Defence Forces
Special Re-Mortgage Package

- We will pay your professional legal fees
- We will pay for you to make a will
- We give independent mortgage, life & Home Insurance advice
- We save you money

You can pay off all your loans and reduce your outgoings by a massive 50% or more and it couldn't be simpler. If you are a home owner/mortgage holder, you can release your assets and get back in control of your life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Situation</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Repayment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>€150,000</td>
<td>€897 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Loan</td>
<td>€20,000</td>
<td>€415 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Union</td>
<td>€15,000</td>
<td>€304 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Card</td>
<td>€5,000</td>
<td>€250 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Loan</td>
<td>€7,500</td>
<td>€190 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>€197,500</td>
<td>€1856 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You receive €197,500
Plus €10,000 Cash Back
You pay €762 pm
You save €1093 pm.

Special Offers also available for First Time Buyers and Trading Up clients

Dertra InvestmentsLimited t/a Brady Burns Life & Pensions is an Independent Professional firm of Insurance Brokers and Consultants and is regulated by the Irish Financial Service Regulatory Authority as a Multi-Agency Intermediary and a mortgage Intermediary.

Terms and Conditions apply. Security is required.
WARNING: Your home is at risk, if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any loans secured on it. Example based on a 1 year fixed facility over 35 years.
inside

New Update

A Lesson from History
How today’s FIBUA techniques were used almost 90 years ago.
Report by Comdt Liam Campbell

The Tamil Tigers
Profiling the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Report by Dr John Horgan

A New Dimension
Training the Defence Forces Senior NCOs. Report by Sgt Christopher Smith

La Langue Français
The 2004 French Language Course. Report by Sgt James Goulding

Ultra-sports Equipment
Torches Report by Vincent Carroll

Terence MacSwiney
The Forgotten Hero (Part 1). Comdt Brendan O’Shea and CQMS Gerry White

Have You Got What It Takes?
Advertising the ARW’s Selection Course MIKE-ONE. Report by Special Correspondent

ChildAid
A volunteer humanitarian organisation run by ex-soldiers. Report by BQMS John O’Leary (retd)

Surviving Ejection
Air Crew survival training on land and in the sea. Report by Cpl Michelle Byrne

Book Review
A Business of Some Heat. Report by Col ED Doyle (retd)
Welcome Back!

Members of the 29th Cadet Class held their 50th Anniversary Re-union dinner at the Georgian Hotel, Dublin, on December 10th 2004. It was a time to celebrate old times but also some sad memories relived of Lt Paddy Riordan and Capt Christy McNamara, who died on overseas service in the Congo and Cyprus respectively. Included in the photograph is Fr Pat Hudson (OFM Rome).

Irish Soldiers travel to Sri Lanka!

Col Dermot Conroy (OC Combat Service Support College, DFTC), Lt Col John Egan (a specialist in Logistical and Transport Co-ordination), Comdt Damien McEvoy (a qualified Structural Engineer) and Capt John Phelan (a Civil Engineer) recently travelled to Sri Lanka to aid the humanitarian operation that is taking place in the devastated country, following the St Stephen’s Day tsunami. Photo: Cpl Paul Hickey.

Presenting...

His Excellency Dr Horst-Dieter Rennau (Ambassador Designate of Austria) and His Excellency Dr Dragisa Burzan (Ambassador Designate of Serbia and Montenegro) presented their ‘Letters of Credentials’ to President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtarán.

Defence Forces Rugby

4 W Bde’s Rugby Team won the Defence Forces Rugby Final when they defeated the Naval Service 36 – 0 in Cobh recently, having previously beaten the DFTC in the Semi-Final 44 – 9. The winning team is seen here (l-r): Lts Waters, Smith, O’Connor, McCann, Behan and Malynn. Back row: Cpl Killeen, Capt Farrell, Lt Lavin, Pte Touhey, Lt Campbell, Pte Hanney and Lts Connelly and Quinlan. Photo: Cpl Mandy Connolly (4 W Bde HQ).

Three’s a crowd...

Brig Gen Gerry McNamara (GOC 2 E Bde) took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the Training Staff of 71, 72 and 73 Recruit Platoons, after the three platoons, comprising of seventy-one recruits, ‘Passed Out’ in Gormanston Camp recently. Brig Gen McNamara is seen here in the front row (second from the left) along with (l-r): Lt Col JJ Reilly (OC 5 Inf Bn), Comdt B Carroll (OC B Coy 5 Inf Bn) and Comdt N Brennan (Camp Commandant). Back row: Sgt J Dyas & Lt E Harney (71 Rec Pln), Lt J Troy & Sgt P Byrne (72 Rec Pln), Lt N O’Mahony & Sgt J Kelly (73 Rec Pln), and Fr R McCabe (CF).

All present!

The Rt. Hon. Seán Martin, Lord Mayor of Cork, recently accompanied Brig Gen Pat Nash (GOC 1 S Bde) on his visit to Liberia, where troops from 1 S Bde form the backbone of 92 Inf Bn UNMIL. During his visit the Lord Mayor (inset) took time out to congratulate Pte O’Connor on receiving her GAA All Stars Award. Photo: Sgt Steve Kelly.
Peace Contingent of the Year

AWARDS OF MERIT

Irish Troops: Peace Contingent of the Year

A peacekeeping operation is arguably one of the most delicate operations that anyone, or group of individuals, can undertake. A peacekeeper can either make a bad situation worse, or make a bad situation better, depending on the posture of the peacekeeper.

The successful peacekeeping operation of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) during the year under review is obviously no exception. Although it has been almost impossible to single out a particular contingent from among the more than 45 contributing countries within UNMIL, the Rapid Reaction Unit of the Irish has emerged as our Peacekeeping Contingent of the Year.

We have observed that Liberians have great admiration of, and respect for, the Irish troops. Many Liberians see them as well equipped and highly professional. Interestingly, wherever the Irish appear, in spite of their military hardware, their posture usually radiates an atmosphere of peace and love. We have also found out that the presence the Irish usually calms nerves and creates a feeling of optimism.

Although all of the disturbances that UNMIL successfully brought under control this year was due to the combined efforts of contingents from other countries, the Irish contingent was most often seen as a vital contributor, thus our recognition of them as Peace Contingent of the Year.

The News, Monrovia (Daily Newspaper)
Friday December 31st 2004, Page 8
H & K Construction
General Building Contractors

New Houses
Renovations
Extensions
C2 Registered & Fully Insured

1 Ashbury, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Noel Hanlon: 087-2869943
Pat Kennedy: 087-6749300

Best Wishes to the Defence Forces for the year ahead

H&F Enterprises
Cooker Conversion
• Re-conditioned / re-enamelled Cookers
• Heating & Plumbing Contractors

CONVERT YOUR SOLID FUEL COOKER TO OIL
with the FULLY AUTOMATIC FITZALL Pressure Jet OIL BURNER

The Fitzall burner is specifically designed for conversion of solid fuel cookers in a matter of hours. It has fully thermostatically controlled central heating, providing constant comfort with economical heating and cooking.

Clean, Convenient & Economical Conversion Unit
• Fully automatic central heating • Thermostatically controlled
• Oven • Fitted in less than a day • Fitted Nationwide
• Can be re-adapted for solid fuel in less than an hour
• Fits most types of cooker • Prompt after-sales service

The fully automatic Fitzall pressure Jet Oil burner cuts costs by combining top efficiency with economy, so you’ll never be without the luxuries of a warm home and hot water, when you want them.

H&F Enterprises, Cooker Conversion, Lowergate St, Cashel, Co. Tipperary
Phone: 062-61511, 062-62441 • Fax: 062-61023

SOUTH TIPPERARY CIVIL DEFENCE

Best wishes to the Defence Forces for 2005

Heywood Rd, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 052 25888 Fax: 052 23339

PATRICK CAPLICE I.A.V.I.
AUCTIONEER • VALUER • ESTATE AGENT

Church Street, Cahir
Tel: 052 41514 or 087 2247453
Fax: 052 42596
Email: patrickcapliceseateagent@eircom.net
Web: www.patrikcapliceseateagent.com

M.S. FARM SERVICES & ASSOCIATES
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
MOORESFORT, LATTIN, CO. TIPPERARY
Tel: 062-55385 Fax: 062-55483
Email: mssfarmservices@eircom.net

M.S. FARM SERVICES & ASSOCIATES
RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
• Soil sampling and analysis • Surface and groundwater monitoring and analysis • Pig manure sampling and analysis • Fertiliser plans
• Planning applications • Preparation of site plans and drawings
• IPCC Licence application and management • Compliance monitoring with IPCC Licence and Planning conditions
• Advice on reduction of environmental impacts • Environmental project co-ordination

M.S. FARM SERVICES & ASSOCIATES

BUTLER CUNNINGHAM & MOLONY
Thurles / Templemore
For all legal services
Liberty Square, Thurles, Tipperary 0504 21857
Thurles Fax: 0504 23291
Email: info@bcmthurles.ie
Templemore, Co. Tipperary 0504 31122
Templemore Fax: 0504 31569
Email: info@bcmtemplemore.ie

TIPPERARY INSTITUTE
HETAC Accredited Degrees Available
e-Business, Business Studies, Rural Development,
Software Development, Multimedia & Communications, I.T. Support

TIPPERARY INSTITUTE
Nenagh Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Cashel Court, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Tel: +353 (0)504 28072 Fax: +353 (0)504 28001
Email: info@Tippinst.ie Web: www.Tippinst.ie
Introduction

Three weeks after the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami, media attention surrounding the visit of the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to Sri Lanka and the furor over him not visiting Tamil-held regions to the north of the country inadvertently served as a reminder to the broader world of one of the most intractable insurgencies to date. Despite the relatively little attention the Sri Lankan conflict receives in the West, both from media and analysts, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE – The Tamil Tigers) have been responsible for hundreds of suicide bombings, the assassinations of two heads of state, and have been the principal sustaining factor in a conflict that has claimed between 60,000 to 70,000 lives.

