS disappointed with the effort from the students.

At the end of the course I was very proud of the fact that I was one of only five students to receive the 'Instructor Recommendation' by the School Commandant and also that I was the oldest NCO ever to pass the course.

I cannot speak highly enough of the instructor staff of the both the Battle School and the SASC. The colour sergeants and staff sergeants were available to us at all times for assistance on everything ranging from orders prep to RASP completion. At no stage was I ever made feel like an outsider by either the staff or the students themselves. I also had the opportunity to speak to my instructors after the

course to learn how they 'do business' as a training institution within the BA. I learnt much from this meeting and I intend to make use of the skills and drills used by instructors in the IBS back in the Cadet School.

The course also validated the training I have received at home as I realised that the Defence Forces can 'mix-it-up' with one of the best armed forces in the world. I would highly recommend any NCO to put themselves forward for this very challenging but rewarding course. ■



RDF OFFICERS RAISING THE STANDARD

BY CAPTAIN JOE SARGEANT (62ND RES INF BN)

The Officer Training Wing (OTW) of the Infantry School in the Military College was the location for the 2 RDF Standard Officers Course in 2011. The course was administered and delivered by graduates of 1 RDF Standard Officers Course and PDF instructors from the OTW.

All RDF career courses, with the exception of Potential NCOs courses, are now run in the Infantry School. This will lead to standardization across the RDF and an increase in interoperability with the PDF.

The RDF Standard Officers course is based on the PDF's Junior Command & Staff course and its general objective is to provide RDF officers with command and staff education and training by developing their command, leadership, analytical and communications skills. It provides a broad tactical and technical understanding of military capabilities at company level and an understanding of battalion-level operations.

Successful completion of the course qualifies an officer for promotion to the rank of commandant in a variety of command and staff appointments.

Special objectives include: providing students with a comprehensive knowledge of the duties and procedures involved in the command of an infantry company/battalion, in all phases of war; to familiarise students with the combined arms concept; and to give students a working knowledge of battalion staff skills and techniques.

The Standard Officers course represents a six-month commitment from students, from February to July, taking in weekends, distance learning and full-time training. Prior completion of the RDF YOs course is an advantage but not essential. The intended end state is to enable students to effectively hold command or staff appointments at commandant level, in the context of conventional operations and operations-other-than-war.

The course comprised two modules, the first of which was completed by the students in their home brigades via weekly submissions on the Reserve Technology Enhanced Learning (RESTEL) system, supported by weekends in the RDFTA culminating in an assessment test. (The RESTEL system provides an online resource, allowing monitored, directed study, continuous assessment and online testing. All required course material is available to the students via the



system. RESTEL also facilitates student/instructor discussion forums and messaging.)

Module Two comprised a full-time training period in the OTW.

Module One is designed to equip the students with a standard of expertise, prior to the commencement of Module Two, in the areas of command and staff duties; combat support; combat service support; training management; command, leadership, and organizational studies; and human resource management;

Due to the large amount of material to be covered in Module One, a serious commitment to distance-learning and home-study is required and should not be underestimated. An in depth knowledge of the subject matter is essential as it is required at all stages of Module Two.

During Module One, students are divided into syndicates and assigned a strategic studies project. This year each syndicate was required to prepare 90-minute presentations on aspects of Operation 'Husky', the Allied invasion of Sicily 1943, to be delivered on the first weekend of Module Two. Points were awarded on an individual and syndicate basis towards the overall course result.

Continuation to Module Two is dependent on successful completion of the assessment test, a two-hour, closed-book exam under Military College examination conditions, conducted on the final weekend of Module One.

Module Two delivers instruction in: practical preparation for tactical operations; combat support; operations-other-than-war (OOTW); and strategic studies.

The bulk of Module Two, however, is concerned with providing a practical understanding of the military decision-making process (MDMP). The MDMP, combined with the troop leadership and preparation process (TLPP) and the

intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB), forms the integrated planning process that supports the commander and his staff in translating the mission into courses of action and orders.

This instruction is delivered via presentation and tactical-exercises-without-troops (TEWTs), with the students being continually assessed on an individual and syndicate level while building levels of complexity, culminating in an exercise incorporating all aspects of the planning process, including delivery of battalion orders.

