



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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MARCH 2014

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UNTSI - 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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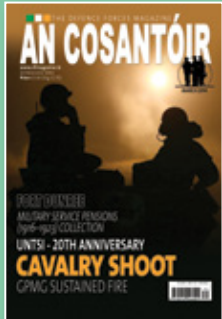
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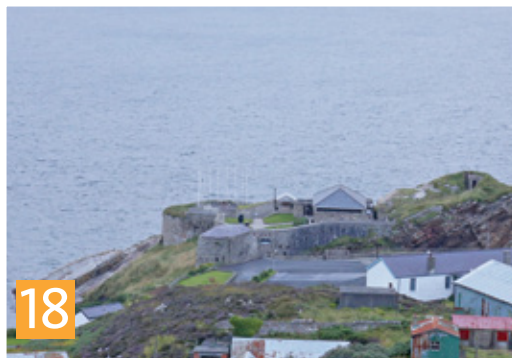
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**Front Cover**

Members of the Cavalry Corps during a recent shoot in the Glen of Imaal. Photo by: Cpl Neville Coughlan

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

## Editorial

Hello and welcome to our March issue which has many articles from cover to cover. As always your photos are standing tall *On Parade*. *In Focus* features the unveiling of two recent veteran's memorials by IUNVA and ONET, and we have a collection of photos taken at the recent Passing Out Parades and Commissioning Ceremonies around the Defence Forces. Our first feature by Capt Daniel Sheeran tells us about the *20th Anniversary of the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI)* and its internationally respected history. On page 14 we have a short piece on A/Sea Leigh Rooney who won the prestigious *Print Media Apprentice of the Year 2013*, while working in the DF Printing Press and on page 15, Sgt Pat Finuance (retd) writes passionately about the *2 Fd Arty Regt Association* as they continue the bond and the friendship that still exists after the unit was moved and renamed in the last re-org. Next we have *Fort Dunree*, the first feature in a series by Wesley Bourke in his travels North, South, East and West around the Defence Forces. Our front cover image is taken from our centre spread of the recent *Cavalry Corps Shoot*. Our *Strategic Review* pages have been given over to our branch colleagues in Military Archives to inform us about the launch of the historic Military Service Pensions Collection (1916-1923). Our *In Reserve* section features a combined 27 Inf Bn RDF/PDF GPMG SF shoot, with photos by 2/Lt Alan Markey, D Coy, 27 Inf Bn. In *History*, following on from last month's 50th anniversary of JFK's untimely death, Michael O'Reilly historically researches the bolt-action Mannlicher-Carcano rifle in *The Dallas Carbine*. In *Sport*, Tpr Kevin Bowles (2 Cav Sqn), former World Association of Kickboxing Organisations title holder gives us a lesson in *Kickboxing Champion*. Plus we have all our regular features – *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

If you have a story or topic you feel we should cover, please don't hesitate to get in touch and let us know. Here are some helpful hints: As a general rule we look for a 2 page article with 1,200 words (600 for 1 page). Larger articles are considered but may be spread over two issues or submitted to the Defence Forces Review. All material should have a military related theme, or be of interest to our readers. Email or call: [magazine@military.ie](mailto:magazine@military.ie) or 045 44 5307

*Wayne Fitzgerald*

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

**UNTSI 20TH ANNIVERSARY MONUMENT**

To mark the 20th Anniversary of UNTSI the School Commandant marked this occasion with the unveiling of a monument by GOC DFTC Brig Gen Ó Giolláin in November. The monument design, by Roscommon designer Louise Carroll, resembles the UN's blue helmet, which signifies peacekeeping. It was inspired by the blue helmet that is on display in the main foyer of UNTSI that was presented by Lt Gen Dermot Earley DSM (R.I.P.) from his time on the military staff to the UN Sec Gen Javier Perez de Cuellar. The outline text is inscribed with extracts from the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Within this text are the international organisations that Defence Forces personnel have been mandated to serve with and the specific missions that personnel have deployed with. The symbols of the dove and the scales of justice symbolise peace and justice respectively. The whole text is in UN blue.

**NOTE:**

Articles are currently being sought for the 2014 edition of the Defence Forces Review. Those interested in contributing should contact Comdt Neil Nolan (C&S Sch, Mil Col) at Phone: +353 45 44 5114 or Ext 5114 or email: [neil.nolan@defenceforces.ie](mailto:neil.nolan@defenceforces.ie)

*UNTSI Staff with Brig Gen Ó Giolláin (GOC DFTC) and Col Caulfield (CMC) at the unveiling of the UNTSI 20th Anniversary Monument. From (L/R): Capt Sheeran, Comdt Corcoran, Lt Col Harvey (Sch Comdt), Brig Gen Ó Giolláin and Col Caulfield. See article on page 12.*



## IRISH CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Christian Monday Iwubell who became a fully-fledged Irish citizen in a ceremony on 20th January 2014. Chris will be a familiar face to all who have entered the DFTC Gym where he has worked for the past eight years. *Photo: Cpl Paul Millar (PR Branch)*



## FAMILIES CLINIC

Staff and patients are pictured on the last day of the Families' Clinic in the Curragh Military Hospital, which closed on 31st December 2013. Lt Col Seán Dunne (retd) was a doctor in the clinic for nearly 50 years. *Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (DFTC HQ)*



## YOU'RE THE MAN

Pictured at the handing over of a Man 4x2 truck to the Irish UN Living History group are (L/R): Capt Niall Buckley, Kevin McCormack (IUNLH), Lt Dicker. The Irish UN Living History Group will be displaying it at military fairs and shows around Ireland. *Photo: Kevin McCormack*



## UNICEF IRELAND

A cheque for €3,700 made up of donations from members of IUNVA Posts throughout Ireland was presented to UNICEF Ireland, to help with their work in the Philippines. Photo shows National PRO IUNVA, Comdt George Kerwin (retd), presenting the cheque to the Executive Director UNICEF Ireland, Peter Power and National Chairman of IUNVA Michael Butler. *Photo: Comdt George Kerwin (retd)*



## SOLDIERS AID

On the 4th February 2014, Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, DCOS (Sp) visited Cathal Brugha Bks. He is pictured here with Brig Gen Michael Beary, GOC 2 Bde, who handed over a cheque for €20,000, proceeds from the recent Defence Forces Gala Concert in aid of the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund. *Photo: Pte David Hogarty (2 BDE HQ)*



## IN MEMORY OF JACK

On Sunday 2nd February 2014, serving and former members of the Engineer Corps, DFTC gathered to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the sad and untimely death of their comrade Sgt Dennis (Jack) Whelan, who died while responding to a hoax fire call. Pictured (L/R): Wicklow Chief Fire Officer Aiden Dempsey (Comdt retd), Cpl Martin Curran, Ptes Byrne, McGuinness, Ging, O'Connor, Carr, BQMS Jim Clarke and Sgt Major Phil Grant (retd) *Photo: Sgt Dan Whelan (retd)*



### ◀ EUTM SOMALIA COMMANDER

Outgoing Mission Commander EUTM Somalia Brig Gen Ger Aherne meets his replacement Brig Gen Massimo Mingiardi (Italy), who took over on the 15th February 2014. Photo: Sgt Rena Kennedy (PR Branch)



### EUTM SOMALIA MEDALS ▲

The Irish EUTM Somalia Contingent is pictured on their recent medal parade (L/R): Lt Bartley McFadden, Sgt Sinéad Wearan, Ms Amy Rose McGoven (POLAD), Sgt Brendan Kelly, Capt Eoin Scanlon and Capt Andrew Barry. Photo: Sgt Rena Kennedy (PR Branch)



### KNORR COOKING COMPETITION ▲

Darren Dreeling (DF Sch of Catering) is pictured with Jim Reeves (Customer Director at Unilever Food Solutions), who was narrowly beaten in the final of the Knorr Student Chef of the Year for 2014 competition following a closely fought cook-off against fourteen finalists from across Ireland in DIT, Cathal Brugha St. The overall winner was Fiona Drought (DIT), with Gareth O'Brien (Dundalk Inst of Tech) and Carren Simpson (Waterford Inst of Tech), claiming second and third prizes on the day. Photo: Ronan O'Keeffe (H+A Marketing + PR on behalf of Unilever Food Solutions)

### GALA CONCERT ▶

Pictured in Merchants Quay Cork for the Massed Bands Concert in Corks own City Hall on Fri 21st February, are (L/R): Capt Brian Prendergast (Band 1 Bde), BSM Dave Galvin (1 Bde HQ), Sgt Roy Kelleher (Band 1 Bde), Capt Tim Egar (1 Bde HQ), Cpl Clare O'Connell (1 Bde AR), Pte Steven Smith (1 Bde HQ), Sgt Garreth Murray (Band 1 Bde) and Lt Ciarain McKeown (1 Bde Tpt Gp). Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy (1 Bde HQ)



### 108 INF BN UNIFIL ▲

Photograph of a presentation at the NCO's Mess in Collins Bks Cork of a cheque for the amount of €1,618.55 was presented to The Irish Cancer Society on behalf of all the members of the 108 Inf Bn UNIFIL, who held a charity event while deployed overseas. Pictured (L/R): Sgt T Horgan, Cpl P O'Herlihy, Ms Eileen Kearney (Irish Cancer Society), Coy Sgt T Mahon, Sgt P Dee (event organiser) and Sgt M Flynn. Photo: Sgt P Dee (1 Bde HQ)



### MAKE SOSAD HAPPY ▶

E Coy, 27 Inf Bn, based in Navan, recently completed a 25Km loaded charity march and raised €5,430 for the local branch of SOSAD (Save Our Sons And Daughters). SOSAD raises awareness and provides support to people dealing with suicide. Pictured are members of E Coy presenting the cheque to Ms Marie Johnston from SOSAD. Photo: 2/Lt Fergal Fitzgerald (E Coy, 27 Inf Bn)



### ◀ ONE COBH BRANCH

Pictured are members of the Cobh Branch, ONE who held their AGM in the Commodore Hotel Cobh on 16th January 2014. Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS (PRO SAC of ONE)

## COMBINED ANNUAL MASS

*Sgt Paddy Mulcahy (DSM) Branch ONE & 'A' Coy 36 Inf Bn (Congo 1961-62)*

BY CQMS JIM CLARKE (RETD) PHOTOS BY ARMN ADAM FOX (105 SQN)

**O**n 15th December 2013, ceremonies commenced at 0945hrs with the 52nd annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Defence Forces' plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, in memory of our comrades of 'A' Coy, 36 Inf Bn: Lt Paddy Riordan DSM, Sgt Paddy Mulcahy DSM, Cpl Mick Fallon, Pte Andy Wickham and Cpl John Power, who died while serving with the UN in the Congo (ONUC) between December 1961 and May 1962.

The attendance included members of ONE and IUNVA, former members of 'A' Coy, and relatives and friends of our deceased comrades. Wreaths were laid by Joe Brady ('A' Coy, 36 Inf Bn), Martin Walsh (Sgt Paddy Mulcahy DSM Branch, ONE), and Mick Butler ('A' Coy, 36 Inf Bn) on behalf of IUNVA and the relatives.

BQMS Danny Mulcahy (retd), son of Sgt Paddy Mulcahy DSM, led the attendance with a decade of the Rosary.

