



Cumann na nIar - Oifigeach Coimisiúnta

newsletter

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

Issue No: 22. Spring 2012.

ARCO Web Site: www.iarco.info

The 17th AGM meeting of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

The 17TH AGM meeting of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers was held in the auditorium, Defence Forces School of Catering, McKee Barracks Dublin 7, on 1st October 2011. Lunch was held in the Officers mess at the conclusion of the meeting. We would like to thank the OC of the Defence Forces Catering School, McKee Officers Mess and the Camp Commandant of McKee Barracks for facilitating the organisation and holding of the AGM.

Opening the meeting, the Hon President Brian O'Connor, welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance. He asked all present to stand and observe a minute of silence in memory of former colleagues and members who had passed away since the last meeting. In continuance of our communication strategy, meetings were held with the Minister for Defence, RACO, the Secretary General of the DOD and the Gen Staff. The ExCom continue to work in conjunction with ONE and IUNVA in developing a Veteran's Policy Document to include access to certain facilities available to serving personnel.

The ExCom have acquired office accommodation in the former Dental Hut in the Curragh, there is a meeting room, office, storage facilities and we are organising a new post box number and phone line. The Committee are keeping a watching brief on the Senior Citizen's Parliament. Its aspirations are in accordance with our current views on pensions and the treatment of Senior Citizens. Lt Cdr Peter Dunne, (NS representative) is one of our delegates to the National Federation of Pensioners Associations and is also the treasurer of that organization.

The most significant sub-committee formed during the year is the Strategic Review Group to which all members of the Executive contributed but was chaired and driven by Col Con McNamara. The Executive Committee met nine times since the previous AGM and there was an average attendance of ten members. Two meetings were devoted exclusively to the Strategic Review. The December 2010 meeting was held UNTSI, in conjunction with the unveiling of the ARCO plaque showing the roll of unit commanders in the Congo.

The facilities provided by the various GOCs and Commanding Officers at the locations in which we held meetings were excellent and we were made feel very welcome on each occasion. It is an indication of the goodwill towards ARCO, which exists among the senior office holders in the Defence Forces.

Lt Col Cummins presented the accounts for the Year End 31st July 2011. His report was based on the audited statement of accounts prepared by the honorary auditor Comdt Pat Casey.

The number of members has remained constant during the 2009/2010 period, at around 750. The main method of recruitment continue to be the pre-retirement packages which are issued by COMO along with official retirement material to officers who are approaching retirement. Members of the Executive Committee also address pre-retirement courses. He said that personal contact was the most effective method of recruiting new members.

Col O'Connor said that changes in the membership of the EXCOM which had occurred since the last AGM have been outlined in the Hon Sec report. All current members offered themselves for re-election.

The following were elected to the Executive Committee:-

President:	Col B. O' Connor
Vice President:	Brig Gen L. Mac Namee
Hon Secretary:	Lt Col J. Ahern
Hon Treasurer:	Lt Col R. Cummins
Hon Memb Secretary:	Col R. Heaslip
Eastern Region Representatives:	
Col Mick Lucey	Comdt Billy Campbell
Southern Region Representative:	Lt Cols Scanlon
Western Region Representatives:	
Col Senan Downes	Brig Gen Gerry Mc Namara.
DFTC Regional Representatives:	
Col Dick Heaslip	Col Con McNamara.
Naval Service Regional Representatives:	
Capt (NS) C. O' Donnel	Lt Cdr Peter Dunne.
Air Corps Regional Representatives:	
Lt Col Richard Cummins	Capt Ray Bonnar

The meeting received a motion to increase the annual subscription to € 25 per anum. The motion was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously. The Treasurer advised the meeting that the deduction from pension was allowed on foot of the permission included in the application form. The increase will take effect in March 2012.

Col Brian O'Connor thanked the members of the Executive and Regional Branch Representatives for their work and support over the past year. He also thanked all the members for their support and assistance during the year.

CURRAGH MILITARY MUSEUM (A Defence Forces Project)

In order to open the museum for the maximum time guides are required to provide a service on Sundays. The Museum opens from 1400hrs to 1700hrs each Sunday. Two guides are needed to cater for the extended museum area. Members, especially in County Kildare are asked to volunteer for this duty. If 12 people volunteer it will mean one Sunday in three months. For information or to volunteer contact, Brian O'Connor (Col Retd) at 086 - 827 4400 or brianandsheila@eircom.net

Access your rejuvenated website for up to date information at www.iarco.info



Launch of new Military Archives website – a brief introduction

By OIC Military Archives.

Military Archives recently entered a new era with the launch of its first ever dedicated website and the release of a significant amount of both original (scanned) records online and finding aids for paper collections housed in Archives. ARCO members may be interested to know that Military Archives is a public institution, and provides access to the documentary military heritage of Ireland to all citizens through its public reading room in Cathal Brugha Barracks (appointments available at the telephone number below).

