

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

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July/August 2012



**90TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE HANDOVER OF THE
CURRAGH CAMP**

**IUNVA – A
BEGINNER'S GUIDE**

**MILITARY ARCHIVES
PROJECT**

THE YOUNG GUNS

IRELAND'S ACE OF ACES

**LE EITHNE'S ROV
COLLABORATION**

ISSN 0010-9460





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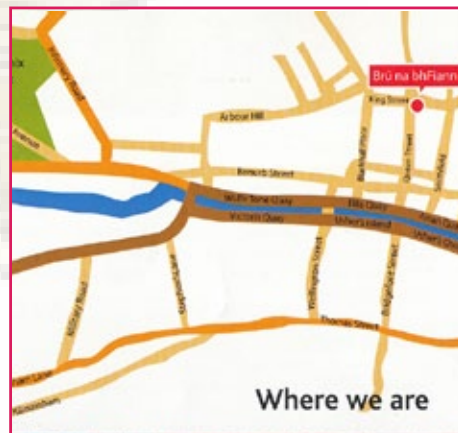
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Where we are



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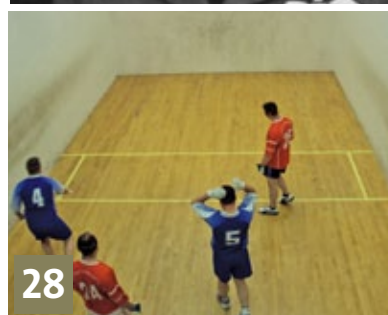
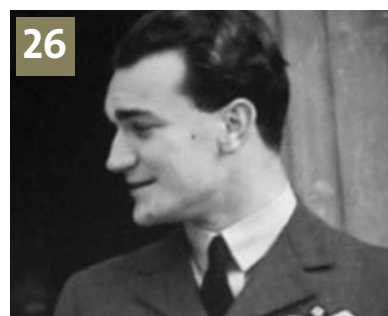
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Emergency Services Training Institute

Established in 2005, the **Emergency Services Training Institute**, (ESTI) offers flexible, cost-effective, professional education and training in emergency care, delivered by practicing and highly experienced emergency services professionals. Instructors, tutors and course facilitators who work for the emergency services training institute are drawn from members of the emergency services nationally. This allows trainers who are actually working in their areas of qualification to impart the most up to date and relevant information to the learner in their class as well as adding a valuable realism to support key knowledge objectives. Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) is now a national leader in emergency medical training and in all aspects of pre-hospital emergency care, health and safety, fire-fighting and fire prevention. ESTI is a recognised training institute of the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) who are a government body set up to provide training standards and clinical practice guidelines within the pre-hospital care environment.



The Newest courses under development being launched this year are the **"Tactical Medic"** and **"Advanced Tactical Medic"** courses. These courses teach first aid from a tactical perspective and incorporate skills which can be used "out of station" and other skills that can be used at home. The basic Tactical Medic course is open to all personnel who wish to broaden their medical skill set for operations at home or abroad, this 5 day course starts on 18th September 2012.

The **Advanced Tactical Medic** course is only open to current practitioners, EMT's and Paramedics. This 5 day course builds on prior knowledge and teaches new skills from advanced airway techniques, fluid administration, IV lines, suturing, blast, cut, fragment and projectile injury management to heli ops and tactical casualty extraction techniques. This course is intended for serious operators who need advanced skills on deployment overseas and is open to PDF, NS, RDF, NSR and Garda Siochana personnel. With realistic scenarios and foreign military medical instructors just back from operational tours, this course will be the future of tactical medical courses; this course starts on 25th September 2012

Currently our most popular and successful course is the **Emergency Medical Technician** course (EMT). Recognised by PHECC as a Practitioner level 4 course, this course allows successful participants to enter the professional register as EMT's and apply for positions in ambulance services, retained fire services and similar professional bodies that may require advanced medical personnel. This course is a 160 hour certified course that teaches Anatomy and Physiology; Patient Assessments; Respiratory Emergencies; Medical Emergencies; Obstetric Emergencies; Trauma including Spinal Emergencies; Pediatric Emergencies; Ambulance Operations; Legislation; Communications; Pharmacology; Intramuscular Injections and incorporates 40 hours of clinical placements on Ambulances with real patients.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our July and August issue, this month we increased by 4 pages to give you a bigger read for the summer. We start with your pictures in *On Parade*. *In Focus* features the heart-warming stories of Cadet Green (R.I.P.) and a Congo Vet honoured by his son. In *Young Guns* we take a look at the young Artillery Officers course by Wesley Bourke. We have a short story featuring the LÉ Eithne's ROV Collaboration by Cmdr Walsh, and another short piece on the Military Archives Image Identification Project by Capt Kennedy. Cpl Paul Millar gives us an introduction to the Irish UN Veterans Association (IUNVA). Next we have the Lebanon Diary from the 105 Inf Bn and the 106 IRISHFINN Bn.

Our centre spread is an article on the recent 90th Anniversary of the Handover of the Curragh Camp by Lt Col John O'Loughlen. Our *In Reserve* feature is about a 62 Res Arty Regt Shoot by Sgt Colin Stone. Our *History* section this month is about Ireland's World War II Ace Brendan Finucane by Maurice Byrne. In *Sport* we have a piece on the Rás Mumhan 2012 cycling race and an update on the DF Handball Championship 2012 and finally our other regulars - *Tac Aide*, *What I Do* with *Reviews* and *Gear Review* both extended to two pages we hope you enjoy this extended issue and also the Sliabh na mBan poster.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

PLEASE SUPPORT

By sponsoring Sgt John 'Charlie' Chapman run his 100th Marathon in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland



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Down Syndrome Ireland is the national organisation of people with Down Syndrome and their families with over 3,000 member families and 25 voluntary branches nationwide.

Down Syndrome Ireland is almost fully reliant on donations and fundraising to support their work, so every penny really will make a difference.

www.downsyndrome.ie - Charity Number: CHY 6062

Writing articles and letters

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

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

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

Sending in a photograph

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

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

than 3Mb (as jpegs)

- Resolution: 300 DPI
 - Dimension: 150x100mm (6x4in) minimum
- Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs, burn them to disc and post in! Clearly mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'. Also submit a short note with details like:
- Who took the photograph
 - What was the occasion
 - Where did it happen
 - Who is in the photograph (left to right, back to front, rank, first and surnames)
- If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

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

ON PARADE



EDUCATIONAL VISIT ▲

Pictured recently are 2nd Class teachers and students from Scoil Na Mainistreach De La Salle, Kildare Town. Who visited the Curragh Camp and Museum on a school tour. *Photo by: Cpl Noel Coss (PR Sec)*



◀ EUCARISTIC CONGRESS

Pictured at the 50th Eucharistic Congress held in the RDS are members of the Military Chaplaincy (l/r): Fr McCabe CF, Fr Dowd CF, Arch Bishop Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland), Monsignor Eoin Thynne and Fr Somers CF. *Photo by: Cpl Noel Coss (PR Sec)*



BEST FOOT FORWARD ▲

The Father Gilmore Branch ONE who took part in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Trim and were awarded a trophy for best new comers to the parade recently. *Photo: Noel Cloak PC (Asst PRO Fr. Gilmore Br ONE)*



'PROUD TO HAVE SERVED' ▶

On Sunday the 27th of May 2012, the Patrick Sarsfield Branch of ONE held their La na BhFiann at the ONE Monument in Pery Square, Limerick. *Photo: Joe O'Mahony (Branch Pres & Sec)*



JFK 50 MILE CHALLENGE ▼

Members of 56 Res Inf Bn at the start line of the JFK 50 mile Challenge in Sneem, Co. Kerry recently. *Photo: Capt Patsy Smith (56 Res Inf Bn)*



90TH ANNIVERSARY ▶

Pictured during the 90th Anniversary of the handover of Collins Bks, Cork are: Capt Rob Downey (COE 1 S Bde), accompanied by Sgt AJ Walsh (1 S Bde Trg Centre) as they raise the Tricolour. *Photo by: Cpl Christine O'Leary (1 S Bde Press Office)*





◀ DF DUATHLON RACE 1

Pictured on the 15th May are the prize winners of the DF Duathlon Race 1, (l/r): 2nd O/40 - Sgt W Callan (27 Bn), 2nd Snr Men - Capt O McGrath (AC), 1st O/40 - Pte C Gormley (27 Bn), Brig Gen P Fry (GOC AC), 1st Snr Men - Cpl G Crawford (28 Bn), 1st Nov Men - Cpl C Daly (4 Cav), 2nd Nov Men - Sgt M Gilligan (4 W Bde), 3rd Nov Men - Cpl O Stanley (AC). Photo: Lt Damien Kelly (302 Sqn, 3 Ops Wing)



CLASS OF 1962 ▼

Pictured on the 6 May 2012, at their 50th Anniversary Reunion are members of No 7 Platoon, Army Apprentice School, on the site of the former School, Devoy Bks, Naas now Kildare Co. Council offices. 36 members of the class were in attendance some had travelled long distances to attend. Plus the photo of their Passing Out Parade in June 1965. Photo: Mick Kelly (Main Transport Tech Stores, VBW & Chairman No 7 Platoon)



ONE SOUTHERN ▲ AREA COUNCIL

On Sat 19th May 2012, at the Times Square Hotel, Tipperary Town, 39 delegates gathered for the quarterly meeting of the Southern Area Council (SAC) of ONE. The delegates represented branches from the Munster region. Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS (PRO SAC, ONE)

IN REMEMBRANCE ▼

On Sun 13th May 2012 at Collins Bks Cork, The Thomas Kent branch of ONE combined its Lá na bhFiann with its annual commemoration ceremony for the executed 1916 Cork Patriot, Comdt Thomas Kent, from whom the branch takes its name. Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS (PRO SAC, ONE)



GROUND ZERO 360 EXHIBIT ▼

At a recent Photo Exhibit held in the Cork Vision Centre featuring the images captured by Irish Photographer Nicola McLean from Dublin that she took of the New York emergency services on the aftermath of 9/11 at Ground Zero. Nicola's husband Paul McCormack, is an Irish/American retired NYPD Deputy Inspector and exhibit director. See: www.groundzero360.org. Pictured (l/r): Nicola McLean presents piper Pte Freddie Strutt (Logs Base DFTC) with a copy of her book with Paul McCormack. Photo by: Sgt Barry McCarthy (Press Office 1 S Bde)



CONGO VET'S UNIQUE MEMORIAL

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS SGT MICK BURKE & NOEL MURPHY

This is a touching story of a man who fully restored a 1960 Lambretta and then dedicated it to the memory of his father and others who served in the Congo in the 1960s.

In 2009, Noel Murphy, from Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, came across a total wreck of a bike in a farmer's ditch in Co. Donegal. From the chassis number Noel was able to find out that it was a 1961 125cc Lambretta, Series 2, scooter. With this information he was also able to re-register the bike as 61 TS 22.

