



ONE Connect

The Official Magazine of Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta

Issue 4 August 2004



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Editorial

Joe Lynch



Many thanks for an overwhelming response

On behalf of the Board of Directors, National Executive and members of ONET I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Defence Forces pensioners who have returned a massive 1,300 subscription forms for €2.00 per month to our national HQ. Many people requested that the money to be deducted be at a much higher rate but it is not

possible to have several different rates of deduction from the same pay code. There was some confusion with regard to the check digit. This digit is no longer required and can be disregarded. There was also some difficulty with regard to the payroll number. This number is a seven digit number that appears on the pension payslip immediately above the recipients name and usually begins with either 4***** or 1*****. This funding will go a long way to securing the future of ONET homes throughout the country. Over the past six months our campaign within the Defence Forces has also proved very successful with platoons of young recruits in the

Naval Service, 12th Infantry Battalion, Clonmel, 27th Infantry Battalion, Monaghan and 4th BTC in Athlone giving our fund raising efforts an enormous thumbs up. The platoon featured on the front cover of this month's magazine shows the young men and women from the 12th Infantry Battalion Clonmel who were more than delighted to support our efforts. On my own behalf I was very heartened by the good will and courtesy that was extended to me by the Officers, NCOs and Men from all of the barracks, posts and bases that I have recently visited and I look forward to continued success with these fund raising efforts over the coming months.

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12th Infantry Battalion
Clonmel, Recruit Platoon*

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Naval Service Open Day

The Flag Officer of the Naval Service, Commodore Frank Lynch will be hosting an open day on the 28th August, for members of the Naval Service and he has kindly extended an invitation to retired members of the Defence Forces.

If you wish to attend please contact the Naval Base between 10.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.30 hrs Monday to Friday on 021 – 4864747.

New Chief of Staff for the Defence Forces



Lt. Gen. James Sreenan

Earlier this year the Defence Forces announced the appointment of Major General James Sreenan to the position of Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces with effect from 21st February 2004. Major General Sreenan has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. The new Chief of Staff is a native of Sligo and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1963. He has served in a number of appointments throughout the Defence Forces with his most recent being as Deputy Chief of Staff Support. Since September 2000 he was tasked with responsibility for overseeing the equipment procurement programme of the Defence Forces Reorganisation and Implementation Plan.

Major General Sreenan has extensive overseas service, most recently as Deputy Force

Commander to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from 1999 to 2000. He also served as Battalion Commander to the 76th Infantry Battalion UNIFIL in 1994. General Sreenan completed an international course in Laws of Armed Conflict in Italy in 1987. He is a graduate of the Staff College in Camberly, United Kingdom and he holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Politics from University College Dublin. We wish to extend our most sincere belated congratulations to General Sreenan.

LT. GENERAL MANGAN RETIRES

Our best wishes are also extended to Lt. Gen. Colm Mangan (retired) who recently departed the Defence Forces. General Mangan was a soldier of note and has always been a friend to Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta. General Mangan was commissioned into the Infantry Corps in December 1961 and his first appointment was to the General Training Depot in the Curragh Command. From 1961 to 1979, he spent most of his service in the Curragh Command, holding appointments in the 3rd and 30th Infantry Battalions, the Army Apprentice School and Command Headquarters. In 1985, he moved to Operations Section, Chief of Staff's Branch in Defence Forces Headquarters.



Lt. Gen. Colm Mangan (Retired)

In 1995 he was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed Commandant of the Military College moving to the Eastern Command as General Officer Commanding in 1996. During the period 1993-1996 he was heavily involved as the planner and director of the process of the major review and restructuring of the Defence Forces. He also played a pivotal role in the implementation of the subsequent re-organisation plan. In November 1998 he was appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) and was promoted to the rank of Major General. During his time in the Defence Forces General Mangan served with UNFICYP, as an observer with UNTSO and in various appointments with UNIFIL in Lebanon. Lt Gen Mangan served as Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces from September 2000 until February 2004.

To advertise in this magazine contact:

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Na hÉireann Teoranta**

**Leeson Bridge House
1a Upper Leeson St., Dublin 4**

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Last Orders for Derek

After 28 years in business, the Park Avenue Hotel in Thurles is closing its doors for the last time under the ownership of the Connelly family. Mr Derek Connelly the proprietor of the establishment has decided to call time on his involvement in the hospitality industry. Derek a widower has always been a friend to ONET and throughout his time in the business he has hosted the regular meetings of the National Executive Committee of ONET with no charge to the organisation. Derek is a Waterford man and we wish him and his family the very best for his retirement. Cheers!

PDFORRA's Leader – Gerry Rooney in Profile

Continuing our series of interviews with the people behind the pay talks for the Defence Forces ONECONNECT interviewed the General Secretary of the representative association for enlisted personnel, PDFORRA's Gerry Rooney. Gerry was born in Glasgow, Scotland and remained there until he completed secondary education. Gerry's family had emigrated from Letterkenny, Co Donegal to Scotland in the mid-1950s. Gerry has fond memories of his time in Scotland and says, "I think that being Irish in Scotland fostered a strong affinity with all things 'Irish'. I would have considered joining the Defence Forces as an expression of my Irishness. On a practical level I was aware that the Defence Forces would offer opportunities for career advancement and development".

Gerry joined the Defence Forces on the 22nd of November, 1977 and completed his recruit training with the 6th Battalion in Custume Bks, Athlone after which Gerry was posted to the 28th Battalion in Finner Camp, Ballyshannon. After overseas service with the 47th

Battalion UNIFIL in 1980 Gerry transferred to St Bricins Hospital and started studying medical laboratory science. Since commencing laboratory technician training in 1982 Gerry spent a great deal of time studying and was awarded a certificate in Medical Laboratory Science in 1985 and a diploma in 1987. Another trip overseas beckoned and on returning from the Lebanon in 1991 he completed a certificate in Trade Union Studies in the National College of Industrial Relations in Ranelagh during 1994, which was subsequently followed by the completion of a BA in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management in 1998. Gerry wistfully tells us that he is finished studying as he has submitted his thesis for an MA in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management.