On conclusion of the ceremony a lament was rendered by military piper Sgt Anthony Byrne. Those in attendance then proceeded to McKee Bks for Mass celebrated by Rev Fr Pat Mernagh CF. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Oisín Quinn, was represented by Cllr Padraic McLoughlin.

Following Mass, everyone assembled in the Garrison NCOs Mess, for the unveiling of the Roll of Honour in memory of the above deceased members of 'A' Coy, 36

Inf Bn. As the oldest surviving member of 'A' Coy, Col Harry Crowley (93), was unable to attend, the Roll of Honour was unveiled by Col Seán Norton DSM (retd),

also a former member of 'A' Coy, who paid tribute to all who continue to gather to remember our comrades. Smaller versions of the Roll of Honour, which was the subject of much favourable comment by all present, were presented to the relatives.

Pat Whelan (Chairman, Sgt Paddy Mulcahy DSM Branch) later presented Service Medals to the following members of the branch; G O'Sullivan, N Quinsey, N Broughal, J Donegan and D Poleon.

All present were then invited to the dining complex refreshments, after which a 're-grouping' took place in the Garrison NCOs Mess, where many memories of the hostilities of December 1961 were recalled.

Note: 'A' Coy 36 Inf Bn is most decorated company in the history of the Defence Forces with 14 DSMs - two of them awarded posthumously. ■

Roll of Honour is unveiled by Col Seán Norton DSM (retd).



Col Norton DSM (retd) with BQMS Danny Mulcahy (retd) and family members of deceased 'A' Coy personnel.

## Dedication of memorial to Tpr Thomas Fennell

BY MARTIN CRAWFORD (ONE) AND EUNAN O'CARROLL (IUNVA)

**O**n Sunday 29th December, members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE) gathered at Conwall Cemetery, Letterkenny to dedicate a new memorial to a local lad. Trooper Thomas Fennell who lost his life while serving with the United Nations in the Congo, in 1960. Also present were members

of the Fennell family, who travelled from Dublin, Letterkenny and Kerry-keel to join them.

Although the family moved to Dublin, a young Thomas spent most of his childhood with his Grandmother on the back road and with his cousins in Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny. The Mayor of Letterkenny, Cllr Pascal Blake, representing the Town Council laid a wreath on behalf of the local community.

Eddie Robinson, President IUNVA Post 20, Mullingar, laid a wreath on behalf of IUNVA. Serving soldiers from 28 Inf Bn formed a guard of honour, and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Defence Forces by Comdt John Anderson, a native of Letterkenny.

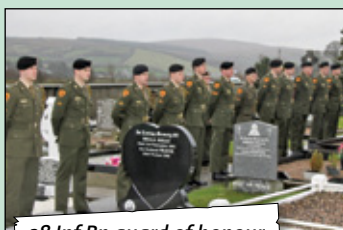
It was a great to remember our fallen comrade with this fitting memorial - Thank you to all those that helped make it possible. ■



Letterkenny Mayor, Cllr Pascal Blake lays a wreath.



Memorial to Tpr Thomas Fennell.



28 Inf Bn guard of honour.



Colour Party, members of IUNVA Post 10, Donegal.

## 89TH CADET CLASS COMMISSIONING

Pictured on the 23rd January, are members of the 89th Cadet Class who had their Commissioning Ceremony in the DFTC. Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan



## 130TH RECRUIT PLN, 12 INF BN

Pictured on the 30th January, are the award winners of the 130th Recruit Pln, 12 Inf Bn Passing Out Parade in Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick. Photo: Sgt Mick Burke

## 103RD REC PLN, 1 MECH COY

Pictured on the 24th January, are the award winners of the 103rd Rec Pln, 1 Mech Coy, DFTC, with Brig Gen Ó Giolláin (GOC DFTC), who held their Passing Out Parade in the Curragh Camp. Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne



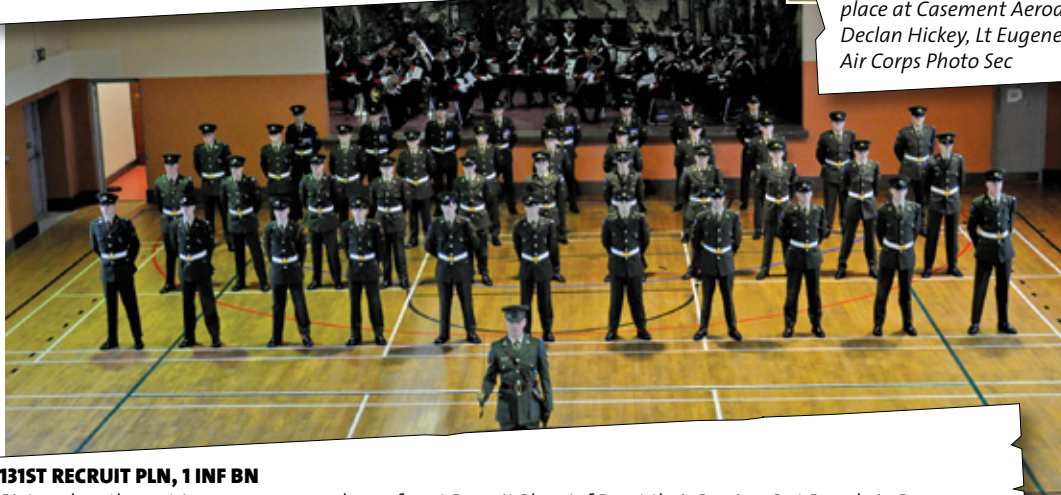
## 49TH RECRUIT PLN, 27 INF BN

Pictured on the 31st January, are members of the 49th Recruit Pln, 27 Inf Bn at their Passing Out Parade in Aiken Bks, Dundalk. Photo: Sgt Damian Faulkner (105 Sqn)



## ROBERT HALPIN RECRUIT CLASS

The Robert Halpin Recruit Class passed out at Haulbowline Naval Base on the 6th February. Photo: A/B David Jones



## 30TH REGULAR AIR CORPS CADET CLASS

On 14th February 2014, the Commissioning Ceremony of three new officers from the 30th Regular Air Corps Cadet Class took place at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel. Pictured are Lt Declan Hickey, Lt Eugene Mohan and Lt Michael Roarty. Photo: Air Corps Photo Sec



Not forgetting that these new Recruits and Cadets came through tough training with the help and support of their dedicated training staff and especially their families and loved ones - best of luck in your careers in the Defence Forces.

## 131ST RECRUIT PLN, 1 INF BN

Pictured on the 31st January, are members of 131st Recruit Pln, 1 Inf Bn at their Passing Out Parade in Renmore Bks, Galway. Photo: Sgt Mick Burke, PR Branch



## GANBO & GACBO

Group Life Cover for CAFNB members and their spouses



Since the last review on 1st January 2011

€8,680,000

has been paid out to the families of 56 GANBO members

€5,115,000

has been paid out to the families of 33 GACBO members

Source: Matt Byrne, CAFNB, November 2013

### OUTCOME OF THE 2013 REVIEW

Please see the outcome of the 2013 Review for the Group Life Plan for CAFNB members and their spouses below. The underwriting of the scheme has been transferred to Friends First. This is effective from the 1st January 2014 and is guaranteed for the next 3 years.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME?

##### • DEATH BENEFIT

MEMBER: was: €155,000, now: €160,000  
SPOUSE/PARTNER: was: €155,000, now: €160,000  
DEATH OF A CHILD: €5,000 (no change)

##### • ACCELERATED TERMINAL ILLNESS PAYMENT

In the case where a member is diagnosed with a terminal illness with death expected within 12 months,\* the Scheme will make an advance payment of up to 40% of the benefit payable under the GANBO/GACBO Scheme. This facility applies to serving members and their spouses only.

#### HOW MUCH DOES THE SCHEME COST?

GANBO Scheme for CAFNB members: was: €6.23 per week  
now: €7.02 per week  
  
GACBO Scheme for members' spouses/partners: was: €4.62 per week  
now: €5.16 per week  
  
TOTAL COST OF SCHEME: was: €10.85 per week  
now: €12.18 per week

#### HOW TO JOIN

The GANBO & GACBO Scheme is open to all members of CAFNB and their spouses/partners. To join today, complete a membership card and submit it to the address below.

A nominated beneficiary is not legally binding on the trustees of CAFNB who administer the payment of benefits which arise on death. If you wish to change your beneficiary, simply complete a New GANBO Card (Blue Card) and mark it 'CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY' on top. Address: Secretary CAFNB, CAFNB House, 33 Infirmary Road, Dublin 7.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A beneficiary is the person (or persons) nominated by you on your membership card.

#### HOW TO MAKE A CLAIM

For change of beneficiary or notification of death, contact CAFNB:

Tel: (01) 671 1841  
Email: [cafnb@eircom.net](mailto:cafnb@eircom.net)  
Website: [www.cafnb.com](http://www.cafnb.com)  
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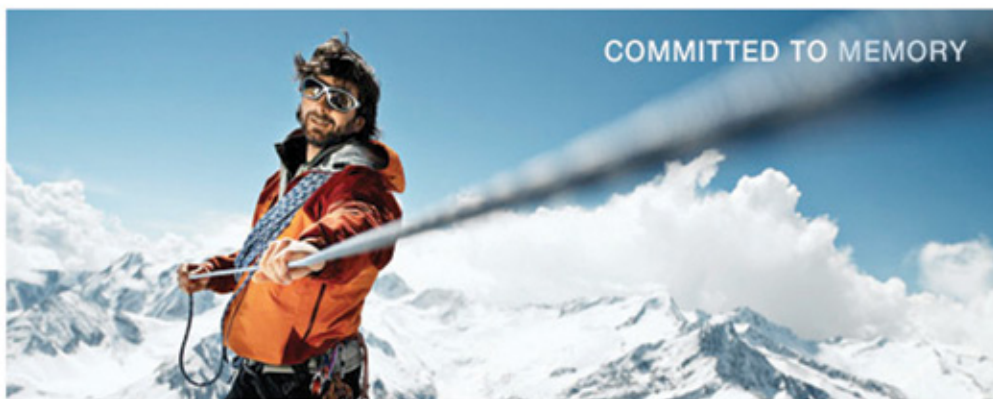
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**Best wishes to the Defence Forces**





# 20 YEARS OF UNTSI

BY CAPT DANIEL SHEERAN, UNTSI

**A**s the 20th year of the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) closes, it is worth noting the progressive and relevant institute that the school has become since its formative days in the early 1990s.

The school, like peacekeeping, has evolved since the 1990s. As peacekeeping operations have become ever more complex and comprehensive, UNTSI has responded to this challenge. Established in 1993, the School was originally developed to respond to the myriad UN missions Defence Forces personnel were deployed to at the time. The UN Military Observer and Staff Officers course was the signature course developed in the school to prepare officers for deployment on 'non-troop' missions. The other main responsibility of UNTSI was the co-ordination and delivery of briefings and lectures for personnel deploying overseas, be it with Irish battalions or in staff positions.

If it can be said that 'the eyes are the window to the soul,' the same could be said about the role of UNTSI, as it provides the public and international audience with a window into the peacekeeping experience that lies at the heart of the modern Defence Forces.