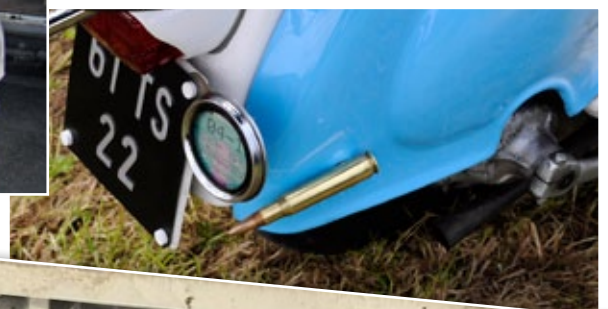
Noel's restoration of the bike was dedicated to the memory of his father, Pte Edward 'Chappy' Murphy from Clonmel, who passed away 14 years ago at the age of 63, and his fellow Irish soldiers who served in the Congo in the 1960s. "Especially," Noel says "the ones that never came home."

The artwork, which was done by Sean Egan from Wexford, incorporates a picture on the mudguard of Noel's mother and father before his dad flew out to the Congo. The side panel's have a picture of a UN jeep in the Congo, on one side, and a map of the Congo on the other. The buttons on the bike's saddle come from Noel's father's old uniform.

The restoration took Noel six months and cost €6,000. He is now the proud owner of a priceless piece of history, and while restoring it is a great achievement in its own right it is the artwork and dedication to his father and his Congo comrades that make it truly remarkable.

Noel also wishes to express his gratitude to Sean Egan and also to Derek Duggan from Waterford without whom he says the makeover wouldn't have been possible.

Noel, like many people in these difficult economic times, sadly lost his job and he is now looking for sponsorship to continue to paint more images on the classic scooter. These include an image of the Niamba Ambush and possibly the memorial to the fallen that was erected in the Congo. You can help Noel complete his dream by volunteering your skills or services. Noel can be contacted at noelmurphy60@yahoo.co.uk. ■



Remembering Cadet Andrew Greene

BY CADETS STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM AND MICHAEL ROARTY,
88TH CADET CLASS

Nearly 50 years after their commissioning members of the 35th Cadet Class recently returned to the Cadet School to remember the late Cadet Andrew Greene, one of their own who died during training. Cadet Green's old comrades travelled from all over the country to the Cadets' Mess, where they were warmly welcomed by members of the current 88th Cadet Class, along with Cadet School Comdt Lt Col Liam Condon and 2i/c Comdt Mark Prendergast. The visit was to be a poignant one as the family of the late Cadet Greene were also in attendance for the first time since Andrew's passing in 1961.

It transpires that the origins of this reunion can be traced back to a chance conversation in a taxi in Galway between Cdt Greene's sister, Mrs Bernadette Gannon, and the driver, retired Cpl Lar Carty of 1 Cn Cois. When Bernadette said that she had not been in contact with anyone from the Defence Forces since her brother died from leukaemia in December 1961. Lar took the initiative and got in touch with Capt Mairtín Coffey, who in turn called Comdt Prendergast in the Cadet School. Co-incidentally, Comdt Prendergast's father, Col Jim Prendergast (Retd), had been a member of the 35th Cadet Class. Work soon began, calls were made, and the Greene family was invited to visit the Cadets' Mess on Saturday, 21st of April, 2012.

The family didn't really know what

to expect when they reached the DFTC and they certainly didn't know that the winner of the Cadet School's annual 10km road race is awarded the Cadet Andrew Greene Perpetual Trophy, which was presented to the school in recognition of Andrew Greene's courage and resilience. They also found out that a picture of Cadet Greene hangs in the Mess anteroom, alongside those of other former cadets who died in service.

On their arrival the family were met with the warmest hospitality by members of the 35th Cadet Class who made it clear that they still considered Cadet Greene an important comrade, even after 50 years. For the family, especially Andrew's brother and sisters, the event was extremely significant and they were visibly moved as Comdt Joe Fallon (Retd) described how Cadet Greene pushed himself in training right to the end, even as the undiagnosed leukaemia sapped more and more of his energies.

Despite the fact that the strenuous training must have born heavily on Cadet Greene's increasingly fragile body, he displayed a courage and resilience that was testament to his character. His fellow classmates reminisced about

the illness and the eventual difficulties it caused him in carrying out even such mundane activities as getting out of bed and how, nevertheless, he soldiered on, not wanting to let his gasra down.

Lt Col Condon expressed his pleasure at being able to accommodate such a meaningful event and pointed out to the current cadets that they were receiving an important insight into the strong traditions of the Defence Forces and the lifelong bonds formed in a cadet class.

Cdt Greene's family had little time to come to terms with his illness as it took his life within six weeks of being diagnosed. With such a sudden progression of the illness, the family found it difficult to truly accept Cadet Greene's death at the time, and in the years that followed.

However, his sister Bernadette

said that meeting with members of the 35th Cadet Class and coming to the Cadet School and seeing how fondly Andrew is remembered, has helped to bring a sense of closure for his family at last. ■

Front Row (l/r): Brendan Gannon, Katie Gannon, Mrs Bernadette Gannon (nee Greene), Elizabeth Greene, Cadet Cunningham, Maureen Greene, Helen Greene, Seamus Greene, Paula Corscadden and Joe Corscadden. Also included are members of the 35th Cadet Class, 88th Cadet Class and Cadet School Staff.



Mrs Bernadette Gannon (nee Greene), Mr Seamus Greene and Ms Elizabeth Greene, sisters and brother of Andrew Greene.



Cadet Louise Fleming, Bernadette Gannon (nee Greene), Maureen Greene, Elizabeth Greene, Seamus Greene, Paula Corscadden (nee Greene), Helen Greene, Joe Corscadden, Brendan Gannon and Cadet Gavin Looney.

WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



EUROPE

The EU filed a complaint at the World Trade Organisation against import restrictions by **Argentina**.

Tomislav Nikolic won **Serbia's** presidential election beating Boris Tadic. Mr Nikolic used to be an extreme nationalist but has changed his tune, vowing to promote integration with the EU and promising to be a good neighbour in the Balkans.



In **Georgia**, as many as 80,000 protesters took to the streets of the capital Tbilisi, against President Mikheil Saakashvili who has been in power since the 2003 Rose Revolution.

Hundreds were injured and 17 killed when an earthquake hit the northern **Italian** region of Emilia Romagna on May 29th.

Skirmishes broke out along the **Armenian** and **Azerbaijan** border. Three Armenian soldiers were killed in the worst violence for several years. Another person was killed in the disputed Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. In a visit to the region by US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, she warned of 'disastrous consequences' if fighting spread.

AFRICA



Former president of **Liberia**, Charles Taylor, was sentenced by a Special Court using the facilities of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague to 50 years in prison for helping rebels during the civil war in Sierra Leone.

Tensions along the Sudanese border with **South Sudan** eased as troops were withdrawn. However some troops still remain in the oil rich disputed region of Abyei.

Nigeria experienced its worst air disaster in two decades. At least 153 people died when a Dana Air jet flying from Abuja, crashed into a busy district in Lagos.

The separatist National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), formally declared its independence from **Mali** in April, and last month it announced that it had joined forces with Ansar Dine. The MNLA cooled this alliance when the two could not agree on how it would share power, but Mali, one of Africa's poorest countries, is now in a state of protracted limbo.

MIDDLE EAST

The conflict in **Syria** has escalated; the Free Syrian Army reported it would no longer abide by the UN and Arab League ceasefire. They reportedly killed 100 government soldiers in one clash. On June 6th, 78 people were slaughtered in a village near Hama. In one incident Syrian government forces and militia, killed over 100 civilians mainly women and children in the town of Houla. The unrest is now into its 15 month, outright Civil War seems imminent.

Protests broke out in Beirut, **Lebanon's** capital, after eleven Lebanese pilgrims were kidnapped in Syria. The Free Syrian Army said government forces were responsible. In Lebanon people are divided over the uprising in Syria.



Egypt's first round of presidential elections saw Muhammad Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood receiving 25% of the vote. Former President Hosni Mubarak and former interior minister, Habib al-Adli, were sentenced to life in prison for their role in the brutal suppression of protesters in last year's uprising. It was announced that Mr Mubarak has suffered a stroke and is in a coma but he remains in "critical but stable condition" in prison.

In **Baghdad** a suicide bomber, presumed to be a Sunni, killed at least 18 civilians outside the headquarters of a Shia religious foundation.

ASIA

In **Myanmar**, Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, paid a visit to President Thein Sein and Aung San Suu Kyi. India and Myanmar share a border and long held ties. Miss Suu Kyi went on to visit Thailand, the first time she left Myanmar since 1988.

Accusations of espionage erupted in **Japan** after the Japanese police informed the media that they were investigating a Chinese diplomat. The Chinese have denied they were spying.

Despite four years of deliberation **Nepal's** Assembly was dissolved, after it failed to agree on a constitution. There is a division whether to split the country along ethnic lines.

After two **Tibetans** set themselves on fire outside the Jokhang temple in Lhasa, the Chinese security forces reportedly arrested around 600 people.



A US drone strike in **Pakistan** killed Abu Yahya al-Libi, a senior Al-Qaeda figure. He has been described as the groups 'general manager'. Two days later suicide bombers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, killed 22 civilians. Kandahar has suffered the worst in the Taliban's spring offensive which began in April.

US Defence Secretary, Leon Panetta toured **Asia**. He said that by 2020 three fifths of Americas naval assets will be located in the Pacific, compared with only 50% today.

THE YOUNG GUNS

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN



The Artillery Corps is a vital combat support element responsible for supplying the Defence Forces with fire-support on ground-based operations, and air defence. Artillery gunners are trained to find hostile targets through the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), radars, and fire-support teams (FSTs). They also gather information using specialist digital communications systems, which are used to transmit target information and orders. The Corps can provide fire-support with heavy mortars, light guns, or missile systems.

To become an officer in a field artillery or air defence regiment a lieutenant must complete the 26-week Young Officers (YOs) course. “The Artillery YOs course gives them a firm foundation in all aspects of field gunnery and air defence,” explained Capt Bernard Behan (Instr Arty Sch). “They will qualify as gun position officers through the acquisition of high-level, map-reading and survey skills. They will also qualify as command post officers, which means they can command and control a full battery of guns. They will also receive an introduction to FOO/FST training, which incorporates the use of the OP suite, battalion-level fire planning and use of the battalion’s OS assets. Also, they will be qualified to operate as air defence radar commanders with the Giraffe Mk IV radar for important on-island operations or VIP state visits.

The 26-week course is probably one of the most varied, challenging, and interesting courses in the Defence Forces. Before learning how to command a gun line the YOs have to learn how to use the 25pdr ceremonial gun, the L118 and L119 light field-guns, and the Ruag 120mm heavy-mortar system. These guns come with a wide range of ammunition including high-explosive, proxim-



ity, delay, illumination and smoke.

They also receive familiarisation training on the mini-UAS, and the surveillance target-acquisition system on the LTAVs (Light Tactical Armoured Vehicles).

In addition to the Glen of Imaal the YOs also exercise in the mountains of Cork and Waterford, and are tested on tactical deployment, movement, and camouflage and concealment. Deploying one gun and concealing it from view is one thing, but a whole battery of six? That is not an easy task.

The YOs course also covers subjects including field artillery instruments, equipment and gunnery; air defence; general terrain examinations; crater analysis; and ballistics.

"At the end of this course we want them to be able to confidently deploy a battery of weapons in support of an infantry battalion, either at home or on overseas service," Capt Behan says. "Artillery is a critical force-protection element overseas and there is a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of our YOs. In Lebanon the artillery officer has been called upon to fire illum from the 120mm mortars in the past, and these weapons also provide an ideal show of force. They have to be confident and competent to do that."