The goals of the Tamil Tigers, like many militant movements, are deceptively simple. The movement’s principal demand is for the permanent establishment of an autonomous homeland to the north and east of Sri Lanka, in what the LTTE refer to as ‘Eelam’ (homeland). Claims for a Tamil homeland ‘for all’ are misleading, however, as LTTE expert Arjuna Gunawardena argues, the Movement’s aspirations for internal autonomy essentially points to controlling 1/3 of the entire land area of Sri Lanka’s 65,000 square miles and 2/3 of the coastline, for what amounts to less than 10% of the population.

Origins and Development

The history of tension in Sri Lanka is, among other issues, the more recent history of the relationship between the Tamil and Sinhala races. Tamils and Sinhalese are primarily differentiated by language (and religion to a lesser extent), but LTTE grievances are rooted in the tensions that developed primarily from preferential treatment of the Sinhalese following the rise to power of a Sinhala majority in the 1956 Parliamentary Elections. Subsequent political, administrative and ethnic discrimination (including legislation which sometimes renders comparisons with other terrorist organisations to consist of, in terms of size and capacity. With an active operational membership of up to 10,000 members (between 1,400 - 5,000 of which are child soldiers), about half of which are active members of the LTTE at any one time, the LTTE commands a wider militia of over 40,000 members, each of whom has received some form of military training in the use of such equipment as small arms, 120mm mortars, heavy artillery, tanks and APCs. In addition, the LTTE has created an air section (the ‘Air Tigers’), a naval section (the ‘Sea Tigers’), and an elaborate intelligence section. Some of its special units, for example the ‘Charles Anthony’ Special Forces unit, are named after ‘fallen

Prabhakaran’s rise to prominence within militant Tamil nationalism came with his murder of Alfred Durayapa, the Tamil Mayor of Jaffna (a region in the north of the country, now controlled by the LTTE). Prabhakaran’s leadership of the LTTE began to wane upon the arrival of Anton Balasingham and the development of his Marxist teachings, although Prabhakaran’s role in creating the now unique culture within the movement ensured a returned to leadership in the years that followed.

As is common in the history of many extremist movements, attempts to quell their operational successes through severe State reprisals only served to reinforce the movement’s belief in their mission. In July 1983, the LTTE ambushed a Sri Lankan army patrol, killing 13 soldiers. The severe military crackdown that followed resulted in the killings of many Tamils but a concomitant swelling of LTTE’s ranks.

The LTTE’s ruthlessness is unsurpassed among Asian terrorist groups and their massacres of large numbers of police officers and soldiers, while horrific, are only dwarfed by the sheer numbers of Tamils murdered. In fact, the LTTE has killed more Tamils than either Sinhalese or military personnel. The movement has conducted attacks not only on political, military and civilian targets, but has also engaged in a variety of audacious attacks on power stations and petrol & oil refineries – sometimes dealing significant economic damage to Sri Lanka’s infrastructure. The success of these operations is partly due to the capacity and resources of the LTTE, but is also due to Sri Lankan security remaining relatively vulnerable.

Broadly speaking, the LTTE might be described as an ethno-nationalist separatist movement that, among other tactics, uses terrorism. However, in several ways it is a movement that defies simplistic categorization. One distinguishing feature of the LTTE, which sometimes renders comparisons with other ‘terrorist’ groups inappropriate, is that it controls, which sometimes renders comparisons with other terrorist organisations to consist of, in terms of size and capacity. With an active operational membership of up to 10,000 members (between 1,400 - 5,000 of which are child soldiers), about half of which are active members of the LTTE at any one time, the LTTE commands a wider militia of over 40,000 members, each of whom has received some form of military training in the use of such equipment as small arms, 120mm mortars, heavy artillery, tanks and APCs. In addition, the LTTE has created an air section (the ‘Air Tigers’), a naval section (the ‘Sea Tigers’), and an elaborate intelligence section. Some of its special units, for example the ‘Charles Anthony’ Special Forces unit, are named after ‘fallen

Prabhakaran’s rise to prominence within militant Tamil nationalism came with his murder of Alfred Durayapa, the Tamil Mayor of Jaffna (a region in the north of the country, now controlled by the LTTE). Prabhakaran’s leadership of the LTTE began to wane upon the arrival of Anton Balasingham and the development of his Marxist teachings, although Prabhakaran’s role in creating the now unique culture within the movement ensured a returned to leadership in the years that followed.

As is common in the history of many extremist movements, attempts to quell their operational successes through severe State reprisals only served to reinforce the movement’s belief in their mission. In July 1983, the LTTE ambushed a Sri Lankan army patrol, killing 13 soldiers. The severe military crackdown that followed resulted in the killings of many Tamils but a concomitant swelling of LTTE’s ranks.

The LTTE’s ruthlessness is unsurpassed among Asian terrorist groups and their massacres of large numbers of police officers and soldiers, while horrific, are only dwarfed by the sheer numbers of Tamils murdered. In fact, the LTTE has killed more Tamils than either Sinhalese or military personnel. The movement has conducted attacks not only on political, military and civilian targets, but has also engaged in a variety of audacious attacks on power stations and petrol & oil refineries – sometimes dealing significant economic damage to Sri Lanka’s infrastructure. The success of these operations is partly due to the capacity and resources of the LTTE, but is also due to Sri Lankan security remaining relatively vulnerable.

Broadly speaking, the LTTE might be described as an ethno-nationalist separatist movement that, among other tactics, uses terrorism. However, in several ways it is a movement that defies simplistic categorisation. One distinguishing feature of the LTTE, which sometimes renders comparisons with other ‘terrorist’ groups inappropriate, is that it controls
All above: Child soldiers.

Below: The material an LTTE suicide bomber would wear.
operationally-relevant characteristics. The female suicide bomber that assasinated Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (killing 17 other people in the process) for example, was not searched by security guards. In terms of individual background factors of members, while cases of individual victimisation abound (Gandhi’s assassin, ‘Dhanu’ had been raped by Indian soldiers in 1987), LTTE members tend to identify with a shared perceived victimisation of the Tamil people and learn to attribute their behaviour accordingly through a socialised process of gradual indoctrination and the equally gradual process of acquiring group-relevant and focused beliefs and attitudes. The degree to which this existed prior to membership or is shaped as a result of membership is difficult to confirm in the absence of reliable data.

It should also be pointed out that while the LTTE trains a significant number of recruits, they are always sensitive to identifying particular skills or capacities in individuals that can be exploited for operational reasons. Often the LTTE will retain their most skilled soldiers for operations which have high strategic importance. For smaller operations primarily focused for disruptive activity, they have, according to the Human Rights Watch organisation, frequently used child members.

Conclusions

Given the scale and extent of LTTE operations, it cannot be surprising that the movement has needed to both create and sustain a financial infrastructure. This has largely been fed by diaspora fundraising operations. That being said a number of agencies, including the US State Department, have overstated the extent to which the LTTE is funded by voluntary donations by sympathetic Tamil. The reality is that while some funds do come from such sources, extortion and racketeering are still a commonplace occurrence, especially in the large Tamil communities in Canada and Australia.

Since 9/11, a global financial crackdown on the assets of the LTTE has largely been fed by diaspora fundraising operations and the flow of funds has been severely restricted.

Following a long history of failed attempts to secure a stable peace in the region (including a disastrous attempt to impose an Indian peacekeeping force in Tamil-controlled regions of Sri Lanka) the Tamil Tigers declared a ceasefire in 2001. The following year, in negotiations brokered by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, the Sri Lankan Government engaged in face-to-face talks with LTTE Representatives and subsequently agreed to grant the LTTE limited self-rule in certain areas – which came to light during Kofi Annan’s recent visit to Sri Lanka. Like most terrorist ceasefires, the LTTE’s cessation has not necessarily indicated an inevitable move towards a lasting peace, and it is difficult to say if recent events may serve to positively influence the direction of peace talks. While preliminary reports suggest that anywhere between 1,000 and 3,000 LTTE members were killed in the tsunami catastrophe, there have been more worrying developments in the region. UNICEF has recently provided fresh evidence of the ‘recruitment’ of children into the LTTE. In particular, the abduction of three orphaned girls has received significant attention. In the few years prior to the disaster, UNICEF had held contacts with the Tamil Tigers about child recruitment, and despite the breakdown of Peace Talks in 2003, expectations that the practice would at least stop since the recent disaster have obviously now proved to be unfounded.

On December 23rd last, the LTTE rejected Sri Lankan Government proposals to revive negotiations. It remains to be seen if meetings scheduled for late January of this year between the Norwegian Foreign Minister and Prabakaran himself will be productive.

Editor’s Note: Readers please note that this article was completed in early-January 2005 and the information contained therein was correct at the time of going to print.

Further Reading

Literature on the LTTE is very scarce, and it can be difficult to find reliable sources, particularly in relation to Black Tiger operations. The following represent some of the more carefully detailed analyses currently available.