The course ends with a two-hour general test based on all previously delivered material from both modules. A 50% mark is required to pass, and students achieving a mark of B3 or higher are eligible to be invited back to instruct on subsequent courses.

The RDF Standards Officers course is an opportunity for experienced RDF officers to update their skills in line with current doctrine and develop an understanding of the processes and techniques required to fulfil senior roles in battalion headquarters in combat operations.

Graduates of 2 RDF Officers Standards Course will carry out all battalion and brigade HQ staff and command roles in the 2 Eastern RDF Brigade exercise 'Coan Ford' in September of this year. They will also staff the battalion HQ in this year's annual RDF field assessments in the Glen of Imaal in October.

The instruction and assistance given by the OTW instructors helped greatly in achieving a very learner-friendly environment, which led to a very high standard on the course. Students were impressed to see both RDF and PDF personnel delivering instruction to the same high standards demanded by the Military College, and is an excellent example of what can be achieved when integration is taken seriously.

Twenty students (one female and 19 male) from RDFTA and all three brigades of the RDF successfully completed the course, which ended on a high with a meal, in dress uniform, in the Military College Officers' Mess. Those attending the meal included Col T Doyle (Commandant, the Military College), Lt Col J Tolan (OC Inf Sch) and Lt Col P O'Leary (OC RDFTA).

The availability of the resources of the Military College and the opportunity for graduates of the course to return as instructors represents a major step forward in the continuous development of officers in the Army Reserve. If the RDF is to survive through the current economic climate we need to be more reliant on our own resources and courses such as the RDF Standard Officers course demonstrate our ability to do so.

A special word of thanks must be given to Lt Col J Byrne (Chief Instructor, Inf Sch) and the staff of the OTW who facilitated the course and extended every assistance. Also to Comdt C Miller (OTW) and Capt G Skinner (RDF) for planning and co-ordinating the course. ■



DEFENCE FORCES INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP



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The Curse of Cromwell: The Siege

BY ADAM COSS (AGE 13)

AUTHOR: DERMOT POYNTZ **ILLUSTRATOR:** LEE GRACE **PUBLISHER:** MOCCU PRESS (NOV 2010) **ISBN:** 978-0-956655-80-6 **RRP:** €14.99 **EXTENT & FORMAT:** 46PP PAPERBACK **COLOUR:** FULL COLOUR **SIZE:** 285 X 210MM

The Curse of Oliver Cromwell: The Siege is a historical graphic novel written by Dermot Poyntz and illustrated by Lee Grace. Moccu Press's debut book tells the story of the brutal taking and siege of Ireland by Oliver Cromwell and his Army in 1641-1650. The book visually shows you what life was like in Ireland during this time through short storylines and art illustrations. The layout of the book is very well done and it will encourage a lot more adults and teenagers alike to read it. The book was fun to read and some readers could learn more about Cromwell than they would have by reading a text book. This book will appeal to all ages and would make a great gift for anyone interested in our heritage; I would greatly recommend this book to both primary and secondary school students in Ireland as it will really teach them more about Oliver Cromwell and that part of our history. I look forward to the next book in this series...

"The purpose of presenting Irish history through the medium of the graphic novel is to make it accessible to all. Often children have an interest in history, but are put off by text heavy books. Also, adults may not have the time or inclination to approach the subject. Moccu Press' titles provide a solution in full colour graphic novel glory." - Dermot Poyntz

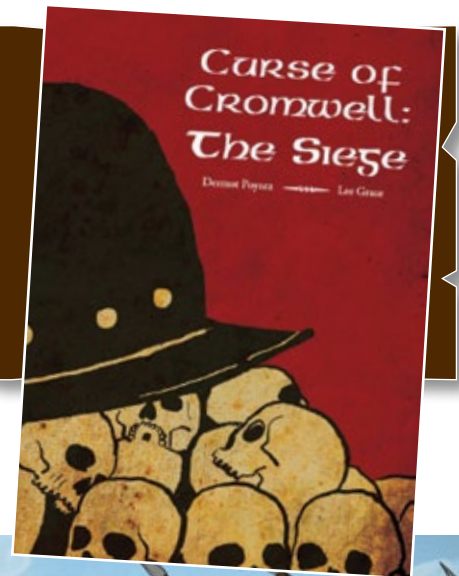
Lee Grace is a Waterford City based graphic designer and illustrator of Curse of Cromwell: The Siege. www.leeegrace.com