Civilian and international participation on the School's International Human Rights 'Train the Trainers' course and International Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) course, demonstrates that UNTSI is at the forefront of both of these disciplines. Both courses are unique in their own right - the International Human Rights course is the only course of its type in the

world that incorporates military, police and civilian students. It is further enhanced by collaboration with the Irish Human Rights Commission in the delivery of the training. Instructors on this course are educated to MA level, and currently the Defence Forces has a core group of dedicated young and enthusiastic human rights lecturers and instructors.

In a similar vein, the International CIMIC course has highly qualified personnel who instruct and deliver both the theoretical and practical aspects of the course. All instructors



CIMIC students brief civilian humanitarian actors during the CIMIC course exercise in the Glen of Imaal.



have either previous overseas CIMIC experience and/or a CIMIC course completed either in UNTSI or abroad. This year's course saw a new development as the course was extended to a full two-week period. This ensured a more comprehensive ground phase in the Glen of Imaal. This extended period confirmed the first week's tuition, thus ensuring that students achieved the optimal training outcomes.



What makes the CIMIC course one of the most sought after in the Defence Forces is the dynamic of the interaction between Irish officers and NCOs and other international military officers. On the most recent course, last November, eight international students participated on the course, from Algeria, Argentina, Germany, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and the UK (x2). In keeping with tradition a member of An Garda Síochána also attended.

From an international perspective, one of the unique selling points of the Irish CIMIC course is that students get to apply their learning in a scenario-based exercise, a four-day exercise that is given added value with the participation of MA students in humanitarian development from Trinity College and UCD. The Irish Aid section

of the Dept of Foreign Affairs also provides the exercise with mentors and personnel to play the role of humanitarian actors that the military students may encounter in mission areas.

Such is the high regard of this exercise phase that both universities now regard it as key to the civilian students' learning and development. UNTSI is currently working in conjunction with UCD to have the CIMIC course accredited under the third-level European Credit Transfer System, something that UNTSI hope to have in place for the 2014 version of the course.

UNTSI also utilises international instructors on both marquee courses. In recent years the School has developed close relations with the Canadian Armed Forces Peace Support Training Centre. This centre of excellence has provided instructors, and indeed students, to both courses. Other international instructors in recent years have come from France, Finland and Germany.

UNTSI courses have the stated objective of preparing students for deployment overseas. This is especially the case with regard to the niche, or specialist, area of CIMIC. This role of preparing personnel for overseas deployment also reaches into the civilian sphere in that UNTSI provides hostile environment awareness training (HEAT). This is a one-week training module designed to prepare Irish Aid Rapid Response Corps personnel for deployment in the field or in overseas postings. Training delivered includes personal security awareness briefings using ARW instructors, mine awareness, off-road driving and recovery, counter-IED, and CIS/communications training. The week culminates in a one-day field exercise in the Curragh area, with students tested in communications and map reading procedures, and actions on dealing with hostile checkpoints.

UNTSI offers this course twice yearly, in May and October. Recognising the calibre of instruction available in UNTSI, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) conducted its rapid response/surge training in the School in 2012. This was conducted exactly along the lines of the HEAT week provided for Irish Aid.

In addition, UNTSI also conducts a shorter HEAT module annually for the personnel of the Diplomatic Section of the Dept of Foreign Affairs to prepare diplomats for deployment overseas.

With the reorganisation of the RDF into the Army Reserve under the single-force concept, UNTSI has embraced this process and has highly qualified Army Reserve personnel on its staff. One of them, Lt Dave Fitzgerald, a history and political lecturer in University College Cork, recently launched a publication on the history of United States counter-insurgency, from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan, while another, Sgt Dave Graham, provides essential experience to UNTSI's Rapid Response Corps training, as a key role player. Being multilingual, Sgt Graham's skills are utilised on various School exercises. Additionally, he is currently developing the School's 'Working with Interpreters'



*In May 2007, UNTSI conducted a Security Awareness Course for members of the newly formed Rapid Response Corps.*

block for the 2014 CIMIC course.

UNTSI also appreciates the co-operation of other units within the DFTC who provide Army Reserve personnel as role players on the School's exercise scenarios.

The exemplary and dedicated service of Capt Conor Galvin (who retired recently) in helping to formulate and conduct the first International CIMIC course deserves mention. As a lecturer on MA programmes in UCD, he enabled the CIMIC course to develop the humanitarian dimension that is now standard on every course. Conor was also a key instructor on the School's International Human Rights course and his close ties with Irish Aid ensured an effective collaboration on joint endeavours with the School.

The 20th anniversary of UNTSI also brought a period of reflection and review. On the initiative of School Commandant Lt Col Dan Harvey, a working group was set up with the aim of examining the future role and focus of UNTSI over the medium to long term. This review was completed in the second half of 2013 and UNTSI is now developing courses and instruction that will better cater for Defence Forces personnel deploying overseas.

UNTSI Chief Instructor Comdt Ronan Corcoran represents the Defence Forces on NATO's 'Training and Education of PSOs' working group, which ensures that UNTSI is continually developing its provision of training within the international security community. For example, in order to maintain relevancy in the ever changing world of peace-

keeping and crisis management operations, UNTSI is in the process of developing its own core competencies with regard to the protection of civilians. This module of training will be mainstreamed into all future UNTSI instruction and courses.

Emerging from the review of pre-deployment training for Defence Forces personnel, UNTSI, in co-operation with J7, developed an overseas qualification course, the aim of which is to brief and train personnel deploying overseas as military observers or in staff appointments. This three-week course is divided into three modules. The first week of briefings is conducted in UNTSI where personnel are instructed on human rights, cultural awareness, child protection, gender awareness, media awareness, and stress management. The second week provides a full medical first responders course conducted in the Medical School, DFTC, at the end of which successful students are certified as first responders. The third week encompasses C-IED and mine awareness training conducted in the Ordnance School and Engineering School respectively.

On reflection, the 20th year of UNTSI has been without doubt its busiest – a total of 26 weeks of instruction was carried out, with approximately 400 students and personnel coming through the School. 2014 looks set to be even busier. Given this workload, the demands on UNTSI's instructors and staff will no doubt prove challenging but rewarding. ■

# Print Media Apprentice of the Year 2013

## A/S Leigh Rooney

INTERVIEW BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

Craig Gordon from Bottcher and David Phillips from Alphagraphics are pictured presenting the award for Print Media Apprentice of the Year 2013 to A/S Leigh Rooney. Photo: Robbie Reynolds Photography



**I** joined the Defence Forces in November 2011 as a general service recruit with the Naval Service in Haulbowline, Cobh, Co Cork. Before that I was a forklift driver in a large warehouse while also serving for three years with 65 Inf Bn in the RDF, based in the Slua Hall in Swords, Co Dublin.

After training I was made an ordinary seaman and was selected to undergo a communications operators (commop) course with Comms Branch. During the first four months we learned Morse code, signal flags, radio wave propagation, computer appreciation, voice procedures and many different radio equipment, including SINCGARS, satcomms and various other HF and VHF systems.

In order to obtain a radio operators licence I went to sea with LÉ Aisling for several months, conducting

varying patrols of two- to four-weeks long. I had to maintain many journals and log books during this phase of training. When not on patrol we would dock and conduct maintenance and ship duties. After this I went on my able-seaman's commops course. On completion of this course my logbooks were assessed and added to the results of my general tests and I was awarded my Global Maritime Distress Safety Systems (GMDSS) certificate.

I then went back to sea again on LÉ Aisling for over a year. While at sea I applied for the Trainee Techni-

cian Scheme as a print media technician. After an interview and some psychometric tests I was successful and attended Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), Bolton Street, in January 2013. The apprenticeship is a three-year course, with the first year spent in Bolton Street and the final two years on placement within the Defence Forces. To undergo the training I was attached to the Defence Forces Printing Press, part of the J4 Branch, based off Infirmary Road. I have now started year two and have been assigned as an originator within the Printing Press. (Origination is the art of design and layout of a print product i.e. manuals, brochures and annual reports.)

Last year I was announced as the Print Media Apprentice of the Year 2013 at the Irish Print Media Awards in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Swords, Co Dublin. It was a great honour to be recognised by companies within the print Industry and I hope this is the start of good things to come.

I'm not the first Printing Press technician to be recognised for this award, with two previous winners also working here. I'm looking forward to advancing my career and trade within the Printing Press and the Defence Forces. ■



# Service and Remembrance:

## 2 FD ARTY REGT ASSOCIATION

BY SGT PAT FINUCANE (RETD)

**T**he month of November is a time of remembrance for the Defence Forces every year. Wherever Irish soldiers are based, former and serving personnel meet to celebrate and remember their fallen comrades. The 2 Fd Arty Regt (FAR) were one such group who would traditionally join in remembrance with retired members and the families of those who have lost loved ones.

In November 2011, as former colleagues renewed old friendships, it was the absence of many former regimental personnel that drew the greatest interest. As the evening progressed it soon became obvious that personnel had vastly differing experiences after leaving the service: some had achieved personal and professional success but others had a more difficult experience. It was in this context that the idea of establishing a regimental association was first discussed and the inaugural meeting of the 2 FAR Association took place in McKee Bks Privates' Mess in January 2012.

While there are several associations for former service personnel (such as ONE), to which they are affiliated, the 2 FAR Association centres its membership on personnel who have served within the regiment. It was with such considerations that the aims and objectives were set out by the Association Committee: to bring its members together for mutual benefit and support; to encourage and maintain comradeship with 2 AR; to provide a means for members to communicate and mutually support each other and to promote the values and esprit de corps of the Defence Forces.

The 2 FAR Association has continued to meet on a regular basis and membership is constantly on the increase. As a result new friendships are being forged amongst gunners who served from the 70's right up to the present day. To date the association has paraded at several high-profile events such as the National Day of Commemoration, the Royal Hospital Kilmainham and Islandbridge. In addition, the association has created an international footprint when it paraded at events in London and Toronto. Such formal events are always well attended, but it is the other activities, such as the annual pig roast (held last year in Fenton's in the Glen of Imaal), that allow the members to mix in a more informal capacity.

While much has been done by former members, the assistance provided to the association by those still serving has been invaluable. The invitation extended on behalf of OC 2 AR to attend a recent 105mm shoot was warmly accepted by the association, and the welcome extended by the Chief of Staff Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle (former OC 2 Fd Arty Regt) on Cemetery Hill reinforced the point that association members will always be welcome in the Glen.

Although the regiment will continue to evolve and change, the bonds forged in service will remain and with the continued support of our colleagues in the Defence Forces the 2 FAR Association will also evolve and grow and continue to provide support to our fellow gunners. ■



2 FARA colours



2 FARA members on parade



2 Fd Arty Regt, circa 1990



2 Artillery Regiment 2013



**M**ost of our readers will have heard of Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin; Sarsfield Bks, Limerick; Lynch Camp, Kilworth; or Aiken Bks, Dundalk, but there are many other lesser known outposts. The Defence Forces spans the whole of the country and over this and the next three issues we are going to take a look at the posts, units, and personnel operating at the opposite ends of the compass. Our journey will bring you from Fort Dunree at the top of Co Donegal to Bere Island Military Training Camp in Bantry Bay, Co Cork, and from the Dublin Naval Reserve Unit in Dún Laoghaire to the reservists of C Coy, 1 Cn Cois, based in Clifden Co Galway.