Increasingly, there is an onus on institutions to provide access to material via the internet, especially for those who live abroad or are unable to travel to Dublin and this led to the development of www.militaryarchives.ie, a sister website of the by now well-known www.military.ie.



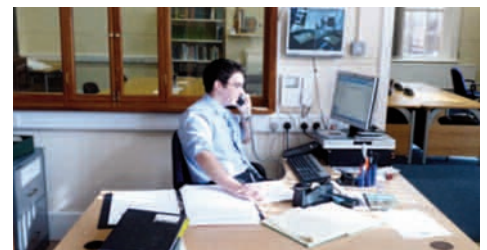
The mission of the Military Archives is to acquire, preserve and make available to the public the documentary heritage of the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence. Military Archives therefore, is the place of deposit for the archives of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board, under the terms of the National Archives Act, 1986. Archives are defined as records with a special significance, records that are deemed to be of enduring value, for a variety of reasons. The term record includes paper documents such as 'one off' files, letters and memoranda, as well as pictorial records such as photographs and film. This is unlike the material held in a typical library, which is almost always printed or published material that has been widely disseminated in bound volume (book) format. Archives are therefore absolutely unique and irreplaceable: once lost they can never be recovered. Increasingly, archives today are also acquired in electronic format

– whether sound, image or text digital files.

Military Archives is an official place of deposit since 1990 as defined in the National Archives Act, 1986. From as early as 1924, the National Army (through the efforts of Col 'Ginger' J.J. O'Connell among others), recognising the importance of the War of Independence, undertook to preserve historical documents from that time. A number of the earliest collections preserved by the Historical Section include the Collins Papers and Captured Documents (Civil War up to 1925), which continue to be made available today. Military Archives came into being in its current shape due to the efforts of the Officer in Charge Comdt Peter Young, who died tragically in service in 1999.



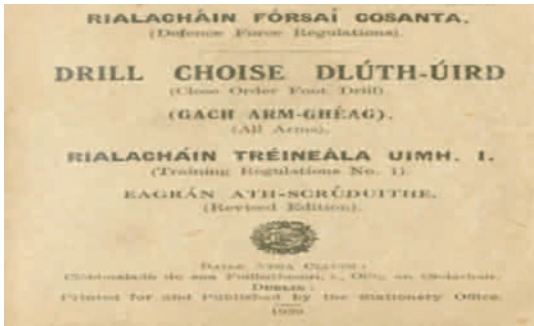
The Military Archives currently has a staff of three civilian archivists and one military archival assistant working under the direction of the Officer in Charge, Commandant Victor Laing and Captain Stephen Mac Eoin (Staff Officer). On retirement of the current OIC, Capt Mac Eoin will take up position as A/OIC at the beginning of March 2012.



Associated with the Military Archives is the Military Service Pensions Project with a staff of three professional archivists, working under the direction of a project manager/archivist. This project is not currently in the public domain.

All of the archivists at Military Archives have completed professional postgraduate archivist education at the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin. The Military Archives is an institutional member of the Archives and Records Association.

Apart from serving the evidential, legal and heritage needs of the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence, Military Archives provides public services to a broad spectrum of interests, from family history queries to academic research, to



material for television and radio documentaries. Such services include for example Family history and genealogy, where Staff can assist in tracking down information on former members of the Defence Forces (access conditions apply – see FAQs on the site) with advice offered on sources of information connected to men and women who participated in the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence.

Many researchers confuse the Military Archives as a place of deposit for the records of all Irish people who have served in other armed forces. In fact, the Military Archives holds only the personnel records of those who served in the military of the Irish Free State from 1922 to the late 1970's, as well as material pertaining to the Irish Volunteers and the Independence movement, 1913-1921. Information about British Army records, including those for the Irish regiments, can be obtained at The National Archives of England at Kew in London.



In the interests of providing widespread access to our collections, the Military Archives, in connection with Defence Forces Public Relations Section, also provides assistance to the media and cultural institutions in the production of documentaries, articles, exhibitions and lecture series. Our media involvement in recent years has included contributions to series such as "Who do you think you are?" (Irish, British and American Series), "Kennedy's Cadets" (aired on TG4) and "The Story of Ireland" (combined BBC and RTE production). In 2009 our involvement with academic societies included a joint two-day conference on the War of Independence. This conference was hosted by the Military History Society of Ireland in conjunction with Military Archives and the National Museum of Ireland. In 2010 we had a major involvement in the Defence Forces' commemoration of Ireland's first major troop deployment overseas with the United Nations, the 32nd Infantry Battalion to the Congo.