Moccu Press was founded in 2010 by NUI, Galway graduate Dermot Poyntz, who holds a BA in English & History, and an MA in Literature & Publishing. Dermot Poyntz served in the 3rd Cavalry Squadron for nine years and has had previous work published in An Cosantóir. Future titles include War of the Two Kings and Plight of the Wild Geese. For more information:

Web: www.moccupress.com

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HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

FLYING THE 'CHIPPY'

Sixty years ago the Irish Air Corps took possession of its first De Havilland Chipmunk training aircraft. The 'Chippy' was to be a stalwart in training Air Corps pilots for many years and in this article Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC Air Corps & Director of Military Aviation) fondly recalls his experiences flying the legendary aircraft. Photographs copyright of Mr Pat Reilly.

The first time that I flew the Chipmunk T.22 was 1975 with the Officer Commanding Advanced Flying Training School and Air Corps CFI, then Comdt Pat Cranfield. He brought me for a standard 45-minute type familiarisation flight, which included my first exposure to aerobatics. Having previously flown about seven hours on Iona's fleet of Cessna 150s, I found being trussed-up in a parachute, helmet and mask to be a very different working environment. I was immediately challenged by the workings of the cartridge starter that I, in the front cockpit, had to trigger by a toggle hidden behind a spring-loaded flap on the starboard side of the cockpit. Clouds of acrid grey smoke accompanied my action on the starter, which were then blown back by the propeller and enveloped the cockpit. The view forward was worse than in the Cessna, with the nose protruding well above the horizon eye-line and necessitating a lot of weaving on the ground to ensure that the way ahead was clear of obstacles and other aircraft. The view for the instructor from the rear seat, which had a lower seating position, was even worse! The flying task got harder during take-off when the power was applied, as the nose swung left with power and then again to the left due to gyroscopic effect as the tail came off the ground. Once in the air it was necessary to change hands on the control

column to retract the manually operated flaps – nothing seemed to be as familiar or as easy as in the Cessna! However, once in the air the real difference became immediately obvious. The ailerons were crisp, the elevators firm and responsive and the rudder was light and needed constant attention in order to keep the craft balanced. The view out and about the aircraft was very good, much better than that from a high-wing aircraft. This aircraft demanded to be flown but if flown well it would reward the pilot with accurate performance and satisfying results.

As a trainer the Chipmunk posed a real challenge to students in the control and manoeuvre phases of the elementary flying training course and placed realistic and quality demands on their skills. Any take-off could degenerate into a series of swings and waltzes if the rudder wasn't closely coordinated with the power and elevator inputs. Landing it on a concrete runway was like trying to land a beach-ball on sand as it bounced readily! Aerobatics were demanding to fly accurately as the ailerons needed a full deflection push to get it rolling fast enough to get it around the roll, but loops and roll-off-tops were very satisfying with a very challenging phase during the slow speed roll-out part of the manoeuvre as a lot of aileron was needed. Stall-turns, as always, were attention-getters as the power

needed to be cut just at the right moment as the yaw started to move the nose off the vertical. Reduce power too early and you were in for a stomach-churning hammerhead manoeuvre. It flicked readily into spins if tight turns were tightened too much and once in the spin it rotated rapidly – but always recovered using standard spin recovery techniques. The spin strikes on the rear fuselage ahead of the rudder are witness to earlier problems with spin recoveries but which thankfully was not an affliction that affected the Air Corps fleet. Having a float-equipped carburettor it didn't like inverted flight much and it had to be remembered to close the throttle when inverted to prevent a 'rich' cut of the engine caused by over fuelling and flooding of the carburettor.

The navigation phase was a challenge, not alone for the task of flying accurately in an aircraft that apparently had a mind of its own but also I think that you needed a course in origami to fold your map correctly one-handed in the air in order to see the next turning point – while still retaining some semblance of control of the beast with the other hand!

