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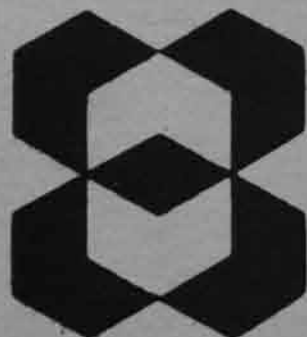
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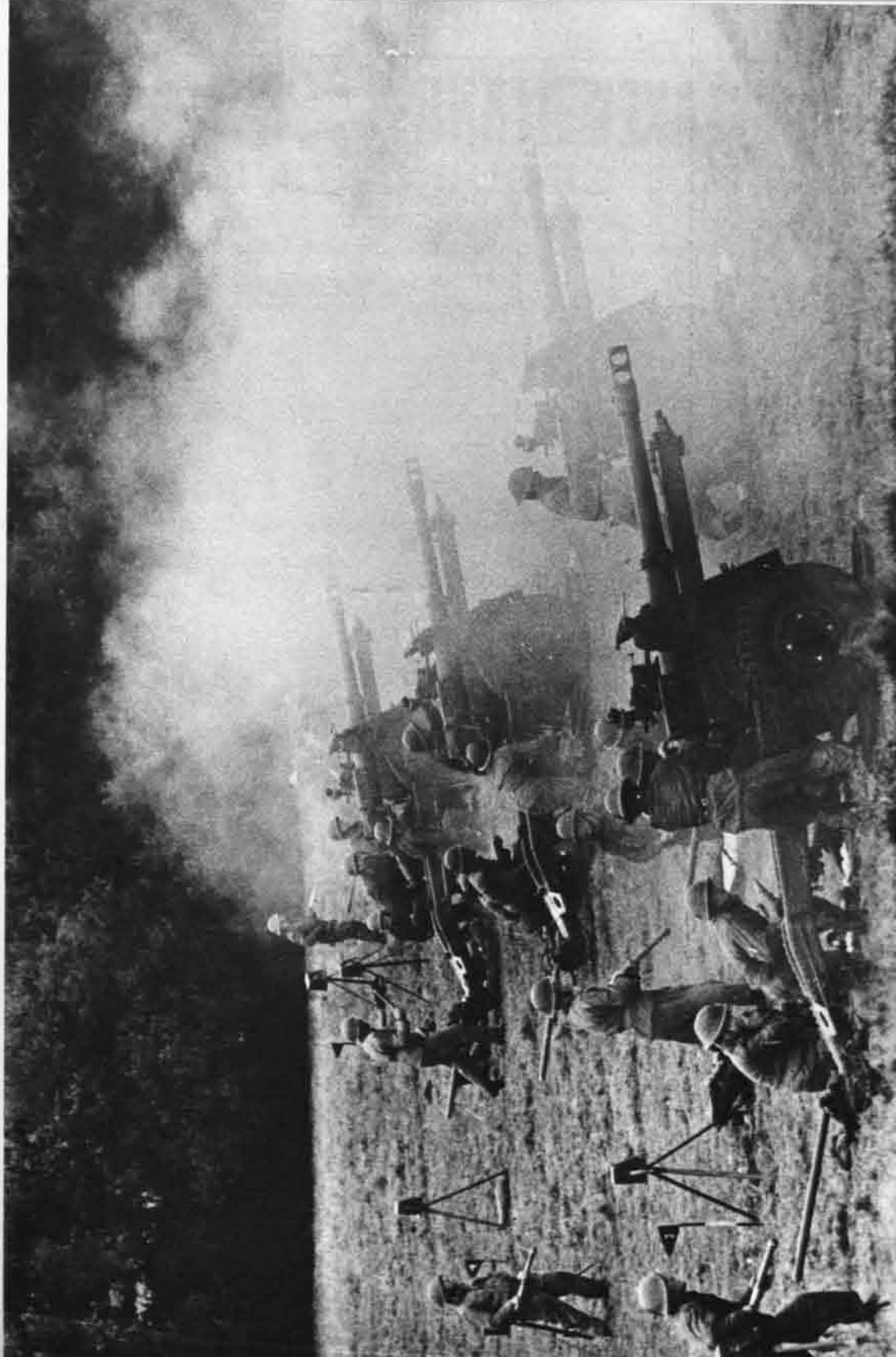
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The Irish Defence Journal
OCTOBER, 1976

20p



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Cover: 25 Pdrs. in action in the Glen of Imaal. Picture by Tom Burke. *Irish Independent*.

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RECRUITING NOW



The Garrison Church of St. Colman, Columb Barracks, Mullingar. St. Colman ministered in the Mullingar area *circa* 650 and is associated with the touching legend concerned with the miraculous turning of a mill in the wrong direction from which Mullingar — Muileann Cearr — gets its name.

Improvements to the church, which houses old Fourth Brigade colours, are continuously taking place and a large stained-glass window of Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, was unveiled there in 1974.

Unit Areas—The Fourth Field Artillery Regiment

Comdt. Padraic O'Farrell

"TRE AR IS ANACHAN" reads the motto of the Fourth Field Artillery Regiment. It is perhaps a rather bloodthirsty motto for a unit which has passed most of its days quietly operating amid the lush, rolling grasslands of County Westmeath from its county town, Mullingar. Mullingar is a town delightfully situated in the heart of Ireland's lake-land and the lakes that surround the town, Ennel, Owel and Derravaragh are renowned for their beauty, the legend surrounding each of them and their splendid fishing. The town boasts a top class caravan park, a fine swimming pool, a magnificent cathedral, waterways, castles and a variety of places of historical interest.

Perhaps it is the soothing effect of this environment that produces the quality that one associates with the Fourth Regiment — its quiet, confident efficiency which is ever apparent. Not quite so apparent is its inherent capacity to live up to its motto as was done when the occasion warranted it in the Congo during the winter of 1962 and 1963 when an officer and two N.C.Os of the unit received the Distinguished Service Medal. A significant feature of the accompanying citation was the inclusion of the words "... On all occasions the troops, as a whole, performed in a most efficient and praiseworthy manner"; the unit, therefore, received commendation as well as the recipients.

Early Years

The Fourth Regiment came into existence in 1943 amid the turmoil that was World War Two. Its first commander, Acting Captain J. S. Nolan, recently

retired Director of Artillery, got the unit quickly into shape. During the "emergency" and for some time after it, batteries of the regiment were affiliated to units of the Fourth Brigade.

In 1946, the Fifth Regiment, then stationed in Kildare, was amalgamated with the Fourth. The 20th Battery, under Capt Michael Duggan, now O.C.I. Regt, was disbanded and the regiment then comprised HQ and 4th Anti Tank Battery, 8th Battery and 15th Battery.

This organisation remained until 1959 when the Anti-Tank Battery was disbanded and the 15th Battery became an F.C.A. Battery. The 20th Battery was re-established as an F.C.A. Battery and was formed mainly from the 46th F.C.A. Battery, an F.C.A. unit in the then Midland Area affiliated to the Fourth Regiment. Amalgamations, take overs and coalitions were comparatively rare in those days after the war when the now retired ex-director of Artillery, Col Cyril Mattimoe gave over the Fifth Regiment to the Fourth and became its second in command. The Regiment's serving R.S.M., Paddy Brennan, arrived from Kildare on that occasion.

It is interesting to note that a very significant role was played by the Fourth in the re-birth of the Fifth in 1959 when they supplied officer and N.C.O. staff, together with expertise, encouragement and advice. Thus did they repay the debt incurred back in 1946.

The late O.C. Southern Command, Col W. Rea, served for a short time as OC 4 Regiment during 1946 and 1947 when he was succeeded by the late Lt. Col. Denis Cody, who still attended functions in Columb Barracks prior to his demise and whose



Gnr. T. Jessop, 15 Bty, FCA receiving his Long Service medal from Col. J. P. Kane, OC 4 Bde, at Columb Bks. Capt. D. O'Riordan, OC 15 Bty looks on.
(Photo: Westmeath Examiner)

wife still keeps up that tradition. An inscribed picture presented by Lt. Col. Cody to the Garrison Church of St. Colman still hangs in the sanctuary there.

Lt. Col. Maurice McCarthy assumed command in 1953. It was around this time that the many heraldic drawings which still decorate the walls of the Officers' Mess were painted by Capt. (now Lt. Col.) Pat Kavanagh, a recognised expert in this field. A ham radio station was set up in the old hospital block during this period also and the Fourth spoke to the world.

120mm Mortars

A rather ugly little french lady arrived in the regiment from Paris in 1954 and she was slightly frowned upon by the gunners more used to the sleek lines of conventional field pieces but, as French ladies are wont to do, she soon proved her worth on the practice ranges in Glen Imaal. The 120mm mortar arrived with little but a set of range tables in its list of accessories but a small, dedicated band set about producing the wherewithal to fire the weapons using conventional Artillery methods of fire control. Comdt. (now Lt. Col., retired) Michael Sugrue, Lt. Liam Donnelly (now Comdt., retired) Lts. P. O'Farrell and M. Moriarty, Cpls. W. Early and E. Columb experimented over a long period and eventually made a trip to Oughterard to fire the first round from this new equipment using an improvised artillery board and plywood arcs and arms. The equipment was fired as a three troop battery in Glen Imaal in 1956 and commenced getting praise for its performance which reached its Zenith when Capt. T. Boyle, Sgt. J. Quirke and Cpl. W. Allen were awarded DS Medals for its handling, as referred to in the opening paragraph. Lt. Bill Dwyer, who was later adjutant in the regiment before undergoing a course at Fort Leavenworth, was part of that Congo troop also.

The Fifties

In the early fifties, the regiment had an all-army rifle champion in Cpl. Jack Keating. During those years the development of more sophistication in the procedures for firing the 120mm mortars was pursued. The unit took part in the Western Command "Exercise Fuschia" and Army Exercise "Youghal". Inter battery rivalries in sport, in tactics, in drill was rife and the end of the fifties brought the Army's major re-shuffle involving integration of the P.D.F. with the F.C.A. in 1959. This produced the organisation which exists to-day and terminated the existence of the appointment of 2 i/c which had been filled by Comdts. J. H. Byrne, C. Mattimoe, M. McCarthy, M. Sugrue, J. P. Kane and M. O'Donnell. Lt. Col. Jimmy Dolan commanded the Fourth from 1955 to 1958. Lt. Col. J. P. Kelly, still a regular visitor to the Mess, was O.C. during 1958 and 1959 and he was followed by Lt. Col. Mark Harrington who arrived to the midlands from Spike Island. It was during these years that the gradual improvements to the appearance of Columb Barracks commenced. The pleasant rose beds and pitch and putt green emerged and the buildings themselves received a facelift.

Foreign Service

Cpts. M. O'Donnell and J. Croke served in the Lebanon in 1958 and in 1960 a group from the regiment, bitterly complaining about the heat in the camp at Coolmoney found themselves bound for the tropical clime of the Congo twenty-four hours

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Photographed at presentation of Long Service medals to the 20 Bty FCA at Columb Bks. L to R: Lt. C. Milner, Lt. D. Coleman, Sgts. P. Horan, A. Tompkins, W. Weymes, T. O'Dowd, Cpl. F. Bennett, Sgt. C. Glennon.
(Photo: Westmeath Examiner)

later. 120mm Mortar units soon became a feature of all battalions and groups serving abroad and Mortar Troops from the Fourth Regiment were commanded by Cpts. Boyle, O'Farrell, O'Coinne and Dunne.

Recent Years

The longest service in the appointment of OC 4 Regiment was given by Lt. Col. J.P. Kane, now Colonel and OC 4 Brigade. This was from 1963 to 1972. The 1916 Commemoration Archway and the Fenian Fountain were erected in Columb Barracks during that period and a sauna bath was built on a genuine steam system.

Words written about the Fourth Regiment and Columb Barracks must take into account that the Regiment and the Fourth Field Company S. & T. serve alongside each other in Columb Barracks. Since the S. & T. Company will be the subject of a future edition of "Unit Areas" they will not demur if their neighbours give a blanket acknowledgement here of their appreciation to the Company for their co-operation and friendliness down the years and for their enthusiastic support of all barrack ventures.