Military Archives will have a significant involvement in the forthcoming 'decade of commemorations' as the Defence Forces plays its role in State ceremony, commemoration and remembrance. With the advent of this new site, Archives hopes to build on its previous successes and move from strength to strength. Our reading room is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-4pm by prior appointment only with the Duty Archivist on hand to advise on collections of interest and relevance to research area. Military Archives is not in a position to carry out private research due to staff and time constraints but can offer ARCO members and other interested parties advice on Military Archives' collections and other potential sources in Archive and Library services operating nationwide.



Military Archives can be contacted by the following methods:

Officer in Charge, Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Bks, Rathmines, Dublin 6. T: + 00 353 1 8046457
E: militaryarchives@defenceforces.ie

Friends of the Curragh Museum

The Friends of the Curragh Museum is a group organised by the Sunday guides at the Museum to raise funds for the improvement of the museum and its displays. The Defence Forces have provided accommodation and other resources to enable the museum to function, but the museum needs funds to purchase historical items that come to light from time to time. Funding is also required to purchase display cases and data sheets. An enrolment form is included with this newsletter.

Subscription are €15 per person or €20 per family.

For further information contact:

Joe O'Sullivan at 045-86 or
Brian O'Connor at 086-8274400
or brianandsheila@eircom.net



Too much of a good thing: Haemochromatosis.

By Col (Retd) Maurice Collins, MICGP, FFOM, MD.

We all know that iron is a most essential element to our health. It is the ion in Haemoglobin that binds with oxygen as blood flows through our lungs - and which then gives that oxygen up again to all the other organs of the body as our heart pumps the blood around the circulatory system.

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But can we have too much of a good thing? Well, yes we can. Some people have the ability, or misfortune, to be able to absorb and store far more iron than they require. This excess iron gets laid down over time in various organs of the body and most notably in the liver, pancreas, joints and heart muscle.

The condition is known as haemochromatosis and it is an autosomal recessive genetic disease. To give an outline explanation, an anomaly occurs in the HFE gene, which is one of about 30,000 genes in every human cell. Two principal mutations of the gene are known to result in possible haemochromatosis: they are described as the C282Y and H63D mutations.

Genes are made up of DNA protein "strings" and every cell contains two copies of each gene, one from the father and from the mother.

A person with one of these mutations in one gene is said to be a carrier. If two carriers have children, on average, one in four of their children will have the mutation in both copies of the HFE gene and will be most likely to develop haemochromatosis. Two in four of the children are likely to be carriers like the

parents and one in four will not have the mutation.

Twenty years ago haemochromatosis was thought to be a fairly unusual illness. Now that early diagnosis is simple and there is raised awareness of the condition, we realize that it not at all rare. It is more common in Caucasian than other races, occurring in about 1 in 400 Europeans. Recent research, however, has demonstrated that the highest incidence in the world is amongst the Irish, where the incidence is about 1 in 100.

In people with high levels of iron circulating in the blood stream, but outside the red blood cells, iron gradually gets laid down in the organs of the body.

By the time these individuals are 30 to 60 years old, symptoms or diseases resulting from the damage to these organs may develop. The commonest of these are:

- Chronic fatigue and weakness.
- Diabetes, maturity onset, due to damage to the pancreas.
- Abnormal liver function tests going on ultimately to cirrhosis.
- Cardiomyopathy, damage to the heart muscle.
- Impaired memory, mood swings, irritability and depression.
- Arthritis of any joint, but most especially of the knuckle and first joint of the index and mid fingers.
- Loss of sex drive, impotence in men and early menopause in women.

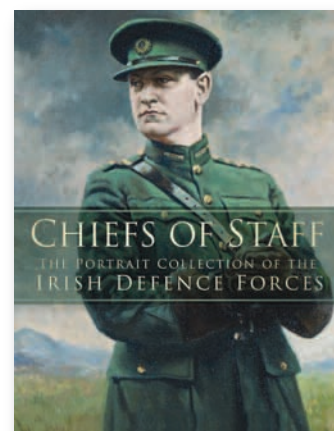
Early diagnosis is critical to reducing high circulating iron levels before the iron gets deposited in harmful amounts. This is done by routinely checking the individual patient's serum ferritin level in early adult life. Of course, suspicion will be raised if there is a family history or a parent or sibling is known to have one of the genetic mutations.



Treatment of haemochromatosis is simply to take off as many units of blood (venesection) as necessary to bring the levels of circulating iron down to normal and to follow up with less frequent venesections, usually three or four per year, thereafter.

On the plus side, a recent development is that arrangements can now be made for blood taken from "maintenance" level haemochromatosis patients to be donated to the National Blood Transfusion Service, provided the other normal criteria for blood donation are met.

Chiefs of Staff Portrait Collection



Contributing Essayists: James Hanley RHA, Col T. Hodson (Retd), Lieut Gen Colm Mangan DSM (Retd), Donal Maguire, NGI, Dr Pat Murphy, ARHA and Professor Eunan O'Halpin, TCD.