Major attacks by the LTTE

July 1975: Alfred Duraiyapa, Tamil Mayor of the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka assassinated by, later LTTE leader, Vellepulai Prabhakaran.

May 1991: Rajiv Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister, assassinated while a female suicide bomber placed a grenade round his neck during a public meeting.

May 1993: Ranasinghe Premadasa, Sri Lankan President, assassinated by suicide bomber in Colombo.

October 1994: Sri Lankan Presidential candidate and 52 others killed by suicide bomber.

January 1996: 91 people killed and over 1,300 injured after a truck bomb explodes outside a Colombo bank.

October 1997: 18 people killed by suicide truck bomber outside Colombo’s World Trade Centre.

July 1999: Neelan Thiruchelvam, a Tamil-born member of the Sri Lankan Parliament assassinated by suicide bomber who enquired in front of his car.

December 1998: Chandrika Kumatrungne, Sri Lankan President, is blinded in one eye following a failed assassination attempt.

January 2000: Suicide bomber attempted to assassinate the Sri Lankan Defence Minister, in the residence of the Prime Minister.

June 2000: C.V. Gunaratna, the Industry Minister of Sri Lanka, assassinated by suicide bombers. 24 other people were killed and over 60 seriously injured.
Colette's
Unisex Hair Salon
Gortanbridge, Tipperary
For all your hairdressing needs
Now open Thurs 9-6 / Fri 9-9pm Sat 9-6
Also by appointment by contacting Colette on Tel: 052 66403 or 052 66439

Secret Gardens
Garden Design, Advice & Maintenance
Toomevara, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Prop: Geraldine Ryan
Ph: 087 2954233
Best wishes to the Civil Defence Forces from Geraldine

Tony Bank's Car Sales
& Light Commercials
Refrigerated Light Haulage
Used Ex-Government Cars for Sale Always in Stock
Ford • Toyota • Nissan Cars
Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Mobile: 086 8887119
Tel: 067 21306 (After hours)

Duncan Carpentry
Roofing, 1st and 2nd Fixing
All Interior Carpentry
Tel/Fax: 0504 90963
Mobile: 086 3505092
Email: dcl2002@eircom.net
C2 Registered

Jim Martin
Underfloor Heating & Geothermal Heat Pumps
We design, supply, install, commission entire systems for domestic and commercial use.
Fusion Weld All Manifolds
Guaranteed No Leaks
Also Nationwide Coverage
Louis House, Leigh, Two Mile Borris
Phone 0504 44555
086 2229209

Martin Rice Electrical
Electrical Contractor
Industrial - Commercial - Domestic Installations - Maintenance
Ballyduff, Rathcabbin
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0509-299777 • 086-8473177
Best Wishes to the Defence Forces for the year ahead

Christopher Ducie
Plant Hire
- Site Clearance
- Site Development
- Ground Work • Road Making
8 Cuan Deigh • Puckane • Nenagh • Co. Tipperary
Tel: 067-24320
Mobile: 087-6866706

David Fagan
Installation Services
Installations to all channels
Sky Digital, Sky Plus, BBC Free to Air, RTE, RTE2, TV3, TG4 Aerials
Satellite Broadband
Rathnareen, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Mobile: 086 6040204

O'Keeffe's Kennels
Boarding & Grooming (Under New Management)
All Types of Dogs Welcomed for grooming
Also Cats • Rabbits • Guinea Pigs etc.
Tel: 067-32254

Dick Boland
BC Lubricants
Phone: 087-2757837
Distributor of Top Quality Lubricants and Grease Packaged & Bulk
It was with a lot of enthusiasm and some trepidation that a group of students of all ranks reported to 2 E Bde BTC, Cathal Brugha Bks, in September 2004 to begin their encounter with La Langue Francaise. The majority of students were absolute beginners and not sure what to expect, but being soldiers they knew to ‘expect the unexpected’.

It is reputed that when the French author Alexandre Dumas began to learn English he said, “…English is simply French – but badly pronounced.” We should have, at this point, offered our apologies to Monsieur Dumas for some of the forthcoming attempts at French pronunciations that were about to be uttered and prayed for divine intervention in our ‘hour of need’.

Our average active vocabulary ranges between 500 and 1,500 words and it is quoted that some 60% of the English language is derived from the French language. In fact 1,200 nouns are spelled exactly the same in both languages, so French and English (in effect) share a broad common basis. The difference lies in the pronunciation of the two languages and that is where the fun started!

We were to be greatly helped with plentiful assistance, patience, encouragement and direction in the form of F.A.S., not the Training Authority but our tutors, Francois, Anne and Stephanie. Their help and encouragement was paramount to many of us staying the distance and successfully completing the course. The lessons conducted during the course consisted of grammatical structure, aural and oral comprehension and written French. However, it should be pointed out that each of the above competencies is required in order to attain any degree of fluency in any language and none can be taken in isolation. The idea that one can concentrate on conversational language and exclude grammatical understanding is soon exposed when one moves from the very basic structural sentences found in phrase books.

The Course began, as did each day, with the dreaded ‘grammar’, a word that on its own is often accompanied by a sharp intake of breath from the students and can make grown men go weak at the knees.

One of the difficulties encountered in language learning is gaining the grammatical knowledge associated with any particular language, as the breaking down of written sentences into their grammatical parts is not something one engages with on a daily basis. While most of us remember what a ‘noun’, ‘verb’ and ‘adjective’ is, the use of ‘indirect pronouns’ and ‘prepositions’ can bring on a thousand-yard stare in the most calm and stable individuals.

For example, if we described, ‘The orange is hard, harder or hardest.’ (No problem.) But if we say that this is, ‘A concrete noun described using an adjective, a comparative or a superlative adjective.’ (How do you feel about that.)

However, regular practice of grammar, together with the ability to understand the differing grammatical parts of a sentence, is paramount to providing a solid basis for further progression. At least that’s what the brochure said!

“We stop for fifteen minutes, maintenant,” were the blessed words waiting to be heard each morning. In the interests of cultural exchange we knew that this was a seminal moment to educate les Professeurs on the inviolability of such moments, namely Army coffee time. In all credit to them though, if the coffee surprised them they never let it show.

When the time arrived for some aural comprehension, a tape recorder consisting of a small passage in French was played to the class. We would listen intently and write down what we heard. Absolutely nothing at first! Blank pages and blank expressions all round!

We knew we must try harder and invariably all of these exercises were followed by questions from the Tutor and a period of silence from the students, together with vain attempts to avoid eye contact and the hope that someone else would be asked first. The Jury is still out on whether the tutors were brought in for an MOI (method of instruction) Course by the dark forces within the Directorate of Defence Force’s Training, Park House.

The intensive nature of this course allowed each student to progress from their individual starting points. This course also required each student to undertake supplementary work and assignments during the intervening period from each week’s training in order to fully benefit from the lessons they had partaken in.

In order to learn a language, and gain a degree of proficiency in it, requires a high level of commitment and work. The gifted individual with an aptitude for languages may exist out there somewhere, but for most of us it is down to sheer hard work and application to the task in hand. In return we gain the ability to converse with others in their language and enrich our experience of other cultures. It can certainly be intense, frustrating and confusing at times, but also very funny and rewarding. Why not sign up and try it for yourself.

Vive la difference.

Vive la France.
H

aving turned the corner of an average street in Dublin City one can only be stunned by the bright copper-covered building appropriately called ‘The Copper House’ that is the home of ‘fire’ and its family-like staff. Passing through The Copper House’s airy reception, fire’s production team, that includes designers, printers, photographers and engineers, were sitting and chatting with the company’s Head of Marketing, Martin Durcan, about what they did at the weekend. In general, everyone’s weekend was the same with dinners in restaurants, taking in a movie, having a few drinks. The difference with Martin’s normal weekend, however, is that he spends much of his time off shooting on the firing range, jumping out of planes and, as a Platoon Commander with 6 Fd MP Coy, he is also responsible for the unit’s training.

This is certainly one busy man. Originally from Walkinstown, Dublin, Martin grew up in a family with a strong military background. He recalls listening to ‘war-stories’ from his Grandfather, a former Scotland Yard Detective, and from his father, John Durcan, an officer with the LDF’s 42 Inf Bn and the greatest influence to him joining the Reserves. Martin’s brother, Jack, also served with the Defence Force in the 1970s, with 20 Inf Bn, and would pay Martin to ‘Bull’ his boots for him before going on parade.

It wasn’t until September 19th 1984 that Martin’s ‘Bulling’ techniques were put to the test, when he joined E Coy (Complacht Na Bhfiann), 20 Inf Bn, an Irish-speaking unit based at Griffith Bks. After serving two years in this unit Martin transferred to 6 Fd MP Coy, Cathal Brugha Bks, completing an MP Probationers Course and, later, a Potential NCO Course.

At the time he joined the Reserve (formerly An FCÁ), Martin had begun to form the educational base from which his future career would stem. While completing a course at the College of Marketing and Design, Martin worked as a contractor for RTÉ, as well as working on architectural model making. His experi-

ence ensured a place on the team selected to build the actual working models of the set for the 1988 European Song Contest.

Martin also continued his career in the Reserves throughout his period of study, completing an Assault Pioneer Course with The Engineer School, Curragh Camp. This very intensive course, conducted every weekend and Thursday evening over a period of six months, demanded a high level of dedication, as the course included instruction on improvised explosive devices, water crossing, abseiling, and building rope bridges and the medium girder bridge, a later version of the Bailey Bridge.

