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A long established range in 80% wool and 20% nylon twist pile has been completely updated with 16 new colours.

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TOUR DE FORCE

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Army Ranger Wing - 10 Years in Existence

In the early to mid seventies the increase in International Terrorism was such that many of our European Partners established special units to deal with Terrorist Acts. The Munich Massacre of 1972 had highlighted the need for such units in Europe. The kidnapping in 1976 of Dutch industrialist Dr. Tiidie Herrenerima indicated that the problem had also arrived on our doorsteps. The general experience had been, both here and in Europe, that you cannot deal with kidnapping or hostage situations using normal police or military resources. There was a need for special skills and a higher degree of expertise in weapons and marksmanship. The Military Authorities responded by recommending to the Minister that a special unit should be formed. This recommendation was accepted and the Army Ranger Wing was activated on the 16th March 1980.

Mission

The Army Ranger Wing organises, trains and remains on call to perform tasks of a specialised nature in aid to the civil power, in assistance to the community and in conventional operations. As can be seen from this Mission, the unit's role is diverse and broad and is designed to cater for all eventualities.

Organisation/Command

The normal military chain of command applies with administrative, disciplinary and operational control being exercised by the Commanding Officer of the unit in the normal way. The unit's operations are directly under the control of the Chief Staff and is organised into a Wing HQ, an Administrative Detachment, a number of Operational Platoons and a Support Detachment.

Training

ARW training is continuously geared towards the Mission with a particular emphasis on physical fitness and shooting skills. The unit recruits its members from volunteers from any Corps or Service within the Permanent Defence Force. The selection process takes three months. The volunteers initially undergo a four week selection course thereafter they join a training platoon. Less than 20% of all candidates succeed in making the grade.

Initial training concentrates on individual skills, such as fitness, unarmed combat, weapons and navigation. Thereafter a wide range of specialist skills are taught. The wide range of military skills thus developed ensures that the Army Ranger Wing is capable of being highly flexible and independent when required to respond to any developing situation in conventional warfare or in aid to the civil power.

Equipment

Since its inception the unit has purchased small quantities of specialist equipment and weapons necessary to facilitate the accomplishment of any mission it might be assigned. This equipment is designed to provide the ARW with the most effective means of dealing with terrorists in any of the likely situations in which they might become involved. Personnel are armed from an array of weaponry, which includes the HK family of weapons. Equipment in service worldwide is monitored and the ARW, apart from developing new tactical ideas, keep up with developments and use equipment on a daily basis.

Parachuting

Since the formation of the ARW, parachuting has been recognised as one of the core elements of the training syllabus. It is seen by new members as an initiation rite of acceptance into the unit, whereby all new personnel must complete a minimum of five static line jumps. The parachute course provides the unit with a valuable rapid deployment capability and enables personnel who show an aptitude to progress to Free-Fall status and further specialise in parachuting.

Sniping

Sniping within the Army Ranger Wing lies extremely high on the extensive list of specialist requirements. The sniper's training, combined with the inherent accuracy of his rifle, firmly establishes him as a valuable addition to the means available to the unit to achieve its mission. The sniper must be an expert marksman, possessing comprehensive training in marksmanship techniques and a high degree of weapon handling skill. A high level of motivation; allied to patience, determination, self-confidence and control are his hallmarks. He must be self-reliant and able to work as part of a small team for long periods of time in both conventional warfare and counter-terrorist roles.

Amphibious Capability

The ARW enjoys a close relationship with the Naval Service and all Rangers are trained Marines. Initial Seamanship, including Diver training is conducted at the Naval Base, Hasleholme. Seamanship training is designed to provide Rangers with the knowledge and skills to integrate smoothly with life on board NS vessels. This is followed by further tactical training in the application of these skills. These Marine trained personnel, along with Rangers specially trained as Combat Divers and Small Boat Specialists, frequently undergo exercises such as:

- Ship to Shore Raids
- Infiltration/Exfiltration In a water environment
- Assaults
- Underwater Demolitions

ARW Divers have performed many operations in aid to the civil power and have also provided assistance to the community. A close relationship has been developed with the Garda Sub-Aqua Unit.
Focus on Pte Terry Wearen and Small Bore Shooting

Report & photographs by Sgt T. Hudson

Small Bore shooting is an Olympic sport in which there are three disciplines:

- Target Air Rifle - Standing. Fired at 5m range at a target with 5.5mm ball, a hit on which scores 9.5.
- 22 Target Rifle - Prone. Fired at 50m at a ten ring target, each ring scoring 0.1.
- 22 Target Rifle - 3 Position. In Standing, Kneeling & Prone. Fired at 50m over a 3 by 40 shot course.

Special target rifles, which must contain to regulations laid down by the International Shooting Union, are used. The Air Rifle is of 177 calibre and fires a single-wad custer pellet. The .22 rifle is a bolt action, single shot and fires standard velocity ammunition. Of course, there are various grades of ammunition available, at which the best quality in the most expensive - approx £10.00 per 100 rounds. Choice of ammunition is determined by testing various types under controlled conditions to see which produces the highest group. The ideal test is to send the rifle to an ammunition manufacturing plant where it is "bench tested." Each batch of ammo contains about 25,000 rounds. Production batches vary in quality, etc., and several sample stocks are fired to determine the best batch and match for the rifle's unique characteristics. Three position shooting takes place with a .22 Free Rifle. This is a single shot bolt action rifle restricted by regulations than a prone rifle. All rifles used in small bore shooting have a standard sighting system. The front sight has a circular element and the rear sight is at aperture style, which is adjustable for windage and elevation. The targets are all circular with scoring rings from one to ten and thus the bull's eye appears as a black dot inside a circle within another circle. Special clothing and equipment is required - the basic being a glove, jacket, trousers, boots, cap, glasses, sleeve, hand strap, spotting scope and stand and a shower bag. The .22 rifle discipline requires the least amount of equipment as it is shot in the standing position and the target is returned to the shooter after each shot, by means of an automatic target changer.

There are four Air Rifle Clubs in Dublin and two in the South of the country. Of the Dublin Clubs, only two are open to members of the general public; the other two clubs are University Students, and these are Fassonson Shooting Club which is based in Dalkey and the Phoenix Target Air Rifle Club which is located at the National Wheelchair Association Gymnasium in Clontarf. Fassonson Shooting Club has a permanent air rifle range and the Phoenix manages by setting up their temporary range each Monday night in the NWA Gym. The situation is much more satisfactory in the South and is of direct military interest in that the 5 Cmd Target Shooting Society, which has PDF and TCA members, is located at Sandfield Bia. The members here have several military range facilities available to them and consequently some of the best shots in the country can be found down South, in Miltown and Limerick.

Pte Terry Wearen's interest or passion, in small bore shooting developed gradually. He enlisted in Nov 1979 at Casement Aerodrome and following initial training was employed on general duties. He later applied for, and was successful in being placed on, a Basic MT Training Course to be run at Clancy Bks. At the end of this three year course he graduated as a Platoon Leader and was posted to 2nd S&C Coy at Cahir Bks, Mullingar in 1983. In 1985 he joined the W Comd Target Shooting Society based in the barracks. His interest in target was in the Webley Super-Match Air Rifle and he became actively involved in internal competitions at novice level.