Gerry tells us what PDFORRA is, "PDFORRA is the representative association for enlisted personnel of the Permanent Defence Forces and it seeks to promote the interests of its members in relation to their pay, allowances, pensions, promotion systems etc. Approximately 90% of all enlisted personnel are members of PDFORRA, which equates to about 8,200 members of the Permanent Defence Forces". So who exactly manages PDFORRA on a daily basis, Gerry tells us, "PDFORRA is managed on an ongoing basis by a national executive who are elected by regional and district committees throughout the Defence Forces. Once a year an annual delegate conference outlines broad policy decisions and is the highest decision-making body within PDFORRA". In the broadest sense PDFORRA has helped to ensure that the great bulk of enlisted personnel have been paid at least the market rate for the job. In addition, it has spent a lot of time and effort securing improved

allowances. For example, the payment of an allowance to enlisted personnel who performed foot and mouth-related duties on the border of £35 in addition to border allowance.

In relation to the current and previous pay talks we asked Gerry what these issues meant to PDFORRA, "The application of general round pay increases have been of huge significance to pay and allowances. Perhaps the most significant issue has been the level of pensionability applied to Military Service Allowance – this worked out at between 40% and 50% depending on service". When asked about the impact of the new pension scheme on existing retired personnel Gerry tells us that the introduction of a new pension scheme on foot of a general review of public service pensions will have no impact on retired or serving personnel, who joined prior to the 1st April, 2004. So what's hot on the agenda now? Gerry explains, "As always the biggest issue is pay. The second stage of Sustaining Progress is to be applied to the Defence Forces. However, it fails to address the low levels of pay that enlisted personnel receive when they work long hours. This will have to be addressed through some mechanism. Another major issue is the restructuring of the Defence Forces which is still ongoing in the Army and the Reserve Defence Forces. It impacts on numbers and promotion opportunities and PDFORRA will be seeking to minimise the negative impact to its members.

On the issue of negotiations Gerry tells us that PDFORRA negotiates with the Departments of Defence and Finance through the Defence Forces Conciliation Council and that there are approximately six full meetings of the council each

Continued on page 5

O.N.E.T. GOLF CLASSIC

It has been almost eight years since ONET organised its first Golf Classic in Little Island in Cork. The Cork City Branch was to the forefront in the organisation of the first Classic and none more so than the late Paddy Cassidy of the Clonmel Branch. There was also tremendous assistance given to us from Comdt. Ray Cawley, Collins Bks Cork. Following on from this hugely successful event a committee was formed in 2000 involving some of the Clonmel Branch members and the Company Secretary of ONET. Great links were established with the Slievenamon Golf Club near Fethard, Co Tipperary. This event is now an annual occurrence with teams from ONET, the Defence Forces and civilian Golf Clubs and Societies all taking part. The Classic is a four ball competition on a points system in accordance with the team's handicaps. Over the last three years the number of teams has increased with last year being the largest contingent so far with a total of forty eight teams entered. The Defence Forces had a total of twenty four teams, O.N.E.T. had

twenty teams with golf clubs and societies making up the remainder. Our aim this year is to increase this number to sixty teams.

Past prizes have included; best team to win the O.N.E.T. Perpetual Silver Cup and replicas of the cup, the Defence Forces Presentation Waterford Crystal Trophy for the best Defence Forces team and the Paddy Cassidy Perpetual Cup for the best O.N.E.T. Team. There are runner up prizes for 2nd and 3rd Places as well as prizes for longest drive, ladies and gents, nearest the pin and many more prizes including colour T.V.s. A warm welcome is

always assured on the day and each participant will receive the usual doggy bag of light refreshments from the starter and on completion of their round a sit down four course meal is provided. The entry fee per team of four which covers all of the above is €160.00.


Slievenamon Golf Club is without doubt one of the best venues in the country and they have always been delighted to host our Classic each year. Brendan Kenny, Club Secretary and Kevin Lawlor, Proprietor always extend a warm and friendly welcome to ONET and our guests. This years Classic will be held on Friday the 20th and Saturday the 21st of August with Tee Times between 10.00hrs and 17.00hrs each day. We are seeking sponsorship from; A Main Sponsor, Tee Box Sponsors (18), Branch Sponsorship, Officers, NCOs and Men's Messes, Local Firms and Companies. For further information about sponsorship please contact Pat Dunleavy on 01 - 6608670.



Continued from page 4

year. In addition, a number of sub-committees are usually established to address particular issues in detail. As we are aware there have been significant cut backs over the past few years including barrack closures so we asked Gerry about his thoughts on these issues, "I would not rule out further proposals to reduce the Defence Forces strength. The PDFORRA position on the matter is that from a personnel perspective the current strength is fully committed and there is no 'fat' and Ireland would effectively eliminate its defence capability if it reduced its strength further".

In conclusion we asked Gerry for his thoughts on ONET, "I would like to take this opportunity to commend ONET and its members for their good works and urge them to continue their worthwhile and necessary efforts especially in the area of housing".



Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta
Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen & Women

Annual Golf Classic 2004

Slievenamon Golf Club
Clonmel, Co Tipperary

Phone: 052 - 32213 Fax: 052 - 32040

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Entry fee includes;
Course fees
Packed lunches
Dinner
Prizes

All proceeds in aid of Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta building projects. For further details please contact;
Pat Dunleavy, Company Secretary, ONET, Leeson Bridge House, 1a Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4.
Phone: 01 - 6608670, Fax: 01 - 6682444, Email: inf@oneconnect.ie

A Hidden Gem on the South Coast



On the southern point of Ireland just beyond Cross Haven overlooking Cobh harbour Fort Templebreedy stands with panoramic views of the south coast of Ireland. This forgotten fort has a little known gem of a pitch and putt course run ostensibly for members of the Defence Forces but the defence community and their families as a whole have benefited from this tremendous amenity for some considerable time. Fort Templebreedy was built to the

south of Weavers Point between 1904 and 1909. There were two concrete batteries located there for 9.2 inch and 6 inch guns, which were never mounted, and this portion of the fort is known as the Kilcolta Battery. The entrance to the fort houses the caretaker for this incredible location, Sydney Venner, who has been on this site for 22 years. Over the course of his time there Sydney has cultivated the greens to a standard that would be difficult to equal anywhere. Templebreedy is one of the few 18 hole links pitch and putt courses in Ireland and has a remarkably low green fee rate of €5 for adults and €3 for juveniles. Defence Force personnel have to pay no green fees and membership of the club is a respectable €150 for families, €75 for single membership and €50 for juveniles. In October 2003 110 competitors from 23 clubs throughout Ireland played for the

Templebreedy Scratch Cup with a prize fund of €1,500 sponsored by KWP Printers Ltd., Carrigaline, Cork. With almost 5,000 players per year this little known gem is becoming very well known indeed and is highly recommended.