It was around this time that Martin completed the first of many contracts for the Defence Force. This first ‘job’ was to recreate a particular section of ground on a 5m x 5m cloth model for the Cadet School that depicted every road, track, field and boundary. Describing this job as a ’nightmare’, Martin found that the hardest part of the project was trying to find a suitable area to store this huge model as his creation began to unfold.

Martin finished College in 1988 and was employed by RTÉ’s Design Department, where he worked on a number of programs including ‘Saturday Night at the Olympia’ and ‘The Den’. He later left RTÉ to work for Modern Display Artists before moving on again to Jack Restin Display (JRD). It was while working for JRD...
...At one stage I had just completed a three-week course in the DFTC when Fiona started a two-week patrol off the West Coast of Ireland, but you have to take the rough with the smooth if you want to be a part-time professional soldier.

that Martin got to know the owners of fire, Maurine and Les Walnick, and when the opportunity arose for him to join their company as Head of Marketing he made the latest career move.

Throughout his hectic civilian career Martin has remained dedicated to the Reserve Defence Force and is now a Lieutenant with 6 Fd MP Coy. Involved in the unit’s recruiting campaigns over the years, Martin now holds the position of Training Platoon Commander but was keen to state that, “He would be lost without the really great nucleus of dedicated training NCOs that pull everything together.”

Martin manages to combine many of his hobbies with his military career and his love of pistol shooting has seen him become Captain of the unit’s BAP Shooting Team, who recently won the MP Corps BAP Shoot Competition.

The sky really is the limit for Martin Durcan as he proved when, in the midst of juggling his civilian and Reserve careers, he completed the Dutch Military Parachute Course in Texel, Holland. Going on to complete an Accelerated Free Fall Course in the USA, Martin later applied for the first PDF/RDF Advanced Free Fall Parachute Course with An Para Chumann Mileata (the Defence Force’s Parachute School), Literally ‘jumping’ at the chance to join the course, Martin became one of the first RDF personnel to complete the combined parachute course.

After conquering the skies, Martin continued his success on the ground when, as a member of 2 E Bde’s RDFRA committee he was elected to the Reserve Defence Force Representative Association’s (RDFRA) National Executive Committee. Describing his hectic lifestyle, Martin said with ease, “At the moment I am working on the design and production of the new RDFRA ID Card and a Logo for the organisation.”

As if this was not enough Martin has continued to work extensively with the Defence Forces, from producing military stands for Unit Recruiting Drives to intricately designed banner stands for Career Fairs and Document Launches. One of the most interesting projects he was tasked with designing was the ‘mounts’ for Michael Collins’ and Erskin Childers’ pistols explaining, “It was a tight deadline was the ‘mounts’ for Michael Collins’ and Erskin Childers’ pistols explaining, “It was a tight deadline to work to, but a very interesting project.”

As for his home life, Martin describes it by saying, “My house sometimes needs a UN Envoy to come in and sort out the ‘blue’ from the ‘green’ in the wardrobe, as my wife, Fiona, is an Ensign with the Naval Service Reserve. It can be tough sometimes, with both of us serving in the Reserves. At one stage I had just completed a three-week course in the DFTC when Fiona started a two-week patrol off the West Coast of Ireland, but you have to take the rough with the smooth if you want to be a part-time professional soldier.”

With whatever time or space he has left, Martin still manages to build his collection of Irish Militaria and is always on the lookout to fill the gaps in his collection.

Although Martin’s military career is a huge part of his life, his role as fire’s Head of Marketing is also a demanding job – dealing with high-profile clients such as Inis, The Regency Hotel Group and Bank of Ireland. fire is in existence for 20 years and the company has mastered the concept of creating unusual but stunning designs, fire’s use of light, colour and clarity, combined with easy to assemble stands, can transform any event into a mind-blowing experience with their array of reusable and eye-catching advertising stands. The Copper House contains a phenomenal amount of high-quality equipment, from scanners to printers, and an engineering area where the designs literally ‘come to life’. All of fire’s production stages, along with its great family atmosphere combine to make this company a winning team, with the staff often working long hours to meet tight deadlines. To ease the pressures of work, when the going gets tough, fire provides facilities such as showers, a well-equipped gymnasium, a Foosball table and a chill-out area to keep their Staff’s minds sharp and their bodies relaxed.

However, there is one member of the team that keeps everyone on their toes and that is Casper the Boxer Dog, who proudly struts his stuff around the building while he waits to be walked, petted and fed. As Martin explained, “Casper is not just a mascot he is part of our team.”

Since his first day in the Reserve Defence Force, things have really changed in Martin Durcan’s life. He has matured from student to Head of Marketing at fire, climbed the ranks of 6 Fd MP to Lieutenant, and pursued his hobbies and interests with equal ambition. It is inevitable that Martin’s burning ambition will allow him continue to complete new projects, take on new challenges and continue to serve with the Reserve Defence Force.
Open to all members of PDFORRA and to retired members, who are members of ANSAC on the day they retire.

Services available include:

- Savings
- Loans
- Budget Plan Service
- Free Mortgage Advice
- Home Heating Oil Scheme
- Free Savings & Loan Insurance
- Petrol Card Scheme

Opening Hours
Monday to Thursday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm
OPEN THROUGH LUNCH — PERSONAL CALLERS WELCOME

75 Amiens Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-8554489 • Fax: 01-8558067 • Email: ansac@iol.ie

OSCAR SECURITY
MILITARY TRAINED SECURITY SPECIALISTS
Neart do réir ar móríathan
OUR PROTECTION BRINGS YOU PEACE OF MIND
Security Guards
Mobile Patrols
Key Holding
Remote Surveillance
Security Consultants
A Completely Irish Firm
NOW RECRUITING RETIRED AND EX-SERVICEMEN
contact Noel @ 01-4556488
Oscar House, Galtymore Road, Dublin 12
Tel: 01-4556488 Fax: 01-4551957

BUNDORAN CINEPLEX

STATION ROAD, BUNDORAN, TURN AT THE RAILWAY BAR

Credit Card Booking & Information Line
071 9829999

www.bundorancineplex.com
Aertal Page 320 (RTE1)

NEW MOVIES COMING SOON

Fight of the Phoenix (March 2005)
Hostage (March 2005)
Harold & Kumar (March 2005)
The Ring 2 (March 2005)
Star Wars (March 2005)
Plus many more great releases

Group Bookings Available
Special concessionary rates available to groups of 12 or more
Contact Cinema for further details

Allied Foods would like to wish the Civil Defence Forces the very best for the year ahead

Contact Dympna Griffin 01 4662619

Allied Foods, 2nd Avenue, Cookstown Ind Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Heritage
Painting & Decorating

Interior / Exterior
Wallpapering Specialist
Free Quotations & Decor Service
Affordable Prices & Personal Attention

Dundalk • Tel: 042-9351939 or 086-3443148

Wishing all the best to the Curragh Defence Forces
Army Ranger Wing’s Selection Course Mike One

Have you got what it takes?

The new Selection Course Format and Briefings will allow you the chance to find out!

Selection Course MIKE ONE runs from June 19th to July 22nd 2005. The Army Ranger Wing needs new members and is prepared to give YOU the opportunity to prove that you have the qualities necessary to become a fully trained member of an elite Special Forces Unit.

We will train you in the following:
- Long Range Recce
- Parachuting
- Unarmed Combat
- Anti-Terrorist Training
- Advanced Combat Shooting
- Advanced First Aid
- Demolitions

All within your first year in the ARW!

Once you earn the ‘Green Beret’, you will have the opportunity to specialise in diving, sniping or advanced parachuting. You can also expect to complete military courses abroad and to train with international Special Forces’ units.

So, if you are:
- Medically fit
- IT 2/2000 qualified
- Minimum 3-Star Pte or equivalent

…and want a new challenge from the Defence Force, submit your application through your Brigade Operations Office for MIKE ONE today. Applications must be received by Wednesday April 13th 2005.

A one-day Preliminary Course will take place on Thursday April 14th 2005 and must be completed by all course applicants. IT 2/2000 will be run on this day, as well as briefings on the new format of the course.

For further information contact the ARW Duty Room at:
Tel: 045 445000 ext 5248
SJC, Plunkett Bks, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare
Defence Force Intranet/ARMY/ARW

Note: The ARW welcomes applicants from ‘all’ personnel from ‘all’ Corps and Branches of the Permanent Defence Force.
The thought of flying the Pilatus PC-9M, the Defence Force’s latest aircraft, is one of the many enticing reasons young men and women have for joining the Defence Force as an Air Corps Cadet. For the latest batch of Air Corps Cadets there is a lot of preparatory work to be completed before taking hold of the reins of this turbo-prop aircraft, Cpl Michelle Byrne (An Cosantóir journalist and 7 Inf Bn) takes a closer look at one phase of this preparation.

Air Corps Cadets, along with all army and naval cadets must successfully complete their basic military training at the Cadet School, Military College, DFTC, before beginning their chosen careers in the Defence Forces. For the Air Corps Cadets a transfer to the Air Corps Flight Training School (FTS), Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, is the next step in their career to becoming an officer and it is here that students get their introduction to the Pilatus PC-9M. The Air Corps Cadets begin their pilot training, with the first step on the runway to the sky being the completion of all safety courses connected with flying the Pilatus PC-9M. The Pilatus is equipped with an ejection seat system and a course was developed in the Military Training School (MPS) to train the potential pilots in its use and how to survive the aftermath of its use.