Overseas service with 37 Bn E (UNIFIL) beckoned but by the time he had rotated back to Mullingar the W Comd Club was defunct. In Jan 1990 he read an article in Shooting News on the Phoenix Club and decided to get involved in the sport again. He joined the Club as a .22 Shooter and soon after purchased his own proper Match Rifle, an Original 774V, Competing in Club competitions with Phoenix in Dublin, Limerick and Mitchelstown brought initial success. He was regularly placed and soon broke the 500 point barrier for the first time - the max score is of course 600 points. Club involvement necessitated regular travel from Mullingar and the obvious solution was to apply for a posting to 2 Gm S&C Coy in McKee Bks. The posting came through in Sep 1986 and by this time Terry had been upgraded from a Class D to a Class C Shot. The next month saw him selected to compete in the British Open Championships to be held in Cardiff. This first taste of international competition, with over 2,000 entrants from all over the world involved, saw him finishing just outside the top twenty in the Class C category - a very creditable first attempt. Over the next two years or so his life changed considerably in that he married Gina, became a father, was upgraded from Class C to Class B in the Air Rifle discipline, became a Class A Shot in the .22 Rifle Three Position discipline and travelled to Cardiff again - where he and his wife Gina both competed, a month after the birth of their son, Terry was placed in the top fifteen in Class B at the British Open Championship. In 1989 Terry had achieved a degree of consistency with the .22 rifle that merited his inclusion in the National Squad. His involvement in the British Open Championships in Cardiff that year was limited to two days and 10 metrons. In the former he took second place in the Individual and fifth overall on aggregate. In the latter discipline he reached sixth position on aggregate. This showing meant that he had reached the qualifying score for inclusion in the Irish Olympic Elite panel squad.

Training for and involvement at that level demands the best equipment and utter dedication to the sport. As a first step Terry resorted to his old air rifle and purchased at a cost of £740.00 an Anschütz 2001 Rifle. It was also necessary to make a further outlay of £1,000.00 approx on additional equipment such as clothing, attachments and training aids. At this time he is a member of two of the three National Squads in existence i.e. Air Rifle and 32 Position. Just last month he travelled to Manchester to compete, for the first time with his new rifle, in the British Air Weapons Championships. He came 15th overall out of 40 entrants but took a silver medal qualification in the sports grading system.

And what of his long term ambition? When I asked him, he replied, "I'm right determined to make the Olympic Games in 1994 and to win!" To do so requires practice and competition at International events to ensure qualification. Qualification means consistent minimum scores at least 55 points at recognised shoots. Terry is presently shooting on average 540 but he hopes to close the gap considerably in the near future with his new rifle. If he is successful he will then move into an Elite group - Class X - a group which has no member in this country at the moment. He does have problems with practice, one night a week is not sufficient, obviously particularly when trying to get in the range and then dismantle it afterwards. It struck me when researching this article that the only major qualification that McKee Bks would be ideal for Terry to practice in, but then, of course, that's just my opinion.

Notes: The author acknowledges the assistance of Lt Allan O'Dwyer of 2 Gm S&C Coy in the preparation of this article. The article was written for the Irish Olympic Committee's magazine and is reproduced with permission.
The Cadet School has participated in the Irish Times Debating Competition over the years with varying degrees of success. The 1989/90 Competition which culminated in O'Flaherty Theatre, Science Building, UCD on Friday 16 Feb 90 was to be the Cadet School's most successful year yet.

The Competition, which commenced in November last, had two Cadet School teams entered.
The Cadet A team fielded Cadets Roman McGrath and Richard Brennan. The Cadet B team fielded Cadets Tadhg Murray and Tom Cloran. Both teams were successful in the early rounds, debating such motions as "That charity should have no place in a just society" and "That the laws threaten democracy.

Success in these early rounds brought a renewed interest and emphasis to the house debates in the School and under the excellent stewardship of Capt Denis Killian - himself a finalist in 1980 - the teams went on to a well co-ordinated assault on the semi-finals, one of which was hosted by the Cadet School in the Military College.

On 31 Jan last Cadets McGrath and Brennan debated for the motion "That this house fears for the stability of Europe" in the Arts Building, UCD. Despite a spirited performance, they failed to make it through to the final.

However, on 27 Jan, at the home venue, Cadets Murray and Cloran, debating for the motion "That this house would discontinue the National Lottery" gave an excellent team performance to make it through to the final.

That final, in O'Flaherty Theatre, UCD, on Friday 16 Feb 90, was chaired by Professor Brian Forre, Ms Christina Murphy, Duty Editor, The Irish Times, presided over a heavyweight team of adjudicators. The motion before the house was "That this house would be European first and Irish second".

For the Cadet School to be able to produce debaters of the calibre of Cadets McGrath, Murray, Brennan and Cloran from such a relatively small group who can participate at the top level, is no small achievement.

To Lt Maurice Dowling who took an active part in organising, "in house" debates and arrangements for participation in The Irish Times Debating series, a special word of thanks.

Capt Denis Killian, a finalist in 1980, gave unsolicitedly of his time and experience to prepare for those debates. Without his expertise and advice I doubt if we could have achieved what was achieved.

The debate, before a capacity audience, was lively and humorous and of a particularly high standard. The team UCC Philosophical Society, Cadet Tom Cloran took the Gold Medal for Best Individual Speaker.

Great credit is due to Cadets Murray and Cloran for their fine performances and it must be said that they were close to the team prize.

Cadet Cloran is a Dubliner. He holds a Bachelor in Education degree from Trinity College and worked as a Primary School teacher in Lucan before joining the Army. An active participant in debating and took part in the World University Service Debating Competition in 1989.

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ESST - The UNIFIL Experience

By Capt John O'Dea

After almost one year of operation in South Lebanon, the Engineer Specialist Search Team (ESST) has established itself as an indispensable part of IRISHBATT's response to the continuing threat posed by Roadside Bombs (RSB) and other Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Invaluable experience has been gained in handling and servicing of search equipment in a harsh environment, on a daily basis. The interaction of the ESST and the mine clearing platoons of other contingents in UNIFIL has served to broaden the expertise of the individualsearchers.

The ESST is an integral part of the Assault Pioneer Platoon of IRISHBATT. The current team serving with 66 Inf Bn is drawn entirely from personnel of Depot Engineers, Cerragh Command. The policy of selecting volunteers from just one unit for the ESST is based on the importance of teamwork and understanding in search operations.

THAT DEFENCE FORCES personnel benefit personally from service overseas with the UN is an established fact, nowhere is this more true than for the searched of the ESST. Since the deployment of the first ESST in IRISHBATT in May 1988, the winding roads and rocky terrain of South Lebanon have proved a valuable training ground for searchers as well as a rigorous testing ground for equipment.

One of the major tasks of the Engineer Search Adviser (ESA) and his ESST is the training of the Specialist Route Clearance Teams (SRCT). A high proportion of Infantry Company personnel undergo such courses during their tour in the Arab Operations (AO). The most obvious benefits accruing from this instruction are that the Companies can carry out their own daily route clearance and that a high level of search awareness is engendered in students. A less obvious, but nonetheless minor repairs are carried out by the ESST personnel themselves the cooperation of the Signals Platoon has been invaluable, particularly in relation to the diagnosis of problems in circuit boards. The experience gained in this area has led to some local modifications in equipment and already one such improvement has been incorporated by the Manufacturers into their latest model. This feedback from the end-user to the designers is leading to improved versions of proven equipment being procured by the Defence Forces for use in aid to the civil power operations at home.

CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE by the ESST with other Contingents, particularly those of the Swedish Mine Clearance Platoon. A two-day course was held by Lt Col Bennatmann, for personnel of this unit, concentrating on the cleaning of clearance areas and incident search. The course served to illustrate the differences between

BATT search kit has been the envy of other nationalities and already UNIFIL has requested to procure buried wire detectors and metal detectors with variable sensitivity as presently operated by the Irish searchers.

NOT ALL OF THE transfer of information is one way and the search personnel of the ESST recently visited the HQ of SWE-DENCOY at Jwawa. There they were briefed on mine clearing equipment and techniques. Perhaps the most interesting element of the day was a demonstration by the Swedes of their mine-dogs. These dogs are trained to react to the vapours given off by the explosives in the mines. The dogs are most useful when searching long barbed wire or metal fencing when a conventional mine detector would be useless. They are also used for clearing paths to casualties stranded in a minefield. As well as the mine dogs, a Norwegian explosive dog and its handler gave an interesting demonstration of vehicle search. Are dogs a searcher's best friend?