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Around the Branches

Commander George Crosby & Cobh Branches

Again, as in recent years, the Cobh Branch & Commander George Crosby (Naval Service) amalgamated, for their annual Mass & Lá Na bhFiann ceremonies. This year the ceremonies were held on Sunday 4th July. Please note for your diary, the annual Mass & Lá Na bhFiann ceremonies, will be held on the first Sunday in July each year. The event was well attended as usual by members of both branches as well as the Officer Commanding Naval Operations Command (OCNOC) & 2nd in Command Naval Service, Capt Jim Robinson DSM, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Sean Martin, the Mayor of Cobh, Cllr Danny Crowley, company PRO Danny Flood and deputising for the President of ONET the Munster Vice President, Mr Shaun 'Dermo' Deeney. The Naval Service Chaplain, Rev Fr Des Campion SDB CF led the ceremony and wreaths were laid by Capt Jim Robinson for the Naval Service, Mr Eddie Quinn for the Cmdr George Crosbie (Naval) Branch, Mr Tim McCormack for the Cobh Branch and Mr Paddy Burke for the Naval Association.

Emmet Dalton Branch (London)



On a recent visit to London Lt. General Gerry McMahon (retired), was honoured by members of the Emmet Dalton Branch. The Chairman of the branch, Ted Wallace presented Gerry with a beautiful framed piece of memorabilia on behalf of his

branch in recognition of General McMahon's work within the Irish Defence Forces and his ongoing assistance to ONET.

Lt Kevin Gleeson Branch (John Francis Quigley Remembered)



There was a cloudless sky over Ceannt Barracks, Curragh Camp recently when a cheque for €1,000 was presented to the Lt Kevin Gleeson Branch of ONET, Carlow from very dear friends and colleagues of a man called John Francis Quigley, fondly known as "Quigs". John was born in June 1928 and in March, 1959 he joined the army. He worked as a technician in the 6th Field Signals in the Curragh Camp for twenty-one years of his life often working as a Despatch Rider delivering post around the Curragh Camp for the Signal Corps. His colleagues remembered him as a witty carefree man who loved life and loved to play practical jokes on people. John left the army in March 1980 following his retirement John went to live in Carlow. Having lived a life of discipline and knowing nothing only army life, John found it difficult to survive in "Civvy Street" and he found himself homeless. Eventually he went to live in Borris Lodge Nursing Home, Co. Carlow before his death on the 16th March, 1999. Sadly he was buried in an unmarked grave in St. Mary's Cemetery in Carlow.

The day in Ceannt Barracks was a culmination of a year's hard work fundraising for John's memorial

stone. It was some years after his death that everyone joined forces to put a headstone on John's grave. This has now been completed and his friends and colleagues are delighted that a fitting tribute has at last been paid to "Quigs."

GOC DFTC Brig. Gen. O'Sullivan said "he was delighted with the day and that it was great to see everyone join forces to erect the memorial for John and to see them honour their dead." Thanks was extended to the SEHB who signed over John's grave free of charge to the Lt Kevin Gleeson Branch of ONET and thanks also to Matt Doyle, Pembroke, Carlow who placed the headstone on John's grave. **Many thanks to Gemma Higgins, a Carlow based local journalist, for this story and picture.**

Roger Casement Branch

Sales of Lotto tickets keep going from strength to strength with many members in the branch now supporting the cause. In September members of the branch will be visiting Aras an Uachtairín with limited numbers being able to avail of this opportunity places on the trip will be going fast. As part of the socialising aspect of all branches the Roger Casement branch have excelled with their recent trip to the dog track which was oversubscribed. Following on from this the branch organised a highly informative visit to the battlefields of World War I. This very successful event was organised by Mr John Condon and the Roger Casement members were delighted with the results so much so that there is a visit to the battlefields of World War II planned for the autumn of 2005. For further details contact John at 01 - 4504236.

Mullingar Branch

It's been an outstanding year so far for the Mullingar Branch. The last few weeks saw the inauguration of Ned Gibney as President of the Company at this year's AGM. This

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was closely followed by the award for Branch of the Year. This award was selected by the Chief Executive and was specially commissioned by the National Executive in Drogheda with Aongus Crystal. The award was won by Mullingar following intense competition and was received by Noel Hayes on the banquet night at the AGM. And finally to cap it all off the legendary Paidí Ó Sé and his band of brave Westmeath players delivered the counties first all Ireland Senior Championship to the town two weeks ago. It should be noted that

our Company Secretary is also from the town and was on hand at Croker to cheer on the lads. Who said up Cork!

St Barbara's Branch

The St Barbara's Branch in Kildare is holding a table quiz night in Morrin's Public House in Suncroft near the Curragh Camp. This fundraising night is in aid of the committee's efforts to publish a book to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the branch in Kildare. The night will commence at 8 p.m. sharp and the cost per table of four is €16.00. For further details contact Mr Charlie McCabe on 045 – 431955.

London Branch

A machine gun that has seen action in World War I, World War II and various war recreations was given its final home yesterday when it was handed over to Lieutenant

Colonel Donal Bracken of Renmore Barracks in Galway in July this year. Edward Bell, of the ONET London Branch who has been living in Britain since 1963, discovered the 1894 Vickers .303 machine gun in a workshop in the UK and promptly bought it. He spent months restoring it to mint condition before passing it on to the Irish military museum in July. 'It needs a rest now,' he said as he handed over the war-weary weapon. Renmore Barracks is the base for the First Infantry Battalion and Lt Col Bracken was pleased to take the weapon from Mr Bell, who is a former member of the same battalion. "It is a very historical and significant weapon," said Lt Col Bracken. He said that Renmore's military museum focuses mainly on memorabilia from the Connaught Rangers and he was keen to take the antique because it is a machine-gun that would have been used by such soldiers.