I asked Capt Behan about one of the lesser known subjects on the course, crater analysis. He explained that a trained artillery officer is able to determine some basic information from studying a crater. By using basic tests he can often determine what type of ammunition was used; what weapon was employed; and the direction of fire, which can enable them to identify possible hostile firing points. Bringing reality home, this process has been required more than once overseas.

When it comes to air defence, the primary role for 1 ADR over recent years has been ATPC operations such as the state visits of Queen Elizabeth and President Obama, where 1 ADR was deployed in strength to monitor Ireland's airspace. For operations such as these 1 ADR can call upon personnel from the other three ADR regiments. Officers

are trained in the Giraffe Mk IV air defence radar system while gunners man the RBS 70 air-defence missile.

On an exercise in Casement Aerodrome Capt Eoin McGeeney (Instr Arty Sch) had the YOs deployed in an air-defence exercise, tracking aircraft out to 50km, which would be a typical scenario in an ATPC role during a state visit. The YOs had to track and monitor a VIP travelling from Casement Aerodrome to Maynooth University, on to the National Stud, and from there to Government Buildings in Dublin. On the radar map there were clear areas of restricted airspace with corridors for aircraft to follow.

Unknown to the students Capt McGeeney had thrown in a few rogue intruders. "The YOs are able to distinguish by flying patterns which are friendly and which are not," Capt McGeeney explained. "The YOs are operating as watch-keepers in the Giraffe Mk IV and in the command post they are analysing the information received."

The air defence module of the YO's is five weeks long and at the end of it the successful students qualify as combat leaders on the Giraffe air defence radar. An artillery officer's train-



Vox Pops



ing doesn't end on completion of the YOs course. To progress within the Corps normally requires the completion of a wide variety of courses such as the M-UAS, FST/ FOO, LTAV, FCCS, Regimental Surveyors Course, Artillery Standard Officers Course, and Joint Fire and Targeting courses, which are being introduced this year. ■



Lt John Hopkins, 1 ADR, DFTC



The course was a great experience. I got to command a six gun battery. I also got to call in fire from Leitrim Observation Post. To see the impact and devastation that the rounds make on impact is impressive. From an ADR point of view I am now qualified on the Giraffe Mk IV radar. We will be very busy next year with the EU presidency. So for me to be able to go back to my unit and be operational is very important.

2/Lt Ciara Sheehan, 1 Fld Arty Reg, 1 S Bde



Great course. The staff in the Artillery School were excellent. Although it is a long course it is very varied. You are kept busy and always learning new things. The best part for me was the live firing. This is all your training culminating together and everything fitting into place. On this exercise you get to do all the appointments. I'm going to university in September to do corporate law so it was great to get the YO's course done so when I go back to my unit during my studies I will be qualified to work as an artillery officer.

Lt Ken Lyons, 2 Fld Arty Reg, 2 E Bde



I was in my unit for about a year before the course. So I couldn't wait. All aspects of the course were great. The live fire is impressive when you see it for the first time. I found all aspects of the course really interesting. I have my degree done already so I am looking forward to going back to my unit and working as an artillery officer. I would like to go on and do some of the specialist courses such as the LTAV.

Lt George Balfe, 1 ADR, DFTC



Very very good course. The culmination of all your training into the live fire was great. Fire planning, deploying, and then commanding of a six gun battery was great experience. From an air defence point of view to have the Giraffe Mk IV radar system on the course was great. It means we go back to our unit qualified on that system. Twined with the RBS 70 it makes for a great air defence system. In the ADR our job as YO's is on the radar. The Gunners man the RBS 70.

Lt Justin Barry, 2 Fld Arty Reg, 2 E Bde



I'm in the artillery five years. I was completing my degree in Information Systems Management. So it was great to get on the YO's course. In my unit up to now I've just been doing admin appointments. A very enjoyable course, which was challenging in parts. At the end of every subject there was an exercise. These exercises were hard at times and you had to put in long days. The Gun Position Officers exercise in Comeragh Mountains Waterford/Cork was tough. A lot of running around in your appointment and the weather made the exercise all that much tougher.



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LÉ EITHNE'S ROV COLLABORATION

BY COMMANDER STEVE WALSH (OFFICER COMMANDING LÉ EITHNE)



The Naval Service recently teamed up with the UL Marine Robotics Centre to deploy (smart) remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) off the south coast of Ireland. The aim was to test a prototype control and guidance system that incorporates some of the latest developments in ROV technology. This system is under development in UL and not yet available

on the commercial market. The wrecks of UC 42 (a WW1 U-boat) and the Aud (the 1916 German gun-running ship) were the target vessels for the Naval Service's ROV Cherokee and the UL ROV Latis. Both ROVs were deployed from LÉ Eithne. This joint venture was the first of its kind to be developed under the framework of the Irish Marine Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC) and represents a synergy whereby the NS can benefit from leading-edge exposure and UL can test their ongoing system development. Essentially, the idea is to improve the knowledge-base of both partners and move the project along.

LÉ Eithne, originally built as a helicopter patrol vessel, was set up for five days of underwater operations at the Naval Base, where she embarked the ROVs, the containerised control systems, and provided support services on the flight deck.

The NS ROV, which operates to a maximum depth of 1,000m, has a five-function manipulator arm, high- and low-intensity digital cameras, and a high-intensity lighting system, was the first to deploy and was controlled from the Eithne by NS diving personnel. This ROV has been involved in numerous deep-sea search and recovery operations since 2005.

The Latis, which deployed next, is equipped with the first-of-its-kind precision flight-control and advanced autopilot system. This system follows precise transects from a multi-beam sonar for video imaging of underwater objects. With extreme fidelity in flight, high-quality imagery was obtained to build a three-dimensional model of objects encountered. The Latis team was led by Dr Dan Toal, who explained: "Our new-age features are not available on commercial ROVs and the overall goal of this project is to commercialise the technology ... to provide scientists with a transparent ocean view ... and fund further research." To date Latis has been operated under test conditions in numerous offshore surveys for ocean energy research, seabed mapping, habitat mapping, oceanographic and advanced marine sensor technology research, which encompasses patented sonar technology.

While the Eithne's week entailed a mix of seabed bathymetry, high-resolution multi-beam imaging, side-scan profiling, inertia navigation and ultra-short baseline underwater systems, the targeted wrecks also had interesting stories to tell.

In September 1917, UC 42 had been engaged in mine-laying at the entrance to Cork Harbour when she exploded, resulting in the deaths of 27 submariners onboard. On 2 November 1917, hardhat divers from the (then) Royal Navy base at Haulbowline, dived the area and positively identified the U-boat, noting the stern damage to the submarine. During 1918, the submarine was dived by British and American

divers in an effort to disarm the mines and torpedoes still aboard, with USS Melville salvaging three of the mines.

In April 1916, Roger Casement's gun-running ship the Aud was scuttled by her captain, Karl Spindler, rather than handing over her cargo to the British authorities. At the time of scuttling the Aud was under Royal Navy escort into Cork Harbour. Much of the estimated cargo of 20,000 guns and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition are still believed to remain onboard. The wreck was depth-charged by the Royal Navy on a number of occasions to make sure that the weapons were unserviceable, scattered and made unrecoverable by Irish rebel forces. The rifles and much of the ammunition originated in Russia.

The archaeological investigation of the wrecks was supervised by Dr Garret Duffy of the Martin Ryan Institute, located in NUI Galway. It was made possible by part funding from the Environmental Fund (heritage related projects) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The collaboration between the Irish Naval Service and the UL Marine Robotics team under the umbrella of IMERC, represented a venture in the furthering of research and development in the field of sub-surface search and recovery operations, ocean based research and other seabed interventions.

The ethos behind this and potential future joint projects was derived from the NS's and IMERC's vision statements. For the NS it is "to be the smartest, most innovative and responsive naval service in the world," while the IMERC's vision is "to promote Ireland as a world-renowned research and development location that unlocks Ireland's maritime and energy potential." The link between the two makes perfect sense.

For more info on LÉ Eithne visit: <http://www.military.ie/naval-service/fleet/helicopter-patrol-vessel/le-eithne-p31> ■

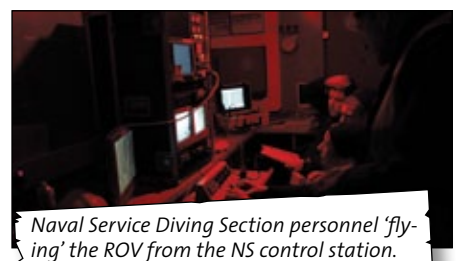
Multibeam sonar image of UC 42 (showing damage to stern).



ROVs Cherokee and Latis being prepared onboard LÉ Eithne.



Naval Service Diving Section personnel 'flying' the ROV from the NS control station.



IUNVA

A Beginner's Guide

BY CPL PAUL MILLAR



Born in 1989 out of a desire to represent those who had volunteered to serve overseas, the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) has become an organisation that is much admired and respected throughout the country. Membership, which now stands at 800, is open to anyone who has completed a tour of duty with the UN. This means that in addition to members of the Defence Forces, IUNVA also includes members of An Garda Síochána and civilian personnel, making it an all-encompassing association that covers all aspects of UN overseas service.

IUNVA has a constitution and a number of objectives, with its central focus being on helping people who have served overseas and their families when they encounter problems. This is achieved by supporting veterans and their families, and people who have lost loved ones in the service of their country.

A number of IUNVA posts exist around the country, forming the backbone of the association. At present there are 15 posts, each with their own chairman, secretary, treasurer, PR and welfare officer, and its own flag, designed by its members. These posts work with the association's president, deputy president, and National Executive Committee who have overall responsibility for the association.

In over 50 years of UN peacekeeping members of the Defence Forces have contributed over 60,000 trips to missions around the globe, with many indi-

viduals carrying out multiple trips. The pride in, and recognition of, this service is very important to IUNVA, with the construction and upkeep of various memorials throughout the country.

The association is well respected throughout the country and this can be seen in the support that it receives from the general public for its various fund-raising activities. And this support does not come solely from individuals; for example, in 1991 Aer Rianta generously sponsored the association flag that was used in an IUNVA ceremony at Dublin Airport, where the vast majority of Irish troops departed for overseas.

Members of IUNVA participate in various parades and ceremonies at home and abroad, often returning to the sites of former missions and battles to remember those who served, fought, and sometimes died, there.

The annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arbour House on the second Sunday in November has become an important occasion on IUNVA's calendar. This ceremony has grown through the years and is now regularly attended by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, members of the General Staff, An Garda Síochána, ONET, the Civil Defence, the Irish Guards Association, the Naval Association and representatives of the three services of the Defence Forces. The participation of the local community in this ceremony is a sign of the enduring support for IUNVA among the people that live close by and a symbol of the esteem in which the association is held, indeed the move into Arbour House was made possible by a committee of local people that lobbied for funding to restore the building. This resulted in the official opening of the UN Memorial Garden there by President Mary McAleese in 1998. From 2013, this ceremony will be held on the nearest Sunday to UN Day, the 29th May each year.

Funding is sourced through membership fees, voluntary contributions and fundraising events organised by members. In addition, members have always found the time to raise money for worthy causes, particularly in their local areas. As an example, in recent years the members of Post 20 (Mullingar) have raised over €70,000 for local charities, and this kind of activity is replicated in many other posts.