The MPS’s first Air Crew Survival Course was conducted in November 2004. Six potential pilots, five men and one woman, began the survival course with becoming accustomed to the cockpit of the Pilatus PC-9M and its ejection seat system, learning about everything that could happen when a pilot is forced to eject from an aircraft. The ‘actions-on’ drills were learned and fine tuned, as these drills would need to be instinctive and performed with co-ordinated precision to ensure the complete safety of the pilots’ lives. The drills were also practiced in different scenarios, ejecting over land and sea during the many differing weather conditions that the students could possibly find themselves flying in. As Air Corps pilots normally fly over friendly areas, the potential pilots’ initial training was based around landing in friendly territory and awaiting a standard rescue.

When a pilot makes the crucial decision that his aircraft has become unflyable and ejection is the only course of action left, this decision immediately triggers a chain of events that must be controlled by the pilot to ensure survival. Following the initial (explosive) exit from the aircraft, the pilot’s parachute opens and allows a safe return to Earth. This is ‘showtime’ for the pilot. They are now relatively safe, having left their failing aircraft, but it is their decisions and actions from this point forward that will decide their fate.

To simulate ejection over the sea, a day in the DFTC’s Swimming Pool Complex was arranged. The Cadets, wearing full flying suit, helmet, mask and parachute harness, stood (one at a time) at the Diving Pool’s edge. Under the watchful eye of Comdt Gary Garland (OC MPS), each student systematically carried out their drills as if falling from the sky until finally reaching the point of inflating their life-jacket. The student then entered the pool and swam to a point where they were directly under a raised and open parachute. Once in position the parachute was lowered down onto the pool’s surface and the student went on to complete their survival drills, taking off the parachute harness and sliding the parachute over their helmet, before finally swimming back to the pool’s edge. Throughout the exercise Sgt Jim O’Neill (Course Instructor and safety diver) was constantly in the pool, monitoring the students’ responses.

The next section of the training program was to simulate the ‘drag’ encountered along the surface of the sea by a wind-inflated parachute. This, again, was simulated in the pool by dragging the student through the water while carrying out the drills of releasing the parachute harness. Once out of the harness, though, this time the student had to inflate the survival raft attached to the end of their harness, before completing the survival drills of protection, location, water and food.

For protection the student must get into the survival raft, launch its anchor, zip up the raft’s canopy and manually inflate the rest of the raft (by blowing into the canopy), before drying out the inside of the raft. The raft’s location is maintained, in calm seas, by a mini parachute-type anchor, as it is imperative that the pilot remains in the area of their ejection for ‘pick-up’ purposes. Safe ‘drinkable’ water and food is either carried by the pilot on his person or provided by the water purification system and survival rations contained in the survival raft.
These exercises were relatively easy in the DFTC’s Pool Complex, even with the simulated ‘choppy seas’, but the students now had to look forward to completing these drills again in the open sea. Two days later the students completed their drills in the Irish Sea, dealing with waves, salt water, seasickness, foul weather and bitterly cold water. All six students completed their drills with a precise professionalism that proved they could handle themselves in the sea just as well as they did in the diving pool.

Having mastered landing in the sea it was time to learn how to survive on land! This exercise would be more worrying for the students, as they had all just recently completed their military training at the Cadet School. All of this prior training had been completed with full combat equipment marching order (CEMO), with regular access to rations during well-organised ground tactics. However, on this occasion the students would have to learn how a pilot would face and handle a survival situation ‘on-the-ground’.

After ejecting from the aircraft and parachuting to relative safety, the potential pilots could possibly find themselves in a position where they were unable to travel long distances and would have to remain at their landing site, maintaining their safety and security until rescued. During this exercise the student’s ‘exercise brief’ left them all in no doubt that they must be prepared to stay in-situ for an unlimited amount of time with limited equipment.

Situated in three different areas in the Glenmalure area of Co Wicklow, the three teams-of-two built shelters using their parachutes while the inflated rafts were used to lie on and provide insulation from the ground. The teams then set up rabbit snares, prepared camp fires and, after skinning and preparing the rabbits they had caught, the teams then boiled them in ammunition boxes.

After surviving for two days on-the-ground, the welcome sound of a distant ‘rescue’ helicopter was a delight to the survival teams, who then carried out the required rescue drills that included launching flares. It was time to ‘pull out’. They had all survived their pilot survival training and it was now time to get back to base for a hot meal, a shower, some clean clothes and the hope that they will never have to put these lessons into practice for real, but if they did they would know how to survive ejection!

For protection the student must get into the survival raft, launch its anchor, zip up the raft’s canopy and manually inflate the rest of the raft (by blowing into the canopy), before drying out the inside of the raft. The raft’s location is maintained, in calm seas, by a mini parachute-type anchor…

Top: Sgt Jim O’Neill (Course Instructor) gives a demo on how to survive ‘on the ground’.

Centre: Sgt Jim O’Neill keeps a watchful eye on a student practicing their ‘water drills’.

Right: A student prepares to skin a rabbit.
The urban battlefield came into prominence during the Second World War, as the battles for Stalingrad, Warsaw, Berlin and Manila saw the evolution of a combat environment that demanded new and radical strategies. Up until this time armies generally laid ‘siege’ to cities and did ‘battle’ in the countryside. During the Cold War though the manoeuvre space provided by open terrain again dominated the doctrine of both sides. But with the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, armies have again returned to developing doctrine for a battlefield they can no longer avoid, the Urban Battlefield.

It is expected that by 2020 the world’s rapidly expanding urban areas will contain 70% of the globe’s population, making the city and the battlefield inseparable. The Irish Defence Force has recognised this fact and in its Brigade Operations Manual, 2000, has established the doctrinal foundation for the conduct of fighting in built-up areas (FIBUA).

Counter-insurgency operations, such as the battles fought in the streets, factories and sewers of Hue, Beirut, Mogadishu, Grozny and more recently in Falluja, have contributed to the development of this type of warfare doctrine. However, closer to home some of the battles of the 1916 Rising that were fought in Dublin are prime examples of the part urban terrain can play in restoring the balance between two unequal forces. To illustrate this point this article will examine one such action that took place during the rebellion.

Background Summary

The 1916 Rising was planned and executed by an inner circle within the leadership of the Irish Volunteers. However, when the Irish Volunteer’s Chief of Staff, Professor Eoin MacNeill, became aware of the plans he issued a countermanding order canceling the parades and marches that were to have signalled the start of the rebellion. Although this order dramatically reduced the number of Volunteers who turned out, the Rising went ahead regardless.

Commandant Éamon de Valera’s 3rd Battalion of the Dublin Brigade was assigned the defence of the southern approaches to the City Centre. Initial planning had envisaged a unit strength of 400, but as approximately 120 men reported for duty on Easter Monday, the unit’s area of operations (AO) had to be reduced. This AO was triangular in shape, with its base running from Lansdowne Road across to Ringsend Road before moving northwest to an apex at Westland Row Railway Station. Covering in the region of one square kilometre of dense urban terrain, even if the 3rd Battalion had been at full strength this AO would have severely stretched the unit’s resources.

The Battleground

The Grand Canal runs in a loop from west to east through the southern part of Dublin City, on its way to Dublin Port, and is traversed by eight bridges between Ringsend and Harold’s Cross. The 3rd Battalion’s reduced AO included the bridges at Ringsend Road, Grand Canal Street and Lower Mount Street, which were defended, blocked or covered by interlocking fire. However, due to the low turnout of ‘Volunteers’ it was not possible for the Rising’s Leadership to assign unit responsibility for the defence of the bridges at Lower Baggot Street, Leeson Street, Charlemont Street, Portobello and Harold’s Cross, resulting in free ‘passage of movement’ to the reinforcing British troops.

The Defending Force

Lieutenant Michael Malone, C Company, 3rd Battalion, commanded the defence of Mount Street Bridge, a bridge that lies on the main route between the Royal Dublin Society’s grounds at Ballsbridge and the City Centre. The British reinforcements, having landed at Dun Laoghaire Port, used the grounds as an assembly area prior to advancing northwards on the main Volunteer positions and Mount St Bridge was an ideal and obvious position to organise a defence.

If a unit of the Irish Defence Forces had to defend the same approaches to the city today, it is likely that the Mount Street Bridge area would be designated a ‘defended locality’. This is defined by the Defence Force’s Brigade Operations Manual, 2000, as a number of mutually supporting and linked strong-points that are self-contained and organised for all-round defence as its flanks may become exposed, bypassed or surrounded. Manned by a company-strength infantry unit, with an establishment of 120 all ranks, the company would also be augmented by engineers who would assist in strengthening the strong-points and in providing a safe means of movement between them.

To appreciate the size of the military force needed to
Towards Ballsbridge.

An Cosantóir February 2005

The British Army was having its own troubles. On Easter Monday the British Government’s War Office ordered reinforcements to be sent to Ireland as soon as transport could be provided. Among the reinforcements hastily assembled was the 178th Infantry Brigade, made up of four battalions of the Sherwood Foresters. The troops were young, raw recruits, with less than three months service and who had yet to fire on the open range. Arriving at Dun Laoghaire many of the young soldiers thought they had landed in France. The junior officers were just as inexperienced and the little training the unit had undergone had not prepared it for urban warfare. Critically, in the rush to send the Brigade to Ireland, the unit’s Lewis Machine Guns had been left on Liverpool’s quayside.