SWE-DENCOY are also equipped with a MINTROESKA mine-thrashing machine. Using the flat principle, it is employed in the clearing of large areas of ground. The MINTROESKA is equipped with a rotating shaft that has numerous iron chains connected to it. Lead weights at the end of the chains crush the mines or cause them to detonate as the shaft is rotated. The crew operate the machine from a heavily protected, rear mounted cockpit. The mine-thrashing machine has been used extensively in NORTBATT area for the clearing of sites prior to the construction of UN Posts.

Considering that the concept of Search, as we practice it now, was only introduced to the Defence Forces in 1985, the rapid growth in this area has been quite breathtaking. The experience gained by Engineer and Infantry personnel in South Lebanon will undoubtedly prove valuable in future search operations in steep tasks as well as raising the general level of search awareness among all ranks in the Defence Forces.

Cpt J. O'Dwyer and Capt J. O'Dea demoli- the VINIL Main Detonator in Lt Gen. L. E. Widgery's Force Commanding UNIFIL. April 1990
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PERSONAL LOAN?

Specialist Engineer Group Training

A Report by Capt Kieran Heffernan

On Monday 12 February 1990, a very wet, cold, and stormy day when most sensible people would not even contemplate venturing outdoors, eleven staunch members of 1 Field Engineer Company from Collins Bks, Cork, inaugurated Day One of the first Specialist Engineer Group (SEG) Course administered by the Defence Forces.

This Course was designed specifically for the Corps of Engineers and in particular for Engineer Specialist Search Teams (ESSS).

ALTHOUGH boasting of one of the best trained ESSS in the Defence Forces, 1 Ed Eng Coy encountered two unprecedented requests for aid to the civil power which constituted an abnormally high degree of danger to personnel in 1989.

The first involved the presence of an ESSS in searching an old disused underground mine. This operation was severely limited due to the lack of training and experience in abseiling, rope work, and moving with safety over steep and dangerous ground.

The second incident comprised of an Engineer Team executing a rescue in order to prepare for the collapse of a sea cliff face using explosives in an attempt to retrieve two bodies from a whirlpool at the end of a deep ravine. This operation had to be aborted for the same reasons as the former.

As a result of both incidents and due to the existence of a high proportion of mountains, dangerous sea coasts and disused mines etc., in the Southern Command area and, therefore, a high probability of a similar incident occurring, 1 Ed Eng Coy identified a need to have at least one ESSS/Engineer Work Party qualified and competent to gain safe access to and work in such hazardous environments. In addition to this, the self esteem of the unit was bruised - (Motto: 'No Task Too Great') - because of its inability to complete the aforementioned missions successfully, due to lack of training in this particular field.

To this end, research was undertaken and Capt Peadar Duffty, the Army Association of Mountaineering (AAM) and Army Council of Adventure Training (ARCAT) representative of 3 Comd, was approached. Throughout the following months it was only through the tireless and trojan efforts of Capt Duffty that our concept became a reality. A comprehensive Syllabus of Training for the first SEG Course was drawn up, which was based on two other documents, The Syllabus for Confidence Training Instructors Course and The Syllabus of Training for Specialist Search Teams.

The Course was planned for 11 February 1990 to 2 March 1990 and a total of 13 students from 1 Ed Eng Coy were nominated. For five weeks prior to commencement, this group of committed Engineers could be seen training before lunch every day raising many eyebrows in Collins Bks! The training consisted of road running and weights circuit training designed specifically to improve upper body strength.

Nerves, Weather and Hollywood Conquered

Test Four of IT 1/80 proved easy when the Course finally commenced. Unfortunately four students were dropped at this stage for medical reasons. The first week was spent in Fort
The shortest way direct about 100 yd with a large heavy duty Kango Hammer and drilled four bore-holes in which the Engineer Officer placed explosive charges in order to blow the cliff face to Stock the cave. A simple firing circuit was set up and initiated electrically from the top of the cliff. All spectacles were highly impressed by the effectiveness of the demonstration.

The Course concluded with a series of tests on the Old Head of Kinsale, one of which involved a 200 yd multi-pitch abseil. In this case, the student abseiled down to the end of his rope, which was only long enough to extend half way down the cliff. Therefore, at a height of 100 yd he tied himself on to his rope with a prusik loop in free suspension pointing on a new length of rope which he carried on his back. At this point much manoeuvring was done, to get over the knot, before he could continue his abseil to the bottom. This was carried out without any safety rope.

Having successfully completed these tests SEG badges were presented to the students at the end of the Course Dinner in Collins Bks. Though everybody thoroughly enjoyed the Course a feeling of great relief prevailed when it was finally over, the three weeks were very physically demanding.

This final SEG Course was deemed to be an outstanding success. Therefore, in order to maintain these skills it is imperative that training continued on a regular basis at realistic and varied locations.

Certificates of Competency must be re-issued on a yearly basis after the individual has successfully passed the required tests.

April 1990
Trad Concert for Ethiopia Famine Relief
Organised by the Men's Club Committee of 1 Inf Bn

A Report by Sgt Brendan Forde

On Fri 9 Feb last at Dun Uí Mhaolchasa, Galway, a traditional Irish Concert was held by the Men's Club. All funds raised would be donated to Famine Relief Ethiopia. All talent for the concert was from the Barracks or had served in the Barracks.

The concert started at 20:30 hrs when Pearse Binns introduced the guest M.C., Dr. Boyne, for the night: Ex Coy Sgt Eamon Carr, who is indeed an old hand at these concerts. The first act was from the Broderick Brothers, Pat & Val, who provided a selection of tunes on their Uillean Pipes, followed by some lively Set Dances which danced 'The South Galway Reel Set'. Pearse Binns then performed as the front man on the Uillean Pipes and Pearse Sadlier then danced two lovely numbers on guitar.

Pao Dick Waldron and Gerry Broderick provided a very unusual duet of Bagpipes and Banjo with some jigs and reels.

Pearse Flaherty captivated the audience with his Sean Nós singing in Irish & English. He was followed by Pearse Mickey Burke and Frank Coleman who gave a great rending of some of our most popular ballads. Pearse Kevin McDonald closed the first half of the show with some lively accordion music.

A break for refreshments was now had, with a beautiful Chicken Curry being provided by a very able catering staff who fed 200 people in less than half an hour. A most appetising meal, congrats and many thanks to the Bin Cooks.

The second half of the show was kicked off by CQMS Johnny Durkin, ex 5 Inf Bn, ex 1 Inf Bn and now serving with 18 Inf Bn (FCA) Ballina. His stand-up comedy act had the place in raptures of laughter. Nobody was safe from Johnny's wit. Chaplains, Officers Commanding at all levels, Ministers, etc., all got a 'knocking' in a humorous vein.

Sgt Gerry King came on next to provide some brilliant music on the accordion and to swing us back to the Trad scene again. Pearse Michael Carr from the Tipp presented some more airs on the Uillean Pipes.

Cpl Gerry Burns, who up until now had been doing 'sound' for the show, then took the stage and got the audience in a real party mood and singing along

Sgt Tony Doyle and Cpl Joe Dempsey rendered a selection of ban-

lads and guitar music to keep the party spirit going. The show was brought to a close with all the musicians involved.

Tribute must be paid to all who organised and participated in this enjoyable, morale boosting and very worthwhile concert. Incidentally the bicycle donated by 'Harry's Cycles' raised over £200.00 in the raffle on the night. Most Rev Eamonn Casey, Bishop of Galway - who for a change sat back and was highly entertained - was presented with just over £1,400.00 for the Ethiopian Famine Relief Fund. Well Done the NCOs and Men of 1 Inf Bn.

New Golfing Society
A new Golfing Society has been established in the Western Command. Membership of the Society is open to all serving and retired NCOs and Men of the Command. Full details are available from Sgt Colm Shane, the Hon Sec. Sgt Shane can be contacted at 1 Gov. CT Bos (Ext 865) during duty hours or at his home telephone number thereof - 9302-07299.