I still maintain that if you can fly a Chipmunk on instruments you could fly anything on instruments. The magnetic compass was mounted on the floor in front of the control column and, as regular com-



Brig Gen Fry as a young Chipmunk Pilot

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



pass checks were required to keep the directional gyro (DG) set accurately, it was necessary to lean forward in your seat, line up the lubber lines with the magnetic lines in the armature itself and then read the heading and transfer the results to the DG. All this while still retaining control of the aircraft - or nearly! Doing this at night using the light from a small red bulb to illuminate the show wasn't good for morale at all.

The night-flying stage was also a big challenge given the nose-high attitude during the take-off and landing phases, seemingly setting the clock back to the first days of the course when good landings and straight roll-outs were difficult to achieve. In formation it was an exhilarating challenge and the crisp controls rewarded effort and concentration. Not quite in the Red Arrows or Silver Swallows speed range, the Chipmunk got across the basics of station keeping and changing and flying on the leader's reference points. The results were most impressive to behold when a section or vic would return to the circuit for a run-and-break. Towards the end of this phase we even flew formation circuits in pairs and vics!

There were some other Chipmy characteristics that were not so endearing, such as not having a cockpit heater - I still recall the piercing cold of night flying in mid-November at 5,000 feet conducting a QGH (homing and controlled descent) to Baldonnel. The Chipmunk did have a ram air intake for cockpit cooling but alas I never experienced the necessary high temperatures to warrant its use! I do recall it leaking cold air into the cockpit during flight and not contributing to the comfort levels at all, especially during the winter months.

Another trial awaited the would-be Chipmunk crew, also due to the damp Irish weather. First flights on Monday morning were always marked by damp starter cartridges, which had been left in the engine over the weekend in the hangar. These never fired but instead burned slowly and gave the unfortunate first crew of the new week no engine start, a cockpit full of smelly smoke and a mandatory and interminable three-minute wait before having a second attempt! This early morning gassing seemed to make Monday a bit more wearisome than any other in the week.

The Chipmunk was one of the last trainer types to emerge from the de Havilland factory and it has firmly established itself as one of the all-time great training aircraft. To have flown it and cut one's aviation teeth on it was a great privilege and a great start in one's career. It was a difficult aircraft to fly well but this demand on the student challenged for results which, in the case of my cadet class, enabled confident transition onto the CM170 Fouga Magister. But that's another story...

Restored De Havilland Chipmunk 'AC 169' in its original colours is pictured flying during the historical and heritage event in Jan 2012 to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Chipmunk's arrival into service with the Air Corps. The aircraft was restored and brought back to Ireland by Declan Curtis. ■