The book can now be ordered through the Mess Secretary, McKee Officer's Mess.

CEO Profile

By Gabriel D'Arcy, BSC, MSC, MBA.

Gabriel D'Arcy was appointed as CEO of Bord na Móna in February 2008. Prior to joining Bord na Móna, he held a number of management positions in the Kerry Group plc.

He previously served as a Captain in the Defence Forces. He holds a B.Sc (Hons) from University College Galway, an MSc from University College Dublin, an M.B.A. from Kingston University Business School, an Advanced Diploma in Management Practice from University of Ulster and an Institute of Directors' Diploma in Company Direction. He is a member of the Institute of Directors and a member of the Board of the Institute of Public Administration. Gabriel is third oldest in a family of 10 from Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, and was educated at Garbally College, Ballinasloe. A keen sportsman, Gabriel represented Leitrim at all levels in Gaelic Football and won Connacht Junior and Senior Schools Rugby Cup honours with Garbally. His leisure interests include coaching mini rugby at Terenure College RFC.

Vision for a Sustainable Future

On taking the helm at Bord na Móna Gabriel D'Arcy lead an extensive process of both external and internal consultation on the future direction of the company that culminated in the formulation of a new direction encapsulated in the vision statement "A new contract with Nature". Recognising that climate change is the single biggest issue facing mankind this vision underpins Bord na Móna's mission, objectives, strategy and values and sets out a clear sustainability path for the company. It means that all of the company's business activities, both direct and supporting, will become increasingly sustainable from an environmental and social point of view while continuing to yield profits.

When the Programme for Government mentioned that a National Water Company would be set up to take over the running of all water-related services for the country Gabriel D'Arcy decided that Bord na Móna should offer itself as the best option to bring about this radical change to the delivery of water services in Ireland. According to Gabriel, 75 years or so ago Bord na Móna was given the challenge of providing the state with a secure indigenous source of energy based on developing and harvesting the bogs. Today there is the opportunity to take all that knowledge and capability to provide the country with a sustainable water company for the benefit of the economy, the environment and the people. Bord na Móna has successfully diversified from its core peat business and has a good track record of acquiring and integrating other businesses into the Group.

The company's plan to establish "Irish Water" as part of the Bord na Móna Group would see the development of a self-financing full service utility by the time that domestic charges are introduced. But D'Arcy sees the development of this new water utility as having a much wider impact: "With the existing climate change scenario almost half the world's population will be living in areas of high water stress by 2030. Education and innovative technology development are at the core of solving our water issues. We can lead the way in Ireland by harvesting the best water resource in the world that will give us a competitive advantage to stimulate our economic growth."

This not only drives demand for innovative solutions to the sustainability challenges facing the current activities of each of the operating business units, but also acts as a necessary filter for screening new business development opportunities to ensure ultimate strategic fit.



Bord na Móna has set out comprehensive sustainability objectives for itself across the entire range of its activities – a roadmap for the next 15-20 years, which will transform each of the businesses, making the company one of the largest in renewable energy in Ireland, and a leading provider of sustainable products and services both at home and internationally. For example, the power generating plant at Edenderry Co. Offaly is currently displacing 150,000 tonnes of peat per annum with renewable biomass and this is set to increase steadily to 300,000 tonnes by 2015 (30% displacement) and ultimately to 50%. Construction will shortly commence on a new 80 MW windfarm on a Bord na Móna cutover bog near Daingean, also in Offaly. The landfill diversion rate in the company's resource recovery business that trades as AES is now close to 60%: all of this material is now re-used or recycled.

The most recent new area of interest for the company is in the provision of water and water services. Bord na Móna has been very involved in the development of a project aimed at meeting the additional needs of the midlands and the greater Dublin area for potable water over the next half-century. The plan is that this water would be abstracted from surplus water in the river Shannon (which is in flood for many months of the year) and stored in a lake-size reservoir to be built on a cutaway bog at Garryhinch on the Laoise/Offaly border where it would then be treated and distributed.

The Irish Air Corps Museum and Heritage Project

By Airman Michael Whelan, MA.

'National duty dictates that our heritage and history be preserved for the benefit of future generations'

While much has been written about the history of the Irish Defence Forces and the Irish Air Corps, this reflects only a small percentage of the real history of these organisations and few understand their importance in the historical narrative of Ireland. Unfortunately the importance of the military and military aviation has until recently been unappreciated and much that should have been preserved for posterity has not been saved and could now be easily forgotten.

However, those who now realise the measure of what has been lost and know what needs to be saved should try to rectify this situation by highlighting those rich aspects of our history and pointing those in authority in the right direction. This will lead to the cognisance of the urgent need of the conservation of this heritage and will ultimately enