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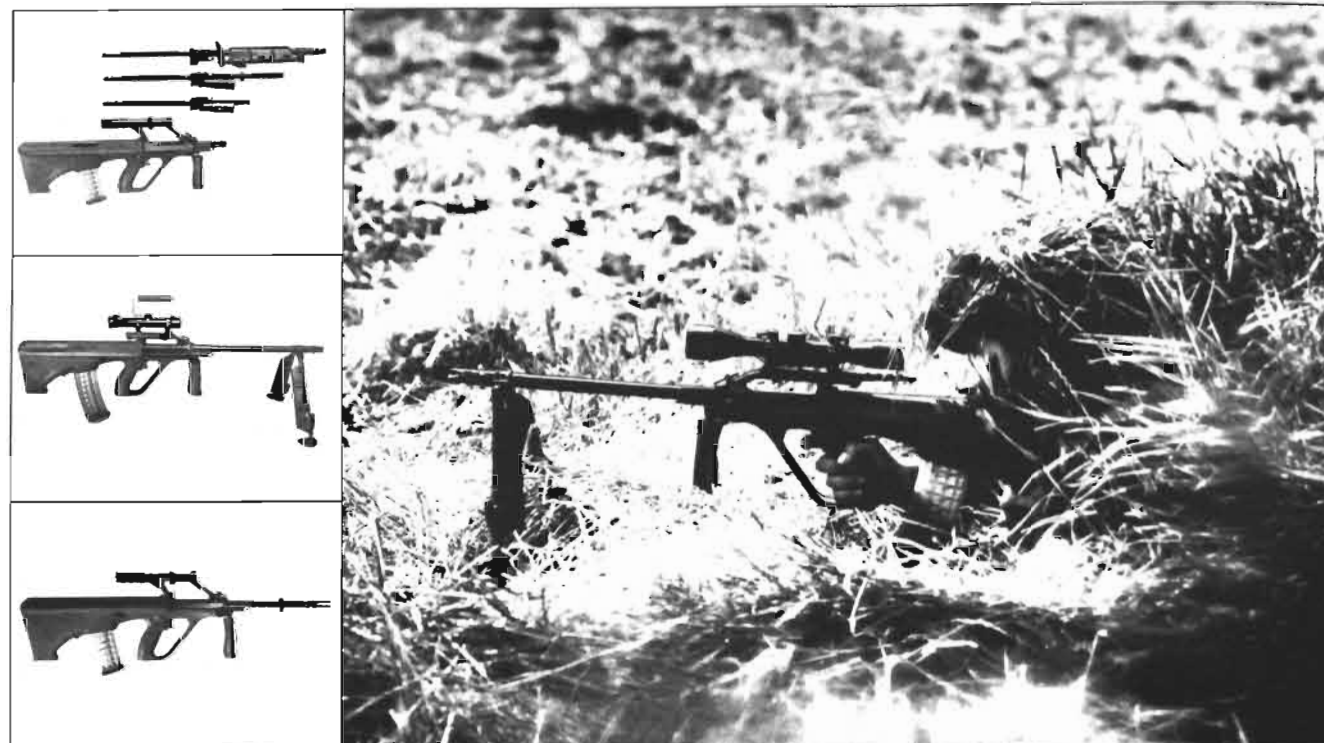
The Defence Forces Magazine

March 1989 85p



Steyr AUG A1
IN SERVICE

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Steyr Small Arms – unmatched as regards quality and accuracy

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by the
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The short overall length attained by the bullpup principle offers decisive advantages in all fields of application. With the standard barrel – 508 mm (20") – the overall length of the weapon with 790 mm (31") is not larger than that of a sub-machinegun with the butt extended. The weapon is, therefore, shorter by about 25 per cent than conventional designs. The Steyr Army Universal Gun AUG Cal. 5.56 (.223) thus sets new standards of weapons technology.

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4 different interchangeable barrel lengths and the interchangeability of individual assemblies within the AUG-system result in the universal applicability referred to in its name: the paratroopers' gun with 350 mm, the carbine with 407 mm, the assault rifle with 508 mm and the light machinegun with a barrel length of 621 mm. The HBAR 621 mm with special receiver can be equipped with telescopic sights and night vision devices.



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Our Cover this month features personnel from the 3 Inf Bn on exercise in simulated NBC conditions in the Glen of Imaal as part of routine training.

(Photo: Armn J. Daly)

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"With great courage and sense of responsibility our soldiers are prepared to go to the most dangerous and demanding of missions we salute the bravery and dedication of Pte Michael McNeela".

Cardinal Tomás ÓFiaich at the Funeral Mass for Pte M. McNeela, 64 Inf Bn (UNIFIL) and 27 Inf Bn on Thursday 2 Mar 89.



EASTERN COMMAND



The 2 Inf Bn and 5 Inf Bn co-operating – is this a sign for the future. Ptes Edward and Christy Byrne of 2 Inf Bn and Mark Fitzpatrick and Mark Roche of 5 Inf Bn having fun with the 12.7mm HMG. We are promised an article for our next issue on this course.

(Photo: Pte C. Wright 5 Inf Bn)



The 27 Inf Bn Soccer Team who drew 2-2 in the Comd Final against 2 Inf Bn on 15 Feb 89. The replay should be an exciting and competitive event – the date is not yet notified.

(Photo: Sgt L. Nolan)



Col M. F. Minehane, who until recently held the appointment of Deputy Adjutant General, has been appointed as the Military Advisor to the Irish Delegation at the Negotiations on Confidence and Security-Building Measures which is now in session in Vienna. The Head of Delegation is Mr. John Neary from the Dept of Foreign Affairs. The talks are designed to continue and expand the agreements reached at the Stockholm Conference in 1986 on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. Col Minehane who is a native of Bantry, Co. Cork took up his duties on 6 March 1989. The Conference is expected to last at least one year. Two Officers served at the Stockholm Conference – Col J. N. Bergin and Col D. O'Carroll (Retd). Our photograph at Right shows L/R: Col J. N. Bergin and Col M. F. Minehane.

Left: Comdts D. Betson and P. Phelan, UNTAG, getting a briefing on Namibian foodstuffs from Sgt Martin O'Rourke of ASOC.

(Photo: Sgt T. Hudson)



An Cosantoir



One of Col M. Moriarity's last official functions as OC AHQ Offrs Mess was to receive this replica 'antique' telephone from Mr. John Kennedy, Managing Director of Ericsson Business Communication Ltd, to mark the installation of a new 'phone' system in the Offrs Mess, McKee Bks. Also pictured is Col J. P. Purcell, D Sigs. The telephone, Ericssons 1892, has the same technical function as a modern 'phone.

(Photo: Sgt T. Hudson)



Members of 'B' Coy 20 Inf Bn (FCA) who passed out recently in Cathal Brugha Bks. L/R Ptes Aaron Brophy (Best Kit), Paul Caplis (Best Rec), David Rock (Best Shot) and Pat Cleary (Best Dress).



WESTERN COMMAND



The Western Command 'page' this month features An Chéad Chath, Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa



Guard of Honour for the QMG, Maj Gen V. F. Savino during his Inspection at Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa. The escorting Officer is Lt M. Brennan, now promoted Capt and based in Athlone.



Presentation ceremony at Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa of the John Burke Trophy by his widow, Mrs. Lisha Burke to Capt P. Moran who captained the winning Army Team in the Annual Rep Match against UCG. Also included are L/R: Col N. Fitzgerald OC 1 Inf Bde, Miss Marlene Burke, Mr. Paudie Nealon and Mr. M. McShannon of John's original Club 'Shannon Gaels', Lt Col N. Breathnach OC Chéad Chath and Col P. Dixon EO & 2IC W Comd.



Congratulations to Pte Gerard Lee from Tuam on his selection for a Cadetship in the PDF.



Some 'unusual' photographs of 3 Star Training showing (left) Pl Comd Capt S. Gavin demonstrating that river crossing by rope presents few problems when tackled properly – centre shot shows Pte Kevin McDonald 'giving it everything' and getting wetter, while Sgt Mick Byrne is 'above it all' on the right

March 1989



CURRAGH COMMAND



Brig Gen P. Grennan, GOC C Comd admiring the Gold Medal won by Cheryl Brennan at the Gymnastics C/Ships in Sligo. Cheryl is now the All Ireland '89 Novice Champion (over 14). L/R: Deborah Keogh and Corina O'Neill (Asst Coaches) Rosemary McLoughlin, Cheryl Brennan with her mother Margaret, Brig Gen P. Grennan, Brian Donohue (Principal Curragh Vocational School) and Richard Dunne, class mate. (Photo: O. McCrossan)



'Civilians in the Curragh'. Pictured at the Presentation from past and present pupils of the Curragh National School to Mrs. Jo Ryall who retired recently from the Teaching Staff were: Front Row L/R: Fr. P. Daly CF, May O'Shea, Jo Ryall, Mary Bastick, Rosemary McLoughlin. Back Row L/R: Marie Barnes, Comdt Noel and Patsy Joyce, Mick Deeley and Paddy Phillips.



Maj Gen V. F. Savino QMG, and Rev. Fr. D. Harrington admiring a glass cabinet which was presented by the Officers of the Defence Forces to Fr. Harrington on his departure from the Curragh Camp. (Photo: Sgt A. O'Brien)



Representatives from Stewarts Hospital received a cheque for £2,300 at a function in the Curragh recently when Lt Col 'Nicky' Hegarty OC McDonagh Bks passed on the proceeds of his sponsored marathon walk from Malin Head to Mizen Head. Soldiers Aid also received a cheque for £400. L/R: Comdt P. Phelan, Masie Boucher Treasurer, Fund Raising Committee Stewarts Hospital, Col S. Murphy EO & 2IC C Comd, Brig Gen P. Grennan GOC C Comd, Lt Col N. Hegarty, Eva Wall Stewarts Hosp and Lt Col J. H. Murphy representing Soldiers Aid. (Photo: O. McCrossan)



A 'Wet Day' training programme in operation at 3 Inf Bn shows Sgt Power with his Class consisting of Ptes Coy, Moore, Kavanagh and Burke on the 12.7mm HMG (we have failed to identify the 'fifth' soldier) and (Right) Cpl O'Sullivan instructing Ptes Bohanna, Corcoran and Cpls Troy and Doody on the 60mm Mortar. (Photos: Pte M. McGrath)



NAVAL SERVICE



A backlog of NS photographs has built up, due in part to the coverage of the Commissioning of LE Orla and LE Clara, so if this month's page has a 'dated' look, you know the reason and can let the Editor 'eat in peace' in future, or else its sandwiches in the office again. Of course this little explanation is for visiting NS Officers only, NHQ are most understanding!



Four newly promoted Petty Officers: Hayes, Farrell, Reid and Lovatt during the Drill Display.



The NS Team which won the 1988 Defence Forces Sea Angling Competition pictured with individual & team trophies. L/R: Lt Cdr R. Ryan, CPO/Mech F. Crudge, PO/WR P. O'Shaughnessy overall individual winner and S/PO/SA A. Corbett. (Photo: PO G. Thompson)



Class Officer S/Lt V. Smallhorne pictured with Ensigns S. Murphy and A. Fennell.



Recruit J. O'Leary seen here with Capt J. A. Deasy, CONBAD, on the occasion of the Passing Out Parade of Class 'Golf' at the Base. Also in picture are Lt (Ns) A. O'Dwyer, Trg Offr and L/Sea P. Kearny, Instructor. (Photo: PO G. Thompson)



CPO D. Pendred, Class Instructor unveils the rank marking earned by his Class Members.



The members of the Haulbowline Theatre Group who won the All Ireland Open, One-Act Play Competition, including Best Producer seen here with Capt J. A. Deasy CONBAD. L/R: PO G. Whitson, S/CPG C. Cooper (Producer), PO J. Halligan, Capt J. A. Deasy, PO C. McGinley, Lt (NS) J. Buckley, CPO P. Mahony, PO P. Matthews and PO D. Morgan. (Photo: PO G. Thompson)

I Wanna Go To Tibnin

—By Mick Dunne—

It was January 29th and at the very moment we touched down at Bristol I should have been taking off with Olympic Airlines for Tel Aviv and a visit to the UNIFIL Headquarters at Naquora. It had been arranged that the Bank of Ireland Allstar football award won by Lt Shay Fahy, 64 Inf Bn (UNIFIL) would be presented by his OC and, as Secretary of the Allstar Steering Committee, I had been chosen to bring the precious trophy out to the Lebanon.

As Robbie Burns once wrote "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley" So the start of the journey wasn't at all auspicious and thanks to a fog-bound Heathrow Airport there had to be rapid changes in the plans. Capt John Minihan, who was to be my guide and mentor during my brief visit, was intercepted over his car radio somewhere between Nahariya and Tel Aviv with the message that "Dunne had gone to Bristol!"

High Flying Pressure

But it all came out well in the end — after a bus journey from Bristol to Heathrow and the luck of getting the last stand-by seat on the last El Al flight out to Tel Aviv.

That was Sunday, and by Wednesday night I was back in Dublin with a videotape of Lt Col Pat McMahon, the Commanding Officer of the Irish Battalion, presenting the Allstar award to Shay Fahy. This was edited on the Thursday and used during the live transmission on RTE television of the glittering Allstar Banquet from the Burlington Hotel on Friday, February 2nd.

With the five Meath Allstars making a dramatic return from their Canary Islands holiday in time (but only just, because of a late departure from Madrid) Shay Fahy was the only Allstar winner unable to get his award in person on the night. So, many people — including former GAA Director General Sean O Siachain — thought the video insert from the UNIFIL Headquarters was one of the highlights of the night.

The Show Must Go On

The video of the presentation was made by a television crew arranged by RTE Sport through Visnews, the London TV agency which has a bureau in most of the major cities throughout the world. But two days before my departure the arrangements very nearly fell through when a telex from Visnews advised us that their Jerusalem bureau had informed them that the Israeli crew were unwilling to cross the border into Lebanon because of the grave dangers there. All of which wasn't very reassuring for me.

Worse, though, was the disappointment because we had envisaged doing our filming at the outposts in the hills and we had visualised very dramatic shots of bunkers etc. In other words, we would show the "desolate, deprived, disconcerting and dangerous conditions" Lt Fahy and his colleagues were exposed to!

Contingency Planning

Some quick thinking by Captain Minihan enables us to find an alternative location. Less dramatic, but more tranquil. John arranged for us to use the grounds of the OGL Rec House attached to UNTSO in Nahariya. (By the way, I hope all you military are impressed with this civilian's facile and familiar use of those initials!) But

having met our cameraman, whose name I couldn't pronounce much less spell, imagine our astonishment when he told us that he and the sound technician hadn't the slightest objection to going into Lebanon. Regrettably it was then too late.

Having interrupted an aerobics class of about a dozen OGL personnel wives, mostly Australian, we eventually got our filming done. It was most appropriate that the presentation to Shay was made by Lt Col McMahon since the latter is a former footballer and, in 1953, won a Leinster Championship medal with the Louth minor team.

Those of you who watched the Allstar Banquet on television will agree that it was worth all the trouble and the arrangements made by RTE, Bank of Ireland and the Army people in both the Press Office and with UNIFIL. Although it was necessarily short on the night, it was much better than having Shay's trophy accepted by some Cork official or whoever.

A Promise Made

The pity of it all was that we were not able to get up into the hills. Personally I would have liked to have met many more of the Irish Contingent over a longer period. But perhaps in the not too distant future there may be another occasion when I can have a longer stay.

It certainly was a most enjoyable, if brief, visit. As I mentioned already the outset was somewhat hairy — not the least tricky bit being my attempts to explain what a GAA Allstar was to an Israeli security agent at Heathrow. A very courteous and patient individual, he knew English but his depth of the language was somewhat limited and I believe he wasn't very interested in sport. Would you believe, he never heard of Gaelic Football or the Cork team or even Shay Fahy!

Already mentioned are some of the people who were so helpful to us. My thanks particularly to Comdt David Ashe and Capt Peter Burns here in Ireland and to Lt Col Pat McMahon. My sincere good wishes to all the members of 64 IRISHBATT, of all ranks, who made me so welcome on what could be literally termed a 'flying visit'.