Dive in Antarctica

Part 2

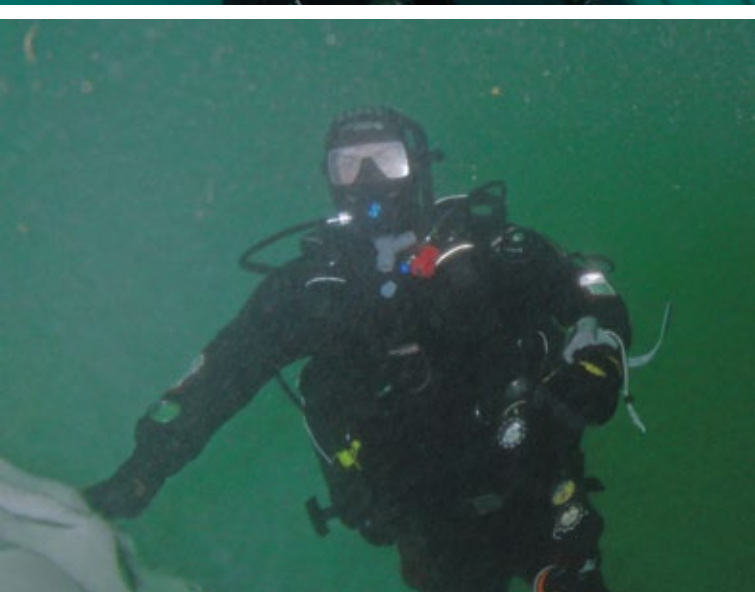
BY COMDT MARK BROWEN



Continuing on from last month's feature on Antarctica. While diving under ice there is quite a lot of noise, with floes moving against each other, ice cracking, and bergs moving in the currents, and you have to pay attention to these noises. The last dive of the trip was perhaps the most spectacular from this aspect. While dealing with an equipment failure, and ascending to the surface alongside an iceberg I became aware of very loud cracking noises. The base of the berg below starting to move up towards me: the iceberg had begun to topple over. The IA drill is to swim as fast as possible away from the rotation direction lest you get scooped up by the berg's rotation and caught in it. I swam away rather quickly as did the two German divers I was paired with and following the fastest exit we ever made from the water we were able to observe the rotation and collapse of the iceberg, caused by a second berg crashing into it, from the safety of the Zodiac. All nine other divers had also heard the noises and safely exited the wa-

ter or swam to a safe area. The iceberg was almost 40m deep, with approximately 20m above the water, and was initially thought to be beached in the inlet, which is why we chose it. However, we hadn't accounted for the speed that the current was moving and surrounding the bergs at, and it was one of these that collided with the berg we were diving on.

Each dive (we completed 14) highlighted unique aspects of the environment and the wildlife of Antarctica. When diving in the Arctic north of Svalbard polar bears in the water were the threat but in the Antarctic the main threat comes from the leopard seal, the apex predator here. About 5m in length and weighing over 350lbs the leopard seal is a formidable sight to behold, particularly when encountered under water. It is aggressive, inquisitive and prone to investigating other creatures in its area, as one English scientist found out to her cost when attacked and killed by a leopard seal while carrying out underwater work at her research station.



Our Principle Dive Leader, one of the National Geographic magazine's underwater photographers, was subjected to a leopard seal approaching and subsequent bite. He had experienced this behaviour before and wasn't reaching for his knife like everyone else. The seals sometimes bite to taste and to ascertain if they will eat what it finds. Luckily, neoprene was not on the menu and the seal then let go.

Having crossed the Antarctic Circle at 66.50 south nothing would do but to take a plunge without dive gear and dry suit off the back deck, followed by a fast swim to the gangway and a long hot shower, sensation eventually returned. We continued south to approx 67.50, where the ice build-up was slowing progress and bad weather prevented us from diving. The conditions were too bad even for landing at Detaille Island to pick up a group of researchers who were waiting for a lift out after five months work.

The long trek back to Ushuaia began via Port Lockroy, a historical outpost run by the British Antarctic Survey, where four volunteers staff the site conducting research and maintenance during the summer (winter snows bury the buildings and make work impossible). Following a dive off this island we landed and were able to send a postcard home through the UK postal service run from Falklands.

The dives that followed in the Yalour and Peterman Islands were some of the most spectacular with conditions perfect for diving under the ice floes. On one dive the route back to the ship was blocked due to the bay becoming blocked by ice floes and we had to chop our way through the floes to get to the ship, which had itself become encircled.

The last area we visited and dived was Whalers Bay on Deception Island, an island formed following a volcanic eruption which collapsed the side of the volcano and left the caldera open to the ocean. It was the site of a huge whaling station and during WWII was a base for some of the British operations carried out in the South Atlantic. The area was long since abandoned but the waters hid fields of whale bone remnants left behind following the processing of many thousands of whales during the 19th and 20th centuries.

With the ice well behind us there remained only the Drake Passage to be crossed again. Having seen the weather charts, watched the rapidly dropping barometer and seeing the appearance of sick bags along the passageways I reckoned it wasn't going to be an easy exit from the south, and I was right. A storm with 65-knot winds and 11m waves hit the ship directly on the bow reducing our speed to a mere five knots, seasick tablets were not going to be much use to anyone. Following a very uncomfortable first day, during which I gained even greater respect for the work of the Naval Service, my situation improved following the intervention of an injection from the doctor.

This brief visit to Antarctica, during which we travelled over 2,000 nautical miles, reinforced my views on the calibre of men like Tom Crean who spent months in this environment with very basic kit. The area is one of the most incredible and unpredictable environments I have ever been to and one that merits protecting. ■

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HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia from a military point of view has been a problem ever since the time Hannibal lost nearly half his troops while crossing over the Pyrenees Alps in 218 BC and has continued to plague the military throughout history.