The Defence Force’s Brigade Operations Manual, 2000, states that when dealing with urban terrain an attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in 2000, states that when dealing with urban terrain an attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident. The attacking force has three choices, the unit can bypass a defended area, neutralise it with fire, or attack it. Bypassing Mount Street Bridge was a clear option for the Sherwood Foresters’ 7th and 8th Battalions who, that Wednesday, found themselves advancing from Kilmainham without serious incident. Donnybrook and reached the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham without serious incident.
The Assault

The 7th and 8th Battalions advanced towards the City Centre from Ballsbridge as if they were moving through open terrain. A Covering Force, which normally operates well forward of the advancing unit during an ‘advance-to-contact’ and whose main task is to make the ‘first contact’ with the enemy, does not seem to have been deployed. This resulted in the Advance Guard, moving just ahead of the main body, walking straight into ambush without warning and without having the opportunity to deploy for an attack.

The Sherwood Foresters had come under fire from a Volunteer perimiter post located in Carrisbrook House, at the junction of Lansdowne, Pembroke and Northumberland Roads, which had been manned by a handful of Volunteers who withdrew after a short fire-fight. Despite the confusion that this minor incident caused to their advance, the British still failed to deploy a Covering Force.

When the Advance Guard reached the junction of Haddington and Northumberland Roads it, again, came under close range fire from Lt Malone’s post at No 25, followed soon afterwards by the Volunteers positioned in Clanwilliam House. Without the covering fire that could have been provided by the British unit’s Lewis Guns, the Sherwood Foresters made repeated frontal assaults on No 25. No serious attempt was made to isolate Malone’s force or to use smoke or darkness to cover what was in effect the ‘break-in’ phase of an attack on the 3rd Battalion’s AO. (In FIBUA an attack such as this is usually divided into five phases: isolation, break-in, securing the objective, clearance and reorganisation.)

By exercising strict fire control Malone and Reynolds’ positions repelled the assaults and inflicted heavy casualties on the two British units who had entered the area. It was only after five hours of constant battle that No 25 was finally taken, with Lt Malone dying at his post.

The British force then concentrated its efforts on Clanwilliam House. Once again they made little use of the available cover, persisting in their attempts at rushing the objective, and when their assaults eventually came level with the Parochial Hall, which is in a recess back from the road, they were subjected to effective enfilading fire from that strongpoint too. The small number of British soldiers who finally reached Mount St Bridge were then brought down by sustained revolver fire from Clanwilliam House. When the Volunteers manning the Parochial Hall ran out of ammunition they withdrew from their position. This was just as well as the Sherwood Foresters had obtained a machine gun and a one-pounder gun mounted on the back of a lorry, assisted by these support weapons the British soldiers gradually wore down the resistance in the remaining strong point, Clanwilliam House, which became engulfed in flames and forced the surviving defenders to withdraw.

Conclusion

Three of the seven-man garrison at Clanwilliam House, including Section Commander Reynolds, had died during the defence of Mount St Bridge and this route to the City Centre was now open. However, the British losses stood at 234 soldiers, either killed or wounded, and accounted for over half the British Army’s casualties during the 1916 Easter Rising.

The Volunteers had conducted the defence using a simple and flexible plan that made the best use of the terrain and the slim resources available to them. The British plan was also simple, in that it only envisaged using weight of numbers to achieve success. This tactic, not unique for its time, was to be repeated with tragic results at the Somme two months later.

The Battle for Mount St Bridge shows how Urban Terrain can help reduce the disparity in combat power between two opposing forces. In this case it played a significant part in allowing a handful of men to hold up a vastly superior force for the full day. It also showed that this unique form of combat requires the development of a doctrine for which specific training and resources are needed. In particular the urban battlefield demands that junior leaders must be capable of taking tactical decisions, within their commander’s intent, even when they are cut off. Lieutenant Michael Malone and Section Commander George Reynolds certainly measured up to these exacting leadership standards when they led their men into action on the Wednesday of Easter Week 1916.

Sources & Acknowledgments

M Ó Dubhghaill, Insurrection Fires at Eastertide (Cork, 1966).
A NEW DIMENSION
The Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course

Sgt Christopher Smith (Strategic Planning Office, Office of the Chief of Staff) has just recently completed the newly-revised Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course, held at the NCO Training Wing, DFTC. Sgt Smith gave An Cosantóir this report...

For most organisations ‘change’ is a concept that has become part of their everyday life, the Irish Defence Force is no different in this respect. Successful change needs a strategic approach, where the change is proactively managed in order to allow the organisation to move forward. The strategic approach in this case came in the shape of a new syllabus of training for the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course, the Senior NCO TS INF 10/2004.

The non-commissioned officer (NCO) is the backbone of the Defence Forces, both at home and abroad, while the Senior NCO is the vital link in the chain of command between the unit commander and the personnel within the unit. With our continuous involvement in UN Peacekeeping, PIP and PSO operations the role played by the Senior NCO has become more complex and demanding, as a greater variety of skills and education is now needed to deal with today’s dynamic environment.

A Senior NCO is now expected to be quick-thinking, flexible, dependable, adaptable and resourceful, and this ever-increasing demand upon Senior NCOs has resulted in a new syllabus of training being issued and implemented during the NCO Training Wing’s 29th Senior NCO Course. The objective of the new syllabus was not only to train students to perform at Company Sergeant level, but also at Sergeant Major level and their Corps/Service equivalents.

The new modular approach to career courses has allowed for a more effective approach to NCO training, unlike previous courses where a student only got one opportunity to complete a course. The Senior NCO Course consists of two modules and allows a student the opportunity to re-attempt a particular module that was failed due to injury, compassionate leave, etc.

The aim of the course’s first module was to train the students to Senior NCO standard in an ‘All Arms’ environment in peacetime and wartime, with an emphasis on performing leadership and management functions at unit and sub-unit level. The student must also be capable of co-ordinating unit and sub-unit training, including the supervision and assessment of personnel in the training environment.

The second module is designed to train students to operate at Senior NCO level in a combat environment, more specifically to the relevant tactical, skill and doctrine as per TM 201 and the Manual of Infantry Tactics Part 1 & 2. The students are also taught how to correctly perform the relevant Combat Service Support functions at unit and sub-unit level.

Prior to entry on the Senior NCO Course there is a pre-qualifying criteria that all potential students must attain, which, in effect, adds another couple of weeks of preparation to the scheduled ten-week course. This preparation is aimed at giving the potential students the best opportunity to enable them to pass the pre-qualifying Course Assessment Tests.

The first three days of the Senior NCO Course are taken up with both written and practical tests, in conjunction with passing T1 2/2000 – Revised 2002 Parts 1, 2 & 3. These pre-qualifying assessment tests cover a variety of topics, including staff duties, tactics, internal security and map reading. Whereas practical tests are taken in medical, communications and Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare (CBRN), with a practical navigation exercise thrown in for good measure. This aspect of the course can in fact be quite competitive, having a 10% failure rate on this occasion.

The eight-week long Module 1 consisted of working through lectures on 13 subjects, as well as 44 hours of tests (21 hours of assessments, 18 hours student syndicated presentations and five hours of written tests). The subjects included some familiar
"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often"

Winston Churchill

Below: Students participating in a simulated exercise at the Command & Staff School's trainer.

including equipment, doctrine and tactics. This Module is intended to develop the Senior NCOs' understanding of Irish defence policy and key factors, which shape the international strategic environment. Strategic Studies also gave the course students a chance to research and analyse an area of military history/defence studies, with an opportunity to present the results of such research in a logical and informative manner.

In order to advance to the second module the student needed to pass a number of exams in the first module. Module 2 was scheduled to last two weeks, with the first week including an intensive preparatory week of lectures and small exercises - leading onto the second week where a defensive and offensive exercise took place, along with a written test.

This Module focused upon the roles carried out by Company Sergeants, Sergeant-Majors and their Corps/Services equivalents in an operational theatre, including tactical training and APC operations. While the roles of a Company Sergeant in the 'company supply system' included the collection, evacuation and treatment of the sick and wounded, emergency burials, and disposal of effects. The intensity of this Module, as well as affording the students the opportunity of practical experience in combat medical treatment, also saw the opportunity to deal with prisoners-of-war, internally displaced people and refugees. Other areas covered during the live practical exercise were the organising and conduct of 'rolling replenishment' during operational conditions.

The students were also given the 'pleasure' of conducting and experiencing an exercise using the Command and Staff School's Computer Simulator. The indelible impression that preceded the exercise prepared everyone for a very realistic exercise, where casualties, fuel consumption, ammunition, etc., are factored in to give a 'real time' experience that allows the students to learn the lessons of combat without actually having to go into battle.

The Senior NCO Course concluded with an 'after-action' review. This is normal for career courses, however, as there was a new syllabus being used there were representatives from the various stakeholders involved in the course, including staff from the Directorate of Training and the NCO Training Wing. This after-action review was honest, frank and informative, and many points were taken on board in order to iron out any difficulties that might occur in future courses.

It is clear from undergoing the newly formatted Senior NCO Course that the effort needed to prepare and pass such a course requires discipline, dedication, motivation and hard work on the part of the student, in conjunction with the correct guidance from the professional instructors of the NCO Training Wing.

In conclusion, the Defence Forces have entered a 'new dimension' in terms of educating its future Senior NCOs, which should stand up well as we face the challenges of the rapid changes within the Defence Forces, both at home and abroad. On behalf of the students on the NCO Training Wing's 29th Senior NCO Course, I would like to thank the Training Wing's staff and external instructors for the gift of knowledge, professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm they have bestowed to us all, the next generation of Senior NCOs.
Right-Angle Torch

In the main there are three basic sizes of Right-Angle Torches, small, medium and large. All three torches are very popular sellers as they incorporate a signalling button, colour filters in the base, and have a degree of ‘hand-free’ capability. However, it must be remembered that with all torches of this type, ‘The bigger the light, the bigger the batteries!’