Our first stop takes us to Fort Dunree overlooking the wild and beautiful Lough Swilly, seven miles north of Buncrana, on the Inishowen Peninsula. Today the fort is no longer an occupied post but rather a military museum. However, as it is still owned by the Dept of Defence the areas of the fort outside the museum are still used by units based in the west and north-west to conduct FIBUA and public order training.

Taking the time out to show us around the fort was Terry Tedstone.

Fort Dunree (An Dún Riabhach, meaning Fort of the Heathers) is located on one of the most majestic sites in Ireland. The scenery and wildlife tends to make visitors forget they are standing on a formidable military outcrop that bristles with decommissioned coastal defence guns.

A two-hour drive from Finner Camp will leave you standing overlooking the cliffs of the peninsula - next stop Iceland. The fort

dominates Lough Swilly, a place of huge strategic importance for centuries.

The Norsemen, the Anglo-Normans and the Gallowglass mercenaries from Scotland all used the lough as a route into the country. The Flight of the Earls, O'Neill and O'Donnell, took place from Rathmullan in September 1607 and Wolfe Tone was taken under naval arrest there and brought to Buncrana in 1798.

Near to the spot where Wolfe Tone was brought ashore in 1798 a small fort was erected by the Royal Navy as part of a series of defences around the lough to guard against the possible return of a French invasion fleet. These included artillery batteries at Rathmullan, Knockalla, Macomish, Dunree, Inch, and Ned's Point. In late 1895 the fort was modernised and enlarged with the building of the Top Fort on Dunree Hill. Two 4.7-inch QF guns were placed below; these were later replaced by 12-pdr QF guns, and two BL 6-inch MkVII guns in a battery above. The top of the hill overlooking the site was walled in to form a redoubt.

During World War I the fort stood guard against possible German naval incursions into the North Atlantic. Defences around Lough Swilly were increased and units were sent to Fort Dunree, Lenan Fort, and the naval base at Buncrana known as HMS Hecla. Admiral Lord Jellicoe's fleet anchored in Lough Swilly prior to engaging the German navy at the Battle of Jutland.

On the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Fort Dunree, along with the nearby Lenan Fort and its 9.2-inch guns, was one of



Terry Tedstone

the three 'Treaty ports' that remained in British hands up until 1938. (The other two were the defences in Cork Harbour and Bere Island.)

Interestingly our guide's father was stationed at Fort Dunree while serving with the Royal Artillery in 1934. "He married my mother who was a Doherty from Buncrana," Terry told us. "He was then shipped off to Malaya, and then to Malta in 1942. He was discharged in 1948. He passed away when I was 12 and we moved back to Buncrana."

As with many British posts in Ireland before and after the signing of the Treaty the British Army on the Inishowen Peninsula actively recruited from, bought supplies from, and its personnel married into, the local community.

"Here's one for you," Terry told us. "On October 3rd 1938 when the fort was handed over to the Irish Army, the Irish flag was raised by CQMS McLaughlin, 5 Coastal Defence Battery, while the British flag was lowered by Sgt King of the Royal Artillery. They were brothers-in-law married to two local sisters!"

During the Emergency 5 Coastal Def Bty was augmented by members of 15 Fd Bty, 3 Med Bty, and the Coast Watching Service. Air defence guns were also put in place at this time. Although regular firing practice took place the coastal guns never fired in anger. However, the air defence guns did fire at an unidentified aircraft in January 1941.

After the Emergency the army dramatically reduced in size and Fort Dunree became the responsibility of 4 Fd Arty Regt in Mullingar. A maintenance staff remained in the fort as well as an FCÁ coastal defence battery who fired the fort's big 6-inch guns in the summer of 1964.

With the outbreak of the Troubles in 1969 the fort was temporarily re-garrisoned by 14 Inf Gp.

On June 1st 1983 the post was taken over by 24 Inf Bn and so it remained until the mid-1990s.

The fort's guns are certainly impressive and are in great condition, some even with their originally manufacturer's name, Wolseley Motors, still on them. On display in the fort is a shell from Lenan Fort's 9.2-inch gun, which had a range of 15 miles. The museum is full of interesting exhibits and the pristine condition of them all is remarkable and a credit to the staff.

Terry told us that BQMS John Joseph Ferguson is the main man behind the museum and its exhibits. "He served in the fort for many years as cadre staff and hid a lot of the equipment so it wouldn't get destroyed," Terry said.

When the British pulled out they left everything behind for the Irish to use and that's exactly what they did taking over everything from the guns, to searchlights, rangefinders, telescopes, maintenance equipment, artillery simulators, and the list goes on. Over the years then as items became obsolete the BQMS would store them away. Consequently he had enough to open the museum in 1986.

The occasional nights when the sky over the lough is lit by a demonstration of the fort's still-working searchlights are a fitting tribute to the work of BQMS Ferguson.

Fort Dunree is also home to 28 Inf Bn's museum, which was moved there several years ago following the closure of its former home, Rockhill House Military Post outside Letterkenny. This is one of the finest unit history collections in the Defence Forces, with uniforms, equipment, and personal memorabilia dating back to the founding of the unit and tracing its history at home and overseas. The fact that this is open to the public means the history of the 28 Inf Bn can be shared by all.

Every so often the military side of Fort Dunree comes alive, reminding tourists that the fort was not always a museum. The fort offers similar training opportunities to Fort Davis in Cork, with gun emplacements, bunkers, steep hills, and deserted billets. Consequently, throughout the year the upper redoubt echoes to the barking of orders and the admonishments of instructors to recruits to keep their heads down.

Leaving Fort Dunree behind we will head south next month to Bere Island Military Training Camp, another part of the country steeped in military heritage and one that offers some of the best training facilities in the Defence Forces. ■

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE  
**AN COSANTÓIR**

# FIRE!

BY SGT KARL BYRNE, CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN AND A/B DAVID JONES

**O**n 10th December 2013, a Cavalry Corps day and night shoot took place in the Glen of Imaal, Co Wicklow, at which the Corps' fleet of Scorpion CVR(T) and Mowag Piranha III vehicles were put through their paces.

The Cavalry is one of the corps that provides the 'teeth' of the Defence Forces and has a long and proud tradition of service. Originally, it was called the Armoured Car Corps and was armed with a fleet of light armoured vehicles. Over the decades, the fleet has evolved from: Landsverk armoured cars, Comet and Churchill MBTs (1950s), Panhard AMLs (1960s), Scorpion CVR(T)s (1980) to the latest AFV investment in two variants of the Mowag Piranha III, the Close Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) and Medium Reconnaissance Vehicle (MRV), both entering service in 2008.

Read more at: [www.military.ie/army/organisation/army-corps/cavalry/](http://www.military.ie/army/organisation/army-corps/cavalry/)



# Historic Pensions Collection Launched

BY MICHAEL KEANE, MILITARY ARCHIVES

**1** 6th January 2014 witnessed the first release from the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection (MSPC) through the website of the Military Archives – [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie). In this first online-only release files relating to 3,200 individuals, including 2,400 veterans of 1916, have been processed, databased, scanned, and made available online for searching and viewing. On top of that the files within the collection containing the membership rolls for the Irish Republican Army (IRA), Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann and the Irish Citizen Army (ICA) have also been made available in the same way, representing the primary organisations of the revolutionary period.

The MSPC is undoubtedly one of the most important Irish archival collections and should prove a rewarding and invaluable source for the family-, local-, and academic historian. In total the collection contains c.300,000 files relating to up to 80,000 individuals. The material relates largely to the administration of claims for pensions, gratuities and allowances made under various military service pensions acts and army pensions acts. These claims were made in respect of service rendered and/or wounds or disease suffered arising from service rendered between 1916 and 1923, during the 1916 Easter Rising, War of Independence and Civil War. They also relate to claims from the dependants of those killed, or whose deaths could be attributed to their service, between 1916 and 1923.

Additional material relates to applications for medals in respect of service between 1916 and 1921. Please note that this material is due for public release through the Military Archives during 2015.

The collection covers those involved at all levels of the Irish Volunteers, IRA, National Army, Óglaigh na hÉireann, ICA, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann and the Hibernian Rifles, not just on the island of Ireland but also in England, Scotland and the United States of America. As well as the testimony and claims of the individual

applicants, the files contain references and statements from their peers and/or commanding officers.

From the files we can see that applicants faced intense scrutiny from those statutory bodies set up to adjudicate on the claims of service pension applicants – the Board of Assessors, Military Service Pensions Act, 1924 and the Advisory Committee, Military Service Pensions Act, 1934. These bodies were largely comprised of veterans from the independence struggle. The Secretary to the Board of Assessors was Gearóid O'Sullivan, a 1916 veteran and former IRA and Defence Forces Adjutant General. Similarly Séamus Robinson and John McCoy, divisional and brigade commanders with the IRA, sat on the Advisory Committee.

As a further aid to the verification of pension claims under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934, the officers of the IRA, ICA, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann provided detailed membership lists for the War of Independence and Civil War periods. As mentioned above all of these membership rolls have been made available online through [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie) as part of the first release.

These listings give the individuals names and addresses, where known at that time, and cover not just the entire island of Ireland but also Britain (the IRA, and in some cases Cumann na mBan units/members, centred in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle-on-Tyne and London, as well as Scotland) and the USA (participants in the IRA gunrunning operation from New York to Ireland).

Additionally, in the case of the IRA a comprehensive listing of activities undertaken, and of the personnel involved, was also provided. This too covered Britain and the USA as well as Ireland. (Please note that this material, at present undergoing treatment for conservation, will be released at a later date).

Thus a high level of evidence of 'active service' was required and only those who could show that they had actually struggled, fought and sacrificed were rewarded. Unsurprisingly there-



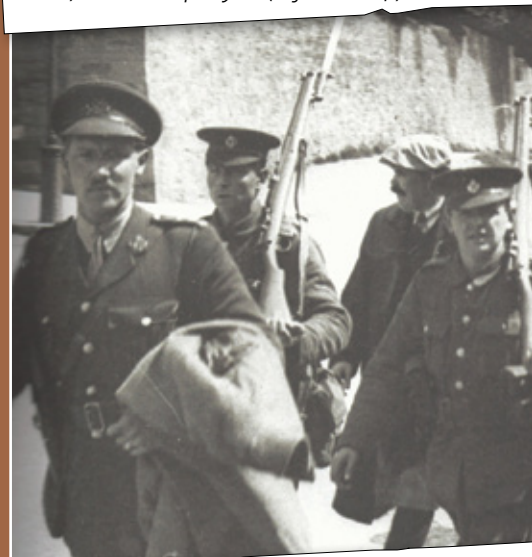
A group of Irish prisoners deported from Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin, to Oxford, England, February 1917; featuring Liam Pedlar, Miceál Ó Foghludha, P McCartan, B Mellows, Seán T O'Kelly, D Figgis, [ ] McCabe, S O Ceallaigh, Joseph McBride and [ ] Healy. (Ref: IE/MA/BMH/CD/95/3/14)



Group photograph taken at Sinn Féin headquarters, 6 Harcourt St, Dublin, October 1918. Back row: Seán Milroy and Robert Brennan. Second row: Diarmuid Hegarty, Michael Nunan, Dan McCarthy, Michael Collins, Vera McDonnell, Desmond Fitzgerald, Anna Fitzsimmons Kelly, Brian Fagan and W Murray. Front row: Joe Clarke, Barney Mellows, Jenny Mason and Séamus Kavanagh. This photograph, along with photocopies, is from a series held within the Collins Papers called 'Captured Photographs'. The photocopies are of a version published in *Allegiance* by Robert Brennan and are attributed to the Irish Press. (Ref: IE/MA/CP/A0863)



Photograph of a group of prisoners, Stafford Jail, England, c.1916. Included in the picture are Seán O'Briain, Fergus Kelly, Eunan McGinley, Desmond Ryan, Denis Daly, Bryan Joyce, Eamon Dore, Joe Sweeney, J Kilgallan, Tom Clifford, Eamon Bulfin (circled), Colm Murphy, Frank Burke, Fergus Kelly, Michael Collins ('X' over his head) and Dr Joseph Ryan. (Ref: IE MA P41)



Two Enniscorthy prisoners being brought to Kilmainham Prison, 1916. (Ref: NMI EW32)

fore, out of about 80,000 applications for service pensions, only just over 18,000 were ever awarded.