Excursions are a core activity for IUNVA, not just to former mission areas but also to events organised by fellow representative associations around the world. Galway's Post 30





Bangor 2007



IUNVA wreath laying ceremony



Tipperary 2010

has twice been invited to the New York and Boston St Patrick's Day parades, and in 2007 forty IUNVA members travelled to Bangor, Co Down, to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Somme Memorial at the invitation of the Royal British Legion. The most recent trip was 28th & 29th May 2012 to Sweden where two members were invited to attend a medal parade for veterans of the Swedish Armed Forces.

The varied locations of these trips include Messines, the Somme, Lebanon, Cyprus and Lourdes, to name but a few. One memorable visit occurred in 2006 when 37 members of the association visited the Old Shakeys, veterans of the 1607th Air Transport Wing, Delaware, who transported Irish troops from Baldonnel to the Congo in the 1960's when the Defence Forces embarked on its first major troop-contributing mission with the UN. The group from IUNVA were very well received at the USAF base with a reception held in the cargo hold of a giant C5 transport plane!

Many of these visits have been reciprocated during the years, with veterans from Austria, Sweden, Norway and America, among others, being welcomed here by IUNVA. The resultant relationships formed through these visits has meant strong bonds have been formed with other UN veterans associations, as well as comradeship ties with ONET, the Naval Association, the Royal British Legion and the Irish Guards Association.

A number of important ceremonies during the year are jointly attended by both the Defence Forces and IUNVA and an obvious friendship has developed between the two. Examples of this relationship include Post 5's presentation for the last number of years of a cup to GOC 1 S Bde for the brigade pistol competition, and the contribution of leisure equipment to the Chad-bound 100 Inf Bn in 2009 by Post 30.

Today, IUNVA has evolved into an organisation with an excellent HQ at Arbour House; a museum in IUNVA House; accommodation for five members in Griffith House in the Curragh; a mini-van for transporting its members; and over 12 monuments and memorials that it has constructed and maintains. The association continues to honour those who have served with UN peacekeeping missions and endeavours to provide meaningful support and comradeship to those in need.

Post 1, probably the busiest of all branches with over 300 members, and since January 2012 it now includes three former members of the Slovakian Armed Forces that have UN service, and is open Monday to Friday 10.00hrs – 14.00hrs and on Sundays 10.00hrs to 12.30hrs. Another way to gain contact with IUNVA is through their website, www.iunva.com, or by telephone at 01 6791262. ■

LEBANON DIARY

BY CAPT PAUL HOLOHAN (105 INF BN) & CAPT BRIAN CONNOLLY (106 IRISHFINN BN)



ON 5TH APRIL, 2012 - UNIFIL J3 (OPS) COL TACHON VISIT

Pte Dolan briefing Col Tachon at UNP 6-50

UNIFIL J3, Col Tachon was warmly welcomed to UNP 6-5 by acting OC IRISHBATT and newly promoted Lt Col Tim Daly. He received an honour guard complimented with traditional Irish bagpipes. A full operational brief was delivered to Col Tachon, followed by a visit to the Blue Line UN Posts 6-52 and 6-50 where he received detailed situational briefings. This was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities and further develop our excellent relationship with UNIFIL HQ.

ON 27 APRIL, 2012 - STRONGMAN COMPETITION

Pte Packie Walsh

The 105 Inf Bn held an internal Strongman competition in Camp Shamrock. The competition was one of many events held to allow personnel test their physical fitness, strength and endurance. The exercises included One Rep Max in bench press and deadlift. Timed events included a MOWAG tyre flip over 100metres, farmers walk and holding a kettlebell in both hands above the shoulders laterally for as long as the contestant could. With 20+ contestants weighing-in and getting exercises demos supervised by Capt Pdraig Duggan, Sgt's Dave

King and Michael Heavin.

The contestants performed to very high standards much to the enjoyment of the large supporting crowd. Pte Packie Walsh won the heavy weight division followed closely by Cpl John Hurley 2nd place and Pte Alan Leonard 3rd. Tpr James Moloney won the light weight division with Pte Tim O'Shea and Jerome O'Mahony coming 2nd and 3rd respectively. Lt Danielle Murphy won the tightly contested female division with Pte Natalie O'Sullivan runner up. This was an excellent challenge, testing both physical and mental strength enjoyed by both the contestants and spectators alike.



ON 28 APRIL, 2012 - CHARITY BOXING MATCH

Gnr Emma O'Reilly (blue) Vs Tpr Amy Crook (red)

The call went out in early January for any personnel interested in taking up a boxing challenge to raise much needed funds for charity and to pit their fitness and wits against an unknown but evenly matched opponent. 18 members of the 105 Inf Bn signed up to what was a very professionally run training period of 3 months, under the watchful eyes of experienced boxers Sgt Mark Sheridan, Cpl Patrick Whelan and Pte John Tyrell (All 3 Inf Bn). The volunteers were put through a rigorous fitness, strength and boxing conditioning programme. Sgt Mark Sheridan a recognised Boxing Referee with the Irish

Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) presided over the event ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all involved.

All fights were very well matched and lasted for 3 x 90 second rounds. Fitness, endurance and skill were evident in all boxers who provided excellent entertainment for the on looking troops. All fights were conducted with great sportsmanship, only a few small bruised egos were evident. The event raised \$4,250 (US) and all of this came from generous contributions from the troops of the 105 Inf Bn. A total of \$15,000 (US) was raised for charities across Ireland and Lebanon by the troops over their 6 month deployment. This being another side to the life of a Defence Forces Unit serving on the Blue Line in South Lebanon with UNIFIL.





ON 1 MAY, 2012 - SAINT JOSEPHS COLLEGE (SSCC), AYN IBIL

Situated in South Lebanon, Ayn Ibil occupies several hills with elevations ranging from 750 to 850 meters above sea level. Ayn Ibil is within the Irish Battalion (Irish Batt) Area of Operations (AO). The village is close to the Blue Line and is situated on the path of an ancient trade route that connected Tyre, Damascus and Haifa. Christian and Muslims students both boys and girls are all taught together. Our unofficial School motto is "all for one and one for all" - Sister Josephine NASR (School Director).

Irish Batt was requested in November 2011 to assist the School once a week for 3Hrs teaching conversational English to students of the Secondary School - ages range from 12-16 yrs, in order to improve the English Language programme for the School. This programme was run by Cpl Roch Ryan, Capt Rose-Anna White and Lt Amy Colclough. For the vast majority of the School (both teachers and students) it is their first interaction with people from Ireland, they really enjoy learning more about Irish culture and its people.

ON 10 JUNE, 2012 - FRIENDLY SOCCER MATCH

Members of 106 IRISHFINN Bn took part in friendly soccer match against the local soccer team of Bint Jubayl. This game took place after liaison between 106 IRISH-FINN BATT CIMIC team and the local leadership of Bint Jubayl. Overall, the game was a complete success with the Irish/Finnish finishing the game victorious with a score line of two goals to one. These games help to develop our excellent relationship with local communities.



ON 31 MAY, 2012 - WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

A wreath laying ceremony took place in Tibnin, South Lebanon. Col Ian Hanna, UNIFIL Deputy Force Commander Sector West, laid a wreath in honour of all members of the Defence Forces who have paid the ultimate price in the service of peace in South Lebanon. Also shown is an honour guard drawn from the 106 IRISHFINN Bn.



90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANDOVER OF THE CURRAGH CAMP



BY LT COL JOHN O'LOGHLEN
PHOTOS BY SGT JJ RYAN (HQ DFTC) OR AS ACCREDITED

Troops and equipment on display

There was a palpable atmosphere evident at this hugely historical event, which was held recently to mark the goth anniversary of the handover of the Curragh. It is 90 years since the departure of the British forces from the Curragh, which was their most significant withdrawal, as the Curragh was the Divisional Headquarters, 3rd in size only after Aldershot and Salisbury Plains. At midday on the 16th May 1922, at the agreed time, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time and the Irish Tricolour made its long awaited appearance, flying high above the area's most iconic landmark, the Watertower of the Curragh Camp. This last Union Jack can

be seen, as can the flying of the first Tricolour from the Watertower, courtesy of British Pathe newsreel, at the Curragh Museum.

The special parade to mark the handover, was organised by the Defence Forces Training Centre, and was attended by guests, local residents and children from surrounding schools. Brig Gen Seamus O Giolláin (GOC DFTC) took the parade. He then addressed the gathering, emphasising the historical importance of the day, but also posing the question to the troops on parade, how many various missions they have served in since the 75th commemoration, in 1997, and indeed, how many

more overseas tours they will have completed, when the centenary of the handover will be marked in 2022.

An ecumenical service was then performed by Monsignor John McDonald and Dean John Marsdon, to remember all those both military and civilian of the Curragh, who have passed away over the last 90 years.

Professor Eunan O'Halpin, Professor of Contemporary History, Department of History, Trinity College, Dublin, then addressed the audience, depicting the historical background and significance of the handover of the Curragh, 90 years ago. He said that this was a very significant event, not alone for the Irish

Army, but also for the British Forces, as this was their largest withdrawal from Ireland. He also made the point, that the takeover of the Curragh, provided a major base for the Irish Army, from which to operate, providing a footprint for the new state. This was historically very important, as this was before the outbreak of the civil war.

The scene on the 16th May 1922, when the handover took place, would have looked a little different from the commemoration. According to historical records, while the flag ceremony itself passed off smoothly, there was great tension and excitement in the air as Lt General JJ O'Connell, then Assistant Chief of Staff, climbed the watertower to hoist the Tricolour for the first time.

The British Forces remaining on the Curragh was in the region of 2,000 personnel, composed principally of the Leicester's and Northampton Regiment's. They proceeded to the railway siding at the racecourse, where they embarked for Dublin.

One of the few people who still recalls that day is Holy Family Sister Veronica Treacy, a native of the Curragh who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She recollects the "huge pride" and "sense of occasion and history" felt by all those present who witnessed the event.

The ceremony ended at midday, as it was 90 years before, with the raising of the Tricolour on the Watertower, the playing of Amhrán na Bfhiann by the 4th Western Brigade band, and all Officers saluting as the Tricolour reached its rightful place on the Watertower of the Curragh.

Also on parade that day was Sliabh na mBan, the armoured car used by General Michael Collins. It will also be the 90th anniversary this august, of his death at Beal na Bláth.

A reception was held afterwards at the Curragh museum, on show was the last Union Jack taken down from the Watertower, plus the newsreel of the first Tricolour flying over the water tower.