The Regiment's coming of age was celebrated in 1964 with an Open Day and festivities in all canteens and messes. Mullingar's denizens came in their hundreds and mingled and perused armaments, the recently established museum, Sean MacEoin's cell and the old jail. Pigeons were released, balloonstoo, and the event was acclaimed in the national and local press and merited a leading article in the "Westmeath Examiner", part of which read:

"The regiment, so typical of our modern army, has much to be proud of. It started off as part of that spontaneous, national mustering of the years of the last war when the country was balanced on a razor edge of neutrality. It has remained with us since to

become part of our way of life and has, so to speak, grown up with us. It has played a prominent and honourable part in the sporting, social and cultural life of the district and its extra-curricular activities have always won praise and admiration.

There are few organisations in the midlands which do not owe it a debt of gratitude. In moments of civic grandeur or on ceremonial occasions they have always responded generously and have never failed to lend elegance, dignity and efficiency to the occasion. Should they fire a jubilant salvo or feu de joie on their birthday, they have every good reason to do so."

Similar celebrations were repeated in 1968 for the unit's Silver Jubilee.

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Officers Commanding 4th Field Artillery Regiment

1943 - 1966	Comdt. Nolan, J. S.
1946 - 1947	Comdt. Rea, W.
1947 - 1953	Lt. Col. Cody, K. J.
1953 - 1955	Lt. Col. McCarthy, M. P.
1955 - 1958	Lt. Col. Dolan, J.
1958 - 1959	Lt. Col. Kelly, J. P.
1959 - 1963	Lt. Col. Harrington, M.
1963 - 1972	Lt. Col. Kane, J. P.
1972 - 1975	Lt. Col. Furlong, T. V.
1975 -	Lt. Col. O'Donnell, M. J.

Seconds - In - Command

Comdt. Byrne, J. H.	Comdt. Sugrue, M.
Comdt. Mattimoe, C.	Comdt. Kane, J. P.
Comdt. McCarthy, M.	Comdt. O'Donnell, M. J.

Adjutants

Capt. Banahan, T.	Capt. O'Donnell, M. J.
Capt. Maher, T.	Capt. O'Farrell, P. J.
Capt. Campbell, J.	Capt. Dwyer, W.
Capt. Greaney, M.	Capt. Dunne, M.

Quartermasters

Lieut. Jones, M.	
Lieut. O'Grady, J.	Capt. O'Boyle, T.
Capt. Brannigan, P.	Capt. Donnelly, A. N.
Capt. Kavanagh, P.D.	Capt. O'Boyle, T.
Capt. Creedon, C.	Capt. O'Coinne, L.
Capt. Carroll, J.	Capt. Prendergast, J.
Capt. Donnelly, A. N.	

Battery Commanders - 4 Regiment

8th Field Battery
 Capt. Ross Carew, Capt. J. P. Kane, Capt. J. P. Duggan, Capt. J. Campbell, Capt. J. Higgins, Capt. T. Boyle, Comdt. T. Banahan, Comdt. M. J. O'Donnell, Comdt. A. N. Donnelly, Comdt. P. O'Farrell.

15th Field Battery

Capt. J. E. McDonnell, Lieut. T. C. Maher, Capt. C. O'Sullivan, Capt. T. C. Brick, Capt. M. J. O'Donnell, Capt. T. O'Boyle (DSM), Comdt. M. J. O'Boyle (FCA), Comdt. C. Crowley (FCA), Capt. S. Flynn (FCA), Capt. D. O'Riordan (FCA).

20th Field Battery

Capt. M. Duggan - Disbanded 1946 - Re-Established 1959, Comdt. F. Loane (FCA), Comdt. D. McCormack (FCA).

4th Anti-Tank Battery

Lieut. J. Malone	Capt. M. O'Donnell
Capt. T. Banahan	Capt. P. Kavanagh
Capt. T. Maher	Capt. M. Fitzsimons.

Regimental Sergeants-Major

J. Downey	D. Scott (R.I.P.)
P. Egan	J. Sinnott
	P. Brennan

Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeants

J. Dower	P. O'Callaghan
J. Fitzpatrick	T. Carolan

List of Battery Sergeants

B/S McCann, J.	B/S Reilly, M.
B/S Fogarty, T.	B/S Goode, M.
B/S Hughes, J.	B/S Foley, M.
B/S Sinnott, J.	B/S O'Brien, W.
B/S Carroll, J.	B/S Brennan, P.
B/S Byrne, A.	B/S Maher, N.

List of Quartermaster-Sergeants

Bty QMS O'Flanagan, J.	Bty QMS Lacey, J.
Bty QMS Donoghue, P.	Bty QMS O'Grady, J.
Bty QMS Murray, F.	Bty QMS Kelly, M.
Bty QMS O'Malley, M.	Bty QMS Fitzpatrick, J.
Bty QMS Martin, J.	Bty QMS Minogue, M.
Bty QMS Gibbons, J.	Bty QMS Jones, F. A.
Bty QMS Quirke, J.	Bty QMS Earley, W.
Bty QMS Lacey, M.	Bty QMS Lucey, M.
Bty QMS Crone, D.	Bty QMS Brennan, P.
	Bty QMS Jones, A.

List of Orderly Room Sergeants

Sgt. Charles Brophy	Sgt. Cyril McCarthy (now Capt. McCarthy)
Sgt. Kevin Watters	
Sgt. Tommie Duffy	Sgt. Robert McConville

(Acknowledgements to Col. J. P. Kane, OC 4 Brigade and Sgt. McEntee AHQ for assistance in compilation.)

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Odd Things & Oddities

Col. J. P. Kane, HQ, 4 Inf. Bde.

WE are quite sure that contributors to *An Cosantoir* in twenty or thirty years time will have their stories to record about those who passed their military lives or part of them, in these parts in the forties to the seventies. They will have their odd things to relate about the oddities of these contemporary times. No doubt they are now deep in discretion and holding their peace. Wisely too!

A Ten Million Year Lease

Where do we begin with our tale of the oddness of the things and the people who made up a bit of the past of this military place? We thought a ten million year lease would whet your appetite if not your curiosity. You don't believe such a lease could exist? Well, it does and as the man said it's in written writing too. It came to our notice when a letter dated 5 June 1968 from Dept. of Defence, Dublin 7, was despatched to Secretary, Westmeath Co. Council, in connection with a request from the latter to purchase portion of land held by the former. The Minister could not sell the said portion of land to the Council as the State, as successor to the British Secretary of State for War, holds a right-of-way only over the plot under a Lease dated 3rd December, 1868, between Colonel Fulke Southwell G. Nugent, M.F. and the Secretary of State for War during the term of Ten Million Years from the date of the Lease. The right-of-way continues to be required in connection with the sewage disposal system at Columb Barracks, Mullingar."

The Co. Westmeath Co. Council should take some comfort from the fact that there are but 9,999,902 more years to go before they may again make an offer for said patch for essential housing of local people.

September 1886 and All That

The Commanding Officer at that time was one Lt. Col. William Cleland and his goings on are well described in "Life of an Irish Soldier" by Gen. Sir Alexander Godley (of Killegar, Co. Leitrim). The latter should know a thing or two about the good C.O. You see his first posting after Cadet training at Sandhurst, England was to Wellington Bks. at Mullingar. But let Gen. Godley tell of his own second Lieutenant memories of his odd C.O.

"The Commanding Officer, William Cleland, was one of the last of the old East India Company's officers, and a martinet of the old school. Tall,



A section of the barrack museum at Columb Barracks.

(Photo: Lt. C. Milner)

gaunt, erect, and hatchety-faced, his appearance was striking and formidable. He had been provost-marshal in Egypt in 1882, had hanged plenty of Arabi Pasha's rebel followers, and thoroughly looked the part. He was a bachelor, and lunched and dined in the mess, where in those days it was the custom to carve on the table, and for the officers to take turns to perform this task. I shall never forget my dismay at being one day confronted by a pair of ducks, nor my feelings after I had heard the Commanding Officer's comments on my efforts!

He breakfasted in his own quarters — it was always said on red pepper — and his appearance after that meal served as a barometer for the day. If he emerged, breeched, booted and spurred, we subalterns, watching anxiously from the ante-room window, melted away and hoped for the best.

I well remember one morning when there was snow on the ground and the great man's liver was worse than usual, how we were kept standing strictly at attention (there was no nonsense about standing at ease, or standing easy with such a man in those days!) for what seemed to be hours while he explored the contents of many knapsacks; how, scandalised at some of their contents, he ordered the parade to fall in again after the men's dinners; and how great was the agony caused by the pipe-clayed gloves and tight wellington boots!"

Women in the Mess 1922!

Well, not exactly but almost. You see they were prisoners. The story is recounted in a delightful book "Myself — and others" by Annie M.P. Smithson (now out of print but these little details never hamper the excellent librarian of Counties Longford-Westmeath — Miss Marion Keaney).

In Chapter XXIII Miss Smithson, a nurse, tells how she and others were sent in a Switzer's van — the firm's name being blotted out — as a medical team of nurses female and male with medical equip-

ment to the West of Ireland to aid anti-treaty forces. After many adventures they were halted and arrested at the Royal Canal Bridge on the Dublin road just East of Mullingar. After some more escapades they found themselves prisoners and the women were sent to "H" Block of Officers Mess. After not unpleasant incarceration for about ten days the ladies were released and made their way as "dangerous cargo" by train to Dublin. What happened to the men in the arrested party of Medics and would be medics? One became Director of the Medical Corps — Colonel Holmes Ievers, M.D. Two directors, back, and is happily able to regale one with the veracity of this story. One of the others was a Mr. Smyllie a brother of R.M. Smyllie the renowned, most able and storied editor of "The Irish Times" up to some years ago. Is the Mullingar Smyllie now in Wyoming USA? And wasn't a member of the Smyllie family in odd company on that July day in 1922 westwards bent on an anti-Treaty medical mission?

"There is a Tavern in the Town . . ."

You didn't know that the well known 19th Century writer William Carleton had happy and indeed unhappy connections with Mullingar and its military. The 93rd Regt., a Scots unit, was garrisoned in the Barracks between 1820 and 1822. From the Barrack library Carleton borrowed books. He was a teacher in the town's first private school and taught the children of the Quartermaster, Ensign Guernsey. The latter had two sons and this connection saved Carleton from a brutal beating when the 93rd cut loose with cudgels one day in 1822 when the Regiment took — they would say just — retribution on the townsfolk who had a habit of hating, harraying, and meeting out even worse treatment, to the Scotsmen above in the Barracks.

But back to the Guernsey boys — Forbes and Wellington. The latter, and elder, was a very bright boy indeed and he later distinguished himself as a composer of music. He is credited with the still remembered and oft rendered "There is a tavern in the town". The town was Mullingar. It had then, and it has still, many taverns some say as many as forty-five going strong.

In the Courtmartial Book of Westmeath Regiment of Militia we read that Ensign Guernsey was the witness in many prosecutions — all successful. The offences were larceny and he was a key witness being the QM. Happily such practices have vanished now from Mullingar's military.

Sentenced to Death

A man who was to be a Command OC, a Chief of Staff and later head of the Defence Ministry was riddled with bullets whilst making a bid to escape his English escort found himself dying in the Barrack Guardroom. Local doctors gave him up and said there was no hope. He was hurried to King George V hospital, now St. Bricsins, in Dublin. Though not given long to live he was sentenced to death. More than fifty years later this writer was a fellow patient with I.T. General Sean MacEoin in that same hospital — the same man who had no chance of further life in March 1922 in Wellington Barracks, Mullingar. His account to me was modest and self-effacing but it made anything you have read in a thriller like a kids' Halloween Party.

One could go on and on relating stories of odd things and oddities in the military life of Mullingar. The editor lives by the rules of brevity and we have to keep an eye out for libel!

Westmeath Militia Court-Martial

Comdt. Padraic O'Farrell

with a curse on his lips, fell dead". Hunt was nonetheless captured and "was ironed and after visiting several of the towns in Virginia was confined in a tobacco factory at Richmong — bearing a suitable Government Warning, no doubt.

The object of that deviation was to illustrate the type of punishment that still hovers in the back of the mind when one thinks of Military Courts Martial and punishments.