Those applying in respect of wounds and disease, and those applying as dependants of deceased members of the forces also faced serious levels of scrutiny. Medical examinations were mandatory for those applying in respect of wounds and disease and applicants had to prove that they suffered a disability of over 20% to receive any recompense. Material relating to these examinations and the resulting decisions are generally contained on file.

Dependants had to prove financial dependency on the deceased and faced investigation from the Garda Síochána, local area Customs and Excise officers and local area social welfare officers, depending on the date of application, as to their means, circumstances and degree of dependency on the deceased. Again, many of these examinations and investigations are documented in the files.

These files contain a wealth of previously unavailable information relating, in the main but not only, to the revolutionary period. Details of the organisation, structure, make-up and activities – planned and actual – of these organisations are laid bare in unprecedented detail. Many will be surprised at the level of organisation of the IRA during the War of Independence. Its structures at once mirroring the conventional forces they were facing while also adapting relatively quickly, and with intelligence and sophistication, to the needs of asymmetrical warfare.

More importantly for the family researcher, the files often follow the applicants across their lives. This is true regardless of whether the applicants are successful in receiving pensions/awards etc, or unsuccessful and appealing earlier decisions or applying again under new legislation. Therefore the file can in many cases contain material such as: addresses for the individual spanning the period from the date of their first application for pension (generally between 1923 and the 1950s) up to their deaths, and, on occasion, addresses at the time of their service/activity; information as to the individual's previous and subsequent employment history, especially if in receipt of public monies, ie in the employ of the state or local government such as civil servants, local council employees, teachers, etc; reference or material relating to the pensioner's parents, siblings, wives/husbands and children; and either or both of the dates and places of birth and death are often on file.

The files can provide a remarkable insight into the personalities and lives of these men and women. We see too evidence of the suffering, mental and physical, of many who took part. Suffering induced not only through what they had endured but also through what they had inflicted on others.

The material thus provides a huge amount of information about Irish economic and social history. It also reflects the spread of Irish emigrants across the world from the 1920s to the present day. In the first release we see pension applications and/or related correspondence from the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, Germany and Spain as well as England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Similarly the

membership rolls, containing addresses for the War of Independence and Civil War era of the IRA, ICA, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann veterans in the 1930s, clearly reflect how emigration had scattered these men and women across the world.

For the family-, local- and national historian this collection is a treasure trove. The incredible amount of detailed information relating to the years between 1916 and 1923 contained within the collection will undoubtedly lead to a major reassessment of the history of the period. ■

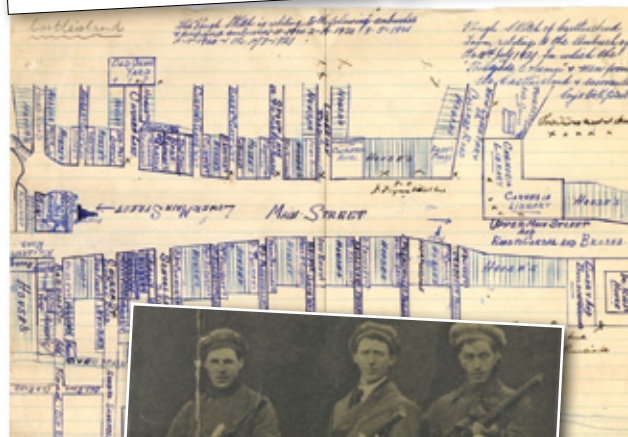
#### See more at:

[www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection/](http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection/)

#### END NOTES

*The Irish Volunteers – (formed in 1913) became known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) following the declaration of an independent Irish republic by Dáil Éireann in 1919 and the taking by its membership of the Oath of Allegiance to Dáil Éireann; Cumann na mBan, a women's auxiliary formed in 1914, worked in support of and alongside the Irish Volunteers/IRA; Na Fianna Éireann was a youth/scouting organisation formed in 1909 (active in its own right it also served as a training/feeder organisation for the Irish Volunteers and IRA); the Irish Citizen Army (ICA), formed in 1913 as a workers' defence corps during the Dublin Lockout and linked to the Irish trade union movement, was, through its leader James Connolly, a major factor in the 1916 Easter Rising (although the organisation continued in existence after Connolly's death and throughout the War of Independence and Civil War, it never reached the same prominence again).*

*Sketch map of a detail at the corner of Castleisland Main Street and Chapel/Church Street (Cork Road, Co Kerry). It is noted that the red crosses denote where the ambush and the shooting of Whippen (Black and Tan) took place and the blue crosses indicate where the ambush and the shooting of Head Constable Storey and Sergeant Butler which took place on 8 May 1920. Map signed by Timothy O'Connor, O/C 1st Battalion, Kerry II Brigade. (Ref: IE/MA/MSPC/A/6 a & b)*



# Local company integral to online launch of

## THE MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS COLLECTION

BY JACINTA GREEN, MALLON TECHNOLOGY  
PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN, PR BRANCH

**T**he Irish Military Service Pensions Collection was launched 16th January 2014 in the G.P.O. by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D., and is a cornerstone project of the Irish Government Decade of Centenaries 2012-2022.

Cookstown digital archive specialists, Mallon Technology, were an integral part of the project having won the tender to digitise the paper documents into digital format. The project was awarded to Mallon Technology in 2010, who supplied a team of 4 archive scanning personnel to the home of the collection in The Cathal Brugha Bks, Rathmines for 3 years. The entire Collection comprises of some 300,000 files generated as a result of applications for service pensions from veterans involved in the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War; allowances from the dependants of those killed or from those wounded on active service and the award of the 1916 Medal and The Service (1917-1921) Medal.

In launching the release of material on line, the Taoiseach said "I would like to thank all those who have put so much work into bringing this project to fruition today. As well as bringing the era to life for a new generation, this online archive will provide a great resource for those already interested in the period. It is an important part of the Government's Centenary Commemoration Programme and honours the memory of those who lived and served their country during this defining period in Irish history."

Mallon Technology Managing Director Ciara McQuillan, who attended the launch, said, "We were delighted to have been invited to attend this prestigious event and recognised on the night for our input into the project. It was an honour to be involved in such an intriguing and important project." A phased release of the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection is planned, with this first stage primarily focused on the participants of the 1916 Rising and includes extensive information regarding divisions from Belfast and Derry. Future releases of material from the Military Service Pensions Collection will take place over the coming years.

Speaking in relation to the launch, Minister Shatter said, "The Collection records the personal commitment and sacrifice by those men and women who shouldered the task of gaining independence for this country. The release of these records to researchers will transform the scholarship of the period, and provide Irish people at home and abroad with fascinating and copious information about their ancestors who played a part in the establishment of independent Ireland."

The material is available to search and view online



### SEARCH THE COLLECTION

Explore the many testimonies and accounts of the surviving leaders, the veterans and volunteers who took part in the historic events of the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence and Civil War, along with a plethora of supporting documentation gathered from the participants through the unique collection that is the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection. For the first time, the collection is being made available on a phased basis leading to 2016.

> MORE INFORMATION

### ABOUT THE COLLECTION

**Want to know more about the collection?**

The collection comprises of a large and varied corpus of archival material and records. The two broad streams of legislation are used to illustrate the nature and content of the personal files of applicants and the relevance of the supporting administrative records and other material in the collection.

> ABOUT THE COLLECTION

### SPOTLIGHT - ACTIVE SERVICE



**What is active**

The term "active" refers to the granting of categories of a Army Pensions Military Service 1934 and the Military Pensions (Armed Forces) Act 1934. The work of the progressed it by a deep dissatisfaction part of the veterans under the legis

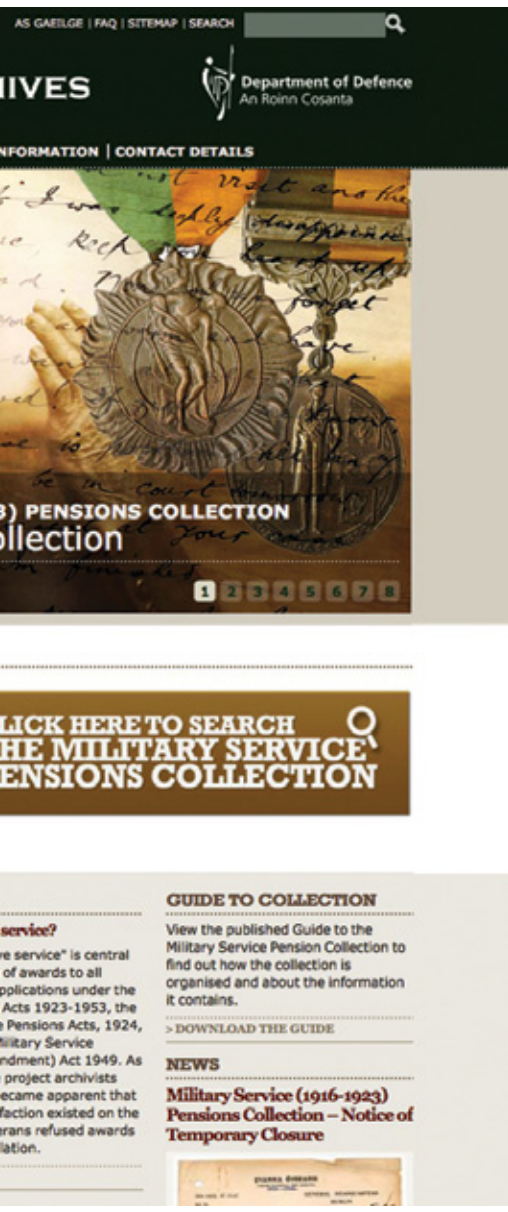
> FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ACTIVE SERVICE

## About Mallon Technology

Mallon Technology was formed in 1995 and are Geospatial Capture/ Digitisation specialists. Our customers are Government departments which include Department of Defence, Marine, The Department of Defence, Scottish Environment and Heritage, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Houses of the Oireachtas and Irish Local Authorities.

Contact Mallon Technology on Ph: 028 8676 1800 or see advert on page 24.

at [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie).