Lt Col P. McMahon, OC 64 Inf Bn (UNIFIL) presents the BOI GAA "Allstars" Football Award 1988 to Lt Shay Fahy on behalf of the Steering Committee.
(Photo: MIO Irishbatt)

An Cosantoir



64 Inf Bn
UNIFIL



March 1989

Mick Dunne is Gaelic Games Correspondent with RTE and is Honorary Secretary of the Bank of Ireland Allstar Steering Committee.

"You're in the Army Now"

—By Clare Dowling—

(All Photos by Sgt T. Hudson)

A group of fresh-faced young lads stood stiffly in a semi-circle facing me. They had 'volunteered' to chat to me about their life as trainees in the Army Apprentice School, Naas. All sported the same short haircut, the same green uniform and the same nervous expression. The uneasiness was probably due to the imminent arrival of Brig Gen P. Grennan, GOC C Comd, for an Inspection the following day; or it could have been the sight of a 'civvy' female holding a tape recorder to their faces, demanding to know what these 150 teenage lads were doing in the Army.

First Encounters

Name please? Martin. From Meath. Doing carpentry. So what brought him to Naas? Did he like it? Raucous laughter from the rest. Yeah, he liked it, the crack was good and to be paid while learning a trade wasn't bad either. The rest of the group were all Radio Technicians, first years and third years. I was particularly intrigued by the first years — the uniform looked incongruous below the innocent faces. They had come to this Military School straight from second level education, a time when most other teenagers were contemplating a few years 'crack' in college or a nine to five job. Wasn't seventeen a bit young to sign away nine years of your life? "We came because an Army training counts for a lot — Naas has a great reputation", I was told. All courses except that for Radio Technician receive a certificate from FAS, the 'new' Industrial Training Authority, so a job outside is virtually guaranteed. And what did they think of the recent 50% pay cut for

first years entering the School? "It didn't have much effect on our decision to take the job, we're learning a skill, and anyway, it'll get better when we are qualified", was the answer. It struck me that this pay cut may have cost the Army a few good lads — undoubtedly it put some applicants off. What about afterwards? Were they going to stay in the Army or had they harboured ideas of 'buying themselves out'? Hesitation now, and a few guilty faces. The thought had obviously crossed their minds, but the recent increase from £1,200 to £5,000 in 'buying out money' probably put an end to such notions. The two third years, both from Cork, hoped to go back there to the Naval Base at Haulbowline, but they would have to see if the openings were there. Last question. What do you miss most about 'civvy life'? 'Freedom' (the first years). 'Social life' (the third years). 'My hair' (Martin).

On Tour

Next stop was a classroom where



The lads answer a few questions during a well-deserved break in the canteen.

The Army Apprentice School (AAS) was established in Devoy Barracks, NAAS, in October 1956. The mission of the AAS is to train selected candidates as apprentices in five basic trades with the objective of passing out skilled tradesmen and efficient, trained soldiers, who are committed to the Defence Forces. The apprentice training is confined to the basic trades of fitter, motor mechanic, carpenter and electrician. To meet specific requirements, the trade of Radio Technician was introduced in 1961. All apprentices are registered with FAS, with the exception of Radio Technician which is a specific trade geared to Signal Corps requirements in modern military high tech communications equipment. The apprentice period is three years with a further one year's 'on the job' training with a particular Corps. The success rate in all examinations, including City and Guilds of London, is extremely high. The primary purpose of the AAS is, and always has been, to produce not only top-class technicians for the Army, but also first-class soldiers. To this end there is as much importance attached to the military training of an apprentice as there is to the trade instruction. It is a fine testimony to the calibre of the soldiers who pass through the AAS that many of them go on to be NCOs and Officers in the Defence Forces. Third Level education in the Regional Colleges and the College of Technology, Bolton Street, Dublin, is also within the grasp of many.

Developments which are ongoing at this time, will formally give third level status to the AAS in the near future.



Motor Mechanic Apprentices Liam Dalton (Kilkenny) and Tony McHugh (Ballina, Co. Mayo) 'fault finding' as part of their instruction.

about ten Motor Mechanics waited for a class. These trainees have class everyday from 0900 until 1245, and from 1400 until 1645, with two hours study every night. They are taught by both vocational and military teachers, and receive a general as well as a military education. This group are all first years. (I failed to meet any of the elusive second years — doubtlessly they were busy elsewhere.) After their class, they'll have to scrub the place down for the GOC's Inspection. I asked about the 'military' nature of the School and the 'tough' disciplinary measures meted out. "Yes, it can be tough", one agreed. "I broke a chair by accident and had a weekend's leave taken away". I'm told that this is necessary to instil into trainees that they are soldiers first and tradesmen second and that their primary obligation is to their country. Hence the need for the dress parades before breakfast, weekends on duty and summers spent in camp. What about holidays? The trainees get 21 days leave a year, most of it in August, with privilege leave at Christmas and Easter. The third years get most weekends off and can go home, whereas the first years get very few weekends free and some find it 'hard' to meet rail and bus fares in any case. The going is tougher on the first years because they come in thinking as civilians but have to leave thinking as soldiers.

On the way to the garage where the Motor Mechanics are working, I came across two lads cleaning windows in anticipation of the GOC's arrival. Hanging precariously off a window ledge, one cheerfully tells me that cleaning windows is now second nature to him. Please be careful!

Some Straight Answers

The Motor Mechanics are suit-

ably attired in overalls and I have the honour of chatting to the only set of twins ever to pass through the Training School, James and William Coughlan from Co. Offaly (though it took me about ten minutes to notice the similarity). So tell me about your social life. "Non-existent" (more laughter). Then worried expressions. "You're not going to quote us, are you?" "No". The truth comes out now. Drink is not allowed in the Barracks, nor can they drink in the town of Naas, even when they have a pass. They can't even go into a pub to get change. They tell me that it's not a big issue, and that the social life gets into full swing the weekends they go home. The trainees don't mix much with the Naas locals — "the opportunities are not there, unless you join a club or something". I suspect that the lads haven't really tried. The School is very respected in Naas town, and the lads have an impeccable record in the area.

What do their parents think of their 'vocation'? Answers ranged



Some straight talking by L/R: Apprentices Michael Carr (Kells), Robert Kiely (Laoise) and Derek Jones (Dublin).

from 'very pleased' to 'at least it's a job'. And the people from their home-town? A few conflicting opinions here. Some say that they are looked upon as 'strange' and felt a bit alienated because of 'being in the Army', while others tell me that their neighbours have great admiration for them. A few general comments about everyday life, please? "The food is sometimes a bit greasy" but I am assured that like most barracks, it improves with the 'seniority' of the visitor. A questionnaire regarding food preferences had been circulated the previous week so it's obvious that the Cook has their best interests at heart. And sleeping arrangements? "The first years are a little crowded, but our billets are grand". I told them that a first year had informed me that he didn't really

get on with the third years, that they were a bit 'heavy-handed'. The answer? "What's his name"? Now, lads, give him a chance. The third years designate tasks to the first years which is a cause for a bit of resentment, until their turn comes around. Generally, the classes don't mix, I'm told, that each group sticks together. As seasoned third years, how do they think of themselves now? **Primarily as soldiers, and then as tradesmen**, was the answer. And finally, would they go through it again? Yes. I left them to their punctured wheel.

On the way out, I encountered a couple of lads sweeping the yard, one with a delightful Donegal accent, the other sporting a pair of sneakers. "I have a sore foot", he explained, "so I won't be on parade tomorrow". He didn't look too disappointed.

All Rounders

Next stop was the canteen. Mars bars and Tayto lined the table and the lads tucked in, all thoughts of healthy eating forgotten for the moment. Here, I learned about the sporting activities of the lads which have earned the Apprentice School a certain amount of fame. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to sport and they do everything from soccer to hill-climbing, swimming to canoeing. Sport is a prominent feature of life in the School; it is obviously enjoyed and is a break from the military and academic side.

'Spiritual Welfare' is mentioned in the conditions — what does this entail? "It means Mass on a first Friday and every Sunday, and of course, Lent. You don't have to go, but you have to go, that sort of way". It's just another facet of the 'military' style of the School. Do they feel they are missing out on the 'footloose and fancy free' years of their lives? Mixed reaction. The general consensus is that they generate their own 'crack' in the Barracks and there'll be plenty of



'Stand by your beds'. That order shook our reporter but had the desired effect on Apprentices John McGroarty (Cobh) and Laurence Carroll (Co. Offaly).

time for that later on. After all, most of them will be barely in their twenties when they leave Naas, or the Forces. Okay lads, good luck tomorrow.

Their Big Day

The next day was wet and miserable. Myself and my umbrella were banished from the Square and took up a vantage point at an upstairs window, looking down on the rows of 'soldiers' below. All the hard work the previous day had paid off, and the place was spick and span in readiness for the GOC. I was cautioned not to walk on the 'white line' of the stairs lest I sully its perfection before the GOC saw it, and all dignity was thrown to the winds as I trod sideways up and down.

The parade went well and the lads looked the part in their im-



February 7th - Their Big Day. The 32nd and 33rd Platoons on the Square for the GOC's Inspection in Devoy Bks, Naas to the airs of the Band of the Curragh Command.

maculate uniform, but try as I might, I couldn't recognise from the rows a single face that I had met the previous day.

City and Guilds of London Institute - First Prize Winner 1988

Sgmn Niall Burke (19) comes from Straffan, Co. Kildare and was educated at St. Brigid's, Straffan and Maynooth Post Primary. He joined the Defence Forces in 1985 when he entered the Army Apprentice School, Naas for training as a Radio Technician. In order to graduate as a Radio Technician it is required to pass a series of twelve in-house examinations which cover the City and Guilds syllabus. Army apprentices must also achieve a high standard of Workshops Practise and experience on current equipments before they qualify as technicians. Niall negotiated all his exams in exemplary fashion and went on to win the 1988 SHELL IRELAND 'BEST RADIO APPRENTICE OF 1988' - but his crowning academic achievement to date has been to win a Silver Medal for a first prize in Circuit Theory in the international City and Guilds examination.

The City and Guilds award only bronze and silver medals - bronze for first prizes in lower level subjects and silver for first prizes in advanced level subjects. In 1988, six hundred and fifty-nine students from all over the world sat the Circuit Theory examination. Niall obtained the highest mark and was awarded the Silver Medal.

Having completed his training in the Army Apprentice School, (incidentally - he was also awarded the Best Apprentice Prize on leaving the School) Niall was posted to Base Signals Workshops (BSW) in the Curragh. BSW is responsible for acceptance-testing of potential military equipment and for the maintenance to component level of Signal Corps equipment. Here he is gaining invaluable experience on radio sets currently in service. He is meanwhile engaged in further studies in his own time at the Dublin Institute of Technology, Kevin St., and hopes to eventually qualify as an engineer. If his past performance is anything to go by, there can be no doubt that he will succeed! Very well done Niall.



Namibia - Nearly A Nation (Part 2)

Present Deployment of Military Forces

By Comdt J. McMahon

Military deployment in Namibia has varied greatly since the beginning of the conflict. From an estimated strength of 15,000 in the late 1960s the South African forces grew to an estimated 60,000 - 70,000 by the late 1970s. However, with the establishment of the South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF) in 1980 the scale of South African Defence Forces (SADF) involvement in Namibia reduced considerably.

The present military deployment shows the SADF and the SWATF on the one hand with the South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) on the other.

The SADF is divided into the three conventional fighting services, the Army, the Air Force and Navy. It is an integrated structure and while the Chiefs of the three services command their respective forces they derive their authority from the Chief of the SADF who commands the entire force and is responsible to the Minister for Defence.

The army has a standing strength of 75,000 (20,000 regulars, 55,000 conscripts) and the country is divided into eleven Territorial Commands.

SADF in Namibia

SADF have divided Namibia into seven Operational Sectors (i.e. Sectors 10, 20, 30 etc., see Fig 1). The national HQ is at Windhoek with the Border Operational Area HQ at Grootfontein.

SADF troops are rotated through Namibia every six months approximately. The first two months (approx) of any tour of duty is used for 'acclimatisation'. Apart from the obvious political reasons for their presence in Namibia the military hierarchy regard it as a useful training and testing ground both for troops and equipment. It should be noted that the South African military chiefs are in favour of withdrawing from Namibia and defending South Africa along its international borders.

It is estimated that there are approximately 20,000 South African troops in Namibia at present. The main Operational Area is obviously along the Namibian/Angolan border. This is referred to as the Border Operational Area (BOA). In the BOA, SADF troops are organised into three task forces, the nucleus of each being the equivalent of a tank regiment. The headquarters for each task force is at Ondangua, Oshivelvo and Ruacana respectively.

The Northern Border Area is under martial law and as such it is administered totally by the SADF. This means, for example, they run schools, hospitals, social services etc. In this way they hope to infiltrate the local population and win the 'hearts and minds' of the people. Overall this has not been very successful.

Much of the really operational activity in the area is left to the SWATF.

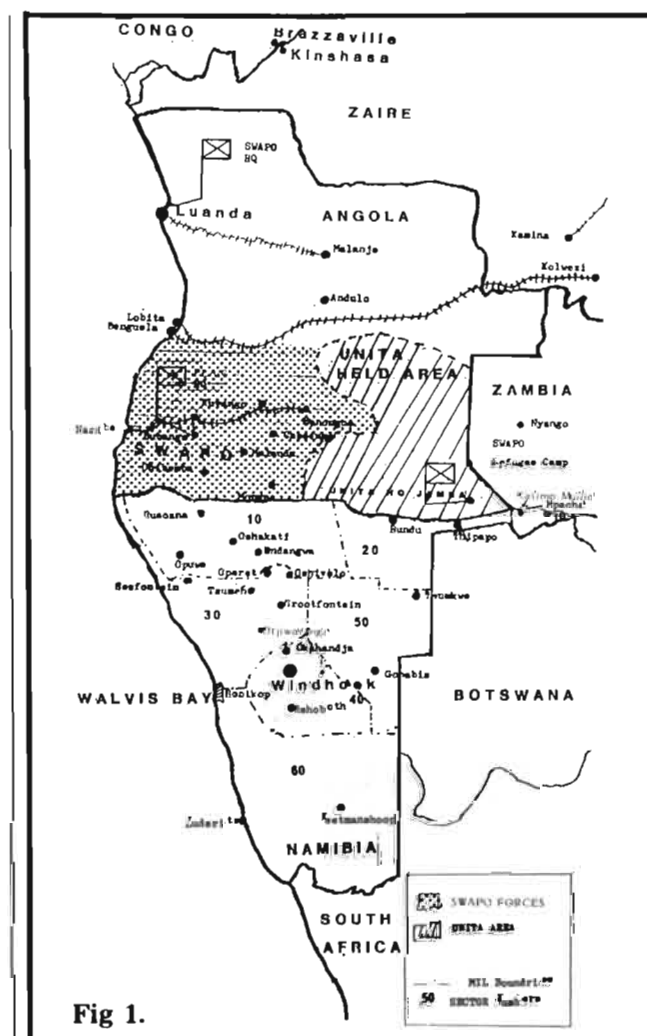


Fig 1.

Equipment estimate:

- 100 Main Battle Tanks - Olifant - Centurion variant
- 1000 APCs - Ratel - Casspir
- 64 Artillery pieces including Multiple Rocket Launchers



SWAPO rally, Katutura 1986.

- 70 Anti-aircraft guns.
- 10 to 15 Helicopters – Alouette III/Puma
- 10 to 15 Fixed Wing (Cessna) Aircraft.

South West Africa Territory Force

The SWA Territory Force (SWATF) was established on 1 August 1980 as the basis of a future independent South West African Defence Force, and is made up mainly of South African Army units based in Namibia. Now the SWATF provides 60% of the troops in combat operations and about 40% of the total military strength. The SWATF remains a part of the South African Defence Force (SADF) until independence, and is commanded by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) SWATF who also holds the posts of Namibian Secretary for Defence and GOC SA Army forces in Namibia.

Budgetary control, all administration, national service matters, training and purchasing fall to the Namibian authorities. National service is applied selectively, to avoid potential political problems arising from the insurgency situation and also to avoid overloading the limited training facilities. It is not applied at all in the North where the existing units are faced with more volunteers than they can handle e.g. when 101 Battalion sought 205 recruits to form an additional Company, 3,000 applications were received.



South African army camp destroyed by PLAN, 1978.

The SWATF is largely a militia force with a mobilisation strength of around 22,000. It has three major components:

The Standing Force

- Six regional Light Infantry Battalions (regular);
- The Namibian Specialist Unit (regulars, national servicemen);
- A Reconnaissance Regiment (special forces, regular).

The Reaction Force

- 91 Motorised Brigade (citizen force, one Regular Battalion);
- Namibia Parachute Battalion (citizen force, one Regular Company);
- A Light Aircraft Squadron (112 Squadron, citizen force).

The Area Force

A Counter-Insurgency Force of some 26 Area Force Units (militia) under the command of four Sector Headquarters:

- Sector 30 – Northern Area, HQ at Otjiwarongo.
- Sector 40 – Central Area, HQ at Windhoek.
- Sector 50 – Eastern Area, HQ at Gobabis.
- Sector 60 – Southern Area, HQ at Keetmanshoop.

The three Sectors covering the Operational Area remain under the control of the SADF for the time being:

- Sector 10 – Kaokoland and Owambo, HQ at Oshakati;
- Sector 20 – Kavango, Bushmanland and West Caprivi, HQ at Rundu.
- Sector 70 – East Caprivi, HQ at Katime Mulilo.

Supporting elements of the SWATF are:

- A Military School at Okahanja near Windhoek, and
- A Logistic Brigade controlling one Namibian Engineer Regiment, one Namibian Signals Regiment, a composite Depot and a Workshop Regiment.

Standing Force

The six Light Infantry Battalions are regular manned



Ratel-20 IFVs of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group SADF during an exercise. J D W 7 MARCH 1987

units manned by locally recruited volunteers. They are:

- 101 Battalion in Ovambo
- 102 (Kaokoland)
- 201 (Omega in West Caprivi)
- 202 (Kavango)
- 203 (Bushmanland)
- 701 (East Caprivi)

Primarily counter-insurgency units, known as 'Koevet', they conduct operations in their own areas and also detach Companies to the three SA Army Battalion-groups which control counter-insurgency operations in the bulk of the Operational Area. All Battalions conduct their own basic training but send personnel to the Namibian Military School for advanced and promotion courses. Many senior officers and NCOs are still seconded from the SA Army but junior leader posts – commissioned and non-commissioned – are increasingly filled from within the units.

Apart from their Rifle Companies, several of these battalions also field companies organised into Mechanised 'Romeo Mike' (RM) Teams. These Teams of 21, in two Casspir mine-protected APCs conduct mechanised follow-up and tracking operations. These have proved very successful, the vehicles allowing the trackers to work as two Teams, one running on the tracks or spoor and the other resting in the vehicles together with the support element.

The Casspirs also give the Team the edge in a firefight, given the firepower, mobility and protection to disrupt ambushes and overrun insurgents in an attempt to escape. The current tracking record by one

of these groups stands at 287km over three days, 190km being covered with tracking Teams running on the spoor. The mechanised follow-up has been developed to a fine art by 101 Battalion, operating almost exclusively with RM Teams and one Heliborne Reaction force. The 101 Battalion has six Companies in this role, supported by a Mounted Company, a combined Tracker and Interpreter Company, a Civic Action Company and a Support Company. The RM Teams generally operate for six to eight weeks followed by four-week break and refresher training. 201 Battalion has now organised its Infantry Companies into seven RM Teams each, and also has a reconnaissance wing of five six-man Teams specialising in surveillance work. Apart from its operational role in Ovambo and Western Kavango and security operations in its own area, 201 Battalion also has the task of supporting the Bushmen and their families in their transition to the modern SWA economy with as little damage to their culture and traditions as possible.

In Bushmanland, 203 Battalion has similar nation-building and local security missions in its area, and deploys elements for operations along the border on a rotation basis. The emphasis here is very much of the development task and local security. The Namibian Specialist Unit is a specialised follow-up unit which trains Mounted and Motorcycle Infantry, Trackers and Dog Handlers. Personnel join the unit after completion of their basic courses at the SADF Equestrian Centre or Dog Centre. An intensive advanced counter-insurgency course at the Unit's home base then follows. The Unit is also responsible for Advanced Tracker training. Mounted Infantry generally operate by Platoons in support of Infantry Companies. Their horses offer them mobility which is comparable to that of APCs but without the vehicle noise. In difficult terrain or heavy bush their mobility is rather better. Motorcyclists are at present chiefly employed for road patrols, convoy escort, as a reaction force and to sweep surfaced roads for mines. Dogs are used in the traditional patrol, tracking, guard, mine detection and explosive-sniffing roles. Another approach has been to employ packhounds to track, run down and corner insurgents for Infantry or, more practically, 'mounties' to deal with.

Reaction Force

91 Brigade is a Motorised Infantry Brigade similar to those of the SA Army. Its Armoured Car Regiment is equipped with the Eland-90, the three Infantry Battalions with Buffel APCs and the Medium Regiment with 140mm guns. All the other units are citizen force units which would only be mobilised en bloc in time of war,



Police patrol in Bushmanland bantustan.



PLAN commander points out details of South African military vehicle captured at Okanghudi, Northern Namibia, October 1987.

but which provide elements for service in the Operational Area for short periods. The Brigade Headquarters has regular, national service and citizen force personnel.

Area Force

The Area Force is a territorial force with responsibility for internal security operations. The Area Force

Units vary in strength and composition. They are essentially area-bound and each unit has responsibility for its own area. The key to the Area Force concept lies in the excellent knowledge of its personnel, particularly farms and farm workers. The SADF deployment in Namibia has been wound down as the SWATF and the Namibian Police have expanded their ability to handle the situation.

SWAPO

As outlined in last month's issue, the military wing of SWAPO is known as The People's Liberation Army of Namibia - PLAN.

PLAN is headquartered in Luanda, Angola, and has several bases in the Western half of Southern Angola. As UNITA are hostile to SWAPO, they (SWAPO) do not operate from the UNITA held area. (See Fig 1). It should be noted that many of PLAN's bases are in fact refugee camps set up over the past 15 years and are not military bases in the true sense.



Mounted Infantry often co-operate with mechanised follow-up or sweep-teams, the APCs in this case are Buffels.

United Nations Forces

On 29 September 1978 the UN Security Council passed Resolution 435 which gave authority to set up a United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) for a period of up to twelve months. This essentially was to ensure the "early independence of Namibia through free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations".

For a number of reasons, Resolution 435 was never implemented at that time - the main stumbling block being South Africa's availing of every opportunity to impede the peace process. South Africa established a 'link' between the withdrawal from Namibia and Cuban withdrawal from Angola. The UN and the Western Powers saw these as two separate issues but South Africa refused to compromise. Thereafter some effort was expended on dealing with the Cuban issue until eventually in November 1988 all parties agreed to a phased Cuban withdrawal (i.e. Cuba, Angola, South Africa and the US). This led directly to the setting up of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM).

UNAVEM

The United Nations Angola Verification Mission is in operation since January 1989. It is a 70-member observer force based in Angola to monitor the withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola. The HQ of the Group is in the capital, Luanda, with teams of Observers monitoring airports, ports, main roads, etc., which will be used by the withdrawing Cubans. Others will be deployed along the 13th and 15th Parallels to monitor the initial Cuban redeployment northwards. 1,000 Cuban troops are to be north of the 13th Parallel by 1 April. The first group of 3,000 Cuban troops will also have left Angola by 1 April. The complete withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola will take 30 months.

UNTAG

Under UN Resolution 629 of 16 January 1989 the starting date for UNTAG was fixed for 1 April 1989. While the size of the Force originally was fixed at 7,000 consisting in the main of seven Battalions and support elements, because of pressure from various sectors and particularly financial pressure from the UN HQ itself, the Force was reduced to 4,650. This necessitated a complete re-organisation of the Force and its Operational Plan.

The Force now consists of:

3 Battalions of 850 men each	2,250
Logistical back-up units	1,700
Force HQ	100
UN Observers/Monitors	300
Total	4,650

The breakdown is as follows:

Lt Prem Chand from India is the Force Commander. The Force HQ is in Windhoek with a Staff of 100
(a) Three Bns of 850 each supplied by Kenya, Malaysia and Finland. There will be four Bns on stand-by in own countries supplied by Venezuela, Bangladesh, Yugoslavia and Togo.

(b) The seven countries named above will also supply Military Observers. Other countries



The Military Observers for UNTAG pictured with Lt Gen T. M. O'Neill, Chief of Staff. Comdt O. A. K. Macdonald is not included and Comdt E. Colclough, (3rd right Rear Row) was a reserve. (Photo: Sgt T. Hudson)

including Ireland will also supply UNMOs. A total of 300 UNMOs will be deployed.

- (c) Logistic support will be supplied by:
United Kingdom Company - Operational and Admin Communications. Canada Company (+) Forward Maint Area-logs. Poland Company - Supply & Transport. Spain and Italy 3 Companies (450 pers) for Air Support, 8 x Hel (IT) Huey under control to Battalions, 8 x Fixed Wing (Spain) CASA 212 (20 pers), 2 x C130s (Spain). Switzerland 150 pers (civs) - Medical support in Windhoek. UN Field Service.

Civilian Police

The civilian police are a separate force in their own right i.e. they do not come under the command of the Force Commander UNTAG. The Commander of the civilian police is Mr. Stephen Fanning, ex Assistant Commissioner of the Garda Siochana.

Their total strength will be 500 drawn from Austria, Ireland, Fiji, Sweden, Barbados, Jamaica, Netherlands, and possibly New Zealand, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Egypt. The Irish contingent will consist of 1 Chief Supt, 1 Supt, 2 Inspectors, 8 Sgts and 23 Gardai.



Gardai who will be leaving shortly for Namibia. Front Row L/R: B/Gda M. Egan, Insp J. McElligot, Supt P. Fitzgerald, B/Gda B. Tobin. Back Row L/R: Gda P. Brunton, Gda P. Leahy, Gda P. Barron, Insp P. J. McGowan, Sgt L. Mithen, Gda D. Connolly, Gda A. O'Keefe. (Photo: Sgt T. Hudson)

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Operation Autumn Gold

—By Capt T. Doonan—

The 1988 Mechanised Coy Exercise was designated "Autumn Gold". As well as being a tactical assessment of training and equipment, the exercise was planned and co-ordinated to meet requests for Troops in Aid of the Civil Power, to carry out Cordon and Search Operations in support of the Garda Síochána. The designated 'search' areas were in the Border region and a Coy from each of the Commands rotated in over over the month of September.

Portion of a Mechanised Inf Coy Group, over thirty vehicles, formed up for RV with Garda elements.

This year the APC Coy Group was composed of a Mechanised Infantry Coy borne in fifteen Panhard M3 APCs and supported by a Cavalry Recce Troop equipped with Panhard AML 60s and Landrover's FFR. An Engineer Search Team was located 'under command' and the usual HQ elements were augmented by Army/Garda Liaison Officers. In keeping with lessons learned during OPERATION MALLARD it was intended to identify, evaluate and rectify potential or real problems that might arise with regard to the use of armour in Aid to the Civil Power (ATCP) or Army/Garda Co-op in general.

Preparatory Training

Each Command was tasked to carry out local ATCP Exercises in Cordon & Search and with this object in

mind the Southern Command Coy Group formed up at Fort Davis in East Cork. From here a series of Cordon & Search operations were carried out. Training continued with Check Point Exercises, Infantry and Search Team Drills, Signals Exercises and the exercising of the Ops Cell, and the 'A' and 'Q' echelons in their specialist roles. Later, over Kilworth Ranges, troops were seen practising APC drills, undergoing Saab Scania Shoots, routine fieldcraft and Junior Leadership Training.

Concentration

Early September – an Army concentration of APCs took place in Gormanston Camp. Capt J. Hunt of the 27 Inf Bn organised the finer A and Q points prior to the Ex Troops arrival. Signals and Cavalry Corps Maintenance Crews gave the APCs a clean bill of health and all was go, go, go!

The Eastern Command arrived first, took over their APCs and 'shook out' around the Bellewstown area for a day. The Gremlins gone – the next day was D-Day and a real scorcher too. With their Mission complete, the East's contribution to the Autumn Gold Exercise over – their troops returned home sated. The South arrived next, followed by the West and Curragh Comd Coy Groups over the remainder of the month.

Modus Operandi

Each Coy Group had a training day prior to their ATCP commitment. With the Signal equipment checked and a full operational shake up, the Coy Comd awaited the Warning Order from Bn HQ. H-13 – it arrives. It was H-11 before the exact area of the search was made known. Platoon 'Orders' Groups met at H-9. 0800 Zulu was H-Hour. At a designated RV at H-1, the Gardai were briefed and individual Gardai tasked. The outer cordon appeared thereafter and the search quickly commenced. Those APCs not employed were grouped in a

Zulu muster, while the Cav elements provided part of the Reserve and mobile patrol on by-roads and tracks.

The successful Op concluded in brilliant sunshine 10 hours after leaving Gormanston Camp. After a well deserved night's sleep, the Southern Command Coy Group left for Cork next day. The other Comds fared similarly over the next few weeks.

With notes compiled, we all left the 27 Inf Bn Area of Operations with a heightened awareness of the tough and demanding job carried out so professionally by all the 'Border' Units, along our many miles of frontier.

Good Luck Lads.



Early morning blues or is the Coy Comd up yet!



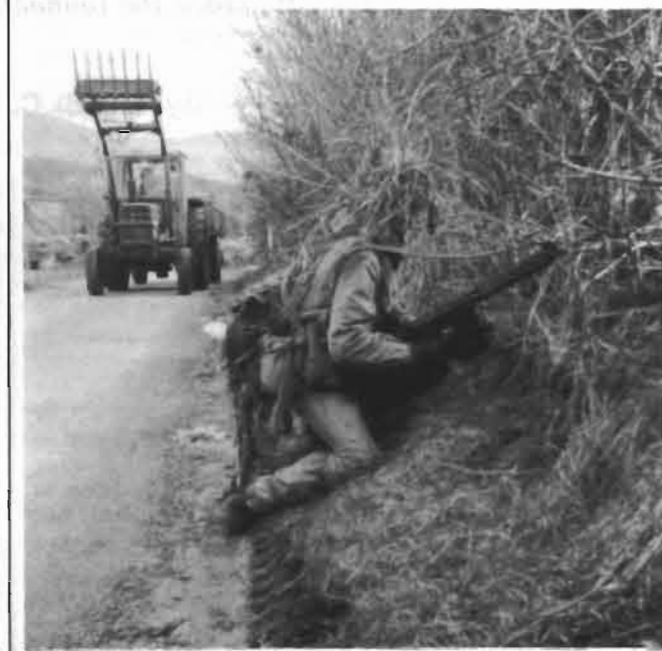
S Comd troops moving back to vehicles having witnessed a demonstration of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and 'booby traps'.



Army/Garda CP on the Outer Cordon.



Mobile Reserve elements on standby for immediate support.