Nowadays courts-martial seldom attract even a malingering soldier to sit through the proceedings but reading records of courts martial of the early part of the century can be intriguing. One such record, that of the Westmeath Regiment of Militia, is contained in copperplate writing in a strong vellum book of Thomas Pickering, Wholesale Stationer of No. 8 Abbey Street, Dublin. It is the reading of such a record that might well give the system of trial known as the court-martial its harsh name.

A trial of one Private Daniel Molloy, charged with having stolen gingham, the property of Private Thomas Kidd of the Regiment on 22nd June, 1816, and also charged with having struck the same Kidd repeatedly (baby bashing, Nineteenth Century style?) when in search of said property on the 23rd. On being duly sworn Private Kidd, First Witness, informed the Court that on the night of the 21st his oldest child informed him that she had heard the lid of the witnesses' trunk being lifted up and "SOMETHING WAS TORN". Witness got up and went to the trunk and took out the gingham and looked at it and put it back again but did not lock the trunk. On Sunday morning he measured the gingham and missed five and a half yards.

A PAIR of fellows called Gilbert and Sullivan achieved a certain amount of fame and not a little notoriety for their melodious joustings at the British legislature and judiciary. One famous ditty of theirs concerns itself with the awarding of a fit penance for offences grave or petty — making the "punishment fit the crime", in fact. Come to think of it, I have never seen a crime go about wearing a punishment, whether snug or ill-fitting.

The Rule of Law and the Legal System tends to strike awe into the majority of citizens, with their ancient trappings of wigs, briefs, benches and gavels. Its language places the Law even more remote from the very populace to which it ought offer protection and from which it ought command respect and even if the Learned Judge in "Trial by Jury" restored many a burglar to his friends and relations at the "Sessions or Ancient Bailey" legal personages and proceedings generally are regarded as being unsympathetic to the offender.

The type of trial which, in the public's eye, is held to be most treacherous and devoid of humanity is the Military Court Martial.

The mere terminology conjures up a picture of handle-bar-moustached officers weighed down with braid, brass and brachness and a sword or two seated in serried ranks and impatiently enduring the arraignment of a victim soldier, their thoughts on the previous afternoon's hunting (or the prospects of the coming night's hunting). The wildly imaginative will throw in a drummer or two waiting to escort the offender from the courtroom, past the collected members of the garrison to drum him out the gate amid boos and cat-calls.

Military punishments are often confused with punishments meted out to captured enemy in more glamorous swashbuckling days. Remarks on these punishments invariably followed most illuminating accounts of the one being taken prisoner. A delightful report on the capture of a Captain Ralph Hunt of the 1st Kentucky Regiment during the American Rebellion of 1861 states that Hunt was "making observations of the force and movement of the enemy", a rather awkward way of describing the collection of military intelligence, and came upon a part of the rebel force with whom was a fine looking officer called Loughborough who had been sent out to drill the Confederate troops in the region.

Seeing Captain Hunt he "poured a torrent of imprecations". What a delightful way of phrasing what Capt. Hunt later tells was said: "Come out you damned Yankee son of a bitch and be shot". Well the good Captain had a smooth-bore musket and Loughborough a Mississippi Rifle. They both fired simultaneously and "The Adjutant's ball whistled close by the Captain's ear but the Adjutant himself,

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...

For Family and Personal Requirements

"On Monday evening Prisoner met witness in the street and asked witness if he had said anything concerning his character. Witness said he had reason to suspect he knew something of ("had some knowledge of" deleted) the property he had lost."

After a denial from Molloy, Kidd told him to give it back if he had it and indeed was big enough to promise that—

if it was pledged that he (the Witness) would pay whatever was on it."

Was "pledging" the equivalent to "pawning" in those days?

The inevitable woman came into the picture then.

"the woman that lives in his (witnesses) house" gave it to the prisoner, he told the witness who, obviously not satisfied with this explanation later followed the prisoner to the public house.

"... and Prisoner struck witness and in the fight the Gingham (honoured with a capital "G" at this exciting stage) dropped from the person of Prisoner. Witness took it up and compared it to the remainder and it corresponded and witness swears positively it is his property."

The Second Witness Ellen Kidd, daughter of the First Witness told of hearing "Molloy's noise" in the house but did not explain how she could identify a noise as being positively Molloy's.

A Sergeant Fallon was Third Witness and more or less corroborated Kidd's evidence. He also told of his knocking on Kidd's door later that night and while talking to Kidd saw Molloy appear and he "knocked down Kidd while in conversation with witness".

The mysterious woman was obviously the Fifth Witness, Anne Byrne who when duly sworn simply stated that she gave Molloy the gingham while Kidd

was asleep whereupon, not surprisingly, the court adjourned until 11 o' clock on Wednesday, the 25th as certified by:

R. H. Sevinge, Capt.
Westmeath Regt.
President.

Sixth Witness.

"The Court having reassembled pursuant to adjournment Timothy Sheeran having been duly sworn informs the court that on Saturday the 21st., Prisoner Molloy came into the Guard Room and said that a Heifer gave it to him that he had been in company with."

"Byrne" is undoubtedly a form of MacBreen but the nomenclature used by Sheeran obviously alludes to the Mullingar Heifer of ancient fame and would have been a colloquialism on a par with today's "chick". How faithfully have we adhered to the farmyard in search of terms of endearment for our fair sex.

Under the heading "OPINION AND SENTENCE" we are assured that the court "maturely considered the evidence" and were of the opinion that Molloy was not guilty of the theft but was guilty of the second part of the charge. They sentenced him to six weeks of confinement in the guard room to do all duties and attend parades and mount guard as a sentence. A prisoner being a member of a barrack-guard is unthinkable in present day soldiering but in the case of Private Molloy the sentence bore the finality of:

"I approve

R. Tighe Major Com.g
Westmeath Regt."

On the 29th January, 1861, a Lance Corporal Eales was tried at Dundalk by a court comprising: Captain Levings (President) Lieutenant Nugent and Ensign Guernsey (members).

Eales was charged with being drunk when Corporal of the guard on the 26th. Three days would be a remarkably short period of time in which to convince and assemble a court-martial today since summaries of evidence and other formalities must be prepared before a court sits.

The First Witness here was Captain and Adjutant Wood of the Fifeshire Militia. He had found the Sergeant of the Guard absent and the Corporal arriving back to the Guard Room drunk. There is nothing to say what action was taken against the Sergeant for his absence although the court did question the Adjutant as to whether he considered this matter as significant, receiving a negative reply.

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There was no other evidence and the Corporal was found guilty and reduced to the rank of private. But that was not all.

He was also to —

"receive 100 lashes in the usual way when and where the Commanding Officer shall think fit."

Ponder on the word "where" a while!

Private James Kenny of Captain Daly's Company was charged with unsoldierlike conduct at the Custom House, slightly inaccurate since the unsoldierlike conduct consisted of Kenny's being sitting at the fire in a house *opposite* the Custom House where he should have been a sentinel. There is nothing to verify if the Custom House in question was Dublin's Custom House or if the house visited was on the other side of the Liffey if such were the case. Indeed all proceedings recorded lack the very vital "where" of an alleged offence which is of paramount importance in present-day framing of charges.

For his smoking at the fire the soldier received 200 lashes, again where and when his Commanding Officer thought fit.

Threats of a month's drill were resisted by a soldier who "opened pairs" in an unsoldierlike manner. For resisting and for "holding his hand in a threatening manner" he received a fortnight's confinement and just a token 100 lashes.

Seeking political favour was obviously frowned upon in 1817.

"Corporal James Nugent, confined by order of Colonel The Earl of Westmeath for unsoldierlike conduct tending to the subversion of the discipline of the Regiment by threatening to memorial or write to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant in consequence of his having been refused a furlough by Captain Adjutant Daly and for having since declared to Capt. Daly when reprehended for such improper language, that if he was obliged to do duty at the Headquarters of the Staff, he would apply to the Commander of the Forces for his discharge."

Despite both a defence plea to the effect that the prisoner was a young inexperienced soldier and a certificate of good character, Nugent was "confined in solitary confinement for one month" for his spunk. Come to think of it, why would a young inexperienced soldier require a pass to go to Castle-town Geoghan for an evening so badly?

Quartermaster Guernsey was dining at Clonhugh Lodge and had a car waiting to convey him back to barracks when he was astonished by a private who was "swearing he would use him the lassie way".

Guernsey asked him: "do you mean me, you rascal". "I mean you" came the reply "and at the same time he made a thrust at him with his —"

I swear to having consulted medical tomes in

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efforts to identify the illegible word. I confess to being reasonably knowledgeable on slang words that might have been used on such an occasion.

In any event, the accused "throws himself on the Mercy of the Court" and obviously hurts it for he is found guilty of a breach — of the Articles of War and received 3 months solitary confinement.

"The Court also puts him under stoppages exceeding half his pay until . . ."

Oh my goodness! My dear readers, I most humbly apologise. ". . . half his pay until the (that illegible word again) is made good."

Taking into consideration that the next case concerns a drummer I can only apologise again and conclude that the Private in question was also a bandsman who had his basoon along with him that evening. Well might you remark: "Well, blow it".

The soldiery must have had quite a set on Quartermaster Guernsey, who himself appears to have been somewhat of a martinet, for it was into the same Q.M.'s apartment that Drummer Gallagher of the Staff broke on the night of the 14th November, 1821. Not alone did he break in but he "Committed various deprivations therein" at four o'clock. The twenty-four hour clock was not in use in the forces of the time but we must assume that the time was four o'clock in the morning for a sentinel gave evidence of seeing him getting through the window of the house and thinking he was a servant. A Private Bamford also saw, at six o'clock,

"a thick set man with a yellow jacket coming out of the window which turns out to be . . ."

Would you believe Quartermaster Guernsey? Did the Westmeaths not use doors at all?

At any rate, a box containing some property belonging to Guernsey was found at the back of the barracks, broken open by a poker and Guernsey's room "had been abused and dirtied in a shameful manner".

Three hundred lashes and his discharge for having been "a disgrace to the Staff of the Westmeath Regiment" was the unhappy lot of the poor drummer boy.

Sergeant Sinclair, who sold the drummer a half pint of whiskey (note the "e") in the canteen, was charged at the same sitting with—

"having harboured in his Barrack room a stranger in no way belonging to the Military and for drinking with said stranger at a very late hour in the said quarters and with Drummer Gallagher who had been on that evening and for the whole of the Day in a Shameful State of intoxication."

The use of capitals in the chronicling follows no less a set pattern than do sentences. The sergeant received a mere month's confinement (solitary). The practice of giving sentences in months has long ceased as obvious confusions arose as to the beginning and end of a month. Military sentences are invariably given in days now.

There must have been a proper ball in the canteen on the night of the 14th for Sergeant John Cowen was drinking there after Tattoo Beating on the same night and, to make matters worse, did neglect to call the roll on that night; a task that would hardly have been inconvenient for the whole Regiment seems to have been in the Canteen with him.

Fagans, Donohoes, Dalys, Nugents, Dillons: Familiar names in the hamlets and villages of County Westmeath. Levinge, Guernsey, Roebottom, Pilkington: Names with an alien sound — the officer Corps, wielding their power over these militiamen committing their scandalous acts and being disgraces to their Regiment. It was this type of establishment, this type of force with foreign officers trying native militiamen that helped give the term COURT-MARTIAL a sinister ring. The court-martial system is a fair one but one must remark on the fact that in the court-martial book of the Westmeath Militia 1815 to 1821 there is not one acquittal. Was it a case of the punishment fitting the criminal, not the crime?

The Timoney Vehicles

Denis J. McCarthy

THE building of armoured vehicles is not a new venture for Ireland, the first efforts in this field having been made in 1922, when a number of Lancia armoured lorries were fitted with armoured roofs and firing ports to enable them to be used as armoured personnel carriers from which the occupants could fight without dismounting (Was this the first M.I.C.V.?). These were followed in the thirties by armoured cars built on Leyland chassis, while during World War II four different models of armoured cars were produced locally, some of which later saw service with U.N. forces in the Congo.

In 1972 it was decided to examine the possibility of constructing armoured vehicles here. The initiative for this development came from Professor S.G. Timoney, of University College, Dublin, (who had been involved in the design of the G.V. 600 SALADIN/SARACEN armoured vehicles), and with the backing of the Department of Defence, the requirements for such a vehicle were developed in co-operation with experts of the Irish Army.