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**PENSIONS COLLECTION**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**CLICK HERE TO SEARCH THE MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS COLLECTION**

**GUIDE TO COLLECTION**

**service?**

View the published Guide to the Military Service Pension Collection to find out how the collection is organised and about the information it contains.

**NEWS**

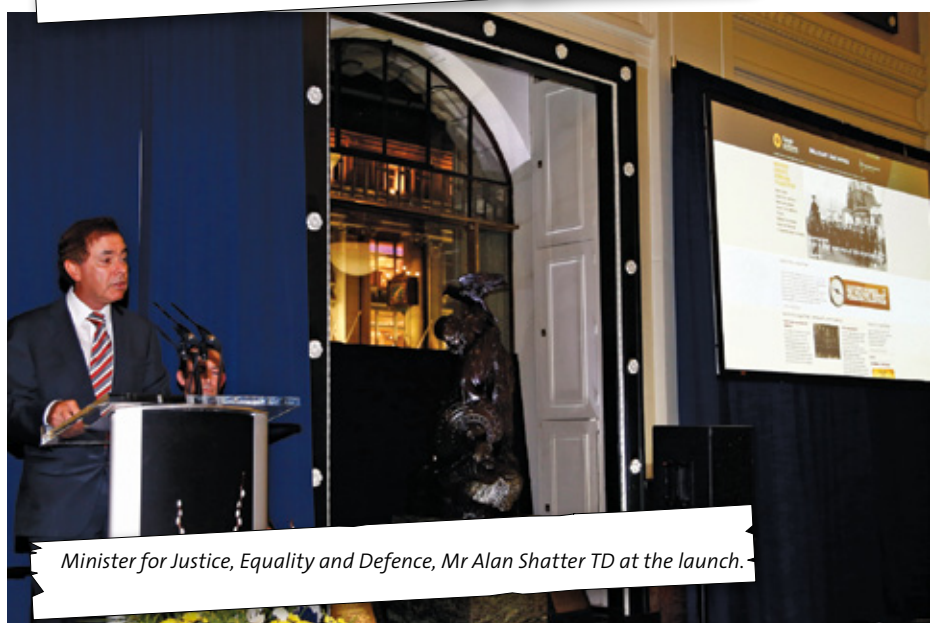
**Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection - Notice of Temporary Closure**



Professor Risteárd Mulcahy, son of General Richard Mulcahy, with the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle.



Pictured are An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, retired Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave, son of Easter Rising veteran WT Cosgrave and the Comdt Pádraic Kennedy, OIC of Military Archives, at the launch.



Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD at the launch.

Geographical Information and Data are primarily National and Local Government of Agriculture, Food and the Environmental Protection Agency, of the Oireachtas and the majority of

or visit [www.mallontechnology.com](http://www.mallontechnology.com)

# SUSTAINED SUPPORT

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS BY 2/LT ALAN MARKEY, D COY, 27 INF BN

**T**he Belgian-made 7.62mm GPMG, both bipod and tripod variant, has stood the test of time having been in service with the Defence Forces for 50 years, and is also used by many other armed forces around the world today.

The General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) Sustained Fire (SF) forms one of the three sections of the weapons platoon (along with a 60mm mortar section and an 84mm anti-tank section) of the rifle company in the standard Defence Forces organisation. The GPMG SF section, which is comprised of three detachments, gives the infantry company commander extra fire support to bolster the rifle platoons. The weapons platoon is considered a company asset and as such the company commander may give instructions for it to be broken down and for control of the various detachments to be distributed to the rifle platoon commanders. In such cases the weapons platoon commander will co-locate with company HQ in order to assist with the company's fire plan.

When used in the tripod-mounted SF role the GPMG is employed as a medium machine-gun to support the company in offensive and defensive operations, and during withdrawal. The weapon is very effective in this role as it can accurately hit point targets up to 1,800m away or provide fire over a target area with an average rate of fire of 800 rounds-per-minute. The weapon's crew consists of the detachment commander, gunner, and loader.

A C2AI sight is used in conjunction with an aiming post to allow the crew to record targets for engagement when they cannot be observed due to darkness or battlefield conditions. This ensures that the GPMG SF can be relied upon to support troops during night operations. ■

*Pictured are members of 27 Inf Bn, both permanent and reserve who took part under the single-force concept in a recent GPMG SF shoot in the Glen of Imaal, Co Wicklow.*



## GPMG SF STATISTICS

Manufacturer	FN Herstal
Weapon Type	Medium machine-gun
Country of Manufacture	Belgium
Entered Service	1964
Calibre	7.62mm
Ammunition Feed	Belt fed
Weight	13.85kg (gun plus tripod)
Mode of Fire	Automatic
Range	1,800m
Rate of Fire	650 - 1,000 rounds-per-minute





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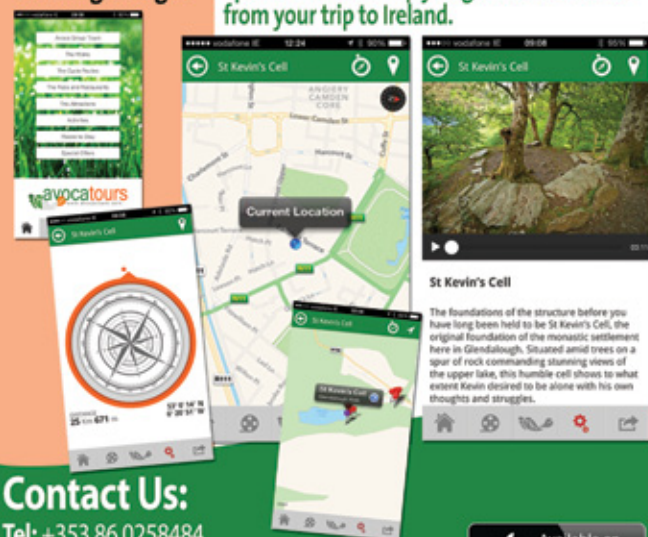
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# Flight Safety

Flight Safety is everybody's concern and in order to enhance flight safety within the Defence Forces, all personnel are encouraged to report all flight safety issues. The prevention of incidents and accidents is made through regulations, education, and training and is in everyone's interest. Whether you're a visiting infantry unit conducting heli-drills or attending a course of instruction – keep your senses aware at all times and remember once you come through the main gate at Casement Aerodrome – *Safety Starts Here!*



This tac-aide is designed for the protection of personnel and equipment. Please read this document carefully and comply with all recommendations.

While on the base all personnel working on the Ramp side should be in possession of and use their Reflective Working Apparel (Hi-Vis Jacket) and Ear Defenders (Peltor H10A recommended).

Foreign Object Damage (FOD) is a major hazard in the aircraft environment. In order to minimise this risk all personnel are reminded to remove all litter and loose waste and place them in the bins provided.

## Airfield Safety Brief

### Aircraft

- Beware of Jet Blast
- Beware of Propellers
- Stay away if Anti Collision lights are operating

### Vehicles

- Be aware of other vehicles
- Always stay on marked roadways
- Camp Speed limit is 20kph

### Foreign Object Damage/Debris (FOD)

- Nuts and Bolts, paper, plastic, empty cans, etc
- Can threaten the safety of aircraft
- Always clear up rubbish
- Always pick up FOD and bin it
- Always tidy up after you
- Don't leave anything lying about

### Weather

- High Winds: Always tie down equipment that may blow away
- Fog: Always slow down. Know where you are and any special procedures that might apply

### Dangerous Goods

- When dealing with spillages follow proper procedures
- Identify the substance, contain the spillage
- If serious call Airfield Crash Rescue Service
- If toxic or radioactive keep people well away

### The various reporting systems available are:

- Mandatory: ACMOR / Ground Incident Report
- Confidential: CONFIR / TORque

## ACCIDENTS ALWAYS REPORT INCIDENTS & ACCIDENTS!!!

Contact Flight Safety Office  
RSM Feargal McMahon  
Ph: 01 403 7890 or 7891 or  
email: fergal.mcmahon@defenceforces.ie



# THE DALLAS CARBINE

BY MICHAEL O'REILLY

**A**ssuming that a dozen men in their later sixties were to assemble in a lounge bar, it's likely most of them would remember where they were on the day that President John F Kennedy was shot. Likewise, they would probably remember the highlights of the dramatic events which unfolded in Dallas, Texas, on that fateful November day in 1963.

However, if asked what type of rifle Lee Harvey Oswald was alleged to have fired the fatal shots from, the answer could be slower to emerge. For the record it was a Mannlicher-Carcano.

Of all of the bolt-action rifles used in WWII, the British .303" Lee-Enfield and the German 7.92mm Mauser Kar 98 were probably the two best known. Next would probably be Russia's Mosin-Nagant, France's Lebel and Mas, followed by Italy's Mannlicher-Carcano.

Clearly in the lower league of famous rifles, whatever prominence the Carcano gained after Kennedy's shooting has paled with the passing of time.

The Carcano, in common with most WWII bolt-action rifles, had its origins in the late 19th century. In the 1880s the Italian defence ministry set up a commission under Col Gustavo Parravicino at the state arsenal in Turin to investigate various designs to replace their ageing Vetterli rifle.

The design selected was a modified form of the 7.65mm Belgian Mauser. The chosen design was developed during 1890-91 by the two men honoured in the rifle's name.

Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher (born Mainz, Germany, 1848; died Austria 1903) was one of Europe's most prolific firearms inventors, carrying out much of his work at the Steyr arms factory in Austria. His main contribution to the new Italian rifle was the patented clip-loading magazine.

Lt Col Salvatore Carcano (1827-1903) undertook the main design of the rifle working in consultation with Col Parravicino.

The weapon had quite a short development period and was accepted into service by the Italian army as the Mannlicher-Carcano Model 1891 on 29th March 1892. Of 6.5mm (.256") calibre, it held six rounds; was 50.8" long with a 30.71" barrel; weighed 8lbs 6ozs; and was fitted with a knife bayonet.

As well as Turin, these rifles were made in other state arsenals like Brescia and Terni. Private concerns, such as Pietro Beretta of Gardonne, were also involved in their manufacture. From all the above it's understandable how the rifle was sometimes referred



to as the 'Parravicino-Carcano' or 'Terni'.

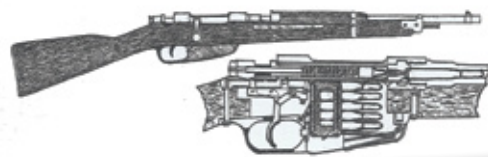
Over its 54-year production life this weapon became noted for its different lengths and variants, although the basic action remained common to all of them. Following the traditional Mauser pattern, recesses are machined on the inside rear of the receiver ring to accommodate the bolt's two locking lugs. Just to the rear of this, an oblong opening is cut in the bottom of the receiver. This opening is profiled to retain the top end of the cartridge clip and the magazine is similarly profiled.

As the rifle's bolt handle lies forward of the bridge when locked, the bridge is slotted to allow for the passage of the handle when unlocking. Beneath the bridge there are two small rectangular holes in the bottom of the receiver. The forward, offset, one admits the bolt stop, which itself pivots on an arm of the trigger. The stop bar retains the opened bolt by bearing on its right locking lug. By fully pulling back the trigger the stop is depressed, thus allowing the bolt to be removed. The other, centreline, hole allows the spring-loaded ejector to protrude from its seating on the front of the sear housing. A third hole is cut in the receiver's tang to enable the sear to engage the cocking piece.