Maglite

The very sturdy Maglite comes in a variety of sizes, to suit all purposes, and ultra-sports athletes would normally choose one of the three sizes shown here. The Maglite bulb and reflector system gives out more light than equivalent-size torches, while the light beam is fully adjustable from ‘Wide Flood’ to ‘Intense Spot’. Both water-resistant and shock-proof, the Maglite also carries a spare bulb in the tail cap. The energy source used in the models shown range from one AAA to two AA batteries, making the weight/light-source factor quite low.

Petzl Tactikka

The Petzl Tactikka Torch has been produced in a range of standard colours and ‘military camo’, featuring a pro-military drop-down red filter over four LEDs (light emitting diodes). Other models include an adjustable four-LED light, whereby the individual use of one-, two-, three- or four-LEDs, with a ‘Signal Flashing’ mode, can be chosen. The Petzl Tactikka’s light system, with the short-range intense white light given out by LEDs, is very economical on batteries, achieving an average of 150 hours on only three AAA batteries. This ‘hand-free’ torch is also extremely weight-friendly, weighing in at only 78 grams.

Petzl Myo 3

The Petzl Myo 3 is a head-torch that gives the user a hand-free capability with the option of using halogen or LED light sources. The halogen light source will give a longer beam for athletes travelling relatively fast over easily manageable ground by night, while the three LEDs will give a shorter beam. The Petzl Myo 3, weighing in at 137 grams, uses four AA batteries and will give continuous light for four hours while using the halogen light source or 180 hours while using the LED light source.

It might be bright, but is it right? This is a question that all soldiers must ask themselves before going tactical, strangely it is also a question that ultra-sports athletes must ask themselves too. Sgt Vincent Carroll (ret’d) continues his series of articles on sporting equipment with the ‘Torch’ by asking three simple questions.

• How much light do I think I will need?
• How much weight am I prepared to carry?
• Will my light source need to be ‘hands-free’?

The three factors of how much light is needed, weight to be carried and the necessity to be hand-free will decide on which torch will suit best for the training exercise/adventure you are about to embark on. LEDs are very popular with most users today, as LEDs may never need to be replaced and are very economical on batteries. However, LEDs do not give out as strong a light beam as a halogen or standard bulb will and cannot be adjusted from Flood to Spot. Finally, remember that as good as your torch is, it is still only as good as the batteries you put in it!
Terence MacSwiney was born into a family of nine children at North Main Street, Cork City, on March 28th 1879. Educated by the Christian Brothers at the North Monastery he secured employment at Dwyer & Co., a warehouse and distribution firm, from where he continued his studies and eventually obtained a Philosophy Degree in 1907. However, it was many years before when MacSwiney first developed his love for the Irish language and culture.

On January 2nd 1901, together with Fred Cronin, Dan Tierney, Bob Fitzgerald and Liam deRoiste, MacSwiney founded the Celtic Literary Society and was responsible for publishing a circular calling on ‘all self-respecting Irishmen’ to refrain from welcoming King Edward VII to Cork. In 1905 the Celtic Literary Society merged with the Cork Young Ireland Society and Inghinidhe na hÉireann, a nationalist lady’s society and forerunner to Cumman na mBán, to form the Cork Branch of the National Council of Sinn Fein, a move that clearly reflected the nationalist momentum of the time. MacSwiney also managed to continue his literary work and between 1910 and 1914 wrote five plays, crafted numerous poems and founded a weekly newspaper called Fianna Fáil – The Journal of the Irish Army. He also published a significant collection of his articles entitled ‘The Principles of Freedom’ in the Dublin monthly Irish Freedom.

Given MacSwiney’s history it was perhaps no great surprise to also find him present in Cork City Hall for the inaugural meeting of the Cork Brigade of the Irish Volunteers on December 14th 1913, when, that same night, he was one of the first to enlist in the movement.

Six months later, on June 21st 1914, MacSwiney was elected to the Irish Volunteer Cork Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of JJ Walsh. In September 1914, following the split with John Redmond’s National Volunteers, MacSwiney remained with the minority Irish Volunteers, becoming Company Commander of A Company, Cork City Battalion, Cork Brigade, under the command of Tomás MacCurtain. Then, in October 1915, MacSwiney was tasked with developing the Volunteer Organisation throughout the County and by the year’s end 46 active companies were established.

By the time the Cork Brigade mobilised on Easter Sunday 1916 for the planned rebellion MacSwiney had risen to the rank of Vice-Commandant and second-in-command to MacCurtain. However, because of the confusion caused by a series of conflicting orders his unit stood down that evening and played no further part in the rebellion. During that fateful week MacSwiney could do no more than remain in the Volunteer HQ at Sheares St, Cork City, with MacCurtain and others, where a tense stand-off had developed between the Volunteers inside and the British soldiers from Victoria Barracks outside – who had taken up positions on the street. Though an agreement was eventually arrived at, whereby the Volunteers would surrender their weapons to the Lord Mayor, when the Rising finally came to an end the Brigade officers were nevertheless arrested and dispatched to internment camps in Britain where they remain incarcerated until Christmas 1916.

Upon his return to Cork MacSwiney immediately resumed his Volunteer activities that, again, led to his arrest and internment, this time in Bromyard Prison, England. It was while serving his sentence in Bromyard Prison that MacSwiney, clad in an Irish Volunteer’s uniform that had been smuggled into the prison, married Muriel Murphy, a member of the...
In the meantime, in the wake of the ‘German Plot’ of May 1918, many prominent members of Sinn Fein and the Irish Volunteer were being arrested throughout Ireland and deported to Britain. Furthermore, many Republicans who had been released from prison at this time were being re-arrested and MacSwiney joined the ranks of this latter group when, on September 4th 1918 following the completion of his prison sentence, he too was re-arrested and sent to Lincoln Prison, England.

It was from this prison that MacSwiney contested the Dáil General Election that was held on December 14th 1918, resulting in his being returned unopposed as a Sinn Fein Candidate for the Mid-Cork Constituency.

When the First Dáil met at the Mansion House, Dublin, on January 21st 1919 MacSwiney and 35 other newly-elected Sinn Fein deputies were still incarcerated in British prisons, and when the ‘Roll’ was called these deputies were all declared to be ‘Fé ghlas ag Gallaibh’ (imprisoned by the foreigner). On that same day a squad of Irish Volunteers from the 3rd Tipperary Brigade attacked and killed two RIC constables near Soloheadbeg Quarry, as they escorted a consignment of gelignite. This attack marked the beginning of Ireland’s War of Independence and, unlike Easter 1916, this time the Cork ‘Volunteers’ would be to the forefront of the fighting.

MacSwiney got his opportunity to return to Ireland shortly after the War of Independence began, when he was released on parole to visit his wife – who was seriously ill with influenza. The British Government had begun releasing Republican prisoners at the time and never sought MacSwiney’s return.

His freedom secure, MacSwiney once again returned to the ranks of the Cork Brigade and resumed his efforts to organise and train his men for the fight he knew was coming. However, no matter how well trained his men were, they were...
powerless without an adequate supply of arms and ammunition – an acute shortage of these items existed throughout the Volunteer movement at this time. In an attempt to alleviate this situation MacSwiney led an abortive raid in June 1919 on a party of British troops guarding an aerodrome being constructed near Killeagh, some 19 miles from Cork. The attack party included Florrie O’Donoghue, Brigade Intelligence Officer; Jim Grey, Brigade Transport Officer; and Dan ‘Sandow’ O’Donovan, one of the most efficient officers within Cork Brigade’s ranks. On the night in question these men travelled to their objective by way of steep and narrow by-roads in an attempt to avoid the RIC Barracks at Carrigtwohill and Midleton. Unfortunately, the car that they were travelling in broke down and forced MacSwiney to abandon the operation.

Politics also occupied MacSwiney’s time during this period. He devoted considerable time to his Constituency work and, when at all possible, made every effort to get to Dublin for Dáil meetings. At one such meeting, held on August 20th 1919, MacSwiney ‘Seconded’ a motion proposed by Cathal Brugha, the Minister for Defence, whereby the Irish Volunteers would take an ‘Oath of Allegiance’ to the Republic and the Dáil. This motion was significant in the development of Irish democracy in that, for the first time since their foundation in 1913, the Volunteers were under the control of the elected representatives of the Irish people.

In January 1920 MacSwiney turned his attention to local politics and was elected to Cork City Council (Corporation) in the local elections held that month. When the newly-elected Council met on January 30th the City struck another blow for freedom, electing Tomas MacCurtain as the first Republican Lord Mayor of Cork. That year also marked a dramatic intensification of the War of Independence. In the early hours of March 20th 1920 the people of Cork witnessed the first of many tragedies that would befall the City in the coming months, when a group of masked men entered the home of Tomas MacCurtain and shot him dead in full view of his family. Shocked and outraged at the death of his friend and commanding officer, MacSwiney immediately took over as Brigade Commander with his first task being MacCurtain’s funeral. In a courageous act of defiance he mobilised the full strength of the Brigade to pay public tribute to his fallen comrade and buried him in Saint Finbarr’s Cemetery with full Military Honours.

On March 30th 1920 MacSwiney followed in MacCurtain’s footsteps, when he was elected Lord Mayor of Cork at a meeting of the Corporation held at City Hall. In the course of his acceptance speech he declared...