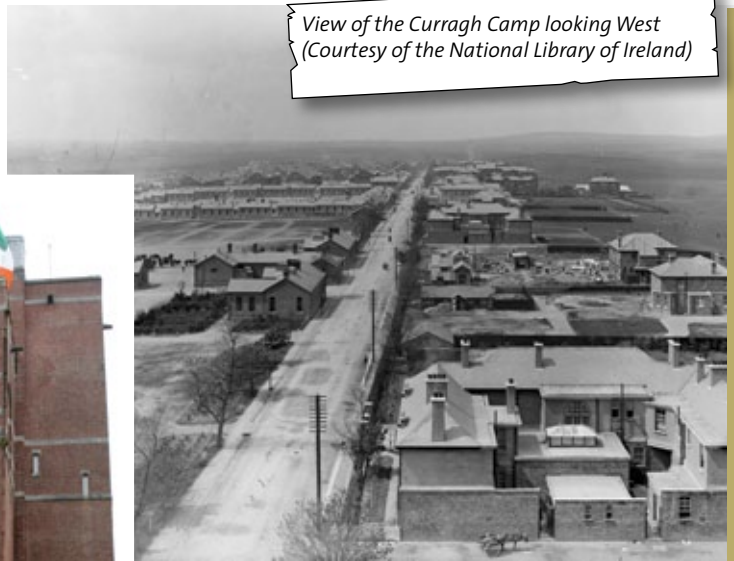
This was the beginning of many major commemorations which will occur over the next 10 years, beginning next year with the centenary of the Irish Volunteers, 1913 – 2013, from whence we came. ■



Water Tower with the Tricolour flying today



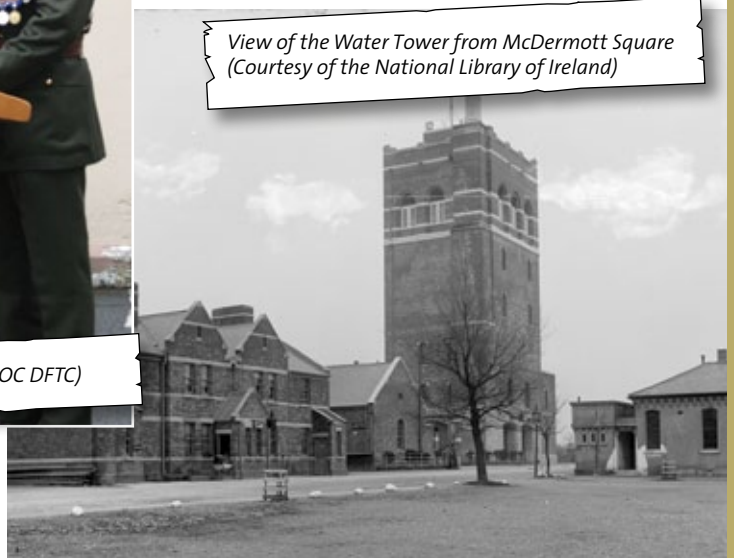
Brig Gen Seamus O Giolláin (GOC DFTC)



View of the Curragh Camp looking West
(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



View of the Curragh Camp looking East
(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



View of the Water Tower from McDermott Square
(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)

THE LAST AND THE NEW

BY SGT COLIN STONE (1ST BTY, 62 RES ARTY REGT)



With the introduction of the Swiss Ruag 120mm mortar in 2009, Annual Camp became a more interesting prospect. The 25pdr had served the Irish Defence Forces well since its introduction in 1949, training many generations of Irish Gunners. When it was time to retire this venerable weapon it would be safe to say that it was going to be a hard act to follow. The Ruag is like a precision Swiss time piece. It is a self-contained weapons system with spare parts, cleaning equipment and even the correct oils, all of which are contained within the carriage. All this equipment is listed to keep stock and to make sure that those parts will be present when it retires in a couple of decade's time, just like the venerable 25pdr.

We had a great shoot in 2010 but we felt in 2011 we wanted to push the envelope much higher and further than any other year as it was our Battery Commanders last camp. We had a long debrief after last year's successful shoot and we felt that we wanted to do something a little different this year to mark the special retirements. Quick actions are one of the best ways of testing a battery's efficiency and it tests every facet of the unit's organisation. Quick actions had never been tried before with the Ruag, in fact the drill for the quick action had not even been written yet!

Quick actions are necessitated by infantry or support units calling for artillery fire support on a specific target

within as short a time span as possible. The battery has to locate a fire position to occupy as fast as possible and set out the mortar tubes without the usual full survey as used with a deliberate deployment. Because the survey is not as detailed as a deliberate deployment it is up to the Gun Commander and Gun Position Officer to ensure the mortar is correctly laid out and ready to provide fire support as soon and as accurately as possible. The first ready mortar is laid out with a compass and when ready a round is fired. A line is laid out from this mortar to the director and the rest of the mortars are then laid out. As soon as they are laid out the Survey Officer reports that they are ready to join the Fire Mission.

Training for a quick action is a rapid tempo affair with individual gun crews going to extremes to be the first to report ready. The first crew to report ready on the day receive the lion's share of the ammunition allotment. By their very nature quick actions are very quick paced. To allow fast and fluid movement it was decided to carry live ammunition on the carriage after our first deliberate deployment. The carriage allows six rounds of ready use ammunition to be carried and it also changes the dynamic of the carriage. With the added weight the carriage became more of a challenge to operate. This was to be the first time that ammunition was allowed to be carried on a carriage. It is usually only

allowed overseas or in time of war. It was to be a camp of firsts.

It was also to be a camp of lasts. Three members of the battery were retiring after each giving extended periods of excellent service. You can only imagine the changes that these men have seen over their one hundred and thirty plus years of combined service. As with all retiring members of the Artillery Corp it is tradition that they fire their last round on their last camp before their retirement parade. It is a special occasion for the extended Reserve family and gun drill is to the fore with all the stops pulled out. It is our way of showing our appreciation for all the years of service. So from all of the Gunners, NCO's and Officers of the 1st Battery, 62nd Reserve Artillery Regiment may we wish Comdt Noel Kelly, RQMS Arthur Quinn and BQMS Paddy Whelan a very happy retirement and thank them for all of their efforts down through the years. ■



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THE PHONETIC ALPHABET



All military personnel are taught basic signal skills during Recruit/Cadet training and one of those areas covered is the use of the phonetic alphabet. The phonetic alphabet is a list of words that are used to identify letters in a message or call sign that is being transmitted by radio or telephone. Spoken words from an approved list are substituted for letters e.g. the word 'Army' would be transmitted in the following spoken words from the phonetic alphabet: Alpha Romeo Mike Yankee. This method of using words from the phonetic alphabet helps prevent confusion between similar spoken letters such as 'M' and 'N'. This clarifies communications that could possibly be garbled during the transmission of an important radio message.

The phonetic alphabet was first used in 1913; it has undergone a number of changes since then with the words used to represent a lot of the letters. When these changes take place they have to be made by international agreement. The current phonetic alphabet in use today was adopted internationally in 1957.

The Phonetic Alphabet from its inception to present day:

Letter	1913	1927	1938	World War 2	1957-Present
A	Able	Affirmative	Afirm	Afirm (Able)	Alpha
B	Boy	Baker	Baker	Baker	Bravo
C	Cast	Cast	Cast	Charlie	Charlie
D	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Delta
E	Easy	Easy	Easy	Easy	Echo
F	Fox	Fox	Fox	Fox	Foxtrot
G	George	George	George	George	Golf
H	Have	Hypo	Hypo	How	Hotel
I	Item	Interrogatory	Int	Int (Item)	India
J	Jig	Jig	Jig	Jig	Juliet
K	King	King	King	King	Kilo
L	Love	Love	Love	Love	Lima
M	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike
N	Nan	Negative	Negat	Negat (Nan)	November
O	Oboe	Option	Option	Option (Oboe)	Oscar
P	Pup	Preparatory	Prep	Prep (Peter)	Papa
Q	Quack	Quack	Queen	Queen	Quebec
R	Rush	Roger	Roger	Roger	Romeo
S	Sail	Sail	Sail	Sugar	Sierra
T	Tare	Tare	Tare	Tare	Tango
U	Unit	Unit	Unit	Uncle	Uniform
V	Vice	Vice	Victor	Victor	Victor
W	Watch	William	William	William	Whiskey
X	X-ray	X-ray	X-ray	X-ray	X-ray
Y	Yoke	Yoke	Yoke	Yoke	Yankee
Z	Zed	Zed	Zed	Zebra	Zulu

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

IRELAND'S ACE OF ACES

BY: MAURICE BYRNE
PHOTOS: RAY FINUCANE



A tired Brendan Finucane, 1942

On July 15th 1942 two Spitfires swept low over northern France. They were part of the Hornchurch Wing, which comprised of three squadrons on a mission to attack German troop positions at Etaples. Fighter Command's policy of taking the fight to the enemy, however, was becoming very costly in terms of both experienced pilots and aircraft. Leading the Wing on that day was a young Irishman, Brendan Finucane, or 'Paddy' as he was known in the Press from New York to Sydney. In a meteoric rise this 21-year-old Dubliner was now a wing commander, having taken part in the Battle of Britain as a pilot officer a mere two years earlier.

On entering the target area at very low level near Le Touquet, Brendan's aircraft was hit in the underwing radiator by a burst of machine-gun fired from a beach position. His wingman, Canadian 'Al' Aikman strafed the position while Brendan climbed to gain height. However, the aircraft was unable to gain enough altitude to return to base as the engine seized due to lack of coolant. Instead of parachuting and the certainty of capture he decided to ditch. A perfect approach and landing on the water was not enough to save him and his aircraft sank immediately. It is thought by many that his head went forward with the impact and struck the reflector gun

sight rendering him unconscious.

On its return the Wing stayed over the site until their fuel was nearly expended but nothing was seen in the water. It was a tragic end for a brave and courageous Irishman. Brendan's final score was 32 enemy aircraft destroyed, putting him among the highest echelon of Allied aces during World War II.

The story begins in Rathmines, Dublin, on October 16th 1920 when Brendan was born to Andy and Florence Finucane. He was the eldest of five children and was educated at Synge St CBS and then at O'Connell's Schools, when the family moved to Cabra, and finally Sandymount before leaving Ireland in 1936 to settle in Richmond, Surrey. An excellent athlete, Brendan excelled at Rugby, Gaelic football and boxing. He was also a member of the famous Neptune Rowing Club.

Brendan and his younger brother Ray had been fascinated by the exploits of the flying aces of World War I and then a flight at Baldonnel Aerodrome in 1932 ensured that flying would never be far from the Finucane brother's thoughts. Ten years later both would be fighting for their lives in the war-torn skies over Europe.

Despite his father's participation in the 1916 Rising, Brendan applied for a short-service commission in the RAF in 1938 with his parent's approval.

Having been accepted, he gained his 'wings' in 1939, despite not being a 'natural' flyer. Several months of inaction and ordinary flying duties would pass before he took part in the Battle of Britain.

Brendan's first operational posting, in July 1940, was to 65 Squadron at Hornchurch, which was one of the sector stations in 11 Group and right in the heart of the battle that was being waged against the might of the Luftwaffe. He recorded his first kill on August 12th when he shot down an ME109 at a range of 75 yards. His skill and ability of getting close to an enemy aircraft before opening fire would result in many future victories.

Promoted to flying officer on September 3rd, his squadron was sent to Scotland on rest while another rotated in. In this way Fighter Command was able to use its meagre resources.

Bad weather during the winter of 1940/41 prevented much day-time flying but did not prevent the infamous Luftwaffe night Blitz of Britain, nor did it prevent Brendan destroying an ME 110 early in the new year. His younger brother Ray had by now joined RAF Bomber Command as a wireless operator/air gunner.

A recommendation for the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and his logbook being signed 'exceptional'

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

meant that Brendan was being noticed by senior officers. Promotion to flight lieutenant came in April and also a posting to 452 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, as section leader. This squadron was the first flying unit from Australia in Europe and had not yet seen combat and Brendan's experience was needed to ensure the Australians' survival in the skies over northern France. The Australians were not used to the discipline imposed by a pre-war trained officer but Brendan gained their respect in a short period of time.

The DFC, which came through on April 25th, included the following notation: 'His courage and enthusiasm have been a source of encouragement to other pilots of the squadron.'

In mid-1941 Fighter Command had decided to take the war to the enemy by beginning 'Circus' operations, which consisted of a bomber force escorted by a large number of fighters attacking targets in northern France. The theory was to entice German fighters into the air and destroy them. With hindsight, these Circus operations must be seen as a failure. No 452 Squadron moved to the Kenley Wing and began operations over France in July 1941, which meant that Brendan was close to home and could visit his girlfriend Jean and his family in Richmond when he was not on flying duties.

With the squadron now equipped with the cannon-armed Spitfire Mk V, Brendan downed 18 enemy aircraft between August and October, earning him two bars to his DFC. With the shamrock emblem and his initials painted centrally on his aircraft forward of his cockpit, the propaganda value of an Irishman flying with a high scoring squadron of Australian pilots helped keep Fighter Command in the British and Australian public mind. The American Press also covered the story.

In October 1941 Brendan was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), second only to the Victoria Cross. He was one of the youngest pilots in the RAF to receive this honour at the time. However, Brendan's time with 452 Squadron would be short-lived as he was promoted to squadron leader of 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron in January 1942.

Brendan and Jean celebrated their engagement with family members in April. However, the strain of leading a wartime squadron was beginning to tell and Brendan was sent home on leave by the squadron medical officer. Photographs taken at the time tend to support this decision, as they show a man who appears much older than one who had not yet reached his 22nd birthday.

On June 21st 1942 he was promoted to wing commander (flying) of the Hornchurch Wing, and it is accepted that he was the youngest RAF wing commander, an amazing achievement even with accelerated wartime promotion.

Brendan has not been forgotten in his homeland and a beautiful rose dedicated to his memory stands in the Memorial Garden at Baldonnel. His logbook is on display at the superb 'Soldiers and Chiefs' exhibition in the National Museum at Collins Barracks, and the RAF Museum in Hendon proudly displays his uniform and medals.

Brendan's brother Ray completed 33 hazardous missions with Bomber Command before flying Spitfires and Hawker Tempests over Europe, ending the war as a flight lieutenant.

Dedicated to Monica Fuller (née Finucane) and 'Dickie' Finucane.

Maurice will be giving a talk on Wing Commander Brendan Finucane with the same title as the article in the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks on Saturday July 7th at 1pm. ■

STORY HISTORY HISTORY



STORY HISTORY HISTORY

RÁS MUMHAN 2012

BY CAPTAIN DAVE COUGHLAN (2 CAV SQN)
PHOTOS PAT DOHERTY

Easter weekend saw myself, Capt Coughlan and Lt Michael Barry (27th Inf Bn), competing in the Kerry Group Rás Mumhan, a four day international stage race open to amateur and professional riders from Europe.

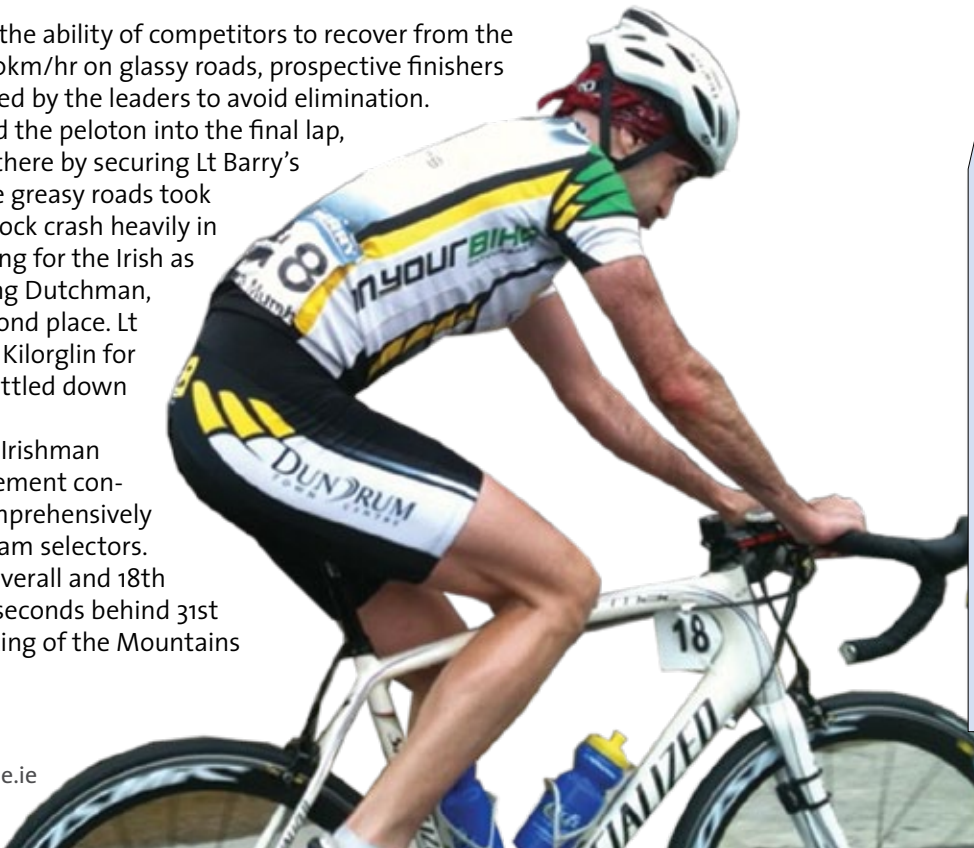


A field of 183 riders assembled in Kilorglin, Co. Kerry on Friday 6th April. The field included the elite of Ireland's domestic professional riders including Ryan Sherlock, Adam Armstrong, Conor Murphy, Sean Lacey (winner 2011) and Paidi O'Brien. The field also included elite teams from Italy, Holland and Great Britain. The following four days witnessed an epic battle played out on the windswept and mountainous roads of Co. Kerry. 485kms were covered in only 11 hours 47 mins, an average speed of 41km/hr.

The Atlantic cross winds and unpaved ascents broke the spirit and heart of some of Europe's finest bike riders but did nothing to dent the aggression and endurance of Lt Barry. He finished stage 3 in 10th position but moved to an overall 7th position. Sherlock moved into the race lead, acknowledging the help of Lt Barry in gaining the yellow jersey.

The final 110km, rain soaked stage, tested the ability of competitors to recover from the previous 3 days punishment. At speeds of 80km/hr on glassy roads, prospective finishers had to negotiate 10 laps without being lapped by the leaders to avoid elimination. Lt Barry, Paidi O'Brien and Capt Coughlan led the peloton into the final lap, doing all they could to keep the pace high - thereby securing Lt Barry's 7th position - and staying out of danger. The greasy roads took their toll. A lapse in concentration saw Sherlock crash heavily in the second last corner. This was heartbreaking for the Irish as it handed the overall race victory to the flying Dutchman, Dennis Bakker and demoted Sherlock to second place. Lt Barry and Capt Coughlan crossed the line in Kilorglin for the tenth and last time safely inside the whittled down peloton of 35 riders.

Lt Barry secured 7th place overall and 2nd Irishman after Sherlock. This is an astonishing achievement considering the quality of the Irish riders he comprehensively beat. It attracted the attention of several team selectors. Capt Coughlan finished the weekend 32nd overall and 18th Irishman. A fine achievement being only 27 seconds behind 31st place, professional rider and winner of the King of the Mountains competition, Conor Murphy. ■



DF HANDBALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

BY CPL ERIC O'BRIEN (USAC)

The first handball doubles in over 14 years took place on 31 May in the Handball Centre, Custume Bks, Athlone. All three infantry brigades were represented as well as the Air Corps (playing for 2 E Bde).

The championships were comprised of 2 teams from each Bde (Jnr and Snr), with the senior prize being the All Army Handball Doubles trophy that was first awarded in 1923, making it one of the oldest trophies in the DF and highly sought after in the handball family.

1 S Bde came out overall winners in both categories, no doubt due to the training regime watched over by Pte Colm Jordan (1 Fd Eng Coy). All games to qualify for the final were played up to 15 and the best of 3, with the Snr final being played up to 21 and the best of 3. In the Jnr Comp 1 S Bde stroled to the final where they met 4 W Bde, who unfortunately couldn't withstand the constant pounding from both sides of the court.

Mr Darragh Daly (Development Officer, GAA Handball) provided council to referees and even got in to show the troops that skill over power will always win a game after a challenge match against Pte Damien Brennan (3 Inf Bn) that went 15 - 2 to the professional. This was of course after Pte Brennan had proven to myself that he too had been training and doing a lot more of it after our game ended 21 - 0, 21 - 3 to Pte Brennan.

The Snr competition was more of the same with 1 S Bde side teaching both other teams a lesson on the way to the final. The closest match of the day proved to be the endurance match, in which 2 E Bde gave the boys from the West a battle that lasted over 50 minutes to qualify for the final against the mighty Southerners from Kilkenny.

Unfortunately the match against the West was to be the Dubs swansong and after a couple of handouts and aces 1 S Bde came out this years senior winners and won the honour of having their names engraved on one of our oldest trophies presented by the new EO 4 W Bde, Col Tom Aherne.

For further information on Handball in the Defence Forces contact: Cpl Eric O'Brien at extension 1763 or at eric.obrien@defenceforces.ie



TEAMS:

1 S Bde Senior Team

Cpl Eddie Clifford
(3 Inf Bn)
Pte Denis Dowd
(3 Inf Bn)

1 S Bde Junior Team

Pte Tommy Dillon
(4 Inf Bn)
Pte JP Ryan (1 LSB)

2 E Bde Senior Team

Tpr Stephen Smullen (EUBG)
Tpr Sean Walsh (EUBG)

2 E Bde Junior Team

Sgt John O'Brien
(2 E Bde HQ)
Armnr James Byrne
(Air Corps)

4 W Bde Senior Team

Pte Conor Laffey
(4 BTC)
Pte Chris Samuels
(4 LSB)

4 W Bde Junior Team

Cre Michael Merrigan (1 Cn Cois)
Pte Padraig Lyons
(USAC)

IMAGE IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

BY CAPT PADRAIC KENNEDY (MILITARY ARCHIVES)
www.flickr.com/people/militaryarchives/

The mission of the Military Archives is to acquire, preserve and make available to the public, the documentary heritage of the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence. With the ongoing development of information communication technology, in tandem with internet usage and Irish people's willingness to engage online using social media, public and private sector organisations must attempt to utilise the opportunities presented by technology. To this end the Defence Forces Military Archives have just launched an image identification project using Flickr, the online photo sharing tool (www.flickr.com/people/militaryarchives/).

Military Archives has a mandate under the National Archives Act of 1986 to record the activities of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board, thus promoting accountability and trust in the organisation with the public. At a time when value for money is a critical component of any decision, online tools offer prospects of not only saving money but also to greatly enhance an organisation's ability to meet its objectives. A second mandate for Military Archives is to promote and make available the history of organisations under its remit and their effect on society. In this regard the Defence Forces retains the interest not only of academics and researchers but also the general public. With the launch of an online photo sharing initiative on Flickr, the Defence Forces aims to reinforce this link with the general public and society by inviting the public to be a part of the development of the cultural heritage of the archive.

As an industry leader in the public sector in utilising information communication technology to improve the delivery of services, the Defence Forces continually looks to improve and adapt to take advantage of the benefits of technology and the provision of how we serve the public. In line with government policy on public sector reform and the need to constantly review how we can improve our service delivery, the Military Archives has developed its image identification project. This project was developed in order to promote access to our photographic collections and also to provide a level of social engagement with our collections that facilitates online access.

In late April the Military Archives uploaded the first phase of the project's photos online to their Flickr account as part of their image identification project, which averaged over 2,000 online views per day during the initial trial period that included nearly 200 photos



from the Defence Forces serving in Congo and Cyprus and also from the Cavalry Corps.

The photos, which have been collected over a number of years, were, unfortunately, like a lot of old family photos, not fully described. While the photos are an invaluable source of information, they lack the necessary information to provide a context or link with our other collections, in order to provide an accurate reflection of the history of the Defence Forces. The accurate naming of individuals in old photographs provides both a valuable cultural and personal aspect, in addition to providing the Military Archives an opportunity to integrate the photographs into our collections, thereby enriching and enhancing our records.

The initial results from the project are very positive and the strong willingness displayed by our contributors to engage online enhances our ability to make our collections available to as wide an audience as possible. In recognition of the fact that families and individuals are often the experts when it comes to the identification of photographic records in particular, Military Archives wants your help. Members of the public, and current and ex-members of the Defence Forces are encouraged to participate in documenting the heritage of the Defence Forces.

Through this project, the Military Archives aims to provide a more inclusive and representative reflection of the Defence Forces and your help is needed make this project a success. As part of this project, the Military Archives will continue to make available previously unseen photographs, displaying personnel and equipment both at home and overseas. If you are interested in participating in this project, you will need to set up a Flickr account and start making contributions in order to become a part of documenting the history of the Defence Forces. For more information on this project, email archives@military.ie ■



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For more information contact:
The Editor - An Cosantóir
045 445307
magazine@military.ie

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GEAR REVIEW

5.11 TACTICAL RUSH 72 BACKPACK (OD GREEN)

€169.99



Sized for a three-day excursion, the RUSH 72 Backpacks are loaded with features and come with two large compartments and a compression strap system that allows expandability depending upon how much gear you carry. The front section of the pack includes an organiser; a separate zippered compartment, a key fob and radio/magazine pockets with hook and loop straps. The main compartment has three mesh zippered pockets and a separate large cinch pocket. With two full-length side pockets that can handle a variety of different items including water bottles. Web platform on the outside of the compartment allows you to add 5.11's SlickStick pouches for even more gear capacity and the 2"

x 3" velcro patch is great for flag or unit patches. Its large main compartment has a pocket that will fit most sleeved laptops and the bungeed cinch top will keep any load in place. Two mesh pockets on the inside of the main flap hold computer accessories, electronics, binos and other smaller items you want readily accessible.

The top of the backpack has a separate fleece lined eyeglass/mobile phone pocket and two smaller external zippered gear pockets. A reinforced internal hydration pocket allows you to add a hydration bladder for immediate access to water. All RUSH72's also feature a heavy-duty, nylon carry handle at the top.

Molle-compatible webbing runs down the front and side of the pack, allowing you to attach a host of different accessories. This carrier features our SlickStick molle-attachment system which is also compatible with standard molle attachment systems, yet functions like none other. The Slickstick slides through a UV-resistant ring making it easier to arrange and attach your pouches and other gear. Slickstick attaches like a normal molle attachment, but it slides to make it easier. To remove an item, just pop the snap and pull the stick out.

The RUSH72 is made with high quality YKK zippers throughout, high-impact plastic clips which remain stable in all temperatures and elastic keepers to secure the ends of all straps. Once you've got the pack adjusted to your size, you'll be able to secure the ends of all straps with these elastic keepers.

Tested by Capt Rory Esler (Overseas)

This is an excellent piece of kit, as you would expect from any 5.11 product. It is well manufactured and very durable. The carrying system is comfortable and fits very well. It is perfect as a grab bag or a short term patrol pack. Although advertised as a 72 hr pack, it is more suited to a shorter term patrol pack, i.e. 24hr or 48hr max. There are plenty of compartments which make it easy to separate kit and easy access. The reinforced internal hydration pocket can be used with most hydration bladders including the one currently on issue to Irish troops. A very important feature when access to fluids is required. I think the price of €169.99 is a bit high, but overall it is a very versatile backpack and I would definitely recommend it to a friend.

RATING: Quality/Durability 9 - Versatility 9 - Value for money 7



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Team Alpha.ie

CAMELBAK THERMOBAK 3L HYDRATION PACK

€54.95

3 Litre CamelBak Hydration Pack can be worn on its own and also features attachment points to add to load-bearing vest or rucksack. D-ring attachment points to add to load-bearing vest or rucksack.

Quick-release shoulder straps unclip for easy removal and stow-away inside built-in pocket, NEW!

Add or remove nametags and unit badges quickly with integrated Velcro strips, Tough, abrasion-resistant 1000D Cordura® Fabric exterior, External fill allows for easy access to the OMEGA HydroTanium™ Reservoir, Front zippers allow for easy access to the massive OMEGA external access port for easy filling, cleaning and adding ice.



Tested by Sgt Mark Coffey (MAS, Mil Col)

I tested this on Ultra Marathon training days before I used it in a tactical situation. When trying to save time the external fill was excellent for filling/refilling on the move. Its shape and style fitted nicely and I didn't 'feel it' while running when it was full. The big valve and cap were easy to manipulate when I needed to use it. The packaging says it is easy to clean and leaves no smell or after taste and it lived up to this claim.

I used the pack in full military battle order to see how it would integrate with my current military backpack. It was sleek and easy to wear (while full) with all the other gear. The only small drawback was the DPM pattern didn't exactly match our pattern but they are available in other DPM patterns. I would recommend this product as it does what it says on the tin.

RATING: Functionality 10 - Ease of Operation 8 - Value for money 7

ESS FLYBY BALLISTIC SUNGLASSES

€62.50

The ESS Flyby™ offers durable nylon frames and thick polycarbonate lenses providing broad coverage and safety along with a sporty style. The light-weight black frames are compatible with



helmets, night vision goggles, and communication equipment. Built from high-impact 2.2mm polycarbonate, the Smoke Gray lenses meet U.S. MIL SPEC-PRF-31013 and ANSI Z87.1+ standards. These optically-correct lenses filter 100% UVA/UVB rays. Medium to Large fit Black frame.

Tested by Sgt James Hayles (Air Corps HQ)

I would find it hard to recommend the glasses for just one particular activity. I have worn them; driving (in strong sunlight), hill-walking and fly-fishing and they provide 100% UVA/UVB protection. From an operational perspective, I've used them shooting they didn't compromise peripheral vision with the helmet, they are ideal ballistic/eye safety sunglasses.

I would strongly recommend Flyby Sunglasses to friends and colleagues, anyone involved in competition shooting or leisure pursuits. They are an ideal set of sunglasses for an overseas deployment, light-weight and easy to store as they have a strong but light weight hard carry case. They are also very comfortable to wear due to their ergonomic design.

RATING: Fit (Feels true to size) 9 - Quality/Durability 9 - Value for money 8

5.11 TACTICAL SHIRT - SHORT SLEEVE, COTTON

€59.95

5.11's Cotton Tactical Shirt is billed as the shirt to let you "work, play and travel in comfort and style". Made from 5.4-oz. cotton canvas, which is durable, long lasting and breathable. It features triple needle construction, 26 bartacks in high-stress areas and reinforced anti-crack, anti-chip melamine buttons resulting in an amazingly hard-wearing shirt. 5.11 prides this shirt on its breathable fabrics and strategic construction, the heat management system includes a large cape-back with a tacked centre point covers moisture-wicking Drilex® material to efficiently vent and evaporate moisture and stitched eyelets at each gusseted underarm further dispel heat and moisture to keep you cool. With two hidden pockets on the inside front of the chest for documents such as maps, tickets or mobile phone, 5.11 recommend this shirt for use in covert or undercover operations as well as for practical off duty wear. On the outside of the Cotton Tactical Shirt are two further pockets on either side of the chest, and the left pocket also includes a dual pass-through slot for pens, chem-lights and tire gauges. On the left sleeve, there is a further pen pocket bringing the total number of pockets to 6 in all.



Tested by Sgt Mick Burke (DFHQ CIS Coy)

Work, play and travel in comfort and style is how the shirt was presented, it certainly lived up to its billing. I am a tall person and it's not very often that I am handed a shirt to try on and expect it to fit me. I am delighted to say the 5.11 Tactical Shirts fitted like a glove. What makes it more pleasing is that it was XL (I normally take XXL). It can be bought up to 3XL. Having already won me over with its size I then went looking for faults with it, but there is nothing negative that I can say about this shirt.

I wore it working day to day, walking, playing golf and found it extremely comfortable to wear under all conditions. The breathable areas all over the shirt reduce any chances of a person 'sweating up' and the type of material used kept the body warm as the cool of the evening came in.

The style of shirt will suit all ages; the military look will be attractive to the younger person while the durable 'neat, clean and professional' look will suit the older person. I have no reservations about recommending this shirt to anyone.

RATING: Comfort/Fit (True to Size) 10 - Quality 10 - Function 9 - Value for money 8

COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha are offering one 5.11 RUSH72 Backpack (reviewed above) with a choice of colour: Flat Dark Earth, Sandstone, Black, OD Green and one pair of ESS FLYBY Ballistic Sunglasses (reviewed above).

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THIS MONTH'S PRIZES ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: WHAT IS THE MAIN BENEFIT OF SIGNING UP TO THE MAILING LIST ON WWW.TEAM-ALPHA.IE?

Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 22nd Aug 2012.

Winners will be the first two correct entries drawn. **LAST MONTH'S WINNER OF A €120 VOUCHER WAS KILLIAN DOYLE.**

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*Standard text rates apply

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Ticket €40

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(9am - 5pm)

ABSEIL LOCATION:
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Registered Charity CHY10412

This event is run by Adventure.ie

Please note that all participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

(Location is subject to permit)

NOTICEBOARD

This page is designed to give our readers an easy-to-follow list of upcoming events or notices for our wider Defence Forces Family. Readers that want to submit notices that may be of interest to others should keep their notices to the point, include contact details and send by email to: magazine@military.ie or by post to: Editor An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceann Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland. P5. Our old noticeboard will still be made available on www.dfmagazine.ie

The Friends of the Curragh Museum est 2011, are now looking for new members and support.

Their objectives are:

- To foster and promote the study of the history of the Curragh.
- To acquire, insofar as it is possible, items of historical interest concerning the Curragh so that they can be put on Public Display.
- To assist in the provision of suitable means of display for such items.
- To raise funds for these objectives.

A number of fund raising projects are being initiated but there is a need for members of the Friends and anyone who is interested in joining should contact either:

Col Joe O'Sullivan (Retd.), email: joeosullivan@eircom.net

Hon Treasurer: Lt. Ray Bonar, email: raybonarwhb@gmail.com

Membership costs €15 Single or €20 Family -

<http://www.curragh.info/museum.htm>

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Curragh Military Museum

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

For all queries contact: 045-445342

or email: curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie

SUDOKU 数独

SUDOKU NO. 010 (MEDIUM)

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

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

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

SUDOKU IS THE LATEST PUZZLE CRAZE TO COME FROM JAPAN; IT'S A NUMBERS GAME THAT'S DRIVING EVERYBODY MAD!