An Comhasnóirf

New Flash

Recently the Adjutant General gave approval for personnel of No 1 Stp Wing, Air Corps to use a 10th Flash. It is of shield shape and measures 8mm by 7mm. The background is mid-blue with yellow trimmings.

The crossing red aircraft through the central white orignomial symbolises both the accuracy required in disciplined flying, especially formation work, and the air support nature of Light Strike Squadrons.

The same feature at the bottom recalls the special skills of Maritime Squadron and the main-oceanic nature of Transport and Training Squadrons, which provides the Maritime Air Transport Service (MATS).

The red figure '1' gives the Unit identity and this flashing Flash was the exclusive design of Comdt Dermot McCannery, OC Maritime Squadron.

Capt Kevin Byrne

April 1990
Materials Management for the Department of Defence

A Report by Comdt Michael O'Connor*

On 28 September 1988 a proposal for financial sanction to run a Materials Management programme was forwarded by the QMG to the Director of Training. This proposal outlined the benefits which were achievable if such a Course were undertaken. Having considered the implications and benefits of such a Course, sanction was given. The Course was planned to take effect from September 1989 to February 1990 in the Irish Management Institute. The broad aim of this Materials Management programme was to improve the organisation’s materials productivity from the effective purchase of materials through to the control of these materials and the planning of their utilisation.

The course undertaken

by the Department of Defence

Military and 6 Civilian in the Irish Management Institute was a milestone in the history of the Department and it has laid the founda-

tion stone for new logistical manage-

techniques in the future. In today’s business world the cost of holding inventories is very high and in the absence of an effective materials management system these costs cannot be controlled effectively. In business terms the logistic process in the Defence Forces could be compared to the following businesses:

- A chain of garages and workshops, which maintains fleets of trucks, tanks, ships and aircraft.
- A distribution company which selects, buys, maintains and distributes 250,000 items; including weapons, ammunition, many types of vehicles, food, clothing, medical supplies, fuel and domestic equipment.
- An electronics company which buys, maintains and distributes sophisticated communications equipment, and manages a countrywide radio network.
- A range of educational establishments including a military college, apprentice schools and several specialised technical schools.

* Comdt M. O’Connor is Planning Officer in the QMG’s Branch.

April 1990

Continued at bottom of next page
Western Command Success

The Defence Forces Badminton Championships 1990 were held in Athlone on 6, 7 and 8 Mar 1990. The competition results are as follows. The winners are in bold type.

Event

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Finalists</th>
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<td>Senior Singles</td>
<td>Capt. T. Sheehy (Carragh)</td>
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<td>Sgt P. Whyne &amp; Sgt P. Minogue (West)</td>
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Winners Team Final Runner-up

Western Command

The Lt Col Tim O'Connell Memorial Trophy was presented by Mrs. Betty O'Connell to Cpl Mick Mulvany, Captain of the Western Command Team which defeated the Carragh Comd (winners of the last three years) in a closely contested final.

The Senior Singles Finalists shake before the match - L.J. O'Sullivan (left) and Capt. T. Sheehy.

Claran Tyrman Transplant Fund: Personnel from Dublin United of E. Comd recently took to the streets of the capital city to assist in the popular 'Arty Keg' in a 'gun pull' to raise funds so that Claran Tyrman, the young son of a serving NCO may have a liver transplant ahead, when the occasion arises. The funds raised will ensure that Claran's parents can stay with him at hospital in Birmingham. Our photograph shows the commence, led by Brig Gen P. E. Macdonald preparing to depart from McKee Barracks. Any reader wishing to make a donation to this special cause should contact the Comd Adjt. Collins Barracks, Dublin, or An Commando office.

(Mrs. Betty O'Connell, left, and Capt. T. Sheehy)

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

continued September 1989 to February 1990 (excluding December). The course was introduced by a two-day pre-course which took place in the conference room, McKee Barracks. The pre-course was designed to give a better insight into all areas of the supply/logistics functions at the Department and was structured so that military and civilian participants could outline the pressures and contraints they each had to work under. The programme itself was based on modern action learning concepts and practicality was its hallmark. The sessions themselves included lectures, case studies, hands-on computer experience, demonstrations and exercises.

The continuing policy for computer purchase and the advanced stage of the logistic computerisation project will require further courses like Materials Management to assist in the Department's ongoing procurement and technical stores administration into the '90s. This strategy will only be achieved if we have personnel trained in the operation of these new systems. The development of new logistic techniques to achieve change will have to be undertaken if the Defence Forces are to be brought into the twenty-first century. Materials Management is the first step.

In a restructuring process of AXTRADE Ireland Ltd, it has been agreed that all representation in relation to military and related products be transferred to a newly formed Irish controlled company TECNINTER IRELAND LIMITED. Tecninter will, with immediate effect take over all agencies presently held by AXTRADE, to mention just a few: AB Bofors, FPV Omdance, Hagglund Vehicle AB, Crypto AG, Saab Training Systems AB and Air Target AB.

In conjunction with these changes Registrar Janson, formerly Managing Director of AXTRADE replace for the contacts with the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence in the existing Tecninter and will shortly move to Spain. He will, however, be a Director of Tecninter and will thus keep in touch with the Defence Forces.

Mr. Vincent Fahy, an Engineer and former Executive of the E.S.B. will succeed Mr. Janson, taking full responsibility for the contracts with the Department of Defence, assisted by Ms. Margaret Dowling.

Says Mr. Janson, "I have lived in Ireland for five years which has been a great experience. I have spent a lot of time with the Defence Forces and have specifically appreciated the friendship that has developed over the years. I hope that my successor will experience the same, which helps to carry on, even when the business is slow. Let me take this opportunity to thank all who have made my stay in Ireland a most memorable one and wish you the best of luck in the future."

Mr. E. O'Brien, E. Comd, present Cpt Sgts B. Gordon (left) and P. Doherty (right) with memorabilia to mark their retirement after 21 years service.

(Tecninter Ireland Limited, 7 West Mount Crescent, Dublin 2)

Tel: 762056, 782917
Fax: 766793
Telex: 92237

April 1990
Defence Forces Volleyball 1990

A Report by Sgt Pete Ward

The Senior Section of the tournament took place in the Gymnasium, Cathal Brugha Bks on 20/21 Feb last. The Team Reps met at 10.00 hrs for the draw. It was at this meeting that it was proposed by the Naval Service Rep Lt (NS) P O’Donnell that the format be changed for this year. It was decided that the new format would be a full ‘Round Robin’ of three full sets. This would give each team the opportunity to play all the other teams. At the end of this, the top four teams would qualify for the semi-finals, with first playing fourth and second playing third.

All the prelims had been played, the first semi was to be E Comd v S Comd. This match was expected to be close, as S Comd had already taken a set off E Comd in the prelims. E Comd took the first set 15-10; S Comd took the next set 15-6; and E Comd finally took the deciding set 15-11. The second semi was between W Comd and C Comd. W Comd were decisive in taking the first set 15-2 but C Comd woke up and took the second set 15-3. In the third set C Comd were dominant again, winning it 15-8.

The final was set. E Comd (Captained by Coy Sgt Christy Murphy) v C Comd (Captained by Cpl Matty O’Regan). This was a long awaited match between these two teams. Last year S Comd had robbed E Comd of the chance to play C Comd in the final by beating them in the semi-final. E Comd wanted revenge for their defeat at the hands of C Comd in about seven of the last nine years.

The first set started and was very exciting, with one of the new rule coming into effect, that of the 17 point limit on scores. E Comd lost a 3-4 advantage but just managed to take the set by 17-16. C Comd took the second set by the narrow margin of 14-13. The third set was all C Comd, winning decisively 15-7. E Comd had to do something at this stage. They got their act together and took the fourth set by 15-11. So it was a fifth set decider. Another new rule was to come into effect here. That of the rally point system. This means, every rally scores a point regardless of which team served. This was a very quick and exciting set with no margin for error, as every error gave a score to the opponents. The set only lasted 15 minutes with E Comd just gaining the Liam Devlin Trophy by 15-13, winning on a C Comd service.