“I come here more as a soldier stepping into the breach than an administrator to fill the first post in the municipality. At a normal time it would be your duty to find for this post the Councillor most practiced and experienced in public affairs. But the time is not normal. We see the manner in which our late Lord Mayor was murdered in an attempt to terrify us all. Our first duty is to answer that threat in the only fitting manner by showing ourselves un-terrified, cool and inflexible for the fulfilment of our chief purpose – the establishment of the independence and integrity of our country. To that end I am here…for that reason I take this place. It is, I think, though I say it, the fitting answer to those who struck him down...I wish to point out again the secret of our strength and assurance of our final victory. This contest of ours is not on our side a rivalry of vengeance, but of endurance – it is not they who can inflict the most, but they who suffer most will conquer...”

MacSwiney’s first official act as Lord Mayor was to donate half of his salary to a establish a memorial fund for Tomas MacCurtain’s widow and family, and while civic and municipal affairs now occupied most of his time MacSwiney remained equally committed to his responsibilities as OC Cork No.1 Brigade.

This situation was more than the British Military authorities in Ireland were prepared to tolerate and at around 7pm on August 12th 1920 a column of approximately 300 troops, preceded by an armoured car, left Victoria Barracks for Cork City Hall. At the same time a meeting of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) was being held at City Hall while the HQ Staff of Cork No1 Brigade were also meeting in the Lord Mayor’s chambers. When the British troops arrived at City Hall they immediately surrounded and entered the building, detaining all of the occupants found therein, while a detailed search of the premises was conducted. Eventually, at 9pm that evening, most of the detained people were released, however, not before MacSwiney and 11 other Volunteer officers had been arrested and carted off to Victoria Barracks. Among those taken by the British were, Liam Lynch, OC Cork No 2 Brigade; Sean O’Hegarty, Vice OC Cork No 1 Brigade; Joseph O’Connor, Quartermaster Cork No 1 Brigade; Dan ‘Sandow’ Donovan, OC 1st Battalion, Cork No 1 Brigade and Michael Leahy, OC 4th Battalion, Cork No 1 Brigade.

In the concluding part of this article CQMS Gerry White and Comdt Brendan O’Shea will look at the circumstances of the trial that led Terence MacSwiney to go on hunger strike and make the ultimate sacrifice for the Republic he loved above all itself.

Footnotes
1. The Celtic Literary Society later became the Cork Branch of Cumann na nGaedheal and established its headquarters at 31 Great George’s Street (now Washington Street).
2. Dan Donovan was nicknamed after Eugene Sandow, the famous European ‘strongman’ who appeared on the advertisements for Murphy stout.
In 1994 BOMS John ‘Ginger’ O’Leary was seconded to the relief agencies that were working in war-torn Rwanda, following the genocide in the country. The trip to Rwanda was Ginger’s first experience of the Third World as he concentrated on the job of feeding and caring for thousands of internally displaced and abandoned Rwandan children and the ongoing children’s projects.

In 1997 a suggestion was put forward to raise money for the Third World by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Kenya. After two years of planning and an initial ‘recce’ visit to the mountain, the first sponsored climb set out in 1999 and it was a great success with the all-army climbing group.

In the Millenium Year another climb was attempted and this exercise was more successful again, with a number of the general public joining the military climbers. The enthusiasm for the charity climb was such that Defence Forces personnel and Irish Aid workers formed a committee, and plans were set about to put in place a designated charity with all of the legal requirements necessary. ChildAid was the result and very, very quickly, 2001 in fact, ChildAid’s status as a company was secured. While in 2002 ChildAid’s status as a charitable organisation was received.

The expeditions have continued with two climbs of Kilimanjaro in 2002, two in 2003 and three in 2004. This year, 2005, it is planned to run three climbs also while organisational planning for a climb to Mount Everest’s Base Camp in 2006 is well underway.

Taking into account that ChildAid is only up and running for five years, Ginger went on to explain, in his own inimitable way, what ChildAid has achieved to date and why being involved with this charitable organisation is such a wonderful and enlightening experience for him...

In 2004 ChildAid had ninety people participate on its charity climbs. The climbers come from all walks of life, both military and civilian, and the tour attracts this number of people because of the variety of experiences they receive during the trip. There are always good characters on the trips and the event is mainly to visit the areas that are never seen on television and the climbers get a chance to visit the schools and feeding centres, and meet the people that run the centres that we provide money for.

The €4,200 necessary to participate on ChildAid’s expeditions to Mount Kilimanjaro pays for meals, accommodation and transport, with the remainder going to fund the ‘Street Children’s Projects in the Slums of Nairobi’. All ChildAid members are volunteers and, as no salaries are paid, to date we have collected €475,000. The money has been mostly put into educational and feeding projects in Mukura, a town outside Nairobi. Education, we feel, is the only way forward for anyone who is trying to survive in the conditions that are here in Africa.

ChildAid runs a number of projects but like all other charitable organisations there is just not enough money to cater fully for them all. Great help has been received from the Irish Government’s Dept of Foreign Affairs and its sub-section Co-Operation Ireland, also the Irish Government’s Overseas Agencies have been wonderful to us. John Lucey, former-General Secretary of PDFORRA, was one of the driving forces in setting up ChildAid and his initiative, enthusiasm, coercion (sometimes) and love for the kids was fantastic, he really was the man responsible for ChildAid getting its first project up and running. PDFORRA and ANSAC have been fantastic in their support for ChildAid’s projects.

While we at ChildAid like to think that we are the Defence Force’s Humanitarian Organisation, I would also like to say that there are some wonderful people in the Defence Forces who raise money for many different charities like Our Lady of Lourdes Children’s Hospital, Crumlin, and for other overseas organisations. We at ChildAid do not feel that we are in any sort of competition with them and we respect these people in every possible way. In fact ChildAid has just handed over a cheque for €20,000 to GOAL to aid them in the work they are carrying out in East Asia (mainly in Sri Lanka), following the disastrous Tsunami on St Stephen’s Day.

If you would like to participate on any of the charitable climbs of Mount Kilimanjaro, ChildAid can be contacted at: Address: Plunket Chambers, 21-25 Oliver Plunket St, Cork City, Co Cork. Tel: 021 422985. Email: childaid@oceanfree.net. Web: www.childaid.ie.

ChildAid runs a number of projects but like all other charitable organisations there is just not enough money to cater fully for them all. Great help has been received from the Irish Government’s Dept of Foreign Affairs and its sub-section Co-Operation Ireland, also the Irish Government’s Overseas Agencies have been wonderful to us. John Lucey, former-General Secretary of PDFORRA, was one of the driving forces in setting up ChildAid and his initiative, enthusiasm, coercion (sometimes) and love for the kids was fantastic, he really was the man responsible for ChildAid getting its first project up and running. PDFORRA and ANSAC have been fantastic in their support for ChildAid’s projects.

While we at ChildAid like to think that we are the Defence Force’s Humanitarian Organisation, I would also like to say that there are some wonderful people in the Defence Forces who raise money for many different charities like Our Lady of Lourdes Children’s Hospital, Crumlin, and for other overseas organisations. We at ChildAid do not feel that we are in any sort of competition with them and we respect these people in every possible way. In fact ChildAid has just handed over a cheque for €20,000 to GOAL to aid them in the work they are carrying out in East Asia (mainly in Sri Lanka), following the disastrous Tsunami on St Stephen’s Day.

If you would like to participate on any of the charitable climbs of Mount Kilimanjaro, ChildAid can be contacted at: Address: Plunket Chambers, 21-25 Oliver Plunket St, Cork City, Co Cork. Tel: 021 422985. Email: childaid@oceanfree.net. Web: www.childaid.ie.
BOOK REVIEW

A Business of Some Heat
The United Nations Force In Cyprus before and during the 1974 Turkish Invasion
by Brigadier Francis Henn

Col ED Doyle (retd) reviews this fascinating and enjoyable read by Brigadier Francis Henn (Chief of Staff of the UN Force in Cyprus, 1972-74). With so many subjects covered in this book, as well as the numerous annexes and references, Col Doyle has managed to encompass many of Brigadier Henn’s points in this very concise review.

UNFICYP – the United Nations Force in Cyprus
Brigadier Francis Henn was Chief of Staff of the UN Force in Cyprus (1972-74). His book is both necessary and unusual, because he outlines developments since Disraeli (1878) and describes aspects of UNFICYP in concise, focussed chapters. His Logistics and Finance chapter shows his clarity. He is similarly clear on Mandates and Direction, etc.

So this is a book of reference, as well as a narrative. And what a narrative! The description of the 1974 Greek coup d’etat and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service and the subsequent Turkish invasion will send readers with UNFICYP service.

 Brigadier Henn has long family connections with Ireland; his uncle founded the Yeats Summer School. For the inevitable Realpolitik, read FM Lord Carver, Chief of the Defence Staff, both in this book and in his memoirs (notably pp. 484-6).
Eliminates Foot Odour.
Prevents and Treats Athletes Foot.

Pedamed is specially formulated to treat and prevent Athlete’s Foot, while at the same time eliminating those symptoms that cause foot odour ... bringing cool refreshing relief to your feet. Pedamed is available as either cream or powder and may be purchased at your local pharmacist.
YOUR BEST PARTNER FOR MILITARY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

CARRA
IRELAND LTD

CARRA HOUSE,
BALDOYLE IND. ESTATE,
DUBLIN 13

TEL: 01 8323955
FAX: 01 8826874
WWW.CARRA.IE