The experience of the British Army had shown that A.P.C.s designed for use in a conventional battle situation had a number of serious disadvantages when used in urban counter-guerrilla operations, and the new A.P.C. was designed with these restrictions in mind, while still retaining the capabilities required for conventional military operations.

The vehicle was designed to have complete immunity at all ranges to small arms armour-piercing ammunition, and to provide the driver with the best possible field of view consistent with the same degree of protection. The crew were to be able to use their personal weapons from inside the vehicle, and to have a number of exits available. A roof-mounted turret with twin machine-guns was to be fitted, and the vehicle was to include protection against petrol bombs. It was to have good handling characteristics to minimise driver fatigue, and to give as comfortable a ride as possible, while having a good cross-country performance, and the ability to cross water obstacles without preparation. A high tractive effort was required for the removal of barricades and other obstacles. The final design was also to be capable of being manufactured without the resources of a highly sophisticated industrial base.

To meet these requirements, the Timoney Armoured Personnel Carrier was designed, and three prototypes constructed. The first prototype



3rd Prototype, final form.

was constructed mainly to prove the drive-line components, which introduced several innovations into A.P.C. design. The second and third prototypes differ in the shape of the armoured body and the arrangement of the air intakes, and have together completed many thousands of miles of test driving.

Description of Vehicle

The hull and turret are constructed of welded flat plates of a very hard armour steel, capable of resisting penetration by armour-piercing small arms fire. A total of seven firing ports are located in the hull, each permitting the use of an automatic rifle from within the vehicle. Two of these ports are fitted in the rear plate, flanking the door, with two more on the right-hand side of the vehicle, and three on the left side. Three doors, one on each side and one at the back, provide the crew with a choice of exit points, an essential requirement in urban conflict.

The drivers vision arrangements consist of three large area windows, mounted in the front glacis plate and the front corner plates, which are made of a specially developed laminated glass giving protection equal to that of the hull armour plate. The front window is hinged at the base so that it may be used as an emergency exit if required.

The turret mounts two MAG 7.62 machine guns, and is fitted with five vision blocks of the same bullet-resistant glass as used in the driver's windows. The hatch is in two parts which, in the open position, form a shield and a seat for the gunner.

The vehicle is amphibious without preparation, being propelled by the paddle effect of its wheels at about 3 mp.h. (4.8 km/hr) and an option propulsion system has been designed which would enable it to achieve a speed of about 7 mph (11 km/hr) although this is not a requirement of the Irish Army.

The Timoney A.P.C. is powered by a Chrysler 360 cubic inch displacement water-cooled V-8 spark ignition which is mounted behind the driver. This

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engine was chosen for its reliability and availability, and for compatibility with other Irish Army vehicles which are all petrol engined. A diesel engine could be fitted if required. The drive is taken from the engine to an Allison AT 540 fully automatic transmission, which gives four forward speeds and one reverse. The use of a fully automatic transmission considerably reduces driver fatigue as it adjusts to the traction required for changes in the ground without the intervention of the driver.

When running on roads, only the rear wheels are driven, four wheel drive being engaged for cross-country movement. The axle units, which are contained in the armoured hull, have oil immersed multiple disc brakes at each output shaft, which eliminates the need for vulnerable hydraulic connections outside the armoured hull. The final drive to the wheels is by a specially designed (and patented) epicyclic reduction gear in the wheel hub. All wheel stations have a wishbone type independent suspension with helical coil springs and coaxial hydraulic dampers (adjustable). Wishbone and kingpin bearings are of a unique design which require no maintenance.

The roof mounted air intakes incorporate a baffle system to prevent incendiary materials from being drawn into the vehicle. The exhaust pipes run along the edge of the roof and are left exposed to discourage any attempt to climb onto the vehicle.

Summary

To summarise, the vehicle is ballistically well shaped, with armour capable of defeating armour piercing ammunition fired at point-blank range, and excellent provision for the crew to use personal weapons. The twin turret mounted machine guns have an all-round field of fire, and the crew can enter or leave the vehicle from either side or from the rear, thus enabling them to dismount out of the line of fire. There is also a roof hatch fitted at the rear of the vehicle, and the front window forms an emergency hatch. The driver has the very wide field of view essential to urban operations, and the vehicles maximum road speed of 55 m.p.h. (88 km/hr) enables it to reach its operational area quickly, with driver and crew in good condition due to the ease of handling of the vehicle and the comfortable ride given by the all-round independent suspension. The high power-to-weight ratio (25 hp per ton) and good traction enables the vehicle to traverse broken ground easily and to clear barricades and other obstacles from its path, all of which contributes to the ability of the vehicle to complete its mission successfully.

Design studies have been completed for a family of vehicles, based on the proven components of the A.P.C., which includes an Armoured Reconnaissance Vehicle, an amphibious load carrier, a six-wheeled A.P.C. and an artillery tractor, which

**Technical Terms —
Recruit and Cadet Training**

IT is a curious coincidence that training NCOs all have loud voices and therefore appear to the uninitiated to be shouting. Naturally, this is not so and they would be horrified to hear that troops had that impression of them. All training NCOs are selected for their kindness and gentleness and they should be looked upon in a fatherly light. (It is barely possible that the odd misfit might slip through the selection net and these should be regarded in a motherly light.) But you can depend on one thing, they all have your happiness and comfort at heart and will do their utmost to cater for your every need. Some of the technical terms used by them may be confusing to the new recruit or cadet and to help them to familiarise themselves with these terms a short glossary is published below. This should be cut out and kept in the right hand breast pocket for easy reference. Do not hesitate to consult this list at any time (including when on parade).

- Get a ----- move on!** Slightly faster, please.
- You're bloody stuffed!** No, that's not quite right.
- You ----- eejit!** You've made a small error.
- You!!** The man beside, behind or in front of you.
- C.B.** Please stay in barracks.
- You scruffy -----!** Please try to be cleaner next time.
- Route March** Educational stroll.
- You're charged!** The CO would appreciate a word with you.
- Where the hell do you think you're going?** Come back, please.
- X*Z&OX !! (Censored)** I expected better of you.
- You ----- Shower!** Gentlemen . . .
- F.C.A. man** Sandbag.
- Sandbag** Small sack.
- Get Flynn!** Fall in, please.
- Sgt. Major** NCO in charge of troop comforts.
- Are you bloody blind?** Take note, please.
- Get your hands off your -----!** Remove your hands from your pockets, please.
- Haircut** Something NCOs get done.
- Reveille** Something everyone stays in bed after.
- Lunch** A meal only officers have.

'Sgt. Mick Murphy.

RECRUIT

The young recruit is silly - 'e thinks o' suicide.

'E's lost 'is gutter-devil; 'e 'asn't got 'is pride;

But day by day they kicks 'im, which 'elps 'im on a bit.

Till 'e finds 'isself one mornin' with a full an' proper kit.

Gettin' out o' dirtiness, gettin' done with mess.

Gettin' shut o' doin' things rather-more-or-less.

RUDYARD KIPLING



Timoney Armoured Personnel Carrier.

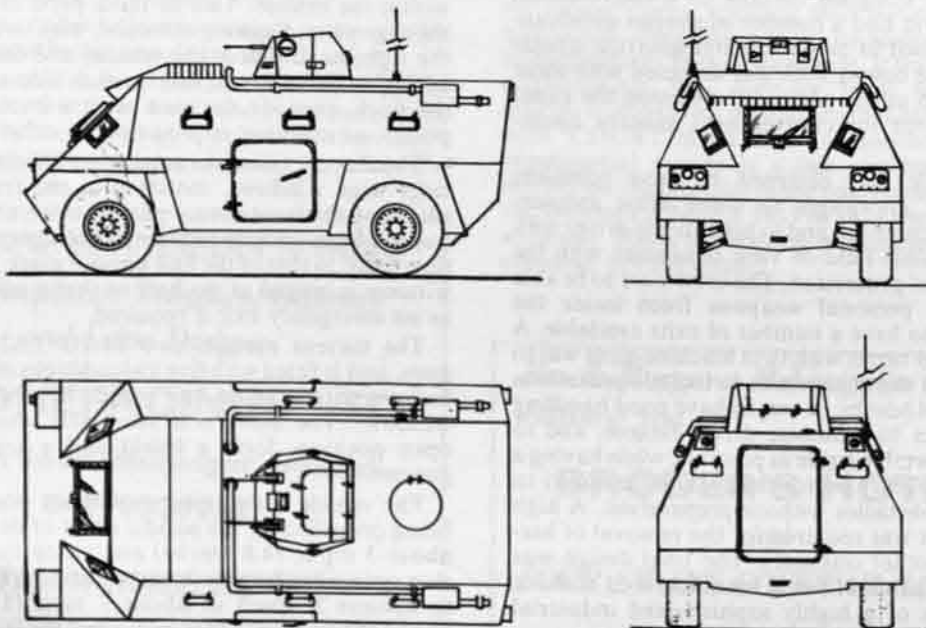
would utilise the drive-line components of the Timoney A.P.C., thus simplifying maintenance and logistic requirements.

The production vehicles will differ in some details from the prototypes, e.g. modified air intakes, but should prove to be a very successful vehicle and a very useful acquisition to any army which may have to face the possibility of urban guerrilla warfare, a contingency which unfortunately must now be included in the possible conflicts for which any army must prepare.

VEHICLE DIMENSION

Length, overall	188.5 ins.	4.95 m
Width	94.7 ins.	2.41 m
Height, hull	80 ins.	2.03 m
Height turret	97.5 ins.	2.48 m
Ground Clearance	15 ins.	0.38 m
Track	76 ins.	1.93 m
Wheelbase	112.8 ins.	2.87 m
Weight, unladen	8.3 tons	6 350 kg
Road Speed, maximum	55 m.p.h.	88 km/hr

TIMONEY A.P.C. — 3rd PROTOTYPE



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Modern Developments

Betalight Illuminated Necklight

ONE of the basic practical problems posed by night operations or training is the difficulty in providing sufficient artificial light for essential activities. The problem is compounded by the risk of detection when operations are conducted close to, or, as in the case of long range patrols, in rear of enemy locations, as anyone who has had experience of trying to read a map, write a message or read an instrument aided only by a shaded torch while huddled under a poncho on a dark, wet night will verify. Further headaches are created by the difficulties encountered in providing for an adequate supply of torches, batteries and spares. Indeed the old adage "For the want of a nail . . ." could be translated in modern terms to "For the want of a torch bulb . . ."

The recent development of a compact, self powered, maintenance free Necklight appears to provide the answer to the problems stated. This development has been made possible through the use of a "Betalight" light source which in simple terms consists of a glass capsule internally coated with phosphor and filled with tritium gas which has the effect of activating the phosphor and providing a self powered light source.

The Necklight utilises a "Betalight" capsule set in a small bell shaped housing. The housing has a ring attached and can be carried attached to a string or lanyard in a top pocket. Because the light source is recessed in the housing there is no lateral light spill when the Necklight is being used. The light source is strong enough to allow sufficient illumination for any close range activity such as message reading and writing, map and instrument reading and close examination of weapons and equipment. The Necklight can also be used attached to a stake or bayonet as a direction or position marker. The Necklight is robust and maintenance free, requires no external power source and has a minimum life of fifteen to twenty years.

"Betalight" light sources have many other military applications such as providing illumination in direction markers, use in instrument panel illumination and illumination for weapon foresights. However, it is its use in the Necklight that will impress the infantryman most as it provides a simple, low cost yet ingenious answer to one of the really practical problems of night operations and training.

Military History

Newpark Comprehensive School has set a lead in the study of Military History by its students. David Sheehy, a seventh year boy, produced a 45-page study of 'The development of the German Armoured Forces in the Second World War', complete with bibliography. The author has succeeded in giving a very good account of the German Armoured deployment during World War Two. In his introduction he states "It is my opinion that the Germans possessed the Greatest Armoured Force in World War II and that, had they nursed and cared for its development and deployment in the proper manner, they might have delayed the final result of the war by several years." He goes on to prove this point by reasoned arguments.