The bolt is of a one-piece design, having two opposed locking lugs and a gas vent at its front. The extractor's tapered stem is dovetailed into its body. During extraction a cammed groove in the bolt body aligns with the ejector and allows it to rise and

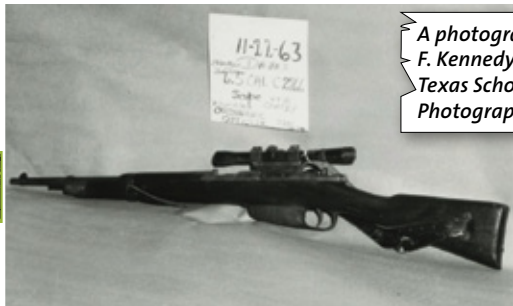


*Carcano Model 1891 infantry rifle with bayonet*



*Drawing of the Dallas Carbine minus its telescopic sight and sling. Also a drawing of its action cocked, with a live round in the chamber.*

A photograph acquired from the Dallas Police Department/Dallas Municipal Archives John F. Kennedy Collection, shows a 6.5 mm Carcano Model 91/38 carbine rifle recovered from the Texas School Book Depository after the November 22nd, 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy. Photograph: Dallas Police Department/Dallas Municipal Archives/University of North Texas



Ammunition (L/R): 7.92mm Mauser, 6.5mm and 7.35mm Carcano



A 6.5mm Carcano round on the left compared to a British .303" Mk. VII round with 174 grains bullet.

expel the empty case from the bolt face. The safety sleeve locates in the rear of the bolt with the cocking piece behind it. The cocking piece cam interacts with a slot in the bolt. The base of the bolt handle forms a solid rectangle and, as it lies just forward of the bridge, acts as a safety lug should the front lugs fail. This action cocks on raising the bolt handle. The trigger guard and magazine is an integral unit secured by bolts to each end of the receiver.

The magazine houses the follower mechanism in its forward section, while at its bottom rear it is open. A catch at the rear of the magazine holds the single row, six-round clip in place. When a loaded clip is pushed down into the open action until it clicks, it seats the bottom of the clip in the magazine and fully depresses the follower against its spring. As this leaf spring decompresses it pushes the follower arm up through the clip, thus lining up the uppermost cartridge for chambering by the bolt. The loaded clip can be popped up out of the action by depressing the catch on

the front of the trigger guard. When firing, after the last round has been stripped by the bolt the empty clip falls out of the magazine's rear opening. Without these special clips the Carcano can only be used as a single shot. This entails more effort, however: in clip loading the cartridge slips under the extractor, whereas with hand chambering the extractor has to be forced over its rim.

As dirt can enter the magazine through its rear opening, some operators had them blanked off and converted to top lip ejection.

A novel feature of these rifles is that they used gain twist rifling in which the twist of the rifling gradually increases towards the muzzle. The theory behind this was that by combining a lower chamber pressure with a light bullet and increasing rifling it was possible to obtain a normal muzzle velocity with less recoil. However, some were of the opinion that this could slur the bullet jacket and thus degrade accuracy. The rifling consisted of four grooves with a right-hand twist.

An adjustable tangent rear-sight was fitted to the earlier models.

The rifle's round is known as the 6.5mm/52.5 Carcano (the latter numerals denoting the case length), a rimless, 162-grain, round-nose, jacketed bullet.

In 1905 Japan purchased a consignment of these rifles, chambered for their 6.5mm Arisaka round.

Two derivatives of the rifle are worth mentioning: the Truppe Speciali Carbine and the Italian Youth Carbine. The former was the equivalent of the US M1 Carbine and was issued to specialist troops like drivers, gunners, radiomen and cooks. The latter was a scaled down copy of the rifle, only 30" long and 3lbs 10ozs in weight. Also 6.5mm calibre, it was either rifled or smooth bored and was designed to fire only blanks. This carbine was primarily intended for the drilling of boys during the 1930s Fascist period in Italy.

As a result of the Abyssinian campaign of the mid-1930s the Italians decided that the 6.5mm round needed upgrading due to the round-nose bullet's ballistics comparing unfavourably with contemporary pointed types. Subsequently, during 1938 a newly re-barrelled 7.35mm calibre rifle, the Model 91/38 Carcano, was introduced. Modified by Roberto Boragine, its two other main differences from its predecessors were that it used uniform twist rifling and the rear-sight was fixed at 300m. The 7.35mm bullet was semi-pointed and jacketed, and at 128 grains was lighter than the 6.5mm, due to its aluminium nose. This bullet tended to tumble if it hit any obstacle, thus inflicting a more severe wound. As their cases were similar both rounds used the same clip.

A special grenade launcher could be fitted to these rifles. However, as it required a loan of the rifle's bolt to fire it, the 'grenadier' could be temporarily left defenceless.

Some experts believed these conversions could pose a danger due to higher chamber pressures.

During their winter war with Russia in 1940, the Finns purchased some of these 7.35mm Carcanos and in the latter stages of WWII the Germans re-chambered quantities of them for their 7.92mm Mauser round. In post-war years similar weapons turned up in Israel and Syria.

While still converting to the new calibre Italy joined the war on 10th June 1940. Consequently, they decided to discontinue the calibre upgrading and to revert back to the 6.5mm round. This included reconverting quantities of the 7.35mm models to the old calibre. After the war many rifles of both calibres ended up in the US, having been brought home by serviceman or imported as war surplus.

This brings us full circle to the Dallas carbine. On 20th March 1963 one of these surplus Carcanos was mailed by Klein's Sporting Goods of Chicago to a Box Number in Dallas. The addressee's name, 'A Hidell', is generally believed to have been an alias for Lee Harvey Oswald. The rifle, serial no C-2766, cost just \$29.95 including postage.

Although commonly referred to as a carbine, this author understands that it was a reconverted 6.5mm Model 91/38 Short Rifle, made in Terni in 1940. Holding six rounds, it was 40.2" long with a 20.9" barrel, weighed 7lbs 8ozs, had a muzzle velocity of 2,320ft per sec, and was fitted with a Japanese x4 telescopic sight and sling. ■

TPR KEVIN BOWLES  
TPR KEVIN BOWLES  
TPR KEVIN BOWLES

*"The top  
competitors  
are the  
Hungarians,  
who I  
was most  
wary of"*

# Kickboxing Champion

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD  
PHOTOS SGT KARL BYRNE & CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN





**T**pr Kevin Bowles joined the Defence Forces in November 2011 with 30 Recruit Platoon and trained in Gormanston Camp. “I was very fit on enlistment as I was holding the Junior National 74kg World Association of Kickboxing Organisations (WAKO) title,” he told us, “and this helped me in training.” After his recruit and three-star training he was posted to 2 Cav Sqn, Cathal Brugha Bks.

Kevin has been kickboxing with Spartan Martial Arts since he was 13 years old and his trainer, Robbie McManamee, is a six-time WAKO European/World champion.

In 2012, Tpr Bowles suffered a back injury that stopped him training for six months. As a consequence of the injury he also had to forfeit his national title.

In January 2013 he returned to the ring and fought in the 91kg category of the Nationals, where he took the title. It was a best of three contenders event, with older and more experienced fighters. “I had great respect for them as they were very good fighters,” he continued.

In December 2013 he went to the WAKO World Championships in Anatolia, Turkey, where he had four fights against different opponents from around the world. “The top competitors are the Hungarians, who I was most wary of,” Kevin said, “but I avoided them, coming up against a Brazilian, a South African and a top fighter from Tajikistan. I won the first two bouts, each of which consisted of three five-minute rounds.”

In his quarter-final match, the fighter from Tajikistan won the first round, the second round was a draw and the top fighter from the Land of the Tajiks took the match by winning the third round. Kevin was disappointed in losing not only the fight but his WAKO title

and belt, he says he will push on from this experience in the World Championships with the Nationals coming up in February 2014, where he will fight to retain his Irish title and to fortify his place on the Irish team for the next European Competition.

Tpr Bowles finished by saying: “While I really enjoy the fitness aspect and the adrenalin rush on fight night I can’t see myself teaching the sport as I’m purely into it to better myself physically and mentally. I would like to thank my squadron officers, NCOs and colleagues for encouraging me and for facilitating my training in preparation for my fights.”


**If you have someone in your unit/formation who performs at the highest level of their chosen sport - let us know! ■**



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Amy Hopkins 

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**CHALLENGE**

National Aquatic Centre  
4th April, 2014

in aid of 



*The Clodagh Daly Trust*

Cpl John Daly set up 'The Clodagh Daly Trust' to try raise €150,000 to help his baby daughter, Clodagh, battle cancer. Clodagh was just five weeks old when she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of neuroblastoma. Now 15 months-old, she is undergoing treatment at Crumlin Children's Hospital. Parents John and Tammy want to reduce her risk of relapse by bringing her to a hospital in Michigan, US, that has already some success with a trial drug that reduces the risk of reoccurrence.

For more info, or to donate, visit:  
[www.idonate.ie/clodagh](http://www.idonate.ie/clodagh)

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# GEAR REVIEW



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## STREAMLIGHT POLY TAC 90 LED

**COLOUR:** BLACK  
**PRICE:** €39.99



### *The manufacturer says...*

This versatile right angle compact tactical flashlight can clip onto a turn-out gear, ACH or onto our new elastic head strap for a headlamp. It's super bright, can be operated easily with gloves and is encased in a virtually indestructible nylon polymer housing.

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3 modes: High – 7000 candela peak beam intensity, 170 Lumens, 3.75 hours runtime. Low – 700 candela peak beam intensity, 17 Lumens, 30 hours runtime. Strobe – 6 hours runtime. Two 3 Volt "CR 123A" lithium batteries with a shelf life of ten years. Head mounted push button switch provides one handed momentary or constant on operation. Fast double click from off to activate Strobe mode; fast triple click from off to activate Low mode. 90° head. One meter impact resistance tested. IPX7 rated design; waterproof to one meter for 30 minutes. Integrated carabiner style D-ring for a variety of attachment methods. Fully rotatable/reversible/removable clip to allow a variety of mounting positions. LED Solid State Power Regulation provides maximum light output throughout battery life. Individually serialized for positive identification. Optional Gear Keeper® system for attaching the light to turnout gear or other clothing or equipment. Gear Keeper features a retractable attachment system with a high-strength nylon tether with a 36" extension and 6 oz. of retraction force. Black, Yellow or Orange

### *Our reviewer Tpr Kevin Bowles (2 Cav Sqn) says...*

I tested the Streamlight Poly Tac 90 LED both on duty in barracks and out on the ground during exercise. It is a great piece of kit, and well worth the €40 price tag for its hardwearing and robust design. The light has many features most important was its high beam illumination which was great, second most important feature was how to attach it to your kit; there are many ways to do this, which makes the light adaptable to different uses. Either attached to your helmet using the helmet strap (not supplied), or the clip for your webbing and by the carabiner style link on top. Battery life would be my only concern – always carry spares! Highly recommended.