A classic match which lasted for 1 hour and 14 mins and will remain in the memory of both participants and spectators alike for a long time to come.

The Novice Section of the tournament took place in the Gymnasium, Cathal Brugha Bks on 22nd Feb. As this was the inaugural Novice competition and only introduced at a late stage, only three teams were represented. These were E Comd, C Comd and Air Corps.

The competition started with E Comd against Air Corps which the E Comd took quite easily by 2 sets to nil. Next, Air Corps played C Comd, but again failed to be dominant and C Comd won by 2 sets to nil. It was decided to play the final at this stage as it seemed unnecessary to play the last prelim just to see who topped the poll.

So the final was set. E Comd (Captained by Coy Sgt Larry McGrath) v C Comd (Captained by Pte John Byrne). The best of 5 sets. E Comd got off to a shaky start and just never got going together, losing the first set by 15-10 and the second set by 15-7. E Comd started the third set well, building on a 3-4 lead, only to see C Comd turn on the style and win out by 15-11. So a decisive win by 3 sets to nil for C Comd. Maybe next year, all Commandants will be represented. Then we will see just who is the best Novice team in the Defence Forces.

Cpl Joseph Harrigan, OC 2 Bde, pictured presenting the Liam Devlin Trophy to Capt James Christy Murphy, Capt, of the victorious E Comd team. (Photo: Sgt P. Ward)

An Cuanasoir could not feature the stand down ceremony held at Nead, Hawthorne on 16th Feb last, to honour Commodore W. I. Brett’s retirement from Service, until this issue. The photo montage published was compiled by PC O’Dwyer and L/Sgt T. Reynolds. Starting at the top left are Commodore Brett, Capt (NS) C. O’Donnell, L/Sgt T. Reynolds, Capt (NS) W. I. Brett, Capt (NS) M. B. Murphy, Capt (NS) A. B. Quinn, Capt (NS) T. Reynolds, Capt (NS) J. O’Dwyer, Capt (NS) M. P. O’Donnell and the late W. I. Brett. The parade was lead by the Brigade Band, and the parade speakers were Capt (NS) T. Reynolds, Capt (NS) W. I. Brett and Commodore Brett. The parade was led by the Brigade Band, and the parade speakers were Commodore Brett and Commodore Brett. The parade was lead by the Brigade Band, and the parade speakers were Commodore Brett and Commodore Brett. The parade was lead by the Brigade Band, and the parade speakers were Commodore Brett and Commodore Brett. The parade was lead by the Brigade Band, and the parade speakers were Commodore Brett and Commodore Brett.
Shades of Empire - A Visit to Baluchistan

By Lt Col H. Quirke

The United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) was established after the signing of the Geneva Accord on 14 April 1988. As a result, fifty military officers drawn from ten countries were deployed in both Afghanistan and Pakistan in May 1988, including five from Ireland. Lt Col H. Quirke, Comdt S. Quilty and Comdt M. Verling served in Afghanistan and Lt Col P. J. MacHale and Comdt J. Martin served in Pakistan. One of the first tasks of UNGOMAP was to confirm the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan by 15 Feb 1989 and the historic event was completed on schedule. The main military task of UNGOMAP up to the beginning of March this year was to confirm non-interference and non-intervention by either party, i.e. Afghanistan and Pakistan, in the internal affairs of the other and teams of officers were permanently posted at the three main road crossing points between both countries. These are at Khyber at the entry to the Khyber Pass in North West Frontier Province, Teri Mangan also in North West Frontier Province and at Chaman in Baluchistan. Lt Col H. Quirke, Comdt M. Verling and Comdt T. Stapleton served in Pakistan while Lt Col J. Rigney and Comdt A. Gillen served in Afghanistan. A change in status of UNGOMAP took place last month. Lt Col J. Rigney is now the sole Defence Forces Officer serving in this theatre with the United Nations. The Mission has been redesignated as OSGAP and Lt Col Rigney is now a Military Adviser to the Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP). The Geneva Accords also provide for voluntary return of an estimated five million Afghan refugees and this has still to be implemented.

In this article the author describes a visit to Baluchistan and traces briefly the history of the large garrison city of Quetta. It is expected that a further article on aspects of the Soviet Forces withdrawal from Afghanistan will be published in a future issue of An Cosaint.

As the situation in Afghanistan changed and the redrawing of the map of the Middle East became a reality, it was considered that there was a need to establish a closer relationship with the people of Pakistan. This led to the establishment of the Good Offices Mission in 1988. As a result, fifty military officers were deployed in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. The main task of the mission up to the beginning of March was to confirm non-interference and non-intervention by either party in the internal affairs of the other. Officers were permanently posted at the three main road crossing points between both countries. These are at Khyber at the entry to the Khyber Pass in North West Frontier Province, Teri Mangan also in North West Frontier Province and at Chaman in Baluchistan. Lt Col H. Quirke, Comdt M. Verling and Comdt T. Stapleton served in Pakistan while Lt Col J. Rigney and Comdt A. Gillen served in Afghanistan. A change in status of UNGOMAP took place last month. Lt Col J. Rigney is now the sole Defence Forces Officer serving in this theatre with the United Nations. The Mission has been redesignated as OSGAP and Lt Col Rigney is now a Military Adviser to the Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP). The Geneva Accords also provide for voluntary return of an estimated five million Afghan refugees and this has still to be implemented.

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The Indus would not have sustained armies living off the land. Like Alexander the Great before them, passed further to the North using the Khyber and Nawa Passes which lead directly into the fertile region of the North West Frontier Province and Punjab. It was the first Afghan War of 1839/42 which first identified the military strength of Quetta. In the 1830s the British in India became alarmed with Russian expansionism in the North West Frontier Province and Afghanistan could not be allowed to fall under Russian control. A treaty
Baluchistan's first female Member of Pakistan's National Assembly (MNA) - one Jennifer Qazi Mosa (née Wren) from Bartert, Co. Kerry.

IT IS DIFFICULT to travel this area and not reflect on what the conditions of soldiers were like for the other ranks of the Bombay Army who first came here with Keane in 1839. Many of them like subsequent Bombay, Madras and Bengal Armies were Irish. While Keane and his officers rode on horseback and were attended by a retinue of grooms, cooks, bearers and barrows, the soldi- ers had to march across desert and up through rough mountain passes in extremes of temperature. Down through the Bolan Pass in Sind and across the Indus at Multan where the 2nd Battalion, the Balti Fusiliers were disbanded in 1922, the temperature rose to 120°F in the heat of the Summer. The normal tour of duty in India was four long years and unlike the officers who would spend short leave periods with their families in the hill stations at Simla and Murree and longer leave every two years back in England, the other ranks remained in barracks down in the very hot plains required because of cholera, dysentery and malaria. These were killers and the Christian grave- yards in Qetta, Peshawar and many other garrison towns bear testament to many young men, women and children who died in these parts.

There are many Irish names to be found because all the Irish Regiments in the British Army served large parts of India. There is a fine stone monument in the grounds of St John's Cathedral in Peshawar commemorating forty-one NCOs and men of the 1st Battalion, Musirun Fusiliers who died of cholera at Shkadda, about twenty miles North of that city, during the Mowadum Epidemic of 1838. Irish names are also to be seen on the gravestones of British Regiments, especially those from Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire. Some lines from a poem by an old Fenian O'Donovan Rossa come to mind. It is a poem written by Rossa from an English jail in which he describes how as a young boy in famine stricken West Cork, he helped two bodacied friends, Charles and Thady, bury their widowed mother.

And Charles died a soldiering in Bombay and Thady died in Ross the other day.

While Charles will not have been to Quetta and Kabul with Keane and the Bombay Army of 1839/42 he could well have had contact with parts later Bombay Armies, like many of his generation forced by eco- nomic conditions at home, to fight other peoples' wars in far away unfriendly places.

And, finally a word about the small Christian Community in Quetta. There are more than twelve thousand Christians, mostly Catholics in the city and some thousands more scattered around this largest of Pakistan's Provinces. Pakistani Christians are generally very poor, many came here with the British from further South in India, and many are low caste Hindus. Conversions are. Two only two priest and a couple of them here with the British in 1915.

References:
India Brittanica - A History of British India by Robert Black, 1924.
Plain Tales from the Raj - Images of British India in the Twentieth Century by Annabel Jane, 1991.

Who? Where? Why?

Two people have submitted information in connection with the picture in our February issue.
The location is of course, Athlone Barracks and the year is 1923.
Both submissions agree that the officer on the left is Brigadier General Adamson and that Col A.T. Lawlor on the right.

Although wearing a Sam Brown Belt, the soldier leaning on the barrel, one says, is Sgt Sean Lennon. The other claims it is Capt Kit McKeeven (no relation to Sean or Jimmy Macleod).

The man beside Col Lawlor (note the spurs) could be Lt Mick Robinson, says one entrant. Not so, says the other - who has the same name group written on a similar photograph but is still trying to decipher it. Can anyone settle the argument?
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Willy was transferred to the Royal Irish Lancets (The Dandy 5th) and later the Machine Gun Corps. He was decorated with the Military Medal and 1914/19 War Medal. My Dad was also transferred to the 5th Lancets then to the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and then the Glasgow Highlanders (HFL) and then back to the South Irish Horse. Why all this transferring was done I have no idea save to say that the ways of armies were always somewhat of a mystery. Dad was a signaller 1st Class and also a noted marksmen. He served in the first and second battles of the Somme and Ancre. Also at Deauville Wood, Beaumont Hamel and Gazencourt Posters Crosslette. He served in the ARF in Dublin during WW II.

Broderick Bros

91, Grange Park Rd
Raheny
Dublin 5

Go Anywhere, Do Anything

Sir,

It is a fact that Irishmen have soldiering in their blood and it is because of our history that Crown forces, and now our own sovereign forces are so closely related when put into chronological sequence of military service.

My late father was a Trooper in WW I. He served in the South Irish Horse and was based at Gough Bks in the Curragh. My son, Keith, enlisted as an apprentice in the Army Apprentice School and where should be end up on posting as a trained soldier technician, but at the same barracks, now of course Plunkett Bks. This coincidence set me thinking and what is now a military trend in our family apparently started with my maternal Grandfather, one Samuel Pickering who appears to have been from Sligo. Born in 1807 he joined the East Lancashire Regiment (The Buffs) and later on the Australian Imperial Forces (The ANZACS) and served with the Pioneers in WW I. He saw service in India, Afghanistan, South Africa, Australia and France. He took part in the Chilf Campagin in Afghanistan and served in the Khyber Pass. He then took part in the Boer War in South Africa in 1899/1900 and later with the ANZACS Pioneers in France. He became a Sergeant sometime during the course of the foregoing. He had the Indian General Services Medal, the Chilf Campaign Medal, the South African medal and bars and the Service Medals of WW I - the More Star 1914/19 and War Medal.

How he came to be in the Australian Forces I do not know but it would seem to be typically Irish, i.e. go anywhere and 46 anything.

Sir

We in the Army with the 20th Platoon of the AAS in 1984. We always felt he got the taste of Army life from his stout master in Raheny - one Sgt. Harry Higgins of the Air Corps. On graduation Keith was posted to the Cavalry Corps (see photos) Depot Cavalry at Plunkett Bks, Curragh. The feeling that he was posted to the hardskin workshops was that of being somewhat short in length he could be inserted into the exhaust of a 90 or APC, the better to repair the innards! He toured with 64 IRISHBATT UNIFIL and naturally we were very proud when all the lads of the Peacekeeping Forces of the UN were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is currently on tour with 66 IRISHBATT and we are very proud he is serving in the cause of peace, and he is of course very proud of his Ghengany.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Leeson

-----

More Bang for the Buck

I was amazed to learn that 82% of the entire Defence Budget goes to wages and salaries. As was pointed out in the article in the January issue of An Cosaint, the remaining 18% leaves the entire Defence Forces capital equipment budget terribly under-funded, considering the cost in 1990 terms of a single aircraft or ship or indeed of a relatively expensive item like an APC.

Of course three or five year capital expense budgets would help, as items could be ordered, but delivery and payment could be spread over the three or five year period. An idea has occurred to me which may be worth considering by the Powers That Be. Every Corps of the Defence Forces has an equivalent FCA Unit, e.g., Signals, Naval Service, Cavalry, S.F.T., etc., with the notable exception of the Air Corps.

I am sure that there is a sizable body of commercial pilots, both fixed wing and rotary wing, and technicians living and working in the Dublin area that could be formed into an Air Corps FCA Unit. The conversion to Air Corps equipment for both pilots and mechanics would be fairly
A Tale with a Twist

There is a group that is definitely Irish Army 'Emergency' era, and I had a BSA M20 500cc motorcycle as District Officer, Coastwatch Sligo - Reg No ZD 23. The Capt on right reminds me strongly of Harry Flood. He was a Staff Officer to Maj Gen Hugo MacNeill at 2 Division HQ. The 'head' in the middle looks like Capt G. Mulligan, who served in 4 Motor Squadron. Never paid a visit to Kent in 1940, so that I'm pretty sure.

Yours sincerely,
Comdt Owen Quinn (Retd)

717, Kimmage Road West, Dublin 12.

Editor,

Regarding your 'Tale with a Twist' on page 23 of Vol 50 No 2. Enclosed photo was taken near Drogheda, Co. Meath in May 1941, on route to Virginia, Co Cavan for summer exercises.

Yours,
Col T. Duggan

Those in the photo are L/R: Sjt Pat Condon, Lt Michael T Duggan, QMS Don Donovan and Gunner O'Loughlin, all of 10th Bn, 2nd Arty Bn attached to 2nd Bn commanded by the then Maj J. D. McGeehan. The motorcycle, of which I was the rider, was a BSA 350cc Reg No ZD 208, Gunner O'Loughlin rode ZD 208. ZD 258 definitively was Irish Army property and the photo is NOT 'somewhere in England' and not Kent to be precise!

Oh what fun!

Yours,
Michael T. Duggan
Lt Col (Retd)

Editor,
**Official Opening of Canteen at Kilbride Military Camp**

Brig Gen P. F. Monahan, GOC E Comd, presided at the official opening ceremony and reception to mark the opening of the new canteen at Kilbride Military Camp on 29 Mar 80. This further upgrades Kilbride Military Camp training facilities for E Comd. The new canteen provides light snacks, hot pies, drinks and bar facilities, with a TV, Pool Table & Dart Board available. It is hoped this service will be availed of by units conducting range practice, who can eat their own rations at lunch time in the comfort of the canteen, augmented with hot pies and appropriate drinks. This will be ideal for social events, get-togethers and special occasions at Kilbride Military Camp.

**At Tiri Remembered - 6 Apr to 13 Apr 80**

At Tiri village is located at the forward edge of the Irish Battalion's Area of Operations (AO) in the UNIFIL AO. It is situated in a valley running East to West and dominated by the Kufit hills, in the South, by the smaller range to the North. In 1980 the population of the village was some 2,000 persons, exclusively Moslem.

At Tiri was important because:
- By local standards it had a fairly large population.
- It controlled the only road leading North onto Hill 880. From this hill the towns of Haddara, Tibnin, and the fertile Tibnin Valley could be easily dominated by direct fire.
- The village was under UNIFIL control and situated Southwards into the area controlled by the Israeli backed and supported De Facto Forces (DFD) of Major Said Haddad - the so called 'Christian Enclave'. This is an area of South Lebanon between the Israeli Border and the limit to which UNIFIL was allotted to deploy. The Irish Battalion had four UN Posts established in that enclave. By reason of their isolation and vulnerability within the DFD controlled enclave these Posts became commonly known as 'Hostage Posts'. They were of little strategic value to UNIFIL but were considered to be politically important. Requests to have them closed down had been denied.