In conclusion he states that "In the German Armoured Force of World War II Hitler had a tool of victory". On this point I disagree with the author. While the German armoured force was unequalled for most of the war and had the undisputed capability of winning battles and campaigns, it could never have won the war as Hitler had envisaged it. Adolf had little understanding of the logistics of modern warfare. The North African Campaign was wasteful in men and materials and was a strategic burden on Germany.

Hitler's Russian Campaign was at best foolhardy. Napoleon had already shown that Russia was practically unconquerable due to its vastness, its manpower resources and its hostile climate. Napoleon's mistakes were repeated by Hitler who achieved even less. To mount such an assault on the Eurasian continent with such a puny force (3200 tanks) was tempting providence. While German Armoured tactics were frequently brilliant and well executed, the German strategy was hopelessly wrong. Tactical German successes were due more to Russian incompetence and lack of leadership than to Hitler's military genius.

E.H.

ORIENTEERING—NEW TROPHY FOR ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

A splendid new perpetual trophy for the winners of the Army Orienteering Championships has been presented to the Adjutant-General Col. Pat Dempsey by the President of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen, Mr. Paddy Hayes of Cork.

The trophy is to mark the silver jubilee of O.N.E. and will give a great boost to the Army Championships.

Present at the presentation at Army Headquarters were the Chief-of-Staff Maj. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan, the Assistant Chief-of-Staff Col. J. J. Quinn, the Director of Training Col. Dermot Hurley and three Vice-Presidents of O.N.E., Mr. Tom McGowan, Mr. Matt Roche and Mr. Michael Johnson.

The "Betalight" range of products is produced by Saunders-Roe Developments Limited of Hayes, Middlesex.

J.T.M.



An Old Soldier Talks . . . No. 2

"The Soldier's Best Friend"

I AM sure you have all heard it before — maybe you have heard it so much that it has become a joke. I thought it was a joke too in my young days. Indeed it was not until I had the opportunity of visiting other armies that I realised the full meaning of the phrase. I found in these armies who had gone through all the wars of this century a very keen awareness of the importance of the personal weapons. It seems that a strong tradition based on hard experience had built up regarding the care and maintenance of weapons. To take one example. I was taking part in a five-day field training exercise. I saw the battalion I was with automatically turn to cleaning, ciling and maintenance of their weapons and other equipment as one of their first actions in every break or lull in the activities. I kept a note and found that this amounted to an average of four times in each of the five days and a very thorough overhaul at the end of the exercises. Now that was some years ago when the standard weapon was the bolt action rifle. How much more important is good care and maintenance nowadays with all the intricate modern weapons?

I had another somewhat similar experience more recently when I spent a few days with the contingent of another country on UN service. I saw them in position and in movement and the one thing that struck me most forcibly was the attention paid to the care and condition of weapons and equipment. I came away with the feeling that this is an example that our units should follow.

From my observations of these other armies — all of whom had first hand experience of war — I can only conclude that these armies learned the lesson the hard way and have built up a habit and that consequently there is now no need for formal instruction on this matter anymore. We should all take a look at our attitude. We may well find that many of us are too lazy to give the time and attention needed

or that we just do not understand the importance. It may be that because our weapons and equipment do not come in for much rough treatment in peace time the need for care and maintenance may not be so apparent. But we should always bear in mind the disaster that could befall a unit which has neglected the building up of a sound tradition in peacetime. Put that unit in the field for a long campaign and sooner or later the bulk of its weapons will jam unless these are well maintained.

I mentioned earlier my observations of foreign armies. I could also mention what I saw in the Defence Forces in my young days. The NCOs and men of those days certainly had an ingrained feeling for care and maintenance and it was quite normal to see groups of soldiers — in the billets or out in the sun — repeatedly pulling through their rifles for over half an hour. They had become accustomed to doing this just as other men would whittle a stick or doodle on a jotter while they talked or joked. It had become something like second nature to them. And the results were plain to be seen. Their rifles were over 30 years in constant service and you would not find a single blemish on them after all that time. Other equipment such as wireless, night vision, etc., on which our lives may one day depend deserve equal care. If we pay proper care and attention they will not let us down when we need them.

A YOUNG SOLDIER REPLIES

ANY article or feature on military matters which provides food for thought or the basis for further comment and discussion will no doubt be welcomed not only by the Editor of *An Cosantoir* but by readers in general. It was therefore refreshing to find in the September edition that "An Old Soldier" had taken the time to put some of his ideas into print. However, I feel that much of the value of this series will be lost if those readers who agree or disagree or who have something to offer by way of complementing or amplifying the points made fail to take the time to do so. It is in this spirit that the following comments are made.

First of all the writer highlights a vital aspect of weapon training when, although dealing in the main with the optimum range of engagement he raises the need for the training of the individual soldier to make a tactical appreciation in the selection of targets. The training of a soldier to utilise his weapon in an operational situation must be seen as a progression through the classification range stage to the individual and section level field firing stage (conducted under realistic conditions with targets appearing at unspecified ranges) to the final stage of training the individual to select the most potentially dangerous target in a tactical situation. This individual level training does not of course detract from the exercise of fire control by junior leaders but in fact complements it.

On his main point of employing weapons at minimum ranges I feel that the writer is guilty of generalisation. The optimum range of engagement and the selection of fire positions are both situation dependent. In other words "Braitheann se ar an staid . . .". For example, in a defensive situation fires should be planned so as to subject the attacking force to an increasing volume of fire as it approaches the forward defended area. If the "whites of their eyes" rule is applied there is every danger that the position will be overrun by the sheer momentum of the enemy attack. In other situations where the mission is to delay, disrupt, harass or force deployment, weapons may have to be employed at or close to maximum effective ranges. In offensive operations where the technique of fire and movement is employed the covering

(Continued page 291)



COMDT BARRY CAGNEY, AIR CORPS (RETD.)

THE retirement of Comdt. Barry Cagney brings to an end the military career of one of the best known and most popular officers of the Air Corps.

His military career began in 1936 when he became a Cadet in the Italian Air Force, qualified as a pilot, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and served as an officer until 1939.

He then returned to Ireland and entered the Air Corps as a Cadet in May 1940. Having completed his "Wings" course he was selected for training as a flying instructor and he was engaged in that capacity until he became Chief Flying Instructor in the Basic Flying Training School at Gormanston in 1956, an appointment which he filled with distinction until the early sixties, when he returned to Casement and took over the appointment of O/C Photographic Section.

The list of pilots in the Air Corps, Aer Lingus and other places throughout the world who acquired their skill under Barry's guidance, is indeed a long one and the very many successful careers in aviation founded on his early instruction are the best tribute to him.

As O/C Photographic Section he brought the same enthusiasm to the task of developing this growing service and he became widely known and respected in this field both within the Army and by the many other Departments for whom the Photographic Section provides a service.

His unflinching cheerfulness, courage and generosity of spirit stamped him as one of the "characters" of the Air Corps. It has been a pleasure to soldier with him.

We wish Barry and his charming wife Patricia many happy years of retirement.

M.W.

RETIRED

He talked to a Pope, spoke to many Bishops and priests at home and abroad, chatted with Ministers of State and public representatives, members of the General Staff, all ranks of the Defence Forces, Secretaries and Higher Executive Officers of the Department, junior clerical assistants male and female. He had the hand of friendship for all. Sergeant Jimmy Cummins returned to civilian life on 4th October 1976, after having served as a most devoted servant of the State and a most loyal

member of the Defence Forces for almost twenty-three years. A native of Lahinch, Co. Clare he enlisted in the 7th Battalion on 7th December 1953, and after having served for two terms with the United Nations in the Congo, took up the appointment as Sergeant Clerk in the Office of the Head Chaplain in June 1962. He served with three Head Chaplains over a span of fourteen years, and he did his work so efficiently and cheerfully that he soon became the friend and indeed confidant to an ever widening circle of people. His great commonsense, his tact and his consideration and care for all made him a most popular figure. "Ask Jimmy" were the most commonly used words at Army Headquarters. A happily married man with a fine family, he served the Church well not only in his work and especially in helping to organise the Annual Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, but also in his personal life and example. He did the Army proud, and made them proud of him.

We wish him many years of health and happiness in his new employment.

P. McC.



First up

The 9th Air Corps Cadet Class, strength five, was commissioned on the 4th inst. It was the first Class to fly the new Fouga CM 170 jets, and Cadet N. J. McHugh was the first of the Class to fly solo; above he is being congratulated by his instructor, Lt. Kevin Humphreys.

(Air Corps photo)

Gentle Persuasion?

Military Police, and recruits for that Corps, should find interest in the article "Police Defensive Techniques" which featured in "Law Enforcement". This is the Journal of the U.S. Military Police (Vol. III Summer '76, No. 2). The article was written by Capt. Y. Yamamoto MPC and outlines a new programme of defensive techniques that combines martial arts movements, police tactics and applied psychology to form the three essential forms of police defensive techniques, i.e. verbal, verbal-physical and physical.

Being a former member of our own MPC and having had some years experience of the martial arts I couldn't help but feel that we could learn a lot from this programme because we are, in my experience, sadly lacking in expertise in all three forms of defence.

Though I know little of scientific verbal techniques I feel I am qualified to comment on the physical aspects of self defence. The short courses of unarmed combat involved in MP and recruit training are quite basic and are limited to a few techniques which are applicable only in certain circumstances. Even though the moves taught are often quite effective they are seldom rehearsed after courses are completed and so, soon forgotten. Then, when physical action is required, the student usually falls back on his own style of fighting, which in most cases is a series of unco-ordinated moves.

The martial arts cover a wide range of fighting techniques which originated in the eastern world. Some of these arts have been recognised and are being used by many armies around the world. Judo, Karate, Kung-Fu and Tae Kwon-do are among the most popular because of the great variety of defence and attack techniques which they offer for any given situation. It must be remembered that these are scientific forms of hand and foot fighting which have been perfected over a period of hundreds of years. The student of these arts learns not only how to defend himself against one or more opponents but also to be courteous, respectful, determined and above all the use of self control.

A Military Policeman or any man who has to enforce the law daily, who has these qualities, has no need to prove himself physically, therefore he will concentrate on verbal techniques and will do his utmost to avoid physical action. If it comes to the stage though where action is required he will act quickly, using the minimum of force with the greatest effect.

To my mind the use of martial arts movements and their frequent rehearsal afterwards would prove invaluable to any soldier who in his line of duty has to enforce the law, either civilian or military.

Sgt. Michael Connolly



This photograph from the September 1944 *An Cosantoir* shows what the smart soldier looked like. It illustrated a feature by Capt. M. N. Gill (now Colonel). The subject of the photograph was Pte. Pat Cashman of the 4 Bn. More recently (the photograph below) Mr. Cashman (on right) now with Youghal Carpets Ltd is seen presenting a prize to the winner at Douglas Golf Club, Cork.



Some birds!

Birds can be trained to identify an enemy target and then drop a micro-beacon (with a self destruct mechanism) onto it. The target may be a specific one such as a tank, or into a target area such as a concentration of troops or a gun position. The micro-beacon could then 'demand' a missile and guide it into the target.

(*Army Journal, Australia*)

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What the Papers Notice

skjold made this comment in the *Sunday Press*: "No one whom Dayal met during his term of office seems to have impressed him more than Lt. Gen. Sean McKeown. What a pity he (Gen. McKeown) has not yet published an account of his Congo activities? Has any Irish soldier done so? The Irish Army covered itself with glory in its Congo service with the UN. The country still knows far too little about all it did there. The Congo was its finest hour; it seems wrong to allow this to be forgotten."

So all you Congo veterans, off with your mosquito nets and your modesty and get on with your memoirs.

Sponsored Manoeuvres?

Exercise "Afton Major" received widespread Press and TV attention. The *Irish Times* sent out another lady, Renagh Holohan, to brave the elements. Do you think Seamus Kelly's Emergency boots are letting-in?

Sean Lynch in the *Independent* reported that the aim of the exercise was to gauge how well the Reserve Brigade could move its men on a round trip of 600 miles. And despite morning warnings from the CIE men on RTE Radio the very large convoys caused no Afton Major traffic jams. They probably moved the trucks in packets of 20.

One Cork Officer was excused the exercise as he's trying to give up smoking. He has promised to turn out for Operation "Double Diamond".