The Congo 1960 – A Soldiers Diary

Over 5,000 Irish Soldiers served in the Congo from 1960 to 1964. It was the first UN peacekeeping mission undertaken by the Irish Defence Forces and it was the first time that Irish Free State soldiers came under enemy fire on foreign soil. Twenty seven soldiers lost their lives in this far away land and this figure could have been far higher had it not been for the professionalism, resourcefulness and sheer courage of the Irish peacekeepers. Dubliner, Archie Raeside, was among the 689 men that were selected for the

32nd Battalion, the first unit deployed to the Congo. The 33rd Battalion, comprising of 711 men, followed less than a month later.

Archie was the official photographer for the Irish contingent and while he was there he kept a diary which is now the basis of his newly launched book. Archie was an airman in Baldonnel and was the only member of the Air Corps to travel on the early peace keeping missions. In this fascinating book Archie recalls the elation and honour felt by the Irish soldiers and the nation as a whole on being requested to supply troops for the peacekeeping mission. This book tells a small but none the less important part of the Congo story and Archie dedicates it to the memory of those who fell in the service of peace. The book is well written and has provided us with tremendous pictures and insightful details about the lives of Irish soldiers in the Congo. The launch of the book took place in the Green Isle Hotel in Dublin and



Archie Raeside presenting his book to Brig. Gen. Ralph James

some of the original members of those first battalions were on hand to give Archie their support. The first Irish Commander of UN forces, Col M. J. Buckley also attended the launch as did the GOC of the Air Corps Brigadier General Ralph James. The book is published by Arderin Publishing Company Limited, and the book's ISBN number is: 0-86335-055-0.



Members of the 32nd Inf. Bn. checking equipment prior to patrol

Your Board of Directors



The following Board Members have been elected for a period of three years. It should also be noted that following their elections the members of the board convened and were selected for each of the portfolios as indicated in this article for a one year period.

Mr Patrick Rooney



Paddy Rooney is a native of Drogheda, Co Louth who now lives in Dublin. Paddy joined the FCA (Reserve Defence Forces) in February 1961 and served with B Coy, 8th Battalion in his native town. He

attained the rank of Captain prior to retirement and he was well regarded along the border having served in Drogheda, Dundalk, Cootehill, Gormanston and many other posts. Paddy has also been to the forefront in one of Irelands most prestigious and enduring medical device companies. He enjoyed many years as the Plant Manager of Becton & Dickson in Dun Laoghaire and has trained in the areas of behavioural science, executive management, industrial relations and trade union law all of which he has brought to the board table. Paddy joined ONET in 1990 and in that time he has been the Chairman of the Slane branch, a delegate to the Leinster Area Council and he presently holds the dual portfolios of Chairman of the Board and Director of Finance.

Mr John 'Jack' Gilmartin

Jack Gilmartin is a native of Dublin who now lives in Cobh, Co Cork. Jack joined the Defence Forces in 1957 and retired from his post as Chief Petty Officer in 1979. Jack is a long time member of ONET and first joined the organisation in 1979 on his departure from the service. In his time in ONET he has held many posts including Branch Chairman of the Cobh branch, Director of Ceremonial, National President and

National Chairman with six terms under his belt. When Jack retired from the services he was snapped up as a plant operator and clerk for the Department of Defence in



Haulbowline. Jack has agreed to take up the portfolio of Director of Branch Organisation. He hopes to make contact with as many branches as possible and is looking forward to the challenges over the coming three years.

Mr Patrick Hayes DSM



Patrick Hayes holds one of the most highly prized awards in the Irish Defence Forces and had the privilege of being one of the first people to receive the award in 1968.

The Distinguished Service

Medal was awarded to Patrick for his 'devotion to duty through several periods of service' and for his 'discipline, bearing and devotion to duty which were exemplary'. Paddy retired at the rank of Sergeant having completed over twenty one years service in 1964. He served with the 1st Division HQ, 34th, 36th and 38th Infantry Battalions in the Congo and finished his career in the Command Legal Office in Collins Bks Cork. Originally a native of Kinsale paddy now resides in Ballyphehane in Cork. As a member of the Cork City Branch Paddy has played a major role at National level for many years holding the posts of National President, Vice President, National Chairman, General Secretary and PRO. Paddy has now been given the portfolio of Director of Rules for the coming year. Following his retirement from the PDF Paddy worked as clerk with a major insurance company and now works as a clerk with a major firm of solicitors in Cork city.

Mr Michael Mullane

Michael Mullane is a native of Cork and he joined the Defence Forces in 1963. He served most of his time with the 1st Field Supply and Transport in Collins Bks and had three overseas trips with the 4th, 8th, and 25th Infantry Groups before retiring in 1985 at the

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National Appeal For Military History Material

The National Museum of Ireland is currently organising a major new exhibition, due to open in May 2005. This will tell the stories of Irish soldiers, their families and Irish civilians affected by war, across 450 years of history, from the Elizabethan Wars of the 16th Century to the Irish UN departure from the Lebanon in 1997.

While the National Museum holds what is probably the finest collection of Irish-related military items in the world, forming an outstanding repository of our country's martial heritage, the National Museum are seeking the donation of items to add still further to the depth and character of their Collections. If you are interested in donating military material to the National Museum, there are a number of ways in which you can help:

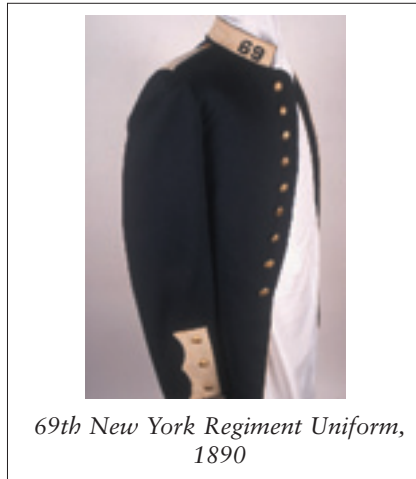
The Social & Economic Impact of Military Life in Ireland

Items associated with the social interactions between civilians and the military in nineteenth-century Ireland (e.g. artefacts and photos relating to sporting events and to the weddings of army men to local women); objects made locally for sale to soldiers' wives and children; samplers with military themes; and other objects showing the economic and social impact of the British garrison in Ireland, and how it was viewed by the local population.