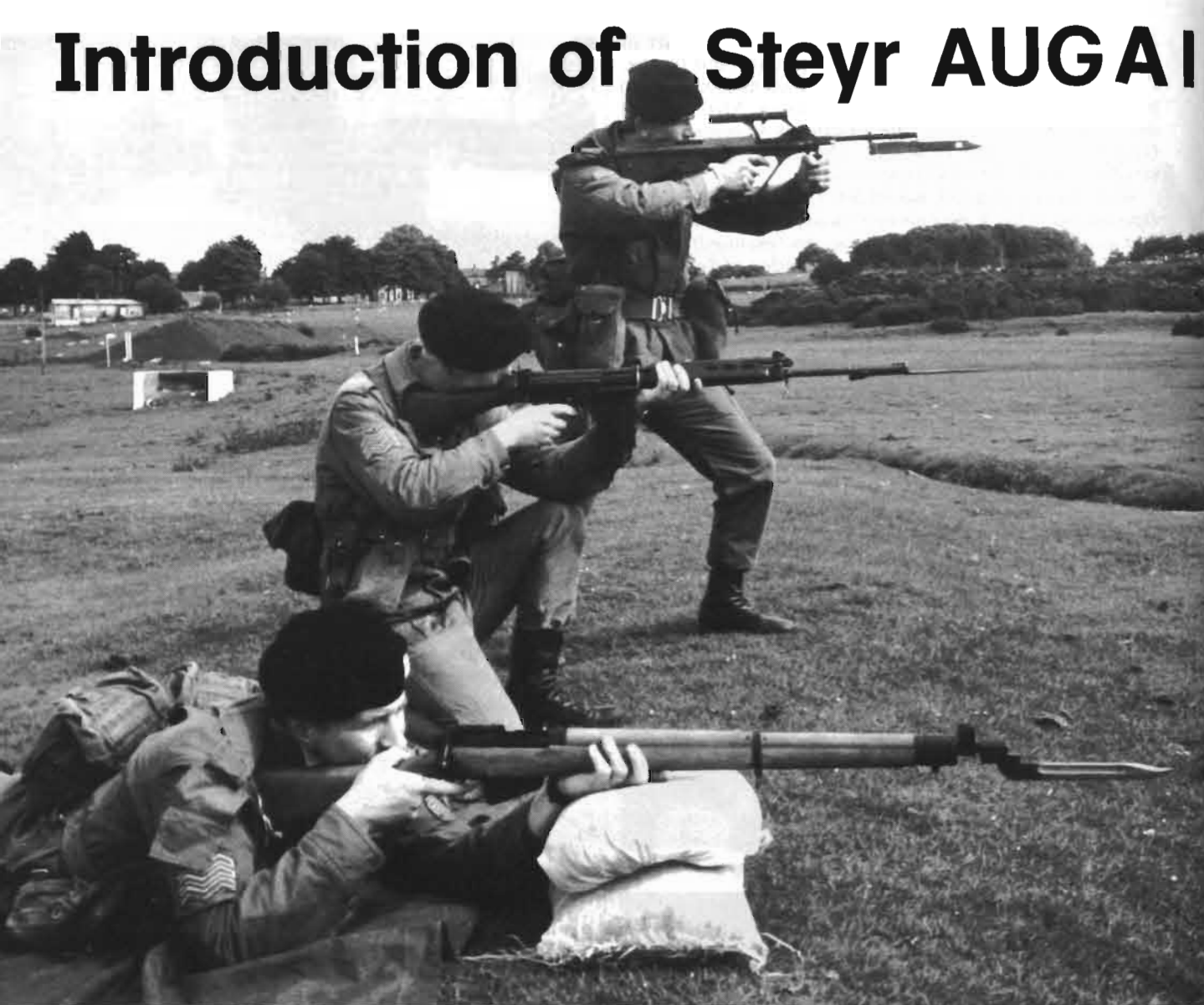


The Inner Cordon – not much will 'creep up' on this well prepared soldier.
(All Photos by Capt T. Doonan)



The Forward RV and "marry up" with GS – no mistaking the location for this operation!

Introduction of Steyr AUG A1



(Photo: Armn J. Daly)

The Steyr AUG A1 which became operational in many units of the Defence Forces on 1 March is the third weapon to become the Army's standard general service rifle since the foundation of the State.

—By Comdt C. Mangan—

In 1961 as a result of the experiences of the early battalions in the Congo a decision was made to replace the Lee Enfield .303 rifle which in its various marks had been the standard rifle since 1922. The replacement was the Belgian-made 7.62 FN FAL and it was issued to all members of the Permanent Defence Forces in 1961 while the Enfield .303 continued in service with the FCA units. The FN has certainly rendered sterling service at home and abroad for the last twenty-eight years. It proved itself not only in the Congo, Cyprus, Sinai and Lebanon but also at home in Ireland on a variety of operational tasks on the Border and elsewhere in the post-1969 period. The decision to replace the FN with the Steyr was not made recently but has been the result of a thorough and comprehensive process that commenced eleven years ago.

An Eleven Year Process

In 1978 an Army Board examining the organisation and equipment of the Defence Forces recommended, inter alia, the purchase of 36,000 modern rifles for the

regular army and the FCA. At that time the question of changing the calibre of service rifles from 7.62mm to 5.56mm or smaller was under serious consideration in many armies. Indeed the requirement for the introduction of a smaller round with all its attendant advantages had been perceived in many countries shortly after the Second World War.

During the Vietnam War the Americans brought the 5.56mm Colt A1 into service but it was not until the NATO Nations, after a lengthy competitive investigation, decided to accept the SS109 as the NATO standard 5.56mm round that the competition, to introduce 5.56 rifles on a universal scale, commenced. It should be pointed out that the Austrians were somewhat of an exception to this pattern. They had already introduced the Steyr Aug in 1977 and had thereby gained a considerable start in the field. Consequently, when the follow-up action to the 1978 Army Board recommendation to procure "modern rifles" was being initiated, a decision to pursue the 5.56mm range was only logical in light of developments of that time. Once the decision on



Evaluating performance with NBC suits - Pte White withstood the exercise well.

calibre had been made the way was clear for the Ordnance Corps to commence the investigation of the various options available on the world market. By 1985 this investigative process was complete and the next stage, that of technical trials, was launched. A total of seven rifles was chosen to undergo the technical trials and two of each type were purchased for an extensive series of technical trials.

Technical Trials

The technical trials were conducted by a Board of Specialist Personnel established by the Director of Ordnance. The seven weapons which the Board had to evaluate were:-

M16 A2	from Colt	USA
Galil ARM	from IMI	Israel
FNC	from FN	Belgium
AUG A 1	from Steyr	Austria
SG 550/2	from SIG	Switzerland
L85 A1	from Royal Ordnance	UK
AR 70/90	from Beretta	Italy

The trials were planned in detail and meticulously carried out by personnel of the Ordnance Corps between Apr 1985 and Jun 1986. They covered a wide variety of tests designed to prove each weapon's endurance, safety, durability and reliability of components, accessories and other elements. There was also a lot of time and ammunition devoted to the conduct of live firing tests on the various rifle ranges to determine accuracy, endurance, reliability, target effect and other performance characteristics.

The technical trials were concluded on 18 Jun 1986 and the report was submitted to the General Staff. Once they had considered the report a decision was made to subject a total of four rifle types to a rigorous series of troop trials.

Troop Trials

The four rifle types chosen by the General Staff to undergo troop trials were:-

AUG A1	Steyr	Austria
SG 550/2	SIG	Switzerland
M16 A2	Colt	USA
L85A1	Royal Ordnance	UK

March 1989

Ten of each rifle were purchased for trial purposes. A Board was established to conduct the tests. It was tasked "to evaluate and compare the performance of the contending 5.56 rifle types in order to recommend, from a user point of view, the most suitable 5.56mm rifle to replace the FN 7.62 and Enfield .303 rifles for general issue to the Defence Forces". The Board were given detailed and comprehensive terms of reference which required one of the most exhaustive testing processes ever undertaken in the Defence Forces. The Board first met on 12 Jan 1987 and submitted its final report just ten months later on 22 Oct 1987. In that ten months the four rifle types were subjected to an extensive series of tests, conducted under the supervision of the Board, in all four Commands.

Whilst the twelve requirements listed formed the main elements of subsequent testing there were also requirements in respect of supply, standardisation and accessories. Each one of the specified requirements was analysed to identify those elements that could be precisely quantified and the appropriate tests were designed accordingly. Thus the range and battle practices were constructed not only to test the actual firing of the rifle and its accuracy under various conditions but also to evaluate performance with a variety of items of uniform and equipment e.g. respirators, NBC suits, wet gear, full battle order etc. These range and battle practices required a meticulous record system which produced much interesting data on comparative performances under all conditions. Indeed fortune favoured the whole process because the weather was most suitable for trial purposes as it ranged from snow blizzards and rain storms through fog and mist to hot dry summer weather.

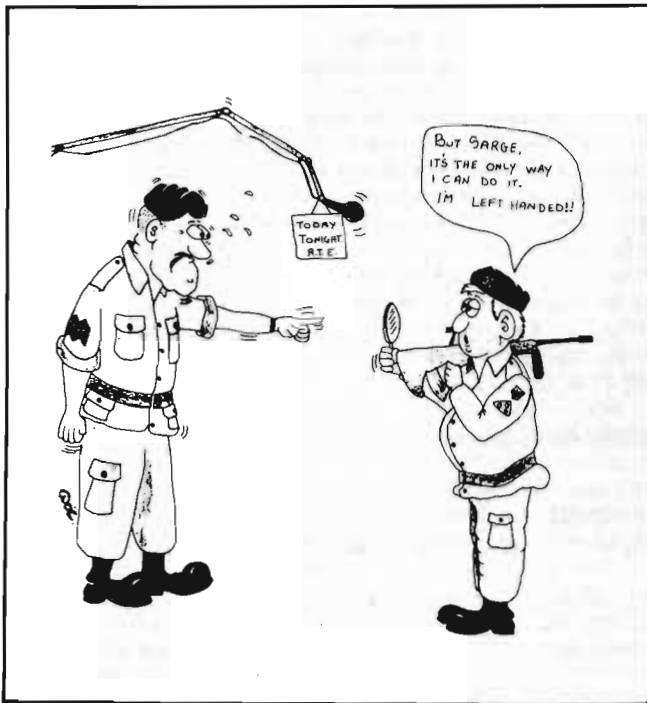
"... one of the most exhaustive testing processes ever undertaken in the Defence Forces."

Trial Teams

In the more subjective assessments where it was not possible to design tests with quantifiable results a comprehensive system of questionnaires was used. This considerable requirement meant that the teams carrying out the trials had to be carefully selected. Each of the four Army Commands made the selection of a rifle trials team which consisted of an Officer in Charge and ten users, two NCOs and eight privates. The technical back-up was provided by an Ordnance Officer and Sergeant who were assigned to the test team for the duration of the trials. As far as possible the teams selected were representative of the prospective user group for any new rifle. There was a total of forty firers in all four Commands and the breakdown was as



Pers from 3 Inf Bn cleaning weapons after exercise. Pte P. Devine cleans the Nissan Patrol.



follows:— 6 Marksmen: 24 First Class Shots: 10 Second Class Shots. Of these, six wore spectacles and there were six lefthanded firers. It is interesting that for the lefthanded soldiers no lefthand variants of the two bull-pup rifles, Royal Ordnance and Steyr, were procured. This was a conscious decision by the Board to enable the trials to proceed with the maximum of standardisation and was based on information available from the practice or the trials already conducted in Austria, Great Britain and Australia. This was to ensure that the assessment of the test rifles by the individual users, the teams and the Board would be subject to as few variables as possible. In fact it proved so conclusive that when eventually purchasing the Steyr no left hand variant was purchased. This is *not* as discriminatory of the lefthanded as it appears because with its 1.5 optic sight the Steyr can be fired with both eyes open and retraining of the firer to right-handed use proved to be simple and effective.

Data Assessment

Each of the teams had one of the weapon types for a four week period. There was a handover period of five days at the end of each trial period. The four week trial period and the handover were all run to a specific test programme laid down by the Rifle Trials Board. The team captains had to maintain a comprehensive set of records which were compiled during the trials at critical stages, e.g. at the end of the operational exercises, duties, training as well as all range and battle practices. These records were consolidated and updated during the handover periods and transmitted to the Rifle Board. These records included a detailed questionnaire which specified 135 questions to be addressed by the team captain in relation to each weapon type. There was also a technical questionnaire with 229 questions which was compiled with the assistance of the assigned Ordnance Officer. As well as these two questionnaires there was also a series of range test records, firer reports, reliability logs and individual comment sheets. The Rifle Trials Board conducted an ongoing assessment of the trials by visits to the teams and discussions with them. The handover periods were supervised and an ongoing record of all findings was maintained in the form of summary sheets. This whole process called for great effort, by all the team captains and the technical members, to process the information for the Trials Board. It also generated a wealth of data that was constantly being updated and expanded

MAIN SPECIFICATIONS

The Troop Trials were designed to establish the extent to which each rifle conformed to a specified standard requirement. In brief this standard requirement included, the following main specifications:—

1. **Reliability.** The rifle must be consistently reliable on all operational tasks both in Ireland and with the UN forces overseas. Its reliability must also be such that the users will have every confidence in their weapon.

2. **Durability.** The rifle must be durable enough to withstand any robust handling it might receive in the course of operations or during training.

3. **Accuracy.** The rifle must be capable of being fired accurately from supported and unsupported positions out to ranges of 400 metres.

4. **Portability.** The rifle must be light, well balanced and easy to handle and carry. It must have a system which will enable it to be comfortably carried slung/unslung with no restrictions on the user's ability to employ it rapidly when required.

5. **Compatibility.** Any service rifle must be compatible with the range of clothing and equipment currently in service in the Defence Forces. It should also be compatible with the troop transport vehicles currently in use in the Defence Forces on land, sea or air.

6. **Maintainability.** The rifle must be easy to maintain by the user. It should be provided with adequate tools and cleaning gear to carry out such maintenance.

7. **Easy to Instruct.** All instruction on the rifle must be capable of being absorbed by the users both quickly and accurately.

8. **Safety.** Safety is a fundamental requirement in the selection of a service rifle. All procedures and systems must be so secure that they present the least possible danger to the user and the least possible chance of accidental discharge.

9. **Environmental Suitability.** The rifle must be able to function perfectly in the climatic variations found in Ireland. This would include damp misty conditions as well as dry warm ones or even sub-zero temperatures.

10. **Fire Modes.** Choice between single shot operation and automatic fire must be available.

11. **Simplicity.** All of the rifle's systems must be simple for the user to implement so that he can use and maintain his weapon to the required operational standard at all times.

12. **Target Engagement.** Speed of target engagement is an essential requirement of any service rifle. It must be capable of being rapidly aimed and fired accurately, by day and by night.



The advantages of the Steyr in debussing from escort vehicles is apparent.

Board Recommendation

Once the trial weapons had been tested in the four Commands and the various reports had been analysed a final conference was held for all participants to confirm the conclusions that were drawn. After the final conference the Rifle Board completed its report and submitted it with a recommendation to the General Staff. The rifle recommended was the Steyr AUG A1 as it was considered the most suitable assault rifle to see the Defence Forces into the next century. During the trials it had met the established requirements very effectively. It was the clear favourite of the average firer as it presented a very marked improvement in all their range results. There is no doubt that it is a very useful addition to the Defence Forces as it will appreciably improve the standard of marksmanship of the general body. It was noteworthy that marksmen and those engaged in competition shooting were not unanimous in selecting it as their first choice, but that elite band of competition specialists will undoubtedly find its own level with the new rifle or transfer the traditional rivalry and attendant mystique to the sniper rifle competition.

The General Staff having assessed the Rifle Trials Board Report, decided that the SteyrAUG A1 should be introduced to the Permanent Defence Forces to replace the FN 7.62 rifle. Once the General Staff decision was made the actual purchasing procedures were implemented by the QMG and the Contracts Officer, Department of Defence. Originally it had been intended to phase the purchasing programme over the period 1988 – 1991 but that was revised and the programme should now be completed by the end of June 1989. To

"The rifle recommended was the Steyr AUG A1 as it was considered the most suitable assault rifle to see the Defence Forces into the next century."

provide time for adequate training and the other necessary preparations the introduction was planned in two main phases. The operational date for all Infantry Battalions, Artillery Regiments, Cavalry Squadrons, Engineer Companies, Signals Companies and Supply and Transport Companies was set for 1 March 1989 and for all other units in the Defence Forces, except UNIFIL, 1 Jan 1990. It is planned that the AUG will be operational with all Irish troops in UNIFIL on 1 May 1990.

Developments

The Rifle Trials Board recommended that because of the Steyr's universal weapon concept, it would replace the Gustaf sub-machine gun, which has been in service for over thirty years. With the quantities being procured in the current order it will not be possible to replace all the Gustafs listed in Equipment Tables. However, by reorganisation of allocation it will be possible to issue the Steyr to replace the Gustaf in all Infantry Battalions, Artillery Units, Cavalry Units and the Irish Contingent in UNIFIL. Such a replacement will be completed and be operational in all the specified units by 1 Jan 1990 and in UNIFIL on 1 May 1990. Until further stocks of the Steyr are procured the Gustaf will continue in service in all other units of the Defence Forces.

The Steyr AUG, as well as being a replacement for the sub-machine gun, belongs to a weapon family that contains a light machine-gun variant. The 5.56 light machine gun or light support weapon is being introduced in a number of forces worldwide. In many armies the chosen weapon has been the FN Minimi which has been introduced alongside rifles other than



Troop Trials. Sgt Bobby Duggan of 3 Inf Bn briefs his men prior to technical exercises in the Glen of Imaal. Included are Ptes Donncha (Mucky) White, John Donoghue, Jimmy Windrim, Ken Pembroke, John Kelly, Vincent Murphy, John Tracey and John Balfe.

the related FN FNC. Obviously a 5.56mm calibre light support weapon standardises the ammunition of the infantry section and that of itself is a great advantage. However, if it is possible to introduce a weapon of the same family as the service rifle it will provide a far greater degree of standardisation. Consequently, when Steyr Mannlicher offered two models of their 5.56 light support weapon for trial purposes it was accepted. The investigation has already commenced and it is being undertaken in three phases:—

- Technical Evaluation.
- User Evaluation.
- Doctrinal Development.

The trial weapons are heavy barrelled variants of the basic rifle. One of them, the so-called closed bolt variant, is the same as the rifle but has a heavy barrel and a bipod. The other, open bolt version, is also very similar but has not quite the same level of parts



Sp Coy pers from 30 Inf Bn and Steyr's 'Universal Weapon' Concept

Technical Specification

Weapon: Arme Universal Gewehr (AUG), 20 inch barrel assault rifle version.

Manufacturer: STEYR-DAIMLER-PUCH AG, Steyr, Austria.

Calibre: 5.56 x 45mm NATO standard.

Operation: Gas piston, semi- and full-auto from closed bolt (open-bolt optional).

Locking: 7 lug M16 style bolt in carrier of unique design.

Selector: 2 stage trigger gives semi-auto with a light pull, and full-auto when completely depressed.

Feed: Standard 30-round and optional 42-round plastic see-thru detachable box magazines.

Weight with loaded 30-round magazine: 9lb (4.1 Kg).

Barrel: Quick change standard 20 inch (508mm), 6 grooves, right twist, 1 turn in 9 inches (228mm) accommodates both M193 ball and new SS 109 ball. Other barrels available in a number of lengths and with a variety of optional attachments.

Overall length: 30 inches (790mm).

Sights: Built-in 1.5 power scope with ring reticle/range finder. Auxilliary open sights above the scope housing with glow-in-the-dark sighting dots.

Rate of Fire: Approximately 650 rounds per minute (cyclic).

Cooling: Air.

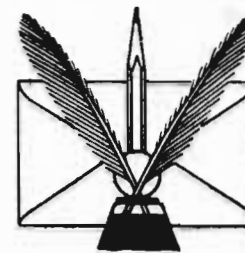
Notes: An innovative, modularized small arms system that can be configured as smg, carbine, assault rifle, auto rifle, or lmg, using fully interchangeable parts, smooth operating mechanism, and careful human engineering result in an exceptionally well balanced and effective weapon. Extensive use of plastics and alloys result in an exceptionally lightweight but very but very strong assembly. Converts to left or right handed operation, and for open and closed bolt operation. Launches rifle grenades from standard 20in barrel, and offers another 20in barrel with an M203 40mm grenade launcher. Optional receiver accepts all NATO STANAG scope mounts.

commonality as the closed bolt version. Both weapons can be fitted with the standard 1.5 optic sight or a 4 power scope and both sights are being evaluated. The Technical Evaluation has been completed by the Directorate of Ordnance and the user trials are being carried out in the Curragh Command at the present time. The Doctrinal Development is being conducted simultaneously with the user trials. This aspect of the evaluation is of fundamental importance to future tactical developments in the infantry. It will determine not only an important aspect of infantry tactics but also the continued role of the GPMG and the number of fire support units within the infantry section.

"... any weapon is only as good as the man that fires it ..."

Conclusion

The introduction of the Steyr AUG A1 will be of valuable assistance to the Defence Forces in preparing to carry out the primary role of defending the State and on duties in Aid of the Civil Power at home in Ireland. It represents the successful amalgamation of traditional machine tool craftsmanship and modern plastics technology to provide the Defence Forces with a light, compact, accurate and durable weapon. However, any weapon is only as good as the man that fires it and while the Steyr is a first class rifle the effort and commitment necessary to master the basic infantry skills will continue to be a prerequisite for the personnel of the Defence Forces. The dedication to achieve the required high standard will ensure that the combination of the best man and the best weapon will continue to provide the ultimate guarantee of security to this State - its Defence Forces.



Dear Editor,

Col Duggan's short article (An Cosantoir Nov/Dec 88) on the use of artillery during the Civil War was most interesting. Without contradicting anything he says, I would like to suggest that the use of seapower was the most decisive factor in bringing the unfortunate affair to a rapid conclusion. The series of amphibious operations carried out by the Government Forces were imaginative and well conducted, and showed considerable strategic competence. They destroyed any cohesive action on the part of the Anti-Treaty Forces, and completely demoralised them.

It would appear that the message of these operations was lost to the Defence Forces in more recent times. Control of the seas is vital to a coastal state and critical to an island one. That an enemy can land at will, suddenly, anywhere, means that considerable military effort ashore must be deployed to try and counter it. The truth of this is clear to any student of military history. Our defence policy seems to be, to tackle an enemy after he has landed, and possibly to harry him with a form of guerilla action. If the enemy lands, he has almost certainly won. He is most vulnerable while his forces are at sea, in ships, or in the air, before he can deploy. If we are to have a realistic defence policy, it must take this simple fact as its basic doctrine. The story of our own Civil War points to this.

Yours,

Daire Brunicardi. Lt. Cdr NS (Retd).
Corinview, Fermoy, Co. Cork.

Dear Editor,

I wish to refer to the article 'Aiken Military Barracks, Dundalk' by Mr. Harold O'Sullivan in your January 1989 issue.

While I am sure that no slur was intended by the author, the fact that no mention was made of 'A' Company 8th Infantry Battalion (FCA) is difficult to understand and greatly to be regretted.

This company, with its attendant PDF Cadre, has been in continuous occupation of Aiken Barracks, Dundalk since its inception on 1st October 1959. Prior to that, under its former title (North Louth Battalion, Oriel Area FCA) it had continuous connection with Dundalk Military Barracks from the time of the Emergency.

Between 1969 and 1973, 'A' Company supplied a major part of the manpower needed to man checkpoints and to guard vital installations in the Border area prior to the establishment of the 27th Infantry Battalion.

Its standards of drill, tactics, SA and support weapon firing have always been of the highest order and it serves as an exemplar of all that an FCA Company should be.

In my opinion, no history of Aiken Barracks, Dundalk is complete without mention of 'A' Company 8th Infantry Battalion (FCA).

Yours,

J. A. V. Mortell. Comdt
Ops Officer 64 Inf Bn UNIFIL &
Ex-OC 8 Inf Bn (FCA).

Corrections/Clarifications

With reference to our last issue, Feb 89, two points must be made.

1. Irish Spirit Outmatches Gallic Flair: 'Les Enfants de la Patrie' and 'fianna Fáil atá fé gheall ag Eireann' is what Comdt O. A. K. Macdonald wrote. What happened in print is entirely our responsibility. (Our apology was gracefully accepted)

2. The photograph of the Inchon and her technical detail was submitted by Mr. Jim Dooley of Banduff, Cork and was wrongly credited to Capt Kevin Byrne.



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ARMY AND AIR FORCE HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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Dear Editor,

Last November 1988 I had the extraordinary experience of visiting Dublin in order to cover the U.S. Military Academy's efforts against Boston College during the Emerald Isle Classic football game. Unfortunately, our Army team lost the game, but from my interviews with cadets and the players, they gained from their experiences in Dublin. And I'm happy to admit, so did I.

During my all too short stay in Dublin, I not only had a dream fulfilled by stepping foot on ancestral soil, but I also had my expectation surpassed by the Irish people during my stay. I've never been to a world-class city where the inhabitants afforded and offered so much hospitality, which usually is found in smaller towns and villages around the world. That was nice and quite unexpected. But I received an even larger surprise in the form of one of your Dubliners and one of your best friends of the Irish Defence Forces, a Mr. James J. Hogan. We've both 'known' each other through the mail for the past six years or so, and we finally had a chance to meet, and my three days with him were remarkable.

During my 'vacation' Mr. Hogan took me on a whirlwind tour of the history of the Irish Defence Forces in the Dublin area, and showed me a fledgling

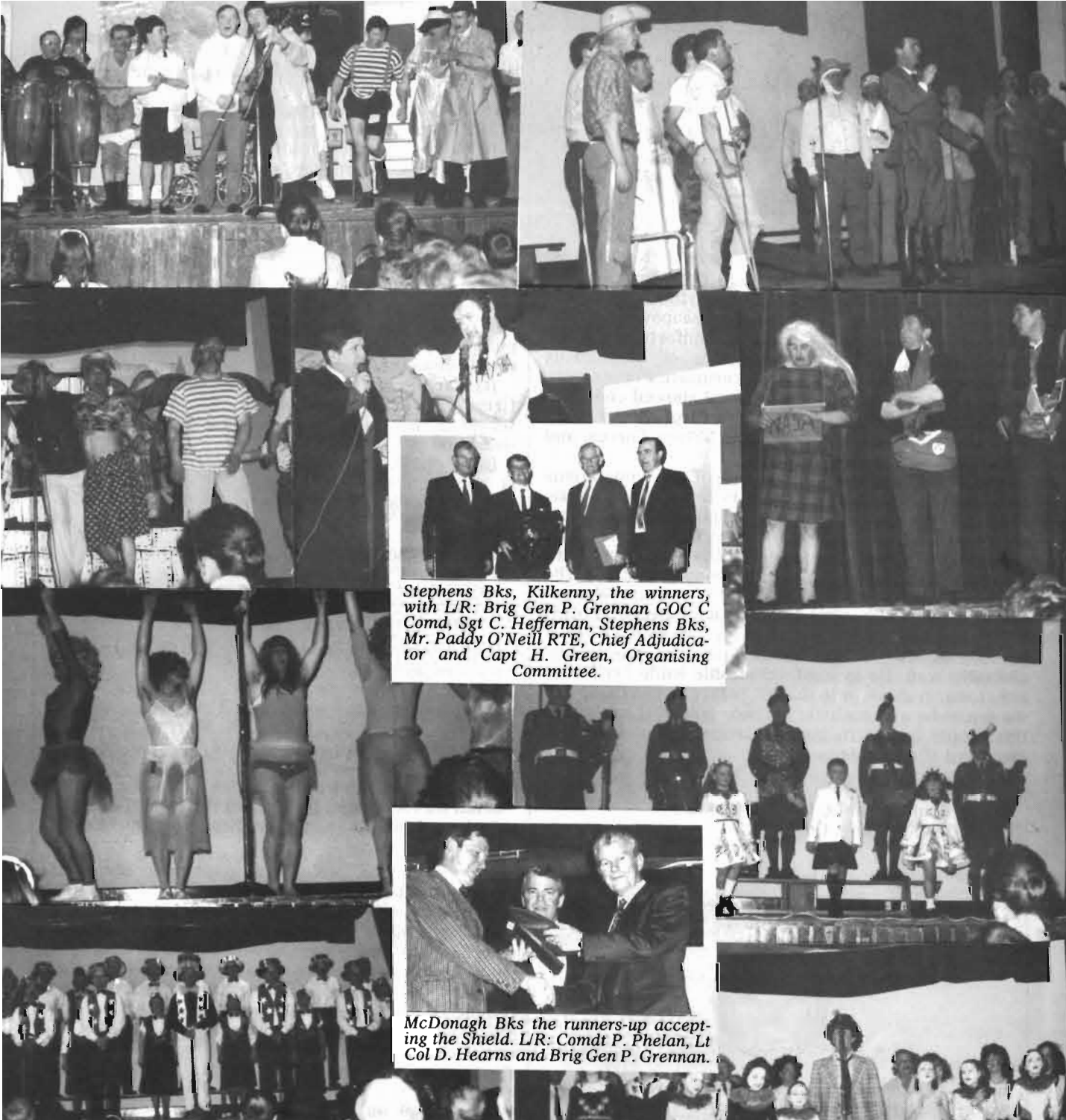
museum in Collins Barracks that's a 'beaut', something that I hope will be completed soon. Americans are known for their short memories, and without our museums and libraries, we would lose so much. The layout and design, as well as the quality of the artifacts from the Defence Forces history is fantastic. When its completed, it can only enhance and reinforce the pride the soldier, sailor and airman, as well as the Irish civilian, can have in its military, as well as hopefully carry on a little more history passed down through generations.

I could go on for pages on my experiences and feelings about my time in Ireland. But I'll do you a favour and just say I've never been treated by such open and genuine people as I had when I spent my week in Ireland. But I'll always remember the gentleman at Kilmahash Jail who exuded such affability, knowledge and (despite the overtime spent on us), a true love of sharing their knowledge of history with us, something I understand is often somewhat of a pain with 'Irish-Americans'. I also want to thank the gentlemen of the Defence Forces Archives at Cathal Brugha Barracks - their shared knowledge and patience - really topped off an already fantastic experience.

I didn't mean this letter to go on as long as it did. However, as an ending, I'd like to thank Mr. Hogan for going out of his way for sharing his country's history with me. I can't wait until I return again, since, I'll have to admit, not only was the company I enjoyed superb, but the Guinness wasn't bad either.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Glynn.
Sergeant 1st Class.



Stephens Bks, Kilkenny, the winners, with L/R: Brig Gen P. Grennan GOC C Comd, Sgt C. Heffernan, Stephens Bks, Mr. Paddy O'Neill RTE, Chief Adjudicator and Capt H. Green, Organising Committee.



McDonagh Bks the runners-up accepting the Shield. L/R: Comdt P. Phelan, Lt Col D. Hearn and Brig Gen P. Grennan.

Curragh Command Inter Barrack Talent Competition Final Night

(All photos by Capt B. Rohan)

The Inter-Barrack Talent Competition, which commenced in early January, came to an exciting climax on Wednesday 15 Feb at the Girl's National School, when teams representing Kilkenny, McDonagh, Connolly and Kildare appeared in the final. As was the case in the earlier rounds, the range and depth of genuine talent was quite fantastic. All four team finalists put on a super half hour performance to a packed hall and in the end the five adjudicators led by Mr. Paddy O'Neill from R.T.E. had a difficult task in choosing a winner. The experience gained by Kilkenny in the Tops Of The Town Competitions eventually proved the deciding factor and triumphed over the multi-talented McDonagh team with the BLOODS and Kildare, though defeated, by no means disgraced.

The most gratifying aspect of this inaugural competition was the participation of the families and relatives of serving personnel in the Barrack Teams, and the natural talent of the children on the stage lent a special glow to the occasion. The Master of Ceremonies was Lt Col D. Hearn. The trophies were presented on stage by the GOC, Brig Gen P. Grennan who congratulated the winners and all who took part in the competition.

Results: Winners of the Perpetual Trophy were Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny. Runners-up McDonagh Barracks. The Best Individual Act were the Young Girl

The following article addresses the issue of **RESPONSIBILITY** for **BUDGETS** by individual Directors and Commanders. It highlights the need for debate on the subject. It is written with the purpose of 'throwing in the ball'. Contributors to the discussion are invited to submit papers/articles/essays on the topic. A prize of £50 is offered for the best article, which will be published in *An Cosantoir*. This first paper is by Comdt E. Russell who is Planning Officer for the QMGs Branch.

Make a Profit – That's An Order!

By Comdt E. Russell

The title for this article is taken from the London Times 6 Nov 1988 when it was announced that the British Armed Forces are to delegate budgetary responsibility to local commanders.

"The Treasury has got the Defence Ministry to admit that there is scope for big savings in efficiency; now local commanders will be given freedom to decide how the money should be spent".

The British system, called The New Management Strategy for Defence, is based on four modules:

- Budgets
- Management Information Systems
- Performance Review and Objective Setting
- Departmental Plan

The new system is to be phased in over the period 1989 to 1991. Many European Armies have implemented or are about to change over to similar systems. The US Armed Forces have had such a system in operation since the early 1960's.

Can the management of the PDF be made more effective and efficient in terms of value for money? Is the taxpayer getting value for the "soldier pound"?

Ask yourself, if you are a serving soldier, the same question.

Private X – Are you using the equipment on issue to you effectively? Are you careful about care and cleaning and thus prolonging the life of your kit? Do you turn the lights out in the billet when you leave?

Capt Y – Is your transport fleet effectively managed? Any inefficient use of vehicles? What about monitoring the heating in buildings – are your buildings unnecessarily heated while un-occupied?

Lt Col Z – Subject of course **always** to carrying out the mission, is the consumption of resources under your command done in the most efficient manner?

The above questions if addressed may give rise to some savings in the Defence Forces. It certainly would not require a major change in the accounting systems to be more thrifty, a good educational campaign could do that.

However the most a belt-tightening exercise can do is squeeze minor savings out of the existing system. What modern armies are doing is adopting the concepts of Managerial Accounting. New programme structures are designed to ensure Civil Service control but to delegate spending authority to the relevant responsible military commander or director. In a thesis for his degree in Accounting and Finance, Capt Dave Doogan, wrote,

"One of the benefits of designing a programme structure would be to allow decisions to be made about different ways of achieving an objective".

Capt Doogan suggests three types of programme:

- Direct
- Support
- Administrative

and argues that INPUT (I.E. COSTS) must be measured against OUTPUT. The difficulty of measuring the OUTPUT of the Defence Forces would not be as difficult as one might imagine. Some example of OUTPUTS in an administrative programme would be:–

- Vehicle availability
- Machinery 'up times'
- Mean time to repair
- Percentage of absenteeism etc.

"... the most a belt-tightening exercise can do is squeeze minor savings out of the existing system."

Decision Methodology

All Military Training lays down a clear framework for decision making in the conduct of operations:

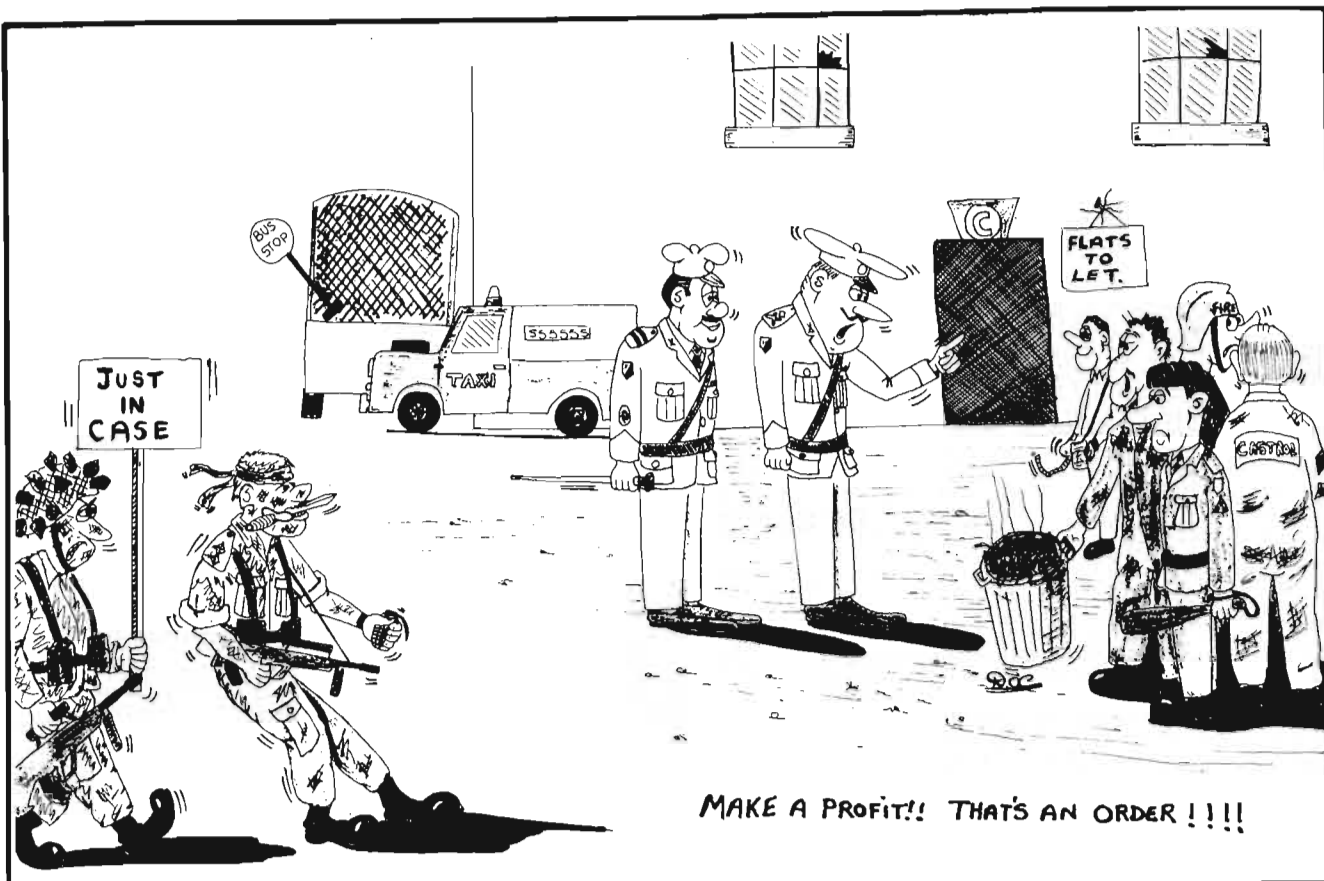
- Statement of the objective
- Estimate of the situation
- Evolution of alternative courses of action
- Decision
- Plan for execution

Perhaps this well tried method should be used in the Strategic Planning for Capital and Administrative programmes of expenditure. Some work has been done. For example Lt Col D. Stapleton outlined in last month's issue of *An Cosantoir* the planning development of the Transport Fleet.

In order to understand the concept of managerial accounting it is important to realise it is *not* "Bookkeeping" nor "Bean Counting". Neither is it accountancy as we traditionally know it. But it does use the same data that the traditional systems use.

Traditional Accountancy Methods

The Defence Forces have used traditional accountan-



cy for many years now. These consist of two elements:

- Stores Accountancy
- Finance Accountancy

Stores Accountancy

Based on:

- stock taking start of period
- receipts record
- transfer record
- issue record
- stock taking end of period
- balance reconciliation

Finance Accountancy

Based on:

- estimating
- payment authorisation
- payment
- receipts
- recording of financial transactions
- vote accounting

These systems form important control mechanisms. They are the ultimate responsibility of The Quartermaster General and The Secretary of the Department respectively. It is not suggested that they be changed.

Improvements

These traditional systems can of course be improved, modernised and made more efficient by e.g.:

- rationalisation of stores management
- computerisation of stores
- computerisation of finance
- introduction of a general ledger

Indeed a recent major study has revealed that computerisation and rationalisation of stores can save a massive £5m per annum, i.e. £100,000 per week.

This paper seeks however to differentiate between: Accountancy i.e. Keeping the books in the traditional system and Managerial Accounting in the Defence Forces.

Cost and Managerial Accounting

The traditional methods ensure that the books balance, that stores are *not* lost or misappropriated, that monies are correctly accounted for, that the bills are paid.

But the traditional systems will *not* answer questions like:

- how much does it *cost* to run a brigade exercise?
- how much did it *cost* to handle the Bin Strike in Dublin?

"... computerisation and rationalisation of stores can save a massive £5m per annum ..."

- what will it *cost* if the Director of Training requires an additional practice to be added to a Range Practice Table?
- if the Military College are considering running a new staff officers course what will it *cost*?
- what does it *cost* to run the different Barracks, Garrisons and Posts?
- what does the UNIFIL Bn *cost* per annum?
- what does the Fishery Protection task *cost*?
- what does a Guard of Honour *cost*?
- what would it *cost* to re-deploy the Air Sea Rescue Service to the West Coast?

The basis of all the above questions is what will it *cost*?

Cost Defined

Cost is defined as the total resources consumed to accomplish a specific mission. e.g. A Guard of Honour mission *consumes*:

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- 53 soldiers pay during rehearsal and execution
- new clothing and equipment issued (if required)
- transport, petrol etc.
- paper, ink and pay of the officer who writes the ceremonial order
- and in addition the lost opportunity cost of using the soldiers to fulfil some other, possibly more vital, mission
- the attendance of a Military Band, etc.

Cost Accounting System

A cost accounting system is used to record, summarise and report cost information.

Cost information is reported to managers in an organisation for use in deciding how to operate the organisation.

These decisions are merely the choices made about how the organisation should do things, i.e. the selection of a course of action from alternate courses.

Cost information is used to some degree in the traditional finance accountancy system to prepare sub-heads and for vote accounting. However, cost information has a much wider use. It can be used to provide Directors and Commanders with cost information to assist them in making decisions, which need to be made for their Corps, Directorates or Units to accomplish missions.

Planning and Control

The decisions Commanders and Directors are concerned with can be categorised as Planning and Control decisions.

Planning Decisions establish Objectives and Missions and choose plans to accomplish the Objectives and Missions.

Control Decisions result from implementing the plans and monitoring the results to see if the Missions are being achieved

In a Cost Accounting/Managerial Accounting system all the planning decisions require Estimates of future costs and all the control decisions require the comparison of actual results with expected results and the possible modification of plans based on variances observed.

High level decisions at General Staff and Secretary level can also be supported by a Managerial Accounting system:

"... information is of benefit only if it has the ability to influence the decision maker."

- can we expand our armoured fleet?
- how much should we spend on ammunition?
- is it more economical to centralise the workshops in a Command or to distribute them in each barracks?
- can we afford another ship?

These are some examples of strategic type decision making at that level. Cost information will assist these decision makers too.

Common Data Base for Accounting

It must be clearly understood that both traditional accountancy and cost accounting/managerial accounting utilise the same basic data to a significant degree. The cost data should *not* be regarded as the Secretariat Data – it is the same basic data used by the Organisation i.e. the Defence Forces.

For Example

Historical data on civilian labour cost might be used

by the Secretariat to estimate the cost of employees for the coming year.

The same historical data might be used by the Director of Engineers to estimate the costs of an Engineer Project.

The same historical data might be used by the Maintenance Company Administrative Officer to estimate the cash requirements for a payroll.

The same historical data might be used by the QMGs Staff to compare with estimated costs to determine if the labour is being used effectively and efficiently.

The same data might be used by the Secretariat to plan overtime budgets.

This therefore points towards the need to share information from a common data base. Indeed it is wrong to separate both types of accounting.

The Cost/Benefit of Information

It should be noted that the production of information itself costs money. The notion that the cost gathering information will produce the *Benefit* of improved decision making must be considered.

In general the information is of benefit only if it has the ability to influence the decision maker.

Budgets and Variance Analysis

Budgets are at the heart of good management. They should begin with Directors and Commanders planning how to provide the goods and services for which they are responsible and forecasting the *cost* of doing so.

They then should *bid* for resources in relation to the mission they are expected to achieve.

Priorities should be laid down by the General Staff in consultation with the Secretary and based on these priorities, programmes and projects approved and appropriate resources allocated to carry out the tasks.

The relevant Directorate/Commander should be allocated his budget and given responsibility for achieving the objectives *laid down* within budget. At all stages expenditure must be monitored by the Secretariat.

The Problems

- No clear statement of objectives based on long term plan exists for Directors and Commanders.
- With the exception of engineer works, Commanders at all levels have NO input into budget bids.
- Budget bids made by Directors are generally based on previous years figures and not on costed planned programmes.
- Pay is not used as a variable in the preparation of budgets, e.g. Dir Engrs cannot trade off the cost of purchase of timber to hire a carpenter.
- No general ledger system currently exists in Finance Branch to provide the ability to analyse expenditure by budget area.
- Accurate and timely information is needed to manage budgets effectively. Much of this information is currently unavailable.
- The existing "sub-head" system is essentially a line-item budget system and is *not* geared for long term decision making.
- Items included in one years sub-head continue to be included yearly whether justified or *not*.
- End of cycle spending without adequate planning occurs every year.
- The existing system is geared to reconciliation of expenditure with emphasis on auditing the reconciliation rather than on the effectiveness of expenditure.
- Undue concentration on detail to the detriment of management effectiveness.

The Solutions

This paper does *not* intend to offer immediate

"catch-all" answers to the issues. It merely highlights the current situation as seen from the perspective of modern Managerial Accountancy methods. The primary aim of all management, both military commanders and civil service, *must* be to secure better value from the Department's running costs. This can be done through closer alignment of financial accountability with line management responsibilities. It is suggested that emphasis should be on greater managerial freedom within a budgetary framework. This greater freedom must of course be subject to performance monitoring. All personnel must ensure value for the "soldier pound", i.e. the Defence Services achieved for each £1 spent. It is recognised that the mechanisms and structures do *not* currently exist to allow Managerial Accountancy procedures to be used. It is also recognised that any changeover to new systems must be carefully planned and phased in with adequate training for all concerned. An example of this phasing already exists in the management of "Sub-head 'U'". Responsibility for this sub-head was delegated to 'Q' Admin, QMGs Branch in 1988. It is worth noting that by the year end the expenditure Vs estimate ratio was 99.9% Several other sub-heads could be dealt with in the same way, e.g. Sub-head "H" could be delegated to D Ops or the overseas courses budget be given to D Trg. Note again it is *not* advocated that total monetary control be handed over to the military, merely that the line Manager responsible should be given his budget based on a justified bid and allowed to get on with the job of management. None of the systems of course must jeopardize the Forces ability to carry out its mission.

Conclusion

Should the Defence Forces then consider moving to introduce Managerial Accounting Systems? Not before considerable discussion and examination of the issues. But a start can be made by conducting informed and rational debate.

In the meantime, soldier; switch off those lights!

Note: The author acknowledges the assistance of Capts L. Clancy and D. Doogan for advice and access to the aforementioned thesis.

Defence Forces Bridge 88/89

The Defence Forces Annual Bridge Championship was held in Cathal Brugha Barracks on Saturday 11 Feb 89. Twenty-nine pairs competed over two sessions. The facilities of the Officers Mess Cathal Brugha were made available by kind permission of the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command and the Officer Commanding and Officers of Cathal Brugha Officers Mess.

At the end of two long and keenly fought sessions the winners emerged.

1	Comdt J. Fahy & J. Irwin	221.5
2	Mrs. L. Comber & Mrs. St. John	220
3	Comdt & Mrs. A. Whelan	216.5
4	Brig Gen W. McNicholas (Retd) & Comdt E. Fitzgerald	211
5	Fr Mark Coyle C.F. & Fr P. Bresnan C.F.	205.5
6	Comdt & Mrs. J. Kennedy	204
7J	Mrs. Carmel Campion & Mrs. Mary O'Sullivan	198.5
7J	Col Jack Doyle (Retd) & Cdr J. Furness (NS)(Retd)	198.5
9	Mrs. S. Noone & Mrs. E. McGrillen	192
10	Mrs. K. Cullen & Mrs. P. Egar	191.5
	Novice Col & Mrs. T. Ryan	178
	Session 1	
	Mrs. Anna McCarthy & Mrs. Ita Wallace	112
	Session 2	
	Comdt B. Wallace & Mrs. Margaret Roche	116



UNIFIL

Two members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on a T55 tank, supplied by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). Following the shooting dead of Pte Michael McNeela on 24 Feb 89 the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mark Gouling, called in the Israeli Charge d'Affaires to protest strongly about the incident. Mr. Gouling repeated the United Nations position that Israel was responsible for the South Lebanon Army and that it did not accept the view that the SLA was acting independently.

NORBATT too have had their share of problems with the SLA and the IDF. An Associated Press correspondent recently visited the village of Chebaa and filed a report on the situation in that area, following the expulsion of local residents by the SLA. The following is extracted from that report.