In the October 1988 issue of *An Cosantoir* Capt Ray Murphy in his article, "Background to the 1980 Battle of At Tiri - a personal assessment", placed the attempt by the DFD to take over the village of At Tiri, and other closely related incidents, into the broader framework of what was happening in the Middle East and on the under political front at that time. The following account has been compiled by a number of personnel who were 'on the ground' at At Tiri from 6 to 13 April 1980 and is dedicated to the memory of Sgt Stephen Griffin of 46 Irish BATT, Pte S. Soromeno of FIBBATT and those members of UNIFIL wounded or injured during the Battle of At Tiri.

**SUNDAY THE 6TH OF APRIL, dawned clear over South Lebanon. Having celebrated the religious rites of Easter, off-duty personnel of the Battalion (Bn) settled down for an entertaining afternoon at the En Sports. With the last notable calendar highlight before rotation passed, morale was very high. At the Total pitch the competition, as well as the heat, was intense. The 10,000m runners were back after their gruelling ordeal. The sprint finals were completed and the novelty events had brought light relief from the seriousness of competition. The Inter-Company (Coy) tug-o-war was just beginning. HQ Coy had pulled Rocce Coy and both teams were 'on the rope for the second pull. A familiar cry, 'Rocce turn out', rang across the pitch. Immediately the rope was dropped and all ran to the waiting AFVs of the Coy. The time was 1545 hrs.

At the Russian situation was made crystal clear -
At 1728 hrs an APC from Recce Coy was ordered to move to the West End and to help evacuate the stranded APC and its crew. The APC moved by a ring route to the North of the village, later to be known as the North Circular. The DFF, meanwhile, were reinforcing their positions by infiltrating personnel across country from the South into the village. As the rescuing APC made its way into the West End, it encountered a DFF position at a location to be subsequently called The Junction. The time was 1735 hrs and the attitude of the DFF was decisively hostile and aggressive and rather than aggravate a delicate situation the APC was ordered to hold its ground.

Back at the UN CP at the East End, more DFF personnel were arriving from Satt al Hawa in civilian cars and with another half-track. This half-track attempted to ram a UN APC blocking the road but at the last moment it backed off and switched off its engine. The DFF, now with a strength of approx 150 in the village, set up two mortar positions near an outhouse. A large crowd of anxious villagers gathered near the CP. As the tension increased the DFF fired approx twenty rounds of small arms (SAS) fire in the vicinity of the inhabitants, which from the attitude of the locals was potentially unrest. A simple solution was not readily apparent and a prolonged standoff ensued. The DFF had become intent on isolating the village and cutting off all escape routes.

In the meantime an APC from Recce Coy was sent to the West End of the village in order to pick up a standing patrol which had been isolated there. The DFF sent personnel after it had picked up the patrol. The tactic at this time was to try and resolve situations through discussion and negotiation.

but was blocked by a UN APC. Some very angry personnel in militia uniform got out and one in particular was most upset. He was later identified by the villagers as Maj (Sp) Huin - a DFF officer. A scuffle broke out and his spectacles were accidentally broken when his chin came into contact with a UN file. After some further discussion, the tension eased and the status quo was restored. To show good faith to all, the UN personnel invited to the reception. Despite many cups of shi'ar (tea) and the multitude of cigarettes, the most welcome event was the opportunity to have a wash. To the vast amusement of the local ladies, the soldiers gleefully washed in their helmets and then danced and sang in the courtyard. The reception itself was a sombre affair, despite the best efforts of the Irish to enliven the proceedings.

Threats: Negotiation, Patient Effort and a Casualty for IRISHBATT

Meanwhile, plans were being prepared to rescue the stranded APC. It was first necessary to recce the area and to do this the DFF were engaged in conversation whilst a foot patrol slipped quietly into the dark to carry out the recce. It was also time to try to get some sleep in the APC. With changes of sentry, intermittent DFF calls for more shi'ar drinking and the slight apprehension of what the morning would bring, sleep was difficult to come by.

The plan was that one APC would move forward at dawn to make contact with the stranded APC whilst the second APC held the function. A diversion would be created at the East End by all the vehicles starting and revving their engines. At the West End, however, there was a small problem - a DFF jeep was blocking the narrow alley routes to the stranded APC. At approx 0500 hrs the UN personnel asked the DFF for coffee. The DFF readily agreed and one of their members was detailed to go back into the village to get some. Once he had passed through the Junction in his jeep he was not allowed back until the rescue operation was completed.

At 0525 hrs the rescuing APC moved forward and immediately the DFF came onto the alley-way and stood in front of the APC. The driver was instructed to continue driving slowly. The DFF were brushed to either side of the vehicle and immediately they opened fire on the APC with SA fire. The APC arrived in a small square and immediately came under more fire from another DFF patrol. Directions were passed to the stranded APC as it negotiated its way back along a twisty lane. The DFF attempted to immobilise the rescuing APC but the driver kept the vehicle moving forward and back in the confined space, while the vehicle commander threatened to return fire. After what seemed an ever
The DFF once again fired at the junction, but on the spot negotiations quickly brought the situation back to reason.

At 1225 hrs an DFFs firing at Hill 880 was halted and a 2255 hrs a message was received from the DFF to the effect that they would comply with the order to cease firing.

At 1200 hrs the DFFs were divided into two groups; one group took up position under cover of the river, while the other group moved to a more advantageous position at Hill 880.

At 1300 hrs a ceasefire was negotiated and the DFFs returned to their original positions.

A Ceasefire Negotiated - Threat to Captured IRISH SAILOR

At 0925 hrs a ceasefire was negotiated and the DFFs were ordered to return to their original positions. At 0900 hrs the DFFs were ordered to move back to the hill, in the vicinity of the captured Irish soldiers.

At 0930 hrs the DFFs were ordered to return to their original positions.

At 1000 hrs the DFFs were ordered to move back to the hill, in the vicinity of the captured Irish soldiers.

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Junction had commenced. This was a further development in the UN re-asserting its influence on the village. On the first patrol there was no contact with the DFF and the reaction of the villagers was one of delight. The DFF were not happy when they heard of this occurrence and the village Moktar was assaulted by them for allowing the UN to patrol. The DFF, however, did not attempt to encounter the UN patrols at this stage.

From first light on Friday morning 11 Apr, the DFF manoeuvred their tanks. One of the tanks appeared to be giving trouble and a recovery vehicle was called up to the tank position. At the West End, the village dominating patrols continued. At 1100 hrs the inevitable confrontation took place. Both sides immediately took up firing positions and after much discussion and negotiation the DFF withdrew threatening revenge. Shortly afterwards the DFF tank in the Cuckoo’s Nest opened fire and the rounds landed in the vicinity of Calxes in Tihini village, the home of Rece Guy.

Threat to Safety of Enclave Troops and a Fijian Casualty

Around 1445 hrs the DFF brought a truck load of youths and women from the village to the outhouse position. These people were equipped with tyres and a can of petrol. They filled the tyres with petrol and lit them. Once lit, they rolled the tyres down the hill at the AFV blocking the road at the UN CP. The DFF, meanwhile, continued with their sporadic firing all during this incident. They also warned that they would hold the UN enclave personnel hostage if any of the children were hurt. The event was termed a manœuvred manned UN positions in the Israeli controlled DFF area. The DFF also warned that they would fire for effect if their warnings were not heeded.

More civilians were observed approaching the East End CP from the Kurrum direction. The DFF were behind them firing shots into the road on either side in order to keep the civilians moving. A sniper at the Junction opened fire and the UN troops returned fire. At the East End, stones were being thrown by the civilians, who still appeared hostile despite the encouragement of the DFF. At 1520 hrs the half-track in the village opened fire and immediately it was returned by a UN AFV. In this burst of fire a UN Fijian soldier was mortally wounded. He was immediately evacuated, under cover of UN fire, to Haddarah. A tank, on the Southern Ridge, then opened fire. One tank round hit the UN house, penetrating through the walls and landing in a room where a number of UN troops were. Luckily the round was solid shot and not high explosive.