Red Herrings

Of course when it came to publicity and press coverage, the Navy came sailing home at the top of the list with the *Skibereen Eagle* flying from every masthead. The saga of *Grainne* assisted by *Banba* versus *Belomoyre* made headlines everywhere. The *Daily Mirror* forsook its usual titillating photograph and proclaimed "YOU WIN-SKI!". The *Daily Telegraph*, not our greatest supporter, reported "Russian super trawler seized by Irish Troops!" At home the *Independent* claimed that "Irish Navy grit and inventiveness triumphed over Russian strength". Then they lost a little status by referring to "Russian speaking Naval Lieutenant Martin Bates". Comdt. Bates, of course, had been sent winging to the scene with the definitive Russian translation of "Are you looking for a kick up the transom?"

As the matter is still *sub judice* we'd better hove-to here by reporting that the Court proceedings were adjourned to allow the Navy to attend a commissioning at Haulbowline. Some of the Russian crew took the opportunity to visit Blarney Castle. If you can't beat them, join them.



Generalities

Incidentally, do we feed our visitors too well? Sophisticates who get the *Sunday Times* may have read "One Man's Week" by Lt. Gen. Sir James Wilson, GOC, South East District, well-known to Cyprus Units like the 5th and 6th Inf Groups. The Lt.-Gen. tells of his Tuesday visit to a TAVR Battalion at Otterburn — "Watched field firing, granade throwing; late Sandwich Lunch and back to Aldershot".

A sandwich lunch for a General, it used to be caviar surely.

Speaking of Generals, as every ambitious young officer should, Prionsias Mac Aonghusa reviewing Rajeshwar Dayal's book *Mission for Hammar-*

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It's Tougher Down Under

"*Reveille*", the New Zealand Armed Services Magazine, had this account of a Royal Guard of 100 men from HMNZS "Canterbury" provided for the Ceremonial Opening of Parliament in Wellington.

"The Guard, under the command of Lieut. Commander John Crownshaw, found itself the target of a barrage of tomatoes and eggs hurled by protesting demonstrators. Demonstrators also jeered the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, Sir Denis Blundell. The Guard Commander often found his orders drowned out by the roars of the crowd. A few naval ratings were hit by flying missiles but none were injured."

It sounds like a report of a courtesy (?) visit by L.Es "Grainne" and "Banba" to Murmansk.

Bombs and Bicycle Clips

Only the pen of J. P. Duggan could do justice to the barrage of publicity resulting from that September Shoot in the Glen of Imaal. All the big guns were there, the Taoiseach, the Minister, U.S. and French Attaches, and the Chief of Staff surrounded by a solid phalanx of Colonels.

The *Cork Examiner* man headed his piece "Difficult to Buy Ammunition for Army Guns". He went on to explain that our equipment though old is serviceable (which sounds as if the girls have been gossiping again) and that it is becoming increasingly difficult to buy ammunition for the artillery guns on the international market.

The *Independent* had a striking picture of a gun position but the *Irish Times* took the (then) unusual step of sending a lady, Caroline Walsh, to cover the event. As a sensible shopper, Caroline ascertained the price per round. "£200 the mortars, £100 the 25 pounders, and £50 the Beautiful Bofors". Fortunately, like the Recruit who failed his T.O.E.T., she neglected to count the number of rounds. So we were spared the grand total for the day and the Retiring Director's gratuity is still intact.

But Caroline did winkle out one piece of information which could have far-reaching (?) results. Some susceptible subaltern confided in her that "our heavy mortars were identical to those dismantled by the Communists in VIETNAM and carried with ease down the HO CHI MINH trail on BICYCLES!" Contracts Officer:

"Cancel that order for Prime Movers. Get on to the Gardai at Kevin Street and find out when they're having their next sale of second-hand bikes."

Arty, Arty, give me your answer do
Can those rumours going around be true?
They say in Army Headquarters
That you and your heavy Mortars
Will destroy those tanks
And protect our flanks
From a bicycle built for two.

Hell Hath No Fury

Be warned, it's not safe to invite lady correspondents anywhere. Mary MacGoris of the *Irish Independent* was invited to visit West Point, Military Academy with the Garda Choir. The choir sang in the chapel of the Holy Trinity, then looked forward to lunch and a tour of the famous Cadet School. Let Mary tell it—

"I must say I was outraged when the choir was asked to pay 5 dollars a head for the unspeakable brunch which preceded our tour of the place. It consisted mainly of watered-down mince, potatoes neither whole nor mashed and cooked without salt — no mean detective herself is our Mary — some almost liquid scrambled egg, thin grilled sausages and a mushy, tasteless kind of coarse semolina which they call *grits* but which looked and smelt to me like the stuff they used to give the hens before scientific feeding."

"The money incidentally was all collected from each table *before* we were permitted to serve ourselves. So I was the more scandalised when some official in the middle of a welcoming speech said that if anyone had forgotten to pay 'the small stipend' he could give it to him quietly afterwards. All I can say is it would'n't happen at the Curragh nor yet at the Phoenix Park Depot."

All I can say is that the young Cadet who took Mary on a tour of the College after lunch must be in line for the Congressional Medal, or at least the Purple Heart.

Memo to Mil Coll: If Mary comes to lunch, for Pearse's sake put salt on her potatoes.

Home Truths

An Cosantoir Vol. XXXVI, No. 9 (The September edition, to you).

On the Contents page the following cautionary note appears: "The fact that an article appears in this journal does not indicate official approval of the views expressed by the author".

And which article is listed immediately across the page from this warning:

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NA FORSAI COSANTA AGUS AN POBAL

IN alt le Dónall Mac Amhlaigh faoin teideal thuas, a foilsíodh san *Irish Press*, deir sé go bhfuil meas agus cion ag pobal na tíre go léir ar na Forsaí Cosanta sa lá atá inniu ann, ach nach mar sin a bhí an scéal tráth dá raibh.

Agus gan amhras tá a thuisceint féin ag Dónall, iar-shaighdiúir de chuid an Chéad Chathláin ar na cursaí seo, mar is eol d'aon duine a leigh "Dialann Saighdiúra".

Agus suil a chaitheamh siar aige, deir Dónall: "Bhí tú in ann a bheith cinnte go n-eiteofai tú faoi dhó in aghaidh chuile uair a ghlacfaí leat." Ag tagairt do chailíní sna hallaí rinneadh a bhí sé. Ach deir sé nach mar sin a bhí an scéal in gConamara.

"D'fheadfaí dul ag ceiliú no coisir in gConamara faoi eide airm agus i leaba dí-mheas a bhéith ort is amhlaidh go mbeadh a bheag nó a mhór den omós duit. Bhí rud sa Ghaeltacht thiar nach raibh sa chuid eile den tír ach ar eigeán — sé sin, meas ar cheird an tsaighdiúra." "Bhíodh scéal ag dul thart nuair a bhíodh sa san arm" arsa Dónall: "Cailín a bhí torthach ó shaighdiúir éigin, chuaigh sí ag deanamh scéala air go dtina chaipíní complachta agus nuair a bhí an complacht ar fad amuigh ar an chearnóg le go bpiofadh an cailín an fear ceart amach, chuaigh an cailín síos tríd na rangaí gur shín mear ar an bhfear a d'fhág an bhaill sin uirthi. Ach má rinne, thug chuile shaighdiúir eile coiscéim chun tosaigh ag dearbhú go ndeachadar go léir leis an gcailín." Comradaíocht!

Sin é an scéal agus má tá breá ag ann bíodh.

P.O'S.

Glen of 'em all

A letter-writer to the *Irish Times* wishes he 'could share Caroline Walsh's evident enthusiasm for the Army's manoeuvres in the Glen of Imaal (*Irish Times* report, September 14th). No one would grudge the Army lads an invigorating and exciting day out in the fresh air, but, dear God, what a mess they leave behind.

The otherwise beautiful Glen of Imaal is littered with the unsightly evidence of previous manoeuvres — craters, rusting remains of military vehicles, fragments of shells and other unlovely paraphernalia. Altogether a sorry spectacle for the many visitors who frequent the Glen.

I know the Army own this area, but surely this is a poor excuse. A few days spent in cleaning up would transform the whole Glen. As it is: Army rule not so OK.—Yours, etc.,

DAVID HERMAN,
13 La Vista Avenue,
Sutton,
Co. Dublin.

Baluarte . . .

is the title of the Military Journal of the Portuguese Army, which commenced publication this year and appears monthly. It is a very well produced magazine, featuring illustrated papers on modern equipment and discussions on international affairs. The Editor is Col. Alipio Tome Pinto, and the subscription is \$150 per year. As there is no translator of this language on the military panel, the Editor would be pleased to hear from any member of the Forces who is interested in *Baluarte*.

Vittorio Bene?

Capt. Pdraig O Siocru, R.O., who has just completed this year's annual training period, was the author of 'Cerbh e Vittorio Bene?', the weekly play in Irish broadcast by RE on 25 September. Mary Leland, in the *Irish Times*, wondered if 'work of this quality was broadcast earlier in the evening it would be heard by a larger and more attentive audience'. Also from RE, TV this time, comes thoughts of a series based on the Curragh in the War Years, with Internees of different nationalities swapping repartee with their guards. What the Irish troops in the Congo in 1960 swapped with the Scandinavians was speculated on by Mary Kenny in the *Sunday Independent*, when she was discussing censorship.

Up again

Congratulations to newly promoted Cols. P. Quinlan and R. Mac Ionraic; the latter remains as ADC to the tUachtaran, while the former becomes O.C. Observer Corps. Lt. Col. P. D. Kavanagh has been posted as OC Arty School, Kildare on his promotion; he is the author of the 'Army Handbook', which has been in constant demand since its first publication in 1968. The new senior dental officer to the Army is Lt. Col. Basil Dalton, who now moves from Cork to Dublin, while another dental officer, John Campbell is promoted to commandant. Also promoted to the latter rank is Denis K. Doyle, attached to Army Headquarters.

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The Minister for Defence, Mr. P. Donegan, arriving at the Naval Base, Haulbowline for the Commissioning ceremony on October 7th; he is accompanied by Lt. M. Clifford NS, Lt. Cdr. L. Smith NS is pictured administering the Oath to Cadets G. O'Donoghue, C. Grant, M. Gibbons and S. Anderson during the ceremony. In the background is the LE Setanta which was renamed by Mrs. Donegan prior to the commissioning. The vessel was formerly the Irish Lights tender 'Isolda'.

(Photos: Naval Service)

Tight Lines and Grasshoppers

Forty fishermen in thirty boats took part in the Army Fishing Competition on Lough Sheelin in early September, in weather conditions which ranged from perfect to terrible. Next year will be the 21st anniversary in the series, and special celebrations are being planned. Prizewinners this year were:

Beaumont Cup (Heaviest Catch)

Comdt. Noel Bergin
2 Fish — 4 lbs 8 ozs.

Leggett Cup (2nd Heaviest Catch)

Capt. Noel Kelly
3 Fish — 4 lbs 7½ ozs.

Bord Failte Tankard (3rd Heaviest Catch)

Comdt. T. Carroll
2 Fish — 3 lbs ¾ ozs.

Fox Plaque Heaviest Fish)

Rev. Fr. Matthews
1 lb 11 ozs.

Aherne Cup (2nd Heaviest Fish)

Col. M.J. Murphy
1 lb 10½ ozs.

O'Brien Trophy (Artificial Fly only)

Lt. Col. E. Cusack
2 Fish — 2 lbs 6 ozs.

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Drive and Endeavour . . .

These qualities are attributed, by the *Cork Examiner*, to Comdt. George Glendon who has retired after 37 years service in the Southern Command. He has been elected honorary chairman of the Rehabilitation Institute's Cork Fundraising Committee, and he has already filled the offices of president of the Cork Lions Club and treasurer of the building committee of the Cork Opera House.

Under Two Flags

'It was not a battle; it was the frightful tangling of men and brutes. No contest of modern warfare, such as commences and conquers by a duel of artillery and, sometimes, gives the victory to whosoever has the superiority of ordnance, but a conflict, hand to hand, breast to breast, life to life, a Homeric combat of spear and sword even while the first volleys of the answering musketry pealed over the plain.' Graphic stuff, from the pen of *Quida* 1867. The story, a foreword informs, was 'originally written for a military periodical. It was fortunate enough to receive much commendation from military men, and for them it is now specially issued in book form. What present day liberated female writer could merit such compliments from the troops?