Soldiering

Any items or documents relating to the Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin. Also, objects associated with the Irish Regiments of the British Army that were disbanded in 1922, particularly musical instruments; everyday objects related to World War I soldiering in the trenches such as camp kettles, petrol cans, entrenching tools, helmets, gas masks and material related to gas protection, medical supplies, ID tags. Also, personal objects, letters

and photographs used in war that have a link to a particular individual who served between 1550 and 1945.



69th New York Regiment Uniform, 1890

Uniforms

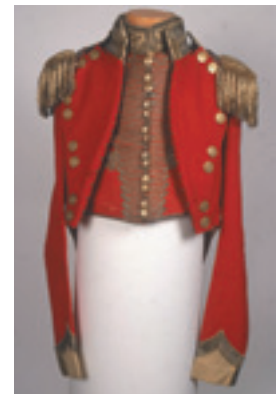
The Museum holds a large uniform Collection, which they would like to supplement with Wild Geese uniforms (Irish Regiments in the French and Spanish armies), World War One Service uniforms and trench coats, officer's uniforms from the Volunteer Force (c. 1936), firemen's protective suits from the Emergency period, uniforms of the Local Security Force, Local Defence Force (Emergency period), and Emergency period de-mobilisation suits (1940s).

Civilian objects

The Museum is also seeking objects that illustrate how civilians coped with the constraints of the Emergency (1939-1945), particularly the lack of imported goods, fuel and transportation. Examples might include civilian clothing adapted from old military uniforms, turf-burning stoves, special recipes, ration books and so on. As well as this they are interested in objects connected with the German and British internees in the Curragh during the Emergency, and artefacts connected with World War One munitions factories and workers.

If you feel you have material you would like to donate, please contact the Museum at: The Military Collections, Arts & Industrial Division, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Benburb St., Dublin 7. Telephone (01) 648 6467/8.

Please note that donations to the National Museum of Ireland involve a full transfer of ownership, including copyright. In exceptional circumstances they may accept material on a loan basis for a minimum of ten years. They cannot guarantee that donated objects will be placed on exhibition, however they will become part of the national collection of Irish military material, available for research and preserved for future generations.



Colonel William Ferguson Red Uniform

Perhaps one of the least known aspects of Irish involvement in foreign wars is the contribution made to the South American wars of liberation. Colonel Ferguson is a fine example of the huge numbers of Irishmen who volunteered to fight there in the first quarter of the 19th Century. Ferguson fought with Simon Bolivar, known as the 'Liberator'. Bolivar liberated Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela from Spanish rule, as well as having a new Country, Bolivia, named in his honour. Colonel Ferguson quickly identified with the ideals that Bolivar represented, as he was willing to lay down his life for him. Ferguson died defending the door to Bolivar's chamber during an assassination attempt. The Museum also holds Ferguson's letters and diary in the Collections.

John Condon Memorial



John Condon was born in Waterford, near Ballybricken, about the turn of the last century. He was working as a boy bottler before the outbreak of World War I. Perhaps a sense of adventure drew him into the armed forces; perhaps it had to do with his mother's death in 1912. It is possible he was influenced by the leader of the Nationalist Party, John Redmond, MP for Waterford. It is certain that he was under military age, although no notice was taken of this until after his death.

John was posted in December 1914 to the Second Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment and moved to Flanders. On the 22nd of April 1915, the German army opened their second attack on Ypres with a devastating new weapon – chlorine gas. A great hole was torn in the front, which was plugged hastily by the British with all available units. Among them was Private John Condon, 6322, from Ballybricken. The battle lasted a month, and ended after a final desperate assault on the 24th of May 1915, when the Germans, exhausted, suspended offensive operations. The battle had ceased and John Condon lay among the dead, although his body was not recovered until 1923 when it was re-interred

in Poelkapelle Cemetery. The only personal item returned to his family was a piece of boot bearing his regimental number 6322. The stone erected in his memory in Poelkapelle by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his age as 14 and he is said to be the youngest Allied soldier to die in the Great War.

At a ceremony held in the Waterford Civic Offices recently an appeal for funds was launched to erect a monument to the 50,000 Irish soldiers who had died in the Great War as well as those who had died in all subsequent conflicts at home and abroad. The Waterford City Council passed a resolution to this effect in 2001 and the launch of the fundraising appeal was the culmination of many years of hard work. Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta and the Royal British Legion took part in the selection process for a suitable monument. Anne Harpur and Pat Cunningham's stunning design incorporates a circular limestone plinth and structure with the focal point being occupied by four bronze figures. To make a donation simply contact the John Condon Memorial Committee, C/O Waterford City Archives, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.

Continued from page 9



rank of Quartermaster. Michael has recently stepped down from the role of National President and he has also held the posts of Vice President, Southern Area Council Chairman and Honorary Secretary to the Cork City branch since he joined ONET in 1986. Michael was also a founder member of the Carrigdhoun branch of ONET in Cork and currently holds the portfolio on the Board as Director for Services to Members. It is Michael's wish that members and branches contact him regarding services to members over the coming months as he wishes to grow this area for current and future members of the organisation.

Mr Gerry Fogarty

Gerry Fogarty served in the Depot Artillery School in the Curragh for twenty one years between 1961 and 1982. He has



served overseas with the 39th Infantry Battalion in the Congo, the 40th Infantry Battalion and 10th Infantry Group Cyprus. Gerry is a native of Thurles, Co Tipperary but presently lives in Athy, Co Kildare and has been actively involved with ONET since 1982 holding the positions of National President, National Treasurer and National Chairman. He is a member of the St Barbara's Branch in Kildare Town and since his departure from the PDF Gerry has been employed in the Security Industry and is currently working with the Irish Equine Centre in Kildare town. Gerry holds the portfolio of Director of Housing and is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead as new housing comes on stream.