The human body has a core temperature of 37°C and hypothermia is defined as anything below 35°C

A person exposed to cold temperatures be it soldiering or recreational (e.g. canoeing, hiking etc) maybe at risk of becoming too cold. This with the addition of wearing damp or wet clothes and feeling a wind chill or breeze can dramatically increase the rapid drop in your core body temperature, and the onset of Hypothermia.

How can you help: **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY!** (Hypothermia can be fatal if not treated).

While waiting for assistance, you can:

- Prevent further heat loss by moving the person from the cold area.
- Remove wet or damp clothing and replace it with dry clothing.
- Slowly give the person warm liquids if conscious.
- Caution: do not warm the person further. If the arms and legs are warmed before the chest and abdomen, the person could go into shock.

This table is a guide on what to look out for in yourself and other people who maybe showing signs of hypothermia.



Signs and Symptoms of Hypothermia

BODY TEMP °C	SYMPTOMS	OBSERVABLE BY OTHERS	FELT BY YOURSELF
Early 37 to 35	Intense and uncontrollable shivering; ability to perform complex tasks impaired.	Slowing of pace. Intense shivering. Poor coordination	Fatigue. Uncontrollable fits of shivering. Immobile, fumbling hands.
Moderate 35 to 33	Violent shivering persists, difficulty in speaking, sluggish thinking, amnesia begins to appear.	Stumbling, lurching gait. Thickness of speech. Poor judgement.	Stumbling. Poor articulation. Feeling of deep cold or numbness.
Severe 33 to 31	Shivering decreases; replaced by muscular rigidity and erratic, jerky movements; thinking not clear but maintains posture.	Irrationality, incoherence. Amnesia, memory lapses. Hallucinations. Loss of contact with environment.	Disorientation. Decrease in shivering. Stiffening of muscles. Exhaustion, inability to get up after a rest.
31 to 29.5	Victim becomes irrational, loses contact with environment, drifts into stupor; muscular rigidity continues; pulse and respiration slowed.	Blueness of skin. Decreased heart and respiratory rate. Dilation of pupils. Weak or irregular pulse. Stupor.	Blueness of skin. Slow, irregular, or weak pulse. Drowsiness.
29.5 to 26	Unconsciousness; does not respond to spoken word; most reflexes cease to function; heartbeat becomes erratic.	Unconsciousness.	
26 and less	Failure of cardiac and respiratory control centres in brain; cardiac fibrillation; probable edema and haemorrhage in lungs; apparent death.		

NOTICEBOARD

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

DFTA MEMBERSHIP - 2012

Step One – The Defence Forces Triathlon Association (DFTA) is affiliated with Triathlon Ireland (TI) and as such we require that all DFTA members also need to be members of TI. There are two options with regard to membership of TI (Associate €15 & Full €55), for more info www.triathlonireland.com

Step Two – Once you receive your TI membership card and number then join the DFTA by filling in a membership application form.

Forms available from; andrew.shinnick@defenceforces.ie or call Ext: 6216 – Return completed forms: FAO DFTA Secretary, Capt Andrew Shinnick, 2 E Bde Ops, Cathal Brugha Bks. Rathmines. Dublin 6. You will then be entered onto the DFTA database and receive regular emails and updates and be allowed to partake in DFTA training days and events.

Deceased Members Mass

2 Infantry Battalion Deceased Members Annual Commemoration Mass In Church of St Patrick's, Cathal Brugha Barracks, on Saturday, 24th March 2012 at 1030 hrs

Dress: Military Service Dress No 1

Curragh Military Museum

Opening Times: Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 2.30 to 5.30pm; Closed Friday and Saturday.

For all queries, contact: 045-445342 or email: curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie.