"An Israeli official said the expulsions were something the SLA did for its own security needs. He noted that Israel had an influence over the SLA Militia but could NOT, repeat NOT, prevent it from acting on its own. Israel's influence was often a moderating factor, the official added, saying that in violent Lebanon, SLA Militiamen could just as well have killed the people, 'to expel them instead of killing them, that's our influence', the official added".



Present when a cheque was handed over were L/R: Brig Gen P. F. Monahan GOC E Comd, Comdt A. Whelan (Chairman) and Comdt J. P. Kennedy (Committee Member). (Photo: Sgt T. Hudson)

The prizes were presented by Brig Gen P. F. Monahan who congratulated the winners and thanked the sponsors Irish Distillers and Canada Life for their contribution to the prize fund. A contribution will be made to Defence Force Charities from the proceeds.



RETIREMENTS PRESENTATIONS



The Officers of the Equitation School came together recently to honour the services of two Officers – Capt P. S. McGrath and B. McSweeney, who have 'moved on' from the Unit. Pictured on the occasion are Front L/R: Capt P. S. McGrath, now Trg Offr 7 Inf Bn (FCA), Col W. Ringrose OC Equitation School, and Capt B. McSweeney now posted to Base Workshops S&T Corps. Middle Row L/R Lt G. O'Grady, Lt Col E. V. Campion, Comdt R. McMahon, Lt W. Hayes and 2Lt D. McConnell. Rear Row L/R: Capt J. P. Leddingham, Comdt G. Mullins and Capt M. Byrne, the 'new' Admin Officer. Unable to attend were Capt D. Foster and 2Lt G. Flynn.

(Photo: Sgt T. Hudson)



Brig Gen K. F. Murphy, GOC W Comd, marked the retirement of Sgt Major R. M. McCarthy of CTD(W) after 42 years service with a presentation, and a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Peggy McCarthy, at a function in Athlone. Capt B. Healy A/OC CTD(W) is included in our photograph by P. J. Murray.



Presentation to Sgt T. Martin (Armament Artificer), who retired recently after 21 years service, by Lt Col S. O'Connor OC 1 Grn Ord Coy and Comd Ord Offr C Comd. (Photo: Comdt F. Lambert)



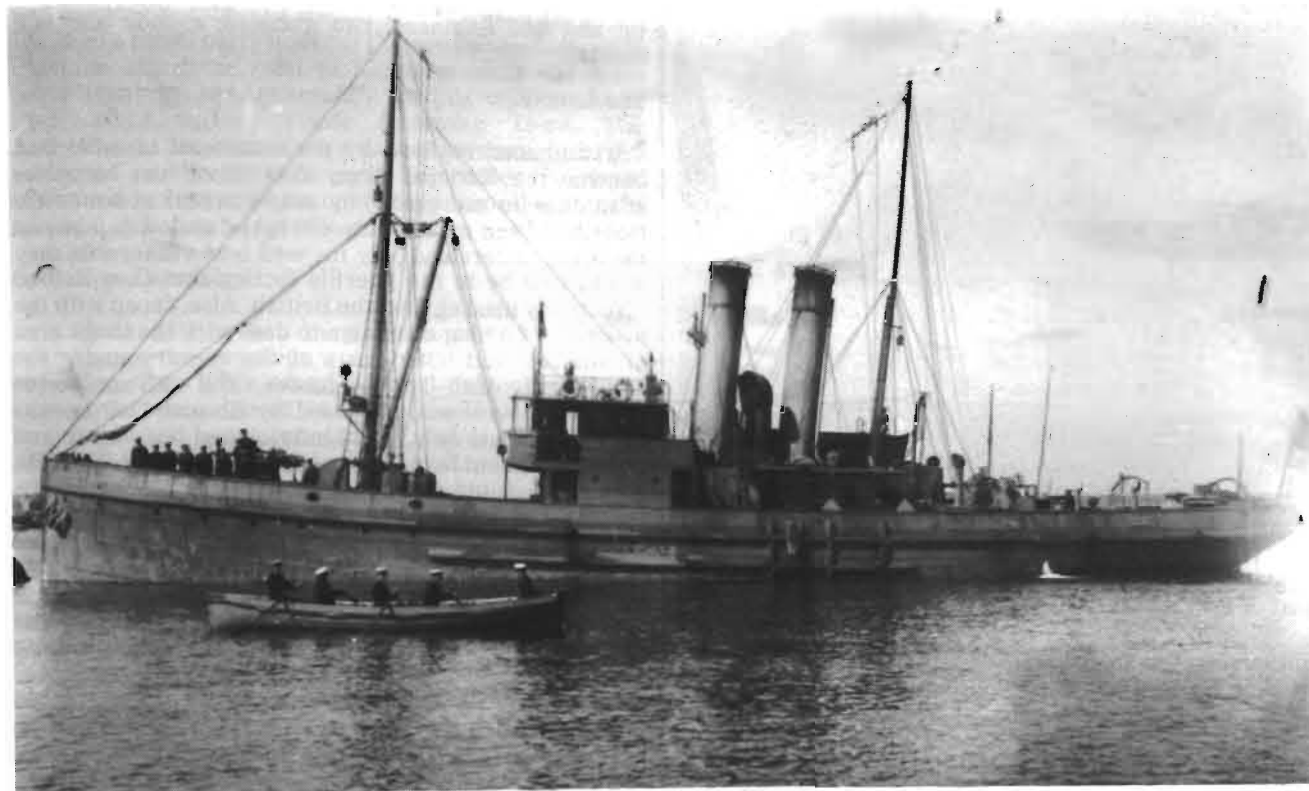
Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey was the venue for a retirement function for Sgt L. C. McManus who retired after 29 years service in An Forsa Cosanta Aitiuil. Pictured on the occasion L/R are CQMS D. Lafferty, Sgt L. C. McManus, CQMS T. Leyden, Capt K. McIntyre OC 'A' Coy 24 Inf Bn (FCA) and Lt E. McCosker. Photo submitted by CQMS Leyden



RSM John Harman receiving a presentation from Lt Col T. O'Neill OC Clarke Bks at a function in Clarke Bks NCOs Mess to mark John's retirement after 29 years service in the S&T Corps. (Photo: Sgt A. O'Brien)



To mark the retirement of Lt Col A. Hume after 40 years service the GOC W Comd made a presentation. Pictured outside the Officers Mess Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa are Brig Gen K. Murphy GOC W Comd, Lt Col A. Hume & Mrs. V. Hume and Col J. Fives OC W Comd FCA.



The Coast Patrol Sloop SS Dainty, a former Admiralty Salvage tug handed over on 31 March, 1923, concurrent with the handing over of Haulbowline to the Irish Free State Local Government Board – photographed in Dun Laoghaire Harbour in Oct 1923. Dainty became the Flagship of the Coastal and Marine Service established under GRO 33 of 4 May, 1923.

The Ships of the Army 1922

—By Lt Cdr Daire Brunicardi NS (Retd)—

Two articles in the Treaty by which the Irish Free State was established referred directly to Irish maritime defence. Article 6 stated: 'until an arrangement has been made between the British and Irish Governments whereby the Irish Free State undertakes her own coastal defence, the defence of Great Britain and Ireland shall be undertaken by His Majesty's Imperial Forces, but this shall not prevent the construction or maintenance by the Government of the Irish Free State of such vessels as are necessary for the protection of the Revenue or the Fisheries.' The Treaty made provision for this article to be reviewed in five years time.

Article 7 allowed the use of naval and military facilities in Ireland to British forces, principally the defended harbours of Cork, Berehaven, Lough Swilly and Belfast lough. Also, by this article, Britain could make use, in wartime, of such harbours and facilities that she might require.

There seemed to be little opposition to the provisions of these Articles in Ireland, even among those that opposed the Treaty itself. There seemed to be complete unawareness of the implications or responsibilities in regard to coastal and territorial waters, to the protection of trade, and to maritime defence. Even during the War of Independence there had been almost no action by Irish forces against naval targets, or indeed any realisation of the support that the British Navy gave to the more obvious enemy in the form of the army, police and civil administration. In 1919 a naval motor launch was raided in Bantry by the local IRA unit, but this was only to get the arms aboard, and the destruction of the craft as a military objective was not considered at all.

The Motor Launches

The Irish Free State came into existence on 15th January 1922. On the 1st May of that year it was decided to purchase four naval 80ft. motor launches, each to be armed with a 12pdr gun and equipped with a continuous wave wireless set with a range of 150 miles. Ironically, these were the same type of vessel as the one raided in Bantry in 1919. This is the first decision of a modern Irish government with regard to some form of Maritime Defence Force. It may have been taken under Article 6 that allowed for vessels for the protection of the Fisheries and the Revenue, but the intention to arm them with 12pdr guns would suggest more serious objectives. It may be that the various arms landings



Two Officers in this group, onboard 'Tender' No. 199 at Dun Laoghaire, have been identified. Extreme left is Maj Gen J. Vize OIC of the Coastal and Marine Service and extreme right is Captain O'Connor, Superintendent of the Coastal Patrol.

influenced this decision; the FRIEDA at Helvick on 9th November 1921, the HANNAH in the same area in April 1922, and the daring raid, at sea, on the Admiralty tender UPNOR and the subsequent landing of her cargo of arms in Ballycotton on 30th March 1922.

The craft ordered were four of a class of which almost 600 had been built for the Royal Navy during the War (1914/18). They were 40 tons with twin petrol engines each of 220 BHP which could drive them at 20 knots. They had usually been equipped with hydrophones, depth-charges and a 3pdr gun for anti-submarine work and many of them had seen service in Irish waters. The four for the Irish Government were purchased from Messrs. Goad and Proctor of Southampton and a Lt Cdr Blay RNR was contracted to deliver them to Dublin. They had an eventful voyage. As the flotilla rounded Land's End on 19th July 1922 a southwesterly gale was blowing and ML No. 2 started to take water at a greater rate than her pumps could cope with. She was taken in tow by No. 4, but eventually sank, her crew getting clear in her dinghy. Later in the day fog came down and the flotilla got separated; No. 4 arrived in Bideford, No. 3 in Ilfracombe and No. 1 got to Dublin but had to be slipped immediately on the Port and Docks slip in Alexander Basin to have her starboard shaft repaired. On the 21st, in Bideford, No. 4 caught fire and the after end of the ship was gutted. This was eventually repaired and she went into service. The 12-pdr guns were never fitted, it is doubtful if they could have taken such a heavy weapon. As a type, during the 1914/18 war, these proved of some value in moderate sea conditions or in sheltered waters, but their use was limited on the Irish South and West coasts and also their temperamental engines and high fuel consumption were a disadvantage.

Marine Investigation Department

Meanwhile, in spite of all the efforts to prevent it, civil war had broken out in Ireland towards the end of June 1922. To prevent the supply of arms to those who opposed the Treaty, a 'Marine Investigation Department' was established as part of the 'National Army'. It operated mainly in the ports, but as the civil war intensified it also went to sea, to patrol the coasts, as ships became available. The first ship taken over for this purpose was the fishery cruiser HELGA, owned by the 'Ministry' of Agriculture, on 13th July. She, and other vessels used for patrol work retained their civilian crews, with a 'guard' of an officer and some men of the MID, but the crews of the motor launches were employed directly by the 'Ministry' of Defence. Their status, at this stage as 'military' or 'civilian' seemed questionable. An ML crew consisted of Captain, Mate,

1st and 2nd Engineer, two gunners, a cook and one seaman.

The Landings

It was soon realised by the command of what had become the National Army that there was immense advantage in movement by sea. Internal communications had been extensively disrupted and also many in the army understood only too well how vulnerable they would now be to the guerilla tactics that they had so effectively used against the British. Also, faced with the prospect of a long campaign to deal with the large area of Munster and other parts of the country under the control of Anti-Treaty forces, the advantage of seaborne operations, proposed by Emmet Dalton, was obvious. By late July 1922 Limerick had been taken and the Government forces were meeting stiff opposition as they pushed into West Limerick and North Kerry. On the 2nd August the Dublin Guards, under Gen Pat Daly landed at Fenit Pier thus taking the Anti-Treaty forces in the rear. It is not clear what craft were used in this operation. The troops had embarked in Limerick and all during this time various vessels were used in the Shannon Estuary by the Government forces; these included the motor yacht LADY ADA, the Guinness steam barge SHANNON, the tug CORONA, the small steamers ERIN, ST NICHOLAS, MERMAID and COUNTESS, and the British registered coastal steamer MARGARET. The troops were fired on from Fenit village as they landed, but this opposition collapsed as they advanced along the pier. The pier had been mined, but these were not detonated.

The MARGARET and the MERMAID were used when they embarked troops for an assault on Kenmare, on 10th August. The men were from the 1st Northern Division, Donegal, but it is not clear how many were shipped. These craft could probably take no more than about two hundred between them. Overall command was by Gen McManus, with Comdt 'Scarteen' O'Connor, a local man, to lead the attack. The expedition set off from Limerick in high spirits, MARGARET towing the smaller MERMAID, but as night fell the exposed west coast dispelled the high spirits and after the tow had carried away twice it was decided to let MERMAID proceed under her own power. At dawn the following day a scouting party was landed from MARGARET at Coongar Bay, near Sneem. These reported eventually that Lackeen coastguard station, five or six miles further up Kenmare River, was held by 'Irregulars'. It was decided to land at once. The first boat of the landing party was challenged from the shore and returned to the ship for reinforcements, but the eventual landing was unopposed. As this contingent advanced along the road, and the ship kept pace, the smoke from the abandoned



The majority of the crew of SS Dainty, with Captain Gill, her Master, photographed on patrol from Haulbowline to Dun Laoghaire.

and burning coastguard station could be seen ahead. At Lackeen a small party under O'Connor was left ashore to continue along the road to Kenmare while the main party went by sea, eventually landing at Templenoe Pier, some miles outside Kenmare Town. The Anti-Treaty forces withdrew as the Government forces advanced on the town. In early September 'Scarteen' continued his amphibious operations using local craft, taking Cahirciveen and Waterville.

Cork City Campaign

Meanwhile, the most important amphibious operation of the campaign was that with Cork City as its objective. Two large cross-channel passenger steamers were commandeered, in spite of the objections of the largely Welsh crew of one of them. These were ARVONIA, owned by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Co. Ltd., a fast, twin-screw ship of 1842 gross tons and 329ft in length, and LADY WICKLOW of the B & I Company, a slower, single-screw ship of 1032 gross tons and 260ft. 456 men boarded ARVONIA on the 7th August 1922, under the command of Generals Emmet Dalton and Pat Daly, with armoured cars and at least one 12pdr field gun. The heavy equipment was loaded by the 100 ton crane in Dublin Port. LADY WICKLOW carried more troops and equipment. ARVONIA arrived off Roche's Point at 10 o'clock that night, where a pilot boarded. He informed Dalton that the Anti-Treaty forces had a blockship above Passage, and that a river pilot would in any case be required to take the ship beyond Cobh and that none of these were available.

It had been Dalton's intention to land at Ford's Wharf just outside the city, but the pilot's information called for a revised plan. Cobh was discussed, but an officer with local knowledge pointed out that Cobh was on an island connected to the mainland by only one road and one rail bridge. It was therefore decided to go to Passage West, the only other place in the harbour where large ships could berth alongside. The pilot was forcibly convinced that he had enough knowledge to take the ship that far.

Cobh was in the hands of the Anti-Treaty forces. The strange ship had been sighted and the local commander sent a boat to investigate. For some reason this failed to make contact so he ordered out his patrols which consisted of three motor-cars mounting Lewis guns. These kept pace with the mysterious ship as it steamed upriver past Cobh, Rushbrooke and eventually anchoring off Passage. After watching the silent ship for some time the patrols fired a burst across its bows. This was answered by a burst of firing but those on the Carrigaloe (Cobh) side could not determine if it came from the ship or from their comrades in Passage on the other side of the river. (At some stage the ship was fired upon because her owners put in a claim for repairs to a considerable number of bullet holes in funnels, boats, housing and superstructure).