Far Away Lands



John was also involved with a humanitarian organisation, Child Aid in a voluntary capacity.

Child Aid was formed by members of the Defence Forces following their experiences in Rwanda. These individuals had a common purpose and that was to assist African street children through a

pioneering educational programme for the children in the slums of Nairobi in conjunction with Fr Pat O'Toole of the Holy

Primary School in the Mukuru parish of Nairobi was dedicated to the memory of John Lucey (RIP). Mukuru is in the heart of the slum area of Nairobi, Kenya and to many people, these slums are deplorable. Yet, to those who live there, this is HOME, and they cherish and fight for the right to have a roof over their heads. When Child Aid first became involved with this school, there were approximately 600 children enrolled there and the classrooms were no more than huts put together with bits of wood and whatever else was available. There

The John Lucey National Branch of ONET was formed earlier this year and it caters for members who wish to join ONET but are not sufficiently close to a branch to attend meetings as well as catering for ex-servicemen who are living abroad and indeed those whose branches have become defunct through reduced numbers. The branch derived its name from PDFORRA's last General Secretary, John E. Lucey (RIP). John was a Cork man who had an almost unique claim to fame in that he had served in all three of the Irish Defence



The Late John Lucey

Force services. John was a very determined man who had gained many friends and admirers within the Defence Forces and within the Department of Defence for his very great efforts in relation to securing better pay and conditions of service for enlisted members of the PDF. But this was not the whole story as



Joe Lynch CEO ONET during his climb of Kilimanjaro in 2003

Ghost Fathers and Sister Mary Kileen of the Mercy Sisters. Both do outstanding work in the slums to support the poorest children and Sr Mary is known as the 'Mother Theresa of Africa'. John Lucey was very much to the forefront in fundraising for these projects and his efforts were recognised following his death in January of 2002 when the Kwa Njenja Catholic

were no floors and the open sewers, which flowed alongside, overflowed in the rainy season and flooded the classrooms causing disease and sickness amongst the children. Child Aid, with the help of Kilimanjaro Trekkers, Donators and the Irish Government has initiated a program to rebuild the school with basic classrooms, toilets and a kitchen that will provide a meal to

every child each day. For some of these children the meal they receive in school may be the only nourishment they get. The project now caters for the primary education of 1240 children.

The Irish Defence Forces have a proud tradition of overseas service and the resourcefulness of the Irish soldier has been bought to bear in this project in many ways. Child Aid raises its funds through fundraising climbs on the highest mountain in Africa, Kilimanjaro. Each year Child Aid organises two or three expeditions in March and June to raise much needed funds. These expeditions have a dual role in that the trekkers also visit the slums and the school. The Chief Executive Officer of ONET, Joe Lynch has been to Kilimanjaro twice and told us, "I would highly recommend this trip to anyone who is physically able. The people that you meet are some of the most fascinating and dedicated people that you will ever encounter." Joe goes on to say, "The children in the school are

wonderful and I can only describe the experience as the most humbling and demanding that I have ever had. I must commend a couple of people who have been an inspiration to me, namely John Lucey (RIP), John (Ginger) O'Leary and Dermot Higgins all of whom have given of their time, energy and enthusiasm with a broad smile and tremendous heart". Child Aid also assists fourteen projects in Africa and Lebanon including the Tibnin Orphanage Project. The next Kilimanjaro expedition will take place from the 28th of February 2005 to the 12th of March 2005 and the 29th of May 2005 to the 10th of June 2005. If you wish to donate you can forward donations to the



CEO, Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta, Leeson Bridge House, 1 Upper Leeson Street Dublin 4 or alternatively the Child Aid organisation which is based in Cork can be contacted on 021 – 4222985 or visit them on the web at www.childaid.ie.

Defence Force Information Days



range of services available to retired and serving members of the Defence Forces. Our picture on the left shows the Chairman of the Board, Paddy Rooney with members of the Air Corps apprentice school who showed great interest

Over the past few months a number of Information days have taken place within the Defence Forces. On the 18th of May the Air Corps, Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel was the venue for a highly successful information day for members of the Air Corps. ONET was on hand to distribute information about the organisation, its activities and

in the development of housing and provision of long and short stay accommodation. This information day was quickly followed up with an information day in the Naval Service, Haulbowline. Again the attendance by members of the Naval Service was exceptional, Joe Lynch (CEO), and Jack Gilmartin (Director) ONET were on hand to fly the flag for the organisation.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Deepest Sympathies are extended to the families, friends and colleagues of the following members who have passed away since our last magazine:

Mr John Ford,
Patrick Sarsfield Branch, Limerick

Mr Edmund Britton,
Clonmel Branch, Clonmel

Mr Charles McCarron,
Derry Branch, Derry

Mr James Morrissey,
Dundalk Branch, Dundalk

Mr Michael King,
Sean Hogan Branch, Borris

Sympathies are also extended to Billy Kane, Clonmel Branch on the recent sudden death of his son John who was a great supporter of ONET.

Cuimhnímís
(Let Us Remember)

Lebanon Remembered



This year marks the 26th anniversary of the Irish Defence Forces United Nations Peacekeeping mission to Lebanon. On the 13th of May 1978 the first Irish soldiers arrived in Lebanon, primarily to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli forces after their invasion a few months earlier. The mission was expected to last between six and twelve months however as history records it the Irish involvement in this war torn country lasted for twenty three years. With the departure of Israeli troops in 2001 Ireland completed its tour of duty in October and withdrew from its area of operations around Tibnin village. In total forty six battalions served in UNIFIL and forty seven Irish soldiers paid the ultimate price for peace. A memorial marks their passing in Tibnin village and bears the names of the forty seven. One of the most tragic features of this mission has been the loss without trace of one Irish UN soldier, Pte Kevin Joyce of the 1st Infantry Battalion, late of the 48th Infantry Battalion, UNIFIL, kidnapped on the 27th of April 1981.

Lebanon affectionately known as "The Leb" has a special place in the hearts and minds of Irish soldiers through the twenty three years that this country supplied its young men and women to this important mission. Many families saw their husband, wives, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters depart to this far away place which lies next to the holy land. The Irish did not play

a passive role when in Lebanon. There were many occasions when the local communities sought and were given refuge and protection as well as some smaller but significant assistance from Ireland's peace keepers. Tibnin became a home from home for many Irish men and women and the help that the Tibnin orphanage received from the Irish UNIFIL battalions was second to none. Even today Child Aid, a humanitarian organisation that was spawned by Irish UN soldiers, still gives financial assistance on a regular basis.

In May of this year a mission of a different kind departed for The Leb. Twenty one men and women set out on a journey of remembrance and renewal of old friendships. The group was made up of serving and retired members of the Defence Forces as well as some who had no previous connection with Lebanon or the Irish army but simply wanted to understand the experiences of Irish UN peace keepers. During their journey these Irish men and women

been rebuilt from the ground up and the incredible view from the air as they flew into Beirut of this amazing transformation was breath taking for these Irish travellers. This fascinating journey also took in some ancient and historical sites and the group were guided through this experience by Claire Daher, a school teacher whose family had left Lebanon in the early eighties for America and who had returned to Lebanon in 1992. No visit to Lebanon would have been complete without a visit to the Irish 'AO', Tibnin village and the memorial to the Irish UN soldiers who lost their lives. A service was held to remember those who died in the service of peace before a visit to the local Tibnin orphanage. Many old friends and acquaintances were met in the village among those being Abass Awala, the Lebanese interpreter for the Irish forces. All in all the expedition was an enormous success. This tour was led by Jerry Conroy a native of Cork recently retired from the Defence Forces who has spent many years



were astonished and delighted by the amount of rebuilding that has taken place in this now peaceful land. Beirut is an international city of note that has almost literally

organising similar visits to sites of historical military significance both in Ireland and abroad and a list of forthcoming events is carried elsewhere in this magazine.

Mullingar have had a tremendous year so far and one of the highlights has been the election of Edward Gibney to the position of President. Edward, better known as Ned has been a long time member of the organisation and he was justifiably overwhelmed at this years AGM when he took over the reigns as Company National President. Ned was a member of the Defence Forces from 1950 until his retirement in 1986. He is originally from Cavan but has lived most of his life in the popular midlands town of Mullingar. An extremely well liked individual, Ned had served most of his military career in Columb Bks, Mullingar and he has been overseas on seven occasions in such diverse missions as the Congo and Cyprus. Ned retired from the PDF in 1986 at the rank of Sgt and immediately joined ONET. Following his retirement he has been active in his branch and at Area Council levels and has been employed in the security industry in Mullingar. In his time with ONET

New Company National President, Edward 'Ned' Gibney



Ned has been Chairman of the Leinster Area Council, Branch Secretary and National Vice President. In his maiden speech at this years AGM banquet night Ned thanked those who had supported

him through the years and he particularly paid tribute to the outgoing President, Michael Mullane and he stressed the need to work closely with the Board of Directors for the forthcoming year.

National Day of Commemoration



On Sunday the 11th of July the national day of commemoration took place at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham and was led by the President of Ireland and Patron of Óglaigh Náisiúnta Na hÉireann Teoranta, Mrs Mary McAleese, and the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern. The Taoiseach opened the proceedings and said:

"It is fitting that we remember here today all those Irish men and Irish women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations." The ceremony began with an inter-denominational prayer service, including Dr Ali Qirbi from the Islamic Cultural Centre and Dr

Yaakov Pearlman, the Chief Rabbi of Ireland.

The Rev Donaldson R. Rodgers, from the Dublin Methodist Synod, said: "As we remember those who have died in situations of conflict, so we also pledge ourselves to the path of peace." The inter-denominational prayer service also included the Church of Ireland Archbishop of

Dublin, the Most Rev John R.W. Neill, and the Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Dr Raymond Field. The Guard of Honour was drawn from the 2nd Infantry Battalion, Cathal Brugha Barracks in Dublin and the President was escorted to the Royal Hospital by a cavalry escort drawn from the 2nd Cavalry Squadron in Cathal Brugha, commanded by Capt Liam Toland.

The President was greeted by the Chief of Staff, Brig Gen James Sreenan, and the general officer commanding, Second Eastern Brigade, Brig Gen Gerard McNamara. The large attendance included members of ONET drawn from around the country and was led by the President, Ned Gibney and CEO, Joe Lynch.

AGM 2004 Tralee Co. Kerry



Many thanks to the Thomas Ashe Branch, Tralee who were this year's host branch for a wonderful weekend that was exceptionally well hosted and extremely efficiently run. Well done to all!



Lt. General Gerry McMahon (ret)

Dear Mr Lynch,

Paddy Rooney, Director ONET, informed me last week that I was no longer a Director of the Company following the elections held at the AGM in Tralee. ONET is a democratic organisation so nobody is guaranteed office and of course I accept that. I would not say that I am bitter about the turn of events but I would be lying if I did not say that I was very disappointed.

When I retired as Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces I wrote to ONET explaining that I had much admiration for the organisation and for what it was doing to house ex-members of the Defence Forces. I indicated my willingness to join although mindful that my rank could be an obstacle. I specified that I did not want to run for office either at Branch, Area or National level. I wished purely to show my support and put myself at the disposal of the organisation if it wished to use my national profile.

When ONET became a Company I was asked if I wished to serve as an interim Director. I agreed and have served in that capacity for two years. I had hoped that I would be allowed to serve as a member of the first elected Board of Directors which was to be installed this year in Tralee for a period of three years. As I have failed to achieve that ambition I must review my position vis a vis ONET.