SUDOKU

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SUDUKO NO. 006 (MEDIUM)

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MARCH Q&A COMPETITION



1. Name the English FA National Team Manger who recently stepped down?
2. What UK female artist recently won six GRAMMY awards?
3. How many Air Ambulances have the Air Corps conducted as of the 14 Feb 2012 (www.military.ie)?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win Tim Newark's book 'The Fighting Irish', reviewed last month. Last month's winner of a signed copy of Alex Roysh's book 'My Brothers A Spy' was Kathleen Ferry, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

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

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

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

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9	7	1	5	8	3	6	4	2

REVIEWS

BOOK

PRIMAL ORIGIN PRIMAL UNLEASHED

Author:

Jack Silkstone

Format:

Kindle Edition

Pages: 30 pages

323 pages

Price: €0.76

€2.28

PRIMAL ORIGIN IS

a short story in the PRIMAL series, and is a prequel to the full length PRIMAL Unleashed novel and reveals the origins of PRIMAL.

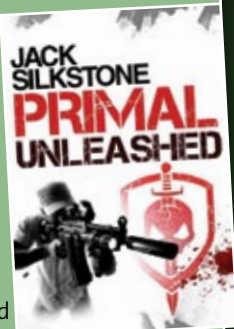
In **PRIMAL Unleashed**, a group of highly trained professional and well experienced soldiers from around the world are recruited to join a team backed by a rich benefactor and provides them with the latest equipment and technology, PRIMAL agents are ready to interject and act where no other force, be they governmental or peacekeeping can or will... They are PRIMAL.

Jack Silkstone's first novel written while on tour in Afghanistan really delivers. He draws you into his story, anyone who has served overseas in the military will really relate to the how and why these guys jump at the chance to join PRIMAL, and I'm not talking guns for hire here, I'm saying with full mission control, SOPs and directives while on a mission. With clear defined targets that Governments/Military Forces can't touch. You won't be able to put it down, and at this price, it's worth investing in a Kindle Reader or downloading the Kindle App. PRIMAL Vengeance coming soon...

About the Author:

"Guys don't want to read about vampires and trolls. I've written the sort of book I'd like to read; hard-core action, lots of guns, cutting edge military technology, and no small dose of testosterone fuelled violence." - Jack Silkstone - www.primalunleashed.com
www.amazon.com - Around the Store -
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DVD

DESERTER

Director: Martin Huberty

Genre: War

Rental Release Date: 20 Jan 2012

Certification:

Starring: Paul Fox, Tom Hardy, Kate Maberly, Aitor Merino, Félicité Du Jeu and Yorick Van Wageningen



IT'S A JOURNEY of personal discovery undertaken by a young Englishman Simon Murray (Fox) who joins the French Foreign Legion during the Algerian struggle for independence, after his girlfriend Jennifer (Maberly) rejects him. When Simon is rebuffed in love, he decides to pursue another romantic ambition - fighting for something he believes in. In the deserts of North Africa he soon meets a man who appears to be his very opposite, the cynical and world-weary Dupont (Hardy), who fights only for himself. As Simon encounters the ugly realities of war first hand, will he be able to hang onto his ideals or will he follow the lead of his new comrade, Dupont? Unlikely friends in a melting pot of confusion, war torn men question honour, hope, morality...because you can desert everything...except yourself. The film is based on the true story of Simon Murray's book - *Legionnaire: The Real Life Story of an Englishman in the French Foreign Legion* (July 2001).

GAME

KINGDOMS OF AMALUR: RECKONING



AN OPEN-WORLD action single-player RPG, Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning is set in Amalur, a rich and deeply immersive world underpinned by 10,000 years history, created by 22 time New York Times bestselling author, R.A. Salvatore. Brought to life visually through the trademark style of renowned artist and Spawn creator Todd McFarlane, Reckoning brings a new level of intense action combat to the RPG genre. The game sets players on a heroic journey to unlock the mysteries of Amalur, it is a magical world, filled with strange landscapes, exotic cities, colourful characters and terrifying creatures.

Choose Your Destiny – Create your character from dozens of unique skills and abilities, and further customize it as Reckoning's revolutionary new Destiny System unlocks powerful new Destinies based on how you choose to play. Millions of combinations of weapons and armour allow you complete the character that looks and plays the way you've always hoped.

Genre: Adventure: Role Playing **Platform:** Xbox 360, PS3, PC **PEGI:** 15

Price: €43.97 (PC €30.97) (**Gamestop**) **Released:** 10 February 2012

<http://reckoning.amalur.com> © 38 Studios, Big Huge Games, Electronic Arts. Trademarks belong to their respective owners. All rights reserved.