Enough is Enough

At 1525 hrs an AMIL 90 AFV was instructed to put the half-track out of action. Personnel at the West End were warned to take cover as they were directly in line with the AMIL 90 and the half-track. At 1530 hrs the AMIL returned to its position behind cover having immobilised the half-track. Meanwhile the UNIFIL Reserve from the Hill fired a 20mm round at one of the tanks as a warning. The AMIL 90 was again instructed to go forward and take out the GMC of the half-track, which had been immobilised. Under covering fire from UN troops he did so and at 1545 hrs the famous statement was heard on the radio ‘I’ve finished firing and he’s finished’.

Immediately troops at the West End were ordered to move into the village and to secure it. At 1545 hrs they arrived at the half-track position with two APCs. In the area deployed on all sides. The DFF were seen re-attacking down the wadi, carrying their wounded. A house search was immediately undertaken and after a number of rifle rounds were fired two DFF men were captured and were sent to the UN house under escort. By 1610 hrs the village was in UN hands and consolidation was well advanced.

Mortar rounds began to land and explode in the village area. Although mortar was expended, there was a considerable

A scene of destruction. Inside the UN House at Al Tiri. Post 6-12 after it was hit by a solid shot 75mm. (Photo: Capt T. Abner).

able degree of concern as to where the next round would land. All necessary precautions were taken. Around 1800 hrs a tank came forward and opened fire, but a TOW missile landed in his front soon changed his mind and he retreated behind cover again. By 1900 hrs a search of the entire village had been completed and positions prepared for an all night vigil of tension.

At 0447 hrs on the Saturday morning, word was received that an agreement had been reached between UNIFIL and the DFF. Part of the agreement was that Al Tiri would remain in UN hands and the situation was to revert to the status quo of the previous week. All UN troops were to be withdrawn to the North of Hill 880. At 0600 hrs the convoys started to make their way back up the Hill to join the remainder of the UNIFIL Force Reserve. A long day was spent in catching up on some much needed sleep, swapping information with the other nationalities of the Force Reserve and hoping there would be no reason to go back over the top again.
'Pity the Nation' by Robert Fisk

A Review by Comdt F. McKevitt

The Continuation of Politics by Other Means

In his book, Pity the Nation, Robert Fisk has given us a view of the storm that has been sweeping Lebanon for the past fifteen years. His narrative is linked throughout with insights into the history of Lebanon and its troubled neighbours, but primarily it is a personal witness to harrowing events. The author is one of the most incisive (and persistent) writers on Lebanese affairs for western readers, and his latest book will undoubtedly be a primary source when the history of this calamitous time is finally written.

The HEART OF THE BOOK is the story of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. His accounts of the siege of Beirut, the withdrawal of the PLO from the city, and the massacres at Sabra and Shatila, the Israeli withdrawal, the hopeless scavengers and, later, of the Multinational Force - the MNF - and the slaughter of civilians. Robert Fisk does not spare the reader, and as I began to wish he would stop, I realized that he had not. He describes the killing with a graphicness that is hard to imagine. He tells us of the images of a young boy with his arms wrapped around a dead woman, and the sight of the faces of children frozen with fear and terror. He tells us of the cries of the wounded, the smell of blood and the stench of death.

Robert Fisk's descriptions are often so vivid that one can almost smell the stench of death, feel the heat of the sun, and hear the sound of the gunshots. He has a gift for evoking the atmosphere of the place and time he writes about, and his descriptions are often so vivid that one can almost smell the stench of death, feel the heat of the sun, and hear the sound of the gunshots.

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In this witness, he spares no one, but is acutely aware that in the West, at least, he must be suspicious in the justification of his beliefs about Israeli involvement in the events he records. In this regard, the book helps to balance the accounts of the Western and American perspectives on Lebanon. It has been frequently noted that Lebanon is not a country that is often covered in the Western media, and that when it is, it is usually as a result of an event that has a direct impact on Western interests. In this context, it is important to consider the book as a contribution to the understanding of Lebanon.

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For those who have and for those who will serve in Lebanon, or for those who are interested in the history of the Middle East, this book is a valuable addition to the body of literature on the subject. It is a book that is not only informative, but also a powerful reminder of the human cost of war.
formed well in very adverse circumstances. The political premises and diplomatic support systems were weak from the start. Furthermore, it is evident that the lack of cooperation between all parties was a major handicap.

The analysis is based on United Nations records and a survey of interviews with members of the Secretariat, representatives of the permanent mission of parties to the conflict and members of the Council. The author informs the reader that he has used the experiences of the Norwegian UNIFIL battalion to illustrate some of the problems of the Peacemaking Force. However, it should be stressed that the study is based on the experience of UNIFIL as a whole and does not place too much emphasis on the experiences of any one contingent.

The study is part of a larger project on the future of International Peacemaking carried out by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. As such it highlights the lack of any serious or comprehensive study of UNIFIL by the academic or military establishments in Ireland. At present the sole repository for official UN documents in Ireland is the National Library in Dublin. Years of neglect and lack of resources have caused problems for the overworked staff. One result of this is that many of the UN documents are missing and may never have been received in the first place. This is one reason why research in this field is difficult and seldom undertaken in Ireland.

Bjorn Skogmo is presently Deputy Director-General of Political Planning and Research in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His book reflects his more than ten years of diplomatic service to the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, during which time he participated in the consultations among the countries contributing troops to UNIFIL. The study was initiated in 1981-1982, when the author was a visiting research fellow of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA).

The study is a detailed and informative analysis of what went wrong and why. It is recommended to all readers who want to improve their understanding of the problems and dilemmas facing UNIFIL. It should be required reading for members of the Defence Forces and officials in the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs who are involved with UNIFIL. It is difficult to find fault with this study. It is based on detailed and scholarly research. It is an authoritative and expressed in a precise and lucid style which contains none of the polemical rhetoric and insinuations of other accounts of UNIFIL compiled by less professional writers.

Charlota of the Desert - The Story of the Israeli Armoured Corps by David Ehil and published by Brassey's.

The Israeli Air Force and the Armoured Corps were the basic ingredients for the success of Israeli armies since 1967. This work, by a founder member of the Armoured Corps and later its Chief of Signals, tells the story from the foundation of the Corps, with a few armoured-plated trucks and stolen armoured cars, to the powerful instrument of it has become today, with an inventory of nearly 4,000 tanks. The big armoured battles of the 1967 War and the Yom Kippur War 1973 were significant in the development of both armour doctrine and equipment on a global scale, not to speak of the Middle Eastern theatre. This book deals with this development in a very professional and interesting manner. It strives to be objective but considering the subject, the author and his background, it does not always succeed. Indeed, at times it takes on the style reminiscent of sections of the Western media of twenty years ago when the Israelis were 'the good guys' and the Arabs the baddies'. The treatment of the Yom Kippur War underscores one of the themes of the book and shows how the huge tank battles both on the Golani and the Sinai influenced the Israeli Armoured development. It shows that most tank casualties were caused by RPGs and by the short range hand-held RPGs. There is at no attempt to designate the effectiveness of the ATGWs used by both the Egyptians and Syrians but they are acknowledged their place in the hierarchy of weaponry, Furthermore it is shown that such weapons were a surprise to the Israelis as maintained by many commentators in Israel. They were used from 1978 by the Egyptians and were a surprise to the Syrians. This reviewer witnessed a tank battle on the Golan in January 1975, i.e. nine months before the Yom Kippur War in which the Syrian extensively used their Sagger missiles.

For anyone interested in the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the use of armed forces in particular this book will prove most worthwhile acquisition. It can be recommended at a time when the superpower propaganda component can be balanced by adequate knowledge of the politics of the situation. One of the sources for such knowledge would be Robert Fisk's recent excellent volume Pity the Nation. (Reviewed in this issue of An Casamhola.)