*Lumens 9 - Battery Life 8 - Waterproof 8 - Durability 9 - Value 9*

## BLACKHAWK ADVANCED TACTICAL ELBOW PAD

**PRICE:** €10.00



### *The manufacturer says...*

Specifications: 600 denier nylon shell, substantial protection in a lightweight, durable package, non-slip, flexible, moulded polyurethane cap, contoured interior ledge prevents pad from slipping downward, closed-cell foam padding provides excellent shock resistance and little or no moisture retention, hook & loop elastic straps and available in foliage green.

### *Our reviewer Cpl Dave Kelly (3 Inf Bn) says...*

Although the issue pads are good enough, it's always good to try other options out on the market, just to compare them. Blackhawk has a great name for making some good non-issue gear for soldiers. The elbow pads are just as good. They're lightweight and ergonomically designed, so they don't slip or drop and they're comfortable when worn over a smock. The only downside is the size, I found them just a little too bulky. It's a hard compromise to make, between protection and ease of use. If we didn't have similar kit on issue, I'd say they're great for the stop-start tempo of FIBUA, but just a little oversized for a week of patrol harbours and section attacks in the Glen. At this price (€10) they would be good kit for Airsoft/paintball enthusiasts.

*Fit 8 - Comfort 9 - Durability 8 - Protection 8 - Padding 7 - Value 10*

## COMPETITION

### This month Team-Alpha

**is offering a €100 Voucher to be used on their website [www.team-alpha.ie](http://www.team-alpha.ie).**

*For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: How much is a Benelli Branded Cotton Sweatshirt on [team-alpha.ie](http://team-alpha.ie)?*

**Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) by the 19th March 2014. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.**

*Last month's winner was: Capt Brian Cahill, Military College*



# NOTICEBOARD

## INTERNATIONAL VETERANS DAY

The Patrick Sarsfield Branch of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONet) will host an International Veterans Day in May 2014, as part of the Limerick's 'City of Culture' event. *"With over 30 International organisations invited, it will be an event of the year for all veterans."*

The event will take place on Sunday the 25th May 2014, commencing at 11:00hrs in Pery Square, Limerick City.

Any veterans who would like to attend please contact: Mr Joe O'Mahony, Branch Secretary. **Phone:** 061 418064 **Email:** lanabhfiann2014@mail.com

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/onepsb

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## Overseas Missions

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L	K	M	N	O	D	T	T	N	P	R	M	T	T	C
I	K	Z	Z	F	M	R	D	H	S	T	O	S	N	N
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P	A	J	J	M	F	K	L	J	R	O	J	H	L	B
I	C	L	J	O	S	T	N	U	U	A	R	U	A	K
J	Z	W	D	O	P	R	Q	D	N	J	J	Z	T	L
U	B	N	D	Y	B	M	F	A	I	M	M	F	M	A
Y	U	Q	J	I	D	J	R	H	M	E	I	H	R	N

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## FEBRUARY Q&A MARCH

**1. What year was the UN Trg Sch Ireland (UNTSI) established (this issue)?**

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a Defence Forces 'Goody Bag'.

Last month's winner of the 'Goody Bag' was Sgt Michael Doyle, J7, McKee Bks. Closing date is 19th March 2014.



## CURRAGH MUTINY SEMINAR

The 20th March 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the Curragh Mutiny. This occurred when 57 officers of the British Army's 3 Cavalry Brigade stationed at the Curragh Camp, indicated that they would resign their commissions if ordered to take military action against Ulster Unionist resistance to the implementation of Home Rule for all Ireland.

The Centre for Contemporary Irish History at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) will host a seminar to mark this important historical event on Friday 21st March, 2014, under the direction of Dr Eunan O'Halpin, TCD Professor of Contemporary Irish History. Speakers from Irish and UK universities have been invited.

**Timings:** full-day programme from 09.30 - 17.00, lunch is 13.00 - 14.00.

**Cost:** €45 (includes lunch in the Officer's Mess). The seminar will conclude with a reception in the Mess Bar. Booking forms and further details please e-mail: Tom Brace, tbrace@tcd.ie.

## BOOKS

### A QUESTION OF DUTY: THE CURRAGH INCIDENT 1914

**By:** Paul O'Brien  
**Publisher:** New Island Books (January, 2014)  
 (newisland.ie)  
**ISBN:** 978-1-84840-314-7  
**Price:** €12.99 (PB) **Pages:** 160

IN 1912 THE Ulster Volunteers were formed to block the introduction of Home Rule for Ireland. In response, the following year, the pro-Home Rule nationalist Irish Volunteers were formed.

The Curragh Incident, or Curragh Mutiny, occurred in 1914 when the British government was believed to be preparing to use the army against the Ulster Volunteers to ensure the Home Rule Bill was enforced. A number of senior officers in the Curragh, most prominently General Gough, threatened to resign if such action took place and also offered their subordinate officers the option of resigning sooner than moving against the Ulster Unionists.

In the end the Liberal government was forced into an embarrassing climb down, passing the incident off as an 'honest misunderstanding'.

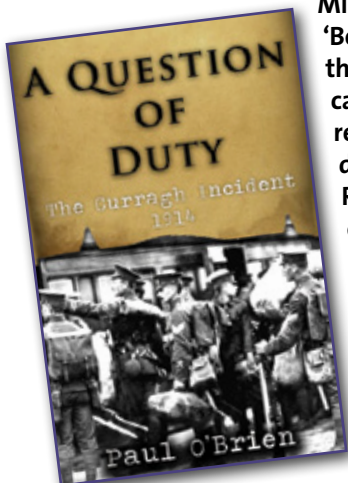
While often referred to as a mutiny, technically this wasn't the case as all of the officers involved intended to resign their commissions before refusing a direct order.

The event contributed both to enhancing unionist confidence and to the growing Irish separatist movement, by convincing nationalists that they could not expect support from the British army in Ireland. In turn, this naturally increased nationalist support for the Irish Volunteers.

This book gives a day-by-day account of the crisis and continues up to the start of World War One, where Kitchener's Army was then led by some of the senior figures from the Curragh Incident, whose loyalty was now in question by their military superiors and the government.

In addition to military enthusiasts and historians, most soldiers will also enjoy this story as it deals with the age-old problem for military personnel of obeying orders even if you don't agree with them. **WF**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Paul O'Brien is a regular contributor to *An Cosantóir*, and a recent winner of the European Military Publisher Association (EMPA) 'Best Article' (2013) award for 'At the Gates of Hell – Mali'. He has carried out extensive research in relation to Irish and British military deployments during the Easter Rising and has written a number of works focusing on the military aspects of the Rising. He is a keen collector of toy soldiers and currently resides in Dublin with his wife Marian, their new daughter Bláthnaid, and their two cats.



### BLACK FLAG

**By:** Jake Morris  
**Publisher:** Black Flag Books  
 (January, 2014)  
**Sold by:** Amazon Digital  
 Services, Inc.  
**ASIN:** B00CXAoPNW  
**Pages:** 349  
**Price:** €1.18



THE OPENING TAG-LINE says it all, "A find and a fix: that was the job. Locate the target, fix her to an address, observe and await further instructions. It should have been easy."

What happens next is a roller coaster ride for ex-British Army veteran Owen Gallagher and his closest ex-military associates, who band together and revive their past military exploits while trying to save the kidnapped 'mark' they were contracted to watch!

Captain Gallagher, a member of the Special Reconnaissance Regiment now retired, survives by doing off-the-books surveillance work for a government agency. Working alongside him is his trusted ex-platoon sergeant, Harry, or 'H' as he's more commonly called, who is an amputee. Both are veterans of the last Iraq war.

With the other team members made up of a homeless, young ex-squaddie, a private security operative with anger-management issues and a collection of London gangsters to 'mix it up' old style.

While trying to rescue their mark, a subplot escalates at a pace as terrorist cells try and draw the UK and US governments into a war against Iran.

*Black Flag* is a modern, action-packed thriller that features everything from espionage, terrorism and PTSD sub-plots, with some dark humour thrown in for good measure, and the complex plot will keep you guessing until the end.

If I could recommend just one fiction novel this year, this would have to be it; a surprising, and very likable read with real characters you want to follow until the end – I'm looking forward to the sequel. **WF**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Jake Morris (a pseudonym) is a former soldier, who holds a PhD in English literature and teaches writing to university students. He also supports disabled students in higher education - including ex-military personnel - and works to assist veterans organisations. Among his many interests, apart from writing, he is a voracious reader of fiction and non-fiction. He enjoys spending time with his dog and is a keen student of real ale. He can often be found listening to the Shipping Forecast and Test Match Special. Any spare time is spent staring at the sea while pretending to catch fish. He lives in Cornwall, UK, where he is currently writing the sequel to *Black Flag*.



**NAME**  
BILLY FAHY

**RANK**  
CORPORAL

**UNIT**  
1 CN COIS

**I** joined the Defence Forces in June 1998, where I was trained in the Brigade Training Depot (BTC) in Athlone. On completion of my training I was posted to 1 Infantry Battalion (1 Cn Cois) in Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa (Renmore Bks), Galway. After training, one of my initial infantry tasks was to go on border duties; this was a great experience where all our training was put into practice.

In May 1999 I went to Lebanon with 85 Inf Bn, UNIFIL, serving with C

*“I’m now looking forward to getting back into training them on their three-star course”*

Coy in Bra`Shit, which was something of a culture shock for an 18 year old.

On my return I was posted to Sp Coy, where I underwent many support weapons training courses: .5” HMG, 81mm mortar, 84mm anti-tank. I also completed an MT driver’s course.

In 2001 I returned to Lebanon and Bra`Shit with

88 Inf Bn. This was a much quieter trip as the Israelis had withdrawn from Lebanon the previous year.

On return to 1 Cn Cois I went on to complete a sniper course, which was the best course I have ever completed. I practice sniping any chance I get and always look forward to the annual DF Sniper Concentration.

I gained more overseas experience serving with the first (90 Inf Bn) and last (96 Inf Bn) missions to Liberia, in 2003/04 and 2006/07 respectively. This was a very different mission to Lebanon, and it took a good while to acclimatise to the heat.

Between my Liberia trips I completed a Light Tactical Armoured Vehicle (LTAV) course, where I was trained as a driver and gunner. I was also on the staff of a recce course, which kept my military and sniping skills honed while helping instructors setting out stands.

In 2012, I returned to Lebanon for a third time, serving with 104 IrishFinn Bn. I found Lebanon a very different country then as there had been many improvements in the infrastructure. The mission was also different to my last time here, less static posts and more patrols, especially of the Blue Line, which marks the border between Lebanon and Israel. However, some things

hadn’t changed and when I was posted to Post 6-52, known as The Field, I found it the same as I left it with 88 Inf Bn!

Shortly after returning to Ireland I went on a Potential NCOs course in the BTC, Athlone. At 32 years of age I was a very senior private, and that helped.

When I returned to the battalion some three months later I became a training NCO and my first task was to train 130 PI on their three-star course in Renmore Bks. I found my first time as an instructor very satisfactory, and as soon as 130 PI became three-stars I was straight back into training 131 Recruit PI as a section 21/c.

This was a challenging task, basically bringing civilians up to an acceptable level in weapons and tactics, fieldcraft, discipline and of course foot-drill. However, they were a great bunch of lads and they picked everything up very quickly. I’m now looking forward to getting back into training them on their three-star course where I will be a section commander. I then hope to complete a Standard NCOs course and progress up the ranks. However, I will always want to remain infantry. ■



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