JULY Q&A COMPETITION

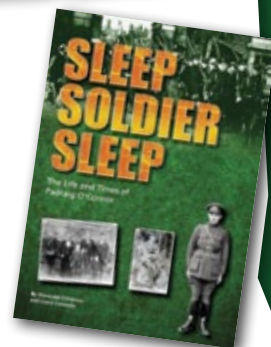
1. What is the current volume number of An Cosantóir?

2. How many jobs did

PayPal announce they will create in Dundalk?

3. What year was the handover of the Curragh Camp made?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a signed copy of Sleep Soldier Sleep 'The life and times of Padraig O'Connor', reviewed on page 36. Last months winner of a signed copy of Paul O'Brien's latest book Cross-fire: The Battle of the Four Courts, 1916 was Cpl Declan Downey, DFTC.



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

BOOK

SLEEP SOLDIER SLEEP THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PADRAIG O'CONNOR

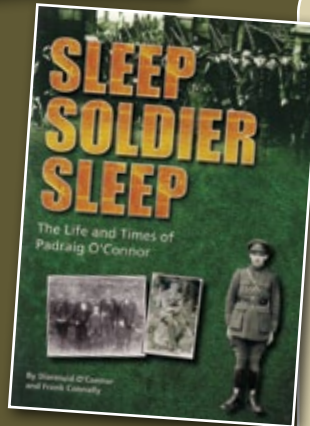
Author: Diarmuid O'Connor and Frank Connolly

Print Length: 156 pages

Publisher: Miseab Publications (2011)

ISBN: 978-09571249-0-5

Publisher: €12.99



IN **SLEEP SOLDIER SLEEP**, the life and times of Padraig O'Connor are vividly revealed in this page-turner of a book. This first hand account, based on the written notes and papers of Padraig O'Connor details one mans life through one of the most turbulent periods in Irish history stretching from his involvement in the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and on through to the Irish Civil War.

For a young man living on the edge in revolutionary Ireland, this book captures the danger and excitement of the time.

I particularly enjoyed Padraig's description of his time in the Active Service Unit (ASU) of the Irish Republican Army during the Irish War of Independence.

The detailed descriptions of the back alleys and streets of Rialto, Dolphins Barn, Inchicore and Ballyfermot brought back many childhood memories of places where I grew up. Avoiding police and army patrols O'Connor and his unit ambushed and caused havoc for the authorities in the area.

However the excitement of war is overshadowed by the tragedy of the Civil War. O'Connor joins the newly established Free State army and his personnel account of his involvement in the execution of Erskin Childers, a former friend of Michael Collins is harrowing.

Sleep Soldier Sleep, the life and times of Padraig O'Connor written by Diarmuid O'Connor and Frank Connolly is an essential personnel history of the period. Highly recommended.

Available from Farrell & Nephew Book Store in Newbridge or directly form Dairmuid: diarmuid46@hotmail.com or 086 194 8399 - www.sleepsoldiersleep.com

Padraig O'Connor, Director of Operations, 1923



Forced entrance by Padraig O'Connor and National Army through Records Office, Four Courts, 1922



RECOMMENDED APPS

IMDb MOVIES & TV

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"What was the name of that movie? The next time you can't remember the name of an actor, television show, or film use IMDb Movies & TV App. The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) is one of the handiest reference websites on the planet, IMDb never fails when it comes to looking up anything that has to do with TV, film, or Hollywood. Also available on Android.



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BOOK

FIRST TO KILL (NATHAN MCBRIDE SERIES)

Author: Andrew Peterson

Print Length: 356 pages

Publisher: Leisure (22 June, 2011)

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services

ASIN: B0057R56LE

ISBN: 978-0843961447

Price: Kindle Edition €2.33

WHEN A DEEP-COVER federal agent disappears along with a ton of Semtex explosives, the former director of the FBI calls in a personal favour. The missing agent is his grandson and he's desperate to learn the truth, even if it involves 'bending the rules'.

Trained Marine scout sniper and CIA operations officer, Nathan McBride, had put the violence of his past behind him, or so he'd thought. Off the books, Nathan's asked to determine the fate of the missing federal agent and recover the explosives.

But something deeper is going on, and a lot deeper. Soon after Nathan accepts the assignment, he finds himself trapped between a ruthless adversary with a blood-chilling plan, and high ranking federal officials who will stop at nothing to see their own brand of justice done.

Originally printed by Dorchester Publishing (1 Sep 2008), and now released on Amazon Kindle for just over €2, it's a steal! Considering it may be a motion picture soon as the film rights were sold to two Hollywood producers at Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles recently.

About the author: Andrew holds the classification of Master in the NRA's High Power Rifle ranking system and has won numerous competitions throughout the Southwestern United States. When he's not writing, Andrew enjoys scuba diving, target shooting, flying helicopters, hiking and camping, and an occasional round of golf. The second Nathan McBride novel *Forced To Kill* was published in Jan 2012. Andrew is currently working on the third Nathan McBride novel.

Please visit www.andrewpeterson.com

amazonkindle



DVD

SAFE HOUSE

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Genre: Action/Thriller

Certification:

Run Time: 1 Hr 55 Min

Rental Release Date: 12 June 2012

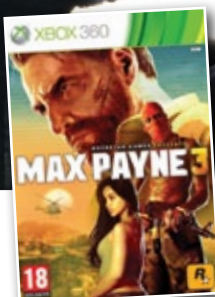
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Denzel Washington, Vera Farmiga, Brendan Gleeson, Tanit Phoenix, Robert Patrick, Liam Cunningham, Sam Shepard, Joel Kinnaman, Nora Arnezeder, Sara Arrington, Stephen Bishop, Sebastian Roche and Rubén Blades.

THE LATEST ACTION thriller starring Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. Rookie CIA agent Weston (Reynolds) is assigned to manage a South African safe house for Tobin Frost (Washington), one of the CIA's most dangerous traitors, who has eluded capture for almost a decade. The two men are forced to go on the run when the house is attacked by mercenaries. Now, these unlikely allies must stay alive long enough to figure out exactly who it is that's trying to kill them and stay out of the gunmen's sight until they can get to another safe house. Packed with intense action and thrilling suspense, *Safe House* takes you on a deadly ride through a covert world where no one and no place is ever safe.

www.nooneissafe.com



GAME MAX PAYNE 3



MAX PAYNE 3 is the third instalment in Rockstar Games Max Payne series and is set eight years after the events of the last instalment. No longer part of the NYPD, Max takes a job in São Paulo, Brazil; to protect a wealthy family in an effort to finally escape his troubled past. But events spiral out of his control, Max hooked on painkillers, finds himself alone and in an unfamiliar city, desperately searching for the truth and fighting for a way out.

Developed in parallel with the game's console versions, the PC version of Max Payne 3 supports a number of advanced graphics options, scalable high-resolution textures and character models, DirectX11 features, multi-monitor support and 3D.

Featuring cutting edge shooting mechanics for precision gunplay, advanced new Bullet Time®, Shootdodge™ effects and a dark and twisted story, Max Payne 3 is a seamless, highly detailed, cinematic experience from Rockstar Games.

Genre: FPS - **Platform:** PS3, PC & Xbox 360 - **PEGI:** 18 - **Price:** €49.99 (PC €33) (gamestop.ie)
Released: 18 May 2012 - www.rockstargames.com/maxpayne3/ - © 2012 Rockstar Games.
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WHAT I DO

NAME

STEPHEN NOLAN

RANK

TROOPER

UNIT

2 ISTAR COY



I work within a Dismounted Reconnaissance Detachment part of the Medium Reconnaissance Troop. Operating from Mowag Medium Reconnaissance Vehicles and Close Reconnaissance Vehicles our job is to gather ISTAR (Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition Reconnaissance). The Mowags can operate up to 100km from our operating base and we can work up to 10km from the vehicles.

A Dismount Reconnaissance Detachment consists of four troopers. What we carry with us depends on the task given to us. Our missions are generally a Close Target Reconnaissance (CTR) or an Observation Post (OP) behind enemy lines conducting an overwatch on a target. We can launch a CTR from either the vehicles or an OP. In a CTR we have to be able to get within a 100m of the target and be able to traverse 360° around the target without been seen. In an OP you can be up to a km away from the target, but you constantly have eyes on for anything up to and beyond 72hrs.

Generally our teams carry SINCGAR (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio) radio, a GPMG, Steyrs, and an 84mm Anti Tank weapon if required. Surveillance equipment consists of; binoculars, Sofi Thermal Imaging, Canon camera with 300mm and 500mm lens that can give us eyes on a target up to a kilometre. The images can then be uploaded directly onto the Toughbook computer which in turn is connected to the Harris HF radio, and sent back to HQ. This allows us to

provide real-time surveillance to HQ for analysis. We also carry an OP construction kit; Hessian sacks, chicken wire, picks and shovels. You then have your personal equipment; sleeping system, change of clothes, 300 rounds of ammunition, 24hr emergency rations, maps, model making kit, water, prismatic compass. If going into an OP we would have to bring 72hrs worth of rations, you may get told you are staying longer in the OP so we would then have to conduct a re-plen of food and water.

I volunteered to join the Battlegroup, it was the best decision I ever made. I only completed my three star course last July. Since coming to the Battlegroup I have completed courses on the SINCGAR, the 84mm Anti-Tank, Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) Recognition, and a Basic Recce Course. We are now on standby for the next six months with five days notice to deploy. During that time we will continue our training. I will be undergoing the following courses: MT driver, dispatch rider, pistol side arm, and a course on the AMSTAR Ground Surveillance Radar system. When I am finished with 2 ISTAR Coy I will return to my parent unit 2 Cav Sqn, very well trained, experienced and capable of doing the job within the unit. ■



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Results Sheet for 31st May 2012

1st Prize, €10,000: Hugh Murray, Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

2nd Prize, €5,000: Ian Murphy, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

3rd Prize, €2,500: Charles Redmond, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

4th Prize, €1,500: John Canty, Longford, Co. Longford.

€500 Prize: Anthony Byrne, Bray, Co. Wicklow; William Fisher, Shannon Banks, Limerick; Eleanor Heffernan, Cobh, Co. Cork; John Thompson, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

€100 Prize: Michael Brennan, Boyle, Co. Roscommon; Jason Burke, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny; John Donaghue, Cobh, Co. Cork; Terence Wearen, Portarlinton, Co. Laois; Norman Hawkins, East Wall, Dublin 3; David Richards, Glasnevin, Dublin 11; Edel Murphy, Duleek, Co. Meath; Thomas Bishop, Crumlin, Dublin 12; Stephen Stenning, Carragiline, Co. Cork; Ian McGill, Kilcock, Co. Kildare; Paul Fitzgerald, Gouldavoher, Co. Limerick; Darren Greene, Athlone, Co. Westmeath; Stuart Hyland, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24; John Laycock, Fenagh, Co. Carlow; Amanda Connolly, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

Congratulations to all our winners

The next draw will take place on 28th June 2012.

75/76 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

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