WHAT I DO

NAME

ALAN MARTIN

RANK

SGT

UNIT

NO. 3 OPS WING



I am a crewman in 301 Sqn. We operate on the EC 135 and the AW 139. We have many roles including; VIP or troop transport, fast roping, cargo slinging, Bambi Bucket fire-fighting operations, on and offshore winching, door gunnery, air ambulance, and various other tasking for Aid to Civil Power and Civil Authorities. As a result a crewman has many different responsibilities.

As a crewman you are responsible for everything that goes on in the rear of the aircraft. You are also responsible for what is called 'crewing the aircraft', the crewman is essentially the pilot's eyes in the back when landing and taking off from a landing-zone. For example if we are in the Glen of Imaal area to transport troops I will visually check the landing site for obstacles such as trees or power-lines and relay this information to the pilots. They cannot see everything. If the terrain is too rugged we may do a low hover. I then give the troops the all clear that it is safe to either board or disembark the aircraft. When on board I am responsible for the troops making sure they, and their equipment is buckled in.

In the case of a fire-fighting operation the pilots have control of the Bambi Bucket. We have eyes on the Bucket and target. We give what is called 'patter' to the pilots. We have eyes on the Bucket and what it is doing. We count them in over the target and then give the command 'dump, dump, dump, and the pilot releases the water. We were called out last year in places like Donegal to tackle the bog fires there. The Bambi Bucket was very effective.

We conduct Air Ambulance missions both on island and to the UK. Many of our missions are neo-natal. We have a special mount in the aircraft that is purposely built to an incubator. In order to crew an Air Ambulance mission you have to be a minimum standard of Emergency and Cardiac First Responder certified. The medical staffs on board depend on the patient or casualty. So you may have a doctor, nurse, or anaesthetist. Our primary responsibility is crewing the aircraft and the loading and unloading of the casualty/patient and equipment. We also operate the equipment as it is specific for the aircraft.

The AW 139 can be fitted with two 7.62mm M58, it is a variant of the GPMG. There are slight differences such as a spade grip and a thumb trigger.

Both pilots and aircrew are now trained in the use of Night Vision. We are equipped with the Anvis 9 Night Vision Goggles. These greatly enhance your ability to operate at night. You see everything in green. I was recently upgraded from a door gunner to a NVG door gunner. Last month I took part in a Live Fire Tactical Training exercise, part of this was at night.

Recently we conducted joint operations with the Army Ranger Wing (ARW); fast roping for troop insertion, providing live covering fire and troop extraction.

We can fly into a scenario, identify enemy positions, give fire, ceasefire, deploy ARW by fast rope, we then move to a standby location, the ARW can then call in Emergency Close Air Support, we then move in and give fire on their requested target.

It is a very busy and diverse job, and a great place to work. ■



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Results Sheet for 25th January 2012

1st Prize, €10,000: Neil Mc Bride, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal

2nd Prize, €5,000: Trevor Donoghue, Newry, Co. Down

3rd Prize, €2,500: Frank Redmond, Gorey, Co. Wexford

4th Prize, €1,500: Edward O'Reilly, Clonsilla, Dublin 15

€500 Prize: Derek Mc Entee, Cabra West, Dublin 7; Karl Byrne, Kilminchy, Co. Laois;
Michael Gilsenan, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan; John Larkin, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal

€100 Prize: Stephen O'Neill, St Mullins, Co. Carlow; Seamus Purcell, Brownstown, Co. Kildare;
Adrian Bowe, Ballacolla, Co. Laois; Thomas Mc Keown, Tullamore, Co. Offaly; James Devenney,
Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal; Stephen Stenning, Carragiline, Co. Cork; Donal Doyle,
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Bailiebarough, Co. Cavan; John Mc Carton, Clondalkin, Dublin 22; Philip Garvey, Tuam,
Co. Galway; Thomas Cambridge, Cork City, Cork; Martin Twyford, Manor St, Dublin 7;
Shane Michael Condon, Cork City, Cork; Gerard Guinan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Congratulations to all our winners

The next draw will take place in 23rd February 2012.

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