Meanwhile those on board ARVONIA had sent a reconnaissance party ashore by boat, and when these reported back the ship went alongside. The Anti-Treaty garrison put up some opposition from the coastguard station and the school, but they had been taken by surprise, as had the commanders in Cork City. Soon after the landing a second blockship (the coastal steamer GORILLA of Glasgow) was blown up and sunk in the channel and the railway bridge in Rochestown was also blown up. By Friday 11th the city was taken. Both ships and some others had made several return trips with supplies and reinforcements to Passage. They were now able to steer past the poorly positioned blockships to the quays in Cork. On Saturday the ARVONIA was used to take Cobh. With a machine-gun section on her bridge, protected by sandbags, she left Cork, cheered by troops in LADY WICKLOW as she passed. She met with no opposition in Cobh however, but by an enthusiastic welcoming crowd. The Anti-Treaty



ML 1 has served under 'Army Command'. This photograph taken in Oct 1923 shows L/R: Capt Francis O'Connor, Capt Liam O'Connor (Shore Captain Haulbowline), 2nd Engineer R. Heffernan and 1st Officer M. Bradley.

forces had evacuated the town on the day of the Passage landing, burning Admiralty House, the Admiralty signal station and other military buildings, watched by the ship's company of HMS CARYSFORT anchored off the town.

On the same morning of the Passage landing the town of Youghal was awakened to the sound of rifle fire. A landing from the fishery cruiser HELGA had been effected in spite of most of the quays having been destroyed to prevent that very thing. Several points of resistance were soon overcome and later in the day a field gun and two armoured cars were put ashore.

Also on that same morning there was a landing from the Commissioners of Irish Lights tender ALEXANDRA at Glandore. The surprise achieved by these landings had a demoralising effect on the 'Irregulars' who expected the greatest threat from the 'front' to the north. Although fighting was to go on for many months to come, these landings had the result of breaking the hold of the Anti-Treaty forces in Munster and forcing them to take to the hills and countryside to conduct a diminishing guerilla campaign. The mobility and element of surprise in having ships and command of the sea was amply demonstrated.

Patrol Ships

In addition to the three motor launches, HELGA and a steam drifter INISHERA owned by the Congested Districts Board and taken over for military use on 10th August 1922, some of the chartered civilian ships were also used as patrol vessels. These retained their civilian crews, but had an army officer and guard to deal with any military functions required. This may seem an odd way of working, but historically it was quite correct where the mariners provided the ship and the manpower and expertise to work it and the military provided the fighting element. Three ships seem to have been used as patrol ships in this way, in the period November 1922 until March 1923. These were MAYFIELD, ST. SENAN and SLIEVENAMON, coastal colliers owned by Cargo Steamships Ltd., of Dublin. All the vessels mentioned, with the possible exception of the MLs, were used as transports as required. It is also worth noting that during this time the Royal Navy was present and patrolling Irish waters, but apparently taking no part other than, presumably, watching and reporting to London. For example, when the 'Irregulars' re-took Kenmare on the 9th September 1922, several National Army officers and men escaped down the Bay in a stolen boat and were rescued by the destroyer HMS SEAWOLF in Kenmare Bay. They were later transferred to the sailing coaster GAELIC which landed them in

Cork. The Anti-Treaty forces claimed that the ships of the British navy participated in some of the landings, but this cannot be substantiated and seems highly unlikely considering that the British Army kept aloof from Civil War activities ashore. The same source consistently called HELGA 'the British war sloop HELGA' so it is likely that even Irish registered merchant vessels, which could have correctly flown the British mercantile 'Red Ensign' at the time, would have been conveniently called 'British war vessels'.

Charter of Slievenamon

The activities of the chartered ship SLIEVENAMON give an idea of the use made of these ships. She was chartered on, or shortly after 13 Nov. 1922 for a period of one month at a cost of £560. She loaded transport and bicycles in Dublin for the GOC in Cork, who was to give instructions to go to a further port of call. After that she was to patrol the Cork coast. In Cork, according to a report dated 22 Nov. there was difficulty in fitting her with a searchlight as had been fitted to 'the other patrol boats'. From Cork she apparently went to Limerick and took on board some prisoners. Considering that this was a coastal steamer, with no provision for passengers, it must be presumed that these were kept in the hold, not the most comfortable place to travel. (Anti-Treaty sources, in August, had complained of prisoners from Donegal bound for Mountjoy Gaol being kept on deck for eighteen hours on board the 'British war sloop HELGA'. MAYFIELD sister ship of SLIEVENAMON took two hundred prisoners from Cork to Dublin on 23rd October.) SLIEVENAMON disembarked her prisoners in Dublin on 29th Nov. 1922.

The charter seems to have continued longer than the original intention of a month. A letter from the 'Acting Superintendent, Marine Department', Portobello Bks, to Captain Kane, 'OC SS SLIEVENAMON', dated 30th January 1923, stated, 'on receipt of these orders, and provided you have all your cargo aboard, you will proceed to sea immediately. Your port of call will be Cork and on arrival there you will report to OC Cork City and have arrangements made for unloading the cargo. When this has been completed you will resume patrol duty as before'.

However, on the night of the 6th Feb. SLIEVENAMON was anchored in Ballycotton Bay in a 'terrible' SE gale. At 6.30 on the morning of the 7th the Ballycotton lifeboat, TP HEARNE was launched in response to distress signals from the 'government patrol boat SLIEVENAMON'. She had dragged anchor and had grounded on Brien's Rocks at Ardnahincha. With the heavy seas and the ship moving and in danger of capsizing, the lifeboat had to stand off until 10.30 a.m. Eventually the lifeboat took off fourteen people. Later that day the dockyard tug DAINTY arrived from Haulbowline and found her badly holed. She returned to Cobh with the captain of the SLIEVENAMON. Messrs. Ensor & Sons of Cobh were awarded the salvage contract and in due course the ship was dry docked in Passage under the supervision of a Captain Jeffers, who seemed to have some kind of 'marine superintendents' function for the MID. She was released from her charter on the 24th Feb and eventually left Passage for Belfast on the 13th April.

An idea of how these ships were distributed can be got from a note dated 30th November 1922, HELGA and MAYFIELD are on the Kerry coast, SLIEVENAMON on the Cork coast, ST. SENAN off Sligo, INISHERER in Donegal Bay, MLs 1 and 3 in the Shannon Estuary and 4 at Dun Laoghaire.

Another vessel which was used to good effect in Sligo was the Board of Works ship TARTAR. Protected with improvised steel shutters and armed with a swivel Lewis gun in the bows, she had several running battles with the 'Irregulars' as she steamed down the river from Sligo. She was a small coastal cargo ship of 130ft in length and 244 gross tons.

A Standard British Coaster

Many of the ships, including those used as patrol vessels were of almost identical design and layout, a sort of standard British coaster. They were undoubtedly effective cargo carriers but they cannot have been very satisfactory patrol ships. Accommodation for an Army guard would have been extremely limited, and a maximum speed of about 8 knots would have been a decided drawback. The cross-channel steamers such as LADY WICKLOW, ARVONIA and BANDON were

exceptions of course, both in speed and accommodation, but these were only used as transports. Another exception was the fisheries cruiser HELGA. Built as a patrol ship, she could make over 14 knots when required. She was armed with a 3-pdr. Hotchkiss QF gun and a powerful searchlight. She had plenty of extra accommodation. By November 1922 it seems that the 'Fisheries' crew had been relieved by people employed directly by the Army 'Marine Department'. She was used extensively for patrols and landings as a well as a transport on occasions. She was deliberately run aground in one landing operation and nearly met her end in Fenit on 16th Nov. 1922 when a fireman discovered a bomb under the boiler. This was safely defused and the ship was to survive for many more years. A similar attempt was made to blow up the 'Irish Lights' ship ALEXANDRA in retaliation for her part in assisting the Government forces.

One of the last actions in this phase was on 29th May 1923 when the coastal steamer ST ENOCH of Glasgow was commandeered at Westport by 'National' troops. This was at the orders of the General Officer Commanding the Claremorris Command and was part of an operation 'of great necessity' having Achill Island as its objective. It was considered that an approach by sea be made. However, as the ship moved away from Westport pier she grounded and had to be lightened quickly and brought back alongside. It was not clear whether she was used for the intended operation at the next High Water, but the action in commandeering the ship resulted in a warning against such action with regard to ships which did not belong to the Irish Free State, from the 'Ministry' of Industry and Commerce.

A New Beginning

With the purchase of a flotilla of patrol trawlers and the formation of the Coastal and Marine Service in early 1923, the first phase of maritime activity of the Irish Defence Forces ended. It is a particularly interesting period because it shows imaginative and correct use of seapower; to provide mobile and powerful forces that could strike almost anywhere within reach of the sea, and to provide support and logistics to landings once



The gun crew of the SS Dainty 'closed up' for a practice shoot with her 12 pdr, off the South Coast.

established. It is also remarkable that this concept was appreciated and carried out by people with no naval training and the results were achieved by an *ad hoc* fleet of coastal commercial ships; there was not one 'war sloop' among them.

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All photographs taken from glass plates supplied by Military Archives and printed by Comdt D. Betson. The photographs first appeared in 'An tOglach' in Oct 1923, in an article recording the work of the Coastal and Marine Service which replaced the 'Coastal Infantry' MID.

List of Seagoing Vessels Used

Ship's Name	Type	Length	Gross tons	Approx speed	Owner	Used as
ARVONIA	Passenger	329'	1842	18 kts	LM&S Rly Co.	Transport
LADY WICKLOW	"	260'	1032	12 kts	B & I	"
BANDON	"	260'	1229	12 kts	City of Cork Steam Pkt Co.	"
HELGA	Fishery Pat	156'	323	14 kts	DATI	Patrol
SLIEVE GALLION	Passenger	300'	1071	12 kts	LM&S Rly Co.	Transport
ST SENAN	Cargo	156'	515	8 kts	Cargo S.S. Co.	Patrol
SLIEVENAMON	"	156'	515	8 kts	"	"
MAYFIELD	"	175'	643	8 kts	"	"
CLINT	"	125'	197	8 kts	J. M. Piggins	Transport
OLIVE	Passenger	260'	1047	14 kts	Burns & Laird	"
WALNUT	Cargo	143'	340	8 kts	J. Fisher & Son	"
OAK	"	143'	340	8 kts	"	"
PINE	"	143'	340	8 kts	"	"
LOOP HEAD	"	165'	550	8 kts	Mullock & Sons	"
MARGARET	"	130'	218	8 kts	Sutcliffe & Co	"
TARTAR	"	130'	244	8 kts	Board of Works	Patrol
CORONA	Tug	90'	-	10 kts	Shannon S.S. Co	"
INISHERER	Drifter	66'	36	8 kts	Con. Dist. Board	"
ML 1	Mtr-Launch	80'	-	19 kts	National Army	"
ML 3	"	80'	-	19 kts	"	"
ML 4	"	80'	-	19 kts	"	"

Note: This list does not include many smaller vessels used in the Shannon Estuary and other rivers. There may have been other seagoing ships used than those listed above (e.g. CLASSIC, passenger steamer was used for one voyage to take General Michael Collins' body from Cork to Dublin). It should also be noted that all the above ships were not in use at the same time.

Suitable Caption Required



This photograph was submitted by Comdt F. Lambert. The document being so assiduously studied by the four C Comd Officers was released on 23 Dec 1988. The Editor and Comdt Lambert, would be grateful for a suitable caption - for historical use if necessary. A prize may or may not be awarded at some future stage (maybe!)

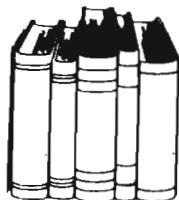
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Imperial Rearguard: Wars of Empire, 1919-85. Lawrence James. Published by Brassey's Defence Publishers.

That red should have been the colour chosen to delineate the extent of the British Empire on school maps of the world in the early years of the century was symbolically appropriate as the conquest, retention and eventual dissolution of the Empire demanded a high price in blood. In 1919 the British Empire was at the zenith of its development but it also faced severe problems which were to lead to its contraction and decline. The financial burden of the World War which had depleted the Imperial coffers, and the rising spirit of nationalism in colonised countries, contributed to a strain on the resources required to control a far flung empire on which it was boasted that the sun never set.

In this well researched account James preserves an admirable detachment in recounting the many small and largely forgotten campaigns which marked the withdrawal from the Indian Sub Continent, the Middle East and Africa. Even in a chapter on "John Bull's Other Island" this detachment is maintained although the description of the Howth gunrunning incident, the analysis of the split in the Volunteers and the placing of the events of the 1972 "Bloody Sunday" in Belfast may irk the Irish reader. The drawing of unpublished material and declassified documents adds to the interest and scope of the book. In particular, the excerpts from the diary of Private Swindlehurst of the Lancashire Fusiliers dealing with his service in India and Ireland lend a soldier's eye view and give a human perspective to the historical dimension.

During the course of his account James manages to rattle a few skeletons in the Imperial cupboard, such as the mutiny by reservists during the Suez operation, the use of herbicides and chemical defoliants in Malaya, and the employment of surrendered Japanese troops to maintain control in Indo China in 1945. The part played by those of Irish stock in the Imperial conquest is indicated by mention of those such as Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Governor of the Punjab, Commissioner of Kenyan Police M. S. O'Rourke, and a man named Thorn-

ton who was a leader of the European movement in Kenya.

It is inevitable in a book of this size (288 pages) dealing with such a wide ranging topic that omissions must be made. It is however regrettable that the EOKA Campaign in Cyprus merits only passing mention. The account of the Imperial adventure is brought up to date with a chapter on the Falklands. The book is well illustrated with a selection of photographs which cover operations in the North West Frontier, the Middle East, the Far East, Africa, Ireland and the Falklands. Of particular interest to Cavalry readers is a photograph of an RAF Rolls Royce Armoured Car Squadron in Amman in 1940.

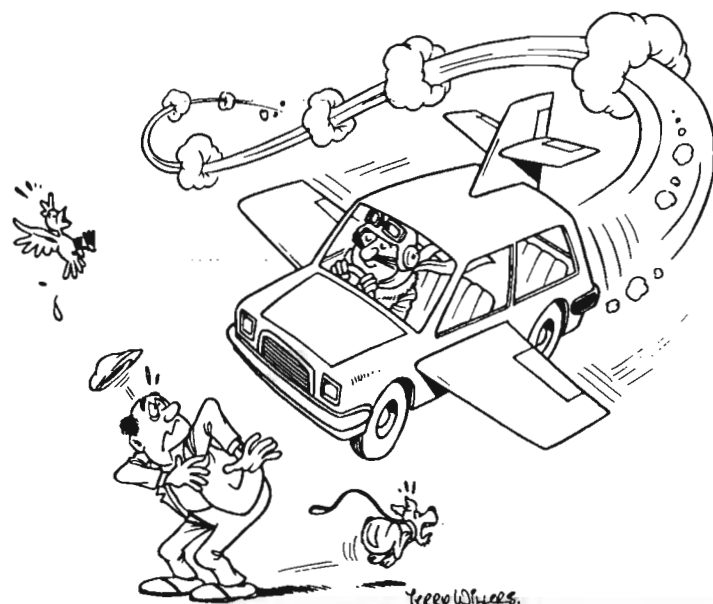
The book provides an ideal starting point for a more intensive study of the many campaigns fought by the British Army and its Colonial Forces in the inter-war years and after. For the student of the influences of the popular media on public opinion, the book provides some interesting insights into the role of the "Boys Own" type tales,

the music halls, and later the cinema in perpetuating the image of the Imperial warrior defending with righteousness and justice the British right to rule over less favoured nations. Despite his objectivity and sense of detachment the interested reader will find it difficult to agree with James' final assertion that "... Britain was able to dissolve the largest Empire which the world has known with relatively little disruption and bloodshed ..."

JTM

We have received a request from a Study Group for the assistance of our readers in helping to trace those who may have fought at Arnhem/Oosterbeek during September 1944.

A Sgt Daley of Waterford is mentioned in the opening shots of the film "Theirs is the Glory" which was made in 1945 and starred the men who took part in the actual battle - "just ordinary men" as they are called in the introduction to that film. An Cosantoir will gladly forward any information received.



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