Them's troops!

'The Army, for long the butt of gibes from the native begrudgers, and from "Republicans" has earned the affection of the citizens because of its steadfast non-involvement in politics and its contribution to peacekeeping operations in the 1960s under United Nations auspices," according to Prof. J.A. Murphy, UCC, in the course of a lecture 'Identity Change in the Republic of Ireland', read at the MacFirbus annual School of History in Ennis-crone.

Irish Times

In the blood . . .

Buglers were required in the Western Command, and applicants arrived to be tested, as required. After the two representatives from one barracks had been heard the examiner called in a waiting man; he passed, and went for training, though he was only the driver waiting to bring his men home.

ARTILLERY SHOOT



1 AA Regt, Kildare, demonstrating the fire power of the Bogors L70 in the Glen of Imaal on 13th September last.
(Photo: Tom Burke, Irish Independent)



An Taoiseach, Mr. Liam Cosgrave, inspecting 8 Bty, 4 Regt. Heavy Mortar position in the Glen Imaal on September 13th last. A full Regiment, with a total of twenty-two guns took part in the demonstration. Picture shows, L to R: Lt.-Col. M. Fitzsimons, OC Arty Depot and School; Lt.-Col. J. White, OC 2 Regt; Comdt. P. O'Farrell, OC 8 Bty; Col. J. A. Nolan, Director of Artillery; An Taoiseach; Lt. J. Hamill, Gun Position Officer.
(Photo: Lt. C. Milner, 4 Fe Arty Regt)



Heavy Mortars of the 4 Regt. in action in the Glen of Imaal on September 13th 1976.
(Photo: Lt. C. Milner)

AFTON MAJOR



The Army's Reserve Brigade, composed of Regular Units from the Southern Command, took part in Internal Security exercises in Co. Cavan from the 4th to the 6th October. Over 1,500 men and 160 vehicles, with aircraft from the Air Corps were involved. Pictures, by Air Corps photographers, show the 4 Bn enroute, 12 Bn erecting tents, and their area beside Kilmore cathedral; men from the 12 Bn having a break, and preparing to move out; a search in progress, and back in camp, routine work continues.

ARMY RUGBY XV - 1976/77

THE Army Rugby side, re-constituted in 1975 for the centenary of the I.R.F.U. has had two most successful seasons.

Annual matches with the Leinster Senior League Champions WANDERERS F.C. and the GARDA SIOCHANA were convincingly won at home and away and the only defeat was by CONNACHT last season.

The opening fixture for this season takes place against CONNACHT on Sunday 24th October at 15.00 hrs. in ATHLONE. The provincial team won last year's fixture 10-3 in a disappointing game in GALWAY. Both sides will be better organised this season and a better game is in prospect.

The WANDERERS and G.S. fixtures will be played later in the season and the Army side will find the going tougher. WANDERERS especially will be keen to erase the memory of two defeats and will be careful to field their strongest side. The G.S. will have a new intake from which to strengthen their team.

There is already talk of one of the French army sides coming here later this season so there is plenty of incentive for the players and with the Curragh R.F.C. now fielding three teams weekly and McKee R.F.C. newly affiliated there is lots of competition and many new faces.

One of the most significant aspects has been the selection of four non-commissioned personnel for the Army side and the contribution being made by other ranks in the Command sides is significant. This can only lead to better sides and tougher competition, as the Army Championship has shown in recent years.

V.

Boxing back . . .

The *Irish Independent* reports that 'there is an encouraging outlook for the revival of Army boxing' with the application of the Eastern Command for membership of the IABA. Capt. Des Hearn was the man who made the application saying 'he felt the Command had a lot to offer boxing and that their boys, although confined at present to Army competition, could now gain access to open competition, a situation he felt would benefit the boxing association as well as enrich army and civilian relationships'.

Footnote

Updating of an old proverb:—

"There's no smoke without a Government Warning."

ADV. TRAINING



REVERIE

AND so we are back on the threshold of function time. Function was a most versatile word — Use, Official duty, Occasion, Ceremony, Operate, Work; it had a number of **functions**. Now it is almost solely used to describe a formal type party, a dinner, a dance or the flogged to death combination — the dinner-dance.

Dinners are useful events, you know, especially the mixed ones. No, no, not the entree and main course served with the Mouse au Chokolade Basque — the **diners** are mixed. It is not stag. The jokes must be polite.

Garrison dinners give the Second Lieutenant the chance to show how red and gold his insignia is beside the faded cerise and dulled ochre of the Colonel's and how young and vivacious is his partner beside — Don't worry, sir. You know the proverb about the fiddles — violins, that is. Is there a back way out of this page, Mr. Editor?

Dinners give the NCOs' Mess President the chance to show the Corporal's wife the esteem in which he is held within the barrack walls. 'Esteem in which he is held . . . ' Reminds one of a Sergeant in stocks in a sauna. **Stocks**, not socks, you twit.

At the men's dinner, Private Richards talks a little louder than normally. He smiles broadly at visiting officers and leans over to tell his wife that he has great time for Captain Dunne, there . . . He has, too. He's in before Capt. Dunne regularly.

9 p.m. say the Invitation Cards. The 3rd Battalion, believing that even civilians are soldiers, say 2100 hours. But rumour that goes around of its being "Nine for half nine", becomes altered to "Half eight for Nine". At 8.35 the Mess Caterer's spouse, who has been informed that good example is expected of her, sits furious in her trouser suit alone in the ante-room sipping a sherry. The caterer is downstair sipping the soup. She sits more furiously at 9.05 when that horribly pretty Miss Cleary breezes in, oozing confidence (among other things) in a haut-couture evening gown of turquoise tulle. The unfortunate caterer had told his wife to "wear anything".

At 9.50 a trousered trauma sits to dine amid sartorial sumptuousness and when squeezing the lemon on her seafood cocktail its juice squirts into the Brigade O.C.'s eye.

Did you ever hear the silence? Oh but it's not a paradox. You can hear the silences at formal dinners. There are two of them. The first occurs when the initial consignment of small talk, which is used with no care for economy, is expended. The weather is good for another three minutes. (The weather outside is bad) but an impatient diner

changes the subject to children's ages too soon. And prices of dining-out lasts three minutes instead of five. So the first silence occurs as the brussels-sprouts arrive to join the creamed celery. The guest of honour, who has been trying to find the notes for his speech, things he has been noticed groping down around the feet of the C.O.'s wife. He sits suddenly erect, bumps his head off the edge of the table, knocking his glass of red. Mrs. Kelly opposite watches the evil liquid flowing in her direction — or more precisely, in the direction of her white dress — and side sits. (A manipulation of the term "side-steps" — another first for Scherzo!)

Everybody looks in her direction thinking that some distress in which she has found herself is causing the silence. It lasts for thirty seconds — nobody speaking, nobody moving (except an embarrassed young officer fidgeting with his gateaux fork) but it seems like thirty minutes. It is inevitable — just as is the second silence.

The second silence cometh when some new entry decides to smoke before the toast to an tUachtaran and gets jabbed by her escort. The silence has nothing to do with this incident but it always coincides with some gaffe in order to make the offender more acutely aware of his or her error.

By speechmaking-time the wife of the caterer, feeling — oh so neglected, (for isn't he hopping up and down like mad, looking after everybody but her) has had her fill of patronising remarks about the culinary prowess of the man in her life and, remembering that he won't even boil an egg for her at home, she tells him the truth: that the ham was too salty and the turkey too dry and the gravy insipid. Her timing is perfect. The last barb (about the Baked Alaska being goeey) rings out just as the first speaker is announced and her sauce spicing spouse has to sit and seethe throughout the predictable prelude to the evening's oratory (alliteration is so appetising).

A gavel and block is the traditional method for calling for silence at dinners. Tapping a glass with a spoon was fine in the days when glasses were glasses and diners were less vocal. (Speechmaking-time never arrives during a "silence"). Medical guests do

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not appreciate having to administer first-aid for flying glass wounds during the toast to the President. A bell may be used but a referee's whistle is most unrefined.

Speechmaking — will be the subject of another edition of "Reverie", when Scherzo promises to pass on advice received from some well known after dinner speakers.

When grace has been said diners move to cloak-rooms and lounges — except for those that remain sitting and expounding on the fact that they were aching to get up and leave during the speeches. They still have not got up and left a half-hour later when an impatient staff want to clear off the tables.

The period immediately following the ending of dinner is a crucial time for a social evening. If the dinner has dragged on one is particularly inclined to deliberate on whether the break should be made there and then, knowing full well that one drink for the road is just not practical unless one is a bit of a recluse. Mess Caterer's wives in trouser suits usually leave at this stage.

Formality ends with the Gaelic Coffee and the transition from formal-function to party is swift and sure. Distressed barmen battle to cope with the first rush of orders. The bar door is left open, more to ventilate the place than to allow easy access to the ladies returning from the face renovating bay. A silly, inexperienced party-goer attempts to sing but is completely ignored — and will be for quite some time. Guests are surrounded by military men anxious to hold conversation with somebody who will not inevitably select the winning of the Brigade Shoot as a conversation piece.

Rounds will not be firmly established for some time yet. The Mess is in a state of flux. Partners are separated and unlucky ones find themselves involved in two or perhaps three rounds.

But the settling in soon takes place. The sing-song section secure seats in the Piano corner (alliteration is so musical!). The hard core conversationists stand near the door and in between, representing the majority, are the movers. They move around sampling a little of what every group has to offer, tarrying where they find the most stimulating conversation, (or the most attractive lady) ready to join in the singing should it transpire successfully or condemn it should it prove abortive.

But nobody minds. Dinner has become party. Conviviality reigns. Old grievances are forgotten (even if only temporarily). Another successful function is assured.

(Footnote: Meanwhile back at the residence, the Mess Caterer and his wife fight.)

50 YEARS AGO

RATES of pay as per Army List and Directory 1926:

Lt. General £1,000 per annum.
Ptd. Class V. 1/- per day.

Pay for the Regular Army came to £2,275,000 and the Army Estimate total came to £7,245,000.

Some familiar names appearing in the list:

Maj. Gen. J.V. Joyce, Capt. W. O'Kelly, Comdt. Liam Egan, Comdt. Chas. Mac Allister, Comdt. D. Bryan.

O.C. of Kildare Bks was Maj. P.A. Mulcahy and his Q.M. was Capt. Richard Callanan.

The Lewis Gun Manual gives exciting methods of training gunners for an anti-aircraft role — like using a soldier with a model aeroplane on a stick, painting aircraft on the ceilings of billets, etc. (. . . and they thought the dome trainer was an innovation!).

The U.S. "Infantry Journal" in a type of 'you never had it so good' article tells about the unhappy lot of Japanese soldiers.

Apart from doing his own laundry, getting till 5 p.m. off on Sunday as his free-time allotment " . . . there is much confiscation of Mack Sennett bathing beauties, whose charms are appreciated in Japan as elsewhere". (How demoralising!).

Comdt. Tom Fox was Training Officer in Western Command in 1926. The late Colonel's associations with the Command go back a long time.

It was announced in October 1926 that the married establishment Quota of Units of the Forces would be:

Sgts. Maj., B.Q.M.Ss, C.Ss,	100%
Sgts. Cpls, Ptes in M.P.C.	50%
N.C.Os and Men of A.S.M.	200%
(Harmony in marriage more likely, perhaps!)	

Sgts. Maj., B.Q.M.Ss, C.Ss	100%
Sgts. Cpls, Ptes in M.P.C.	50%
N.C.Os and Men of A.S.M.	100%
(Harmony in marriage more likely, perhaps!)	
Sgts. other than M.P.C. & A.S.M.	50%
Cpls (ditto)	25%
Ptes (ditto)	10%

When a fraction arises the next higher number will be allowed. When the number of men allowed falls below the quota any addition that may be made thereto must conform to the full requirements (. . . and rightly so).

The N.C.O. or Pte must be 20 years of age.

The soldier and his wife must be suitable to occupy Govt. quarters. (By Jove, but there was some calculation and accountancy about marriage then. Talk about the poor old 90%)

SCHERZO

Book Reviews

THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN IN IRELAND 1919-1921 (THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY POLICIES) by Charles Townshend. Oxford University Press. £8.50.