As I step down as a member of the board I would like to explain the position with regard to my non-attendance at this year's AGM. ONET has always had the highest priority in the various activities in which I am involved. These include several cross-border peace and reconciliation projects and one of these clashes every year with the ONET AGM. Over the past two years I have given priority to ONET. This year because of my attendance with the President at the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Belgium and my involvement in the preparations to receive her, I had to reverse this trend. I asked that my reasons for non-attendance be explained. I am told that this happened yet I am informed that my non-attendance in Tralee was poorly received in some quarters. I ask that my position be clarified through circulation of this letter to the Directors/National Executive and through publication in "ONECONNECT" as I would hate that members be under any misapprehension about the high priority that I have always given to the company.

As to my future in the organisation, I intend to transfer from St. Barbara's Branch Kildare to Conleth's Branch in Newbridge. I had planned this since last year and it has nothing to do with the AGM vote results. I have lived in Newbridge for the past 36 years and it is both logical and relevant that I should be in the Branch in that town. I will continue to help St. Conleth's Branch in any way I can.

Finally I wish to say that I will miss playing a part in the continued development of ONET. I have found charting the way forward for the company to be both challenging and satisfying. I am glad that the Directors/National Executive have overwhelmingly backed the plan of evolution and I hope that there will be no going back on what we have achieved to date. I wish to thank you all for affording me the opportunity to serve as a Director of ONET for the past two years. I will miss meeting many of you at national level in the organisation and I wish you all the best in the challenging times that you now face.

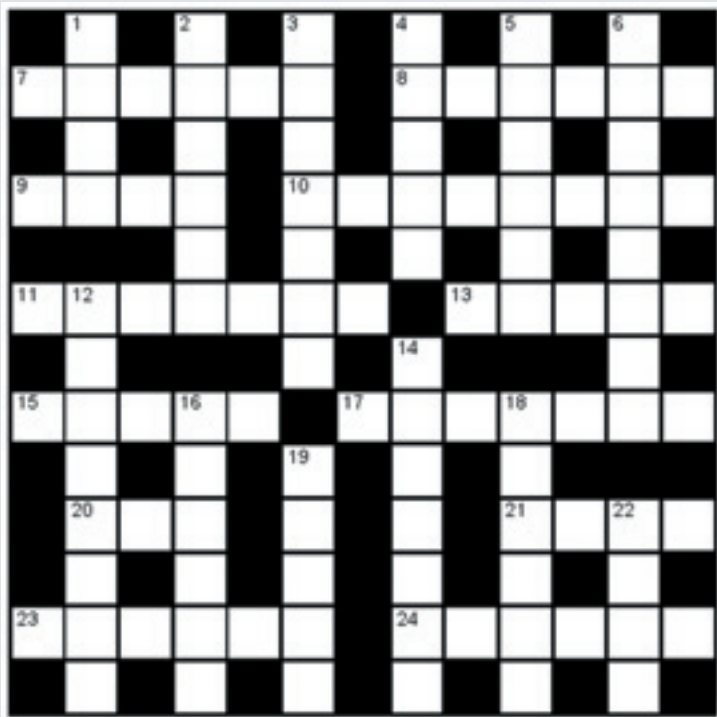
Yours sincerely,

Gerry McMahon

August Combination Teaser

€100 Gift Voucher for the First Correct Entry Drawn

There was no winner of the May Combination Teaser so there will be a €100 voucher on offer for the first correct entry drawn for August Combination Teaser. Entries to be returned to The Editor, ONECONNECT, Leeson Bridge House, 1 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4 before the 24th of September 2004.



Across

- 7 That's Life (6)
- 8 Annoy or disturb (6)
- 9 A wolf by any other name (4)
- 10 Think about at length and in depth (8)
- 11 Has two wheels; moved by foot pedals (7)
- 13 An alloy of iron with small amounts of carbon and manganese (5)
- 15 Mammary gland, normally a cow we think (5)
- 17 Acutely insightful and wise (7)
- 20 Term of address for a man, authoritarian (3)
- 21 An urban area with a fixed boundary (4)
- 23 Avoiding waste you are said to be this (6)
- 24 Streams, brooks and babies do this (6)

Down

- 1 Aggressive remark directed at a person (4)
- 2 Being ten more than eighty (6)
- 3 (Chinese) minced vegetables and meat wrapped in a pancake (3,4)
- 4 A piece of poetry (5)
- 5 Net sue (Anagram), internet derivative (6)
- 6 A dirty untidy woman, (old english) (8)
- 12 The organised action of making of goods and services (8)
- 14 Kneading and rubbing parts of the body (7)
- 16 Make violently angry (6)
- 18 An advanced student or graduate in medicine (6)
- 19 Expresses possibility (5)
- 22 Droop (4)

Name _____

Address _____

Branch _____

Entries must be returned to the Editor, ONEConnect, Leeson Bridge House, 1 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 2 before the 24th September 2004.

Famous Quotations,

Neil Kinnock (1942 -) **On Cowardice...**

It is thus that mutual cowardice keeps us in peace. Were one half of mankind brave and one half cowards, the brave would be always beating the cowards. Were all brave, they would lead a very uneasy life; all would be continually fighting; but being all cowards, we get on very well.

Samuel Johnson (1709 – 1784) **On the Law...**

An elderly pensioner on being sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude cried, 'Ah my lord, I'm a very old man, and I'll never do that sentence.' The judge replied 'Well try to do as much of it as you can'.

Hugh Holmes (Lord Chief Justice) (1767 – 1848)

All of us here know that there is no better way of exercising the imagination than the study of law. No poet has ever interpreted nature as freely as a lawyer interprets reality.

Solutions to May's Combination Teaser

Across:

- 6 Chagrin, 7 Off, 9 Dark, 10 Skywriting, 11 Infamous, 13 Mockup, 15 Tint, 17 Fatty, 18 Lust, 19 Matron, 20 Neonatal, 23 Disbelieve, 26 Eggs, 27 Minus, 28 Emanate.

Down:

- 1 Darkmatter, 2 Presto, 3 Inky, 4 Ginrummy, 5 Tort, 6 Chain, 8 Funruns, 12 Sitin, 14 Collateral, 16 Imagism, 17 Finalise, 21 Oneway, 22 Angle, 24 Bend, 25 Even.

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