In as much as they supported the political and civil institutions, the courts and the rule of law, the people of Ireland, circa 1912, supported the State. If the question of who or what should constitute the sovereign power was in dispute, the method by which power would be transferred (i.e. by constitutional means) was generally accepted.

In May 1920, the Law Adviser at Dublin Castle — Mr. Wylie — wrote: "the root reason why the present administration of Ireland is so difficult is that there is no body of people (or call it public opinion) behind the administration". In June of that year a member of Lloyd George's Cabinet — Walter Long — was told by a friend from Co. Limerick: "everybody is going over to Sinn Fein, not because they believe in it, but because it is the only authority in the country".

The extent of this change in allegiance is fully illustrated in the following extract from Dr. Townshend's Work "the reports of Resident Magistrates showed that British Law had broken down across 13 southern counties. At New Ross, the Sinn Fein appeal court was presided over by an ex-Indian Army Officer; in some places, Sinn Fein local councils were even levying a 6d rate to pay the Republican police. The summer assizes next month (July, 1920) became a laughing-stock: at Sligo, 35 out of the 40 civil bill appeals listed had been transferred to Republican courts; at Cork, Galway and Waterford the assizes fell through completely for lack of jurors — the 'Competent Military Authority, I.R.A.' having notified them that to attend would be regarded as an act of treason".

But Dr. Townshend is not solely concerned with what he describes as "a significant failure of modern state power". In a short (206 pages) but comprehensive book, *The British Campaign in Ireland, 1919-1921*, he analyses the interaction between government, army and police and their influence on policy and administrative decision-making.

The campaign of civil resistance and guerrilla warfare began in 1919. For this the 'anomalous' and 'almost unworkable' Irish Executive was unprepared as was the British Government absorbed in making a European peace. British response, if what was by then almost a reflex action can be so described, included a change of personnel in the Irish Executive, redress in the form of new legislation (in this instance, the Government of Ireland Act), and coercion, i.e., restore law and order before introducing reform. It was assumed that the restoration of law and order would separate moderate opinion from the extremism of Sinn Fein and that the governments reforms would then receive the support of the majority. It was not clear how this was to be done. The personnel newly appointed to the Irish Executive faced, in the words of the then Irish Correspondent of the *Daily News* — Hugh Martin,

- (1) no Government policy to take up and carry through.
- (2) no Government machinery in good working order, except the army;
- (3) no public opinion on which to play except a mass of confused resentments."

In the absence of government policy matters tended to drift with events. Neither the nature of the conflict nor "the respective roles and aims of the police and military forces" were defined. In the prevailing conditions every strike at the guerrilla forces involved the ordinary population and further alienated them from the state. In such circumstances how could order be restored, how effective was the available machinery, i.e., the police and the army?

Numerical weakness and dispersion (9,300 for 1,332 stations) made it necessary to withdraw the R.I.C. from the smaller stations and abandon rural areas in the face of I.R.A. attacks. This withdrawal coupled with the community's social and

economic boycott of the R.I.C. depleted their capacity as a civil police force. Incidentally a tacit understanding between the I.R.A. and the D.M.P. allowed the latter to continue normal police work (i.e. non-political duties) undisturbed. The government, claiming that the I.R.A. campaign made a constitutional settlement impossible while at the same time anxious to avoid giving 'the troubles' the status of a war or insurrection, needed to keep the police to the forefront. In the period of post-war retrenchment it was easier to get money for the police than for the army. So, although they lacked the discipline, training and command system necessary for the control of men in combat situations, the R.I.C. was armed, expanded and employed along military lines. The warnings of General Maxwell in 1916 and the Inspector General of the R.I.C. in 1919 (Brigadier-General Sir Joseph Byrne) appear to have been ignored. What was politically advantageous in the short term proved to have disastrous effects. Militarization of the police made possible the violence of the Black and Tans and made a mockery of law enforcement.

The British Army at the end of World War I was the most powerful force that the state had ever known. This accolade did not extend to the military forces in Ireland. Despite reorganisation — from three districts to two divisions — in November 1919 many weaknesses remained. Divisional organisation provided lower command levels with the required degree of control but it could not improve the standard of efficiency amongst the officers. Neither could it offset the losses in experienced NCOs and men. These were caused by demobilization and drafts. Demobilization was a political necessity; militarily Ireland was a training area from which units deployed elsewhere drew its replacements. But it was becoming increasingly difficult to provide even basic training due to the high incidence of duty — at best a soldier got three consecutive nights in bed. In June 1920, the Imperial General Staff stated that of the 23,000 'effectives' available, 3,000 had not fired a musketry course.

That number of effectives was considerably less than the requirement. In January 1919 the estimated minimum force necessary was given as 25,000 effective infantry with a total of 40,000 all arms. Reinforcement of the garrison in Ireland meant a reduction in the level of reserves needed should trouble erupt elsewhere. In June 1920, Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, C.I.G.S. asked the Cabinet if it appreciated that "at the present moment we have absolutely no reserves whatever (in formations) with which to reinforce our garrisons in any part of the world where an emergency may at any moment develop without warning." At this time three divisions were deployed in Ireland and a fourth would soon be required. However, many units remained below war strength and with the increase in I.R.A. activities it was not until mid 1921, with the arrival of 17 Infantry Battalions and also units of other arms, that the army "began to approach a level at which a firm grip might have been taken on rural areas".

Lack of numbers was not the army's only difficulty. It was severely short of equipment, especially motor vehicles and radio. Communication by radio only extended down to brigade headquarters. In the circumstances where units were weak and widely

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dispersed these deficiencies had grave effects on the effectiveness of the army.

Probably the army's greatest weakness was its inability to adapt to the guerilla campaign. 'Showing the flag', large sweep and search operations and a vague hope of surprising the I.R.A. by constantly moving about the country seemed to have been the best that the senior military chiefs could offer. In 1921 the army did develop and use counter-guerilla tactics — perhaps the progenitor of the S.A.S. type operations. Mobile patrols (on foot with a few days supplies) were deployed at various points. Operating at random for a number of days they eventually converged by night on an area which the I.R.A. were known to frequent. An other method was to conceal patrols in positions from which they could observe and perhaps ambush a small I.R.A. group. The effectiveness of this tactic is vouched for by the biographer of Liam Lynch, Florence O'Donoghue. It seems, however, that the higher military authorities continued to favour the sweep and search type operation even though it did not seriously disrupt I.R.A. activities. This inability to understand guerilla warfare may perhaps explain the failure to establish an adequate intelligence system.

Half a century before General Kitson's book on *Low Intensity Operations* there was very little understanding of the need for a large supply of low-grade information. The R.I.C., when able to function as civil police, were the primary source of such information.

Alienation of the R.I.C. from the community lost the security forces the first round in the 'intelligence war'. The ability of the I.R.A. — in part due to their extreme localism — to swim in the sea of the population and the establishment and direction of an intelligence organization by Michael Collins gave the I.R.A. an irreducible lead. Collins alone seems to have been the only person on either side who could be credited with recognising the requirement latterly enunciated by Kitson, i.e., to integrate intelligence — gathering and command. Government efforts to narrow the gap were frustrated by personality conflicts, lack of co-ordination between services and the inability to establish unified command.

Throughout the campaign the police retained and even increased their independence. General Macready refused joint command of both army and police. For this he is criticised by Dr. Townshend who is, I think, unfair in doing so. Joint command would have meant absorption of the R.I.C. into the army and eventual military rule. That situation was unacceptable to the Government and British public opinion. Dr. Townshend's own account illustrates their rejection of military rule. Martial law though introduced was frustrated by the State's refusal to permit it in other than a very limited form making it therefore ineffective, and as Macready remarked, ridiculous. The real need was for co-ordination of the two forces. This was a matter for government. The failure of government in this and in other areas is clearly illustrated by the author. It was not only that the price of a purely military victory was too high for British public opinion but also that they wanted a political settlement and were tired of war. The will to dominate and win was not present. "Whatever we do we are sure to be wrong" was a remark made by General Macready. Perhaps it expressed the feelings of many others. It does not display that degree of energy and fixity of purpose necessary for victory. Neither did the remark of the Brigade Major, 17th Brigade (afterwards Field-Marshal Montgomery) "I think I regarded all civilians as 'Shiners' and I never had any dealings with any of them": that, especially in internal security operations was a defeatist attitude.

Dr. Townshend's excellent book is based on major documentary sources — official and private papers — that have only been made available in recent years. Wisely I suppose, the author refrains from claiming to have said the last word on this subject approximately one-third of the Irish Records in War Office papers remain under closure until the year 2022. It is also possible that there are other sources waiting to be revealed. This is probably the most comprehensive treatment of the period to date and is unlikely to be superseded for some considerable time. It goes much further than the author's modest claim of establishing with certainty the number of troops and police involved in the conflict. It is a well-balanced and highly readable account

that provides many lessons for the student of internal security operations who avoids the trap of treating resemblances as full-blooded analogies.

P. F. NOWLAN

"THE FIELD MARSHAL'S MEMOIRS"—John Masters - Michael Joseph, £3.50.

There was a ring at the front door. Three men in uniform stood outside, one in the uniform of a full general, the others a brigadier and major of the Military Police. The general introduced himself, "I am General Braithwaite, the Adjutant-General, I have here an order of the Army Board to arrest Field-Marshal Sir John Durham. He is charged with an offence under the Official Secrets Acts. We are taking him to the Tower".

Next day the British public learned that one of its great World War Two heroes was incarcerated in the Tower of London and facing serious charges. For the 80 year old soldier, victor of the battle of Vojja Lovac in the Balkan campaign of 1945, was writing his memoirs and "telling it like it was". And there was plenty to tell; the hushed up mutiny in 206 Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps the deliberate bombing of Yugoslav allies because their politics were too Right Wing, resulting in the country falling into the Eastern Bloc; the deliberate shelling, resulting in six deaths, of the U.S. 798th Infantry; the execution without trial — murder — of a British captain who went berserk. The Field-Marshal was determined to tell all no matter how much it might mean "rocking the boat".

Enter Conservate Ministers, the Mafia, Italian Government, U.S. State Department and a host of individuals all with their own reasons for stopping publication. It was not in everyone's interest that stories of missing art treasures, plundered bullion should be available on bookstalls. "Publish and be Damned" shouted Sir John as heavy threats are exerated on his family and bribes are offered wholesale.

But find out for yourself how he resolves the problem in this well told story of courage and cowardice, duty and compassion, love and betrayal.

The book, however, has one blemish. For twenty years now (since I read his "Bugles and a Tiger") I have enjoyed John Masters and his wonderful books, mainly based on India and Army life there before and during World War Two. They stand on their own with plenty of action, colourful characters and sharp dialogue (read the bawling out of the Chief of the General Staff, page 167) of "The Field Marshals Memoirs"). However in his more recent books we are taken through all the lusts and depravity of man. Maybe it's the Christian Brother boy in me but I find this insistence on the indelicate, the sordid, a serious blot on his writings. In fact about the only debauchery not introduced into this work is incest. Keep on sparing us that, John.

FRANK FORDE.

THE IRISH SWORD VOL XII No. 46—SUMMER 1975

The opening article in the latest issue of "*The Irish Sword*" should be required reading for all Galwegians as it provides a fascinating, yet sober, look at Galway and its people during the Jacobite war. A surprising fact that emerges from this article, "Galway and the Jacobite War" by Herman Murtagh, is that, even though they were Catholics, the Galway mercantile classes were reluctant and unenthusiastic in their resistance to Ginkel and their attitude was instrumental for the city's speedy surrender.

"Balldearg O'Donnell abroad and the French design in Catalonia 1688-97" by Patrick Melvin, M.A. deals with the Spanish adventurer of Irish ancestry who left Ireland after the Jacobite wars and of his efforts to recruit regiments for the allies against France. The article which is to be concluded, throws a fascinating light on the military environment of that era in which soldiers readily changed sides and the desertion of the Irish from the French armies is highlighted.

"The French are on the sea . . . A military history of Killiney Bay from 1793 to 1815" by Pol O Duibhir is the final article in the present issue and it deals with a very detailed report by a Frenchman, Major La Chausee, who had been asked to draw up a plan of defence by the then commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland, Lord Carhampton who feared a French invasion.

P.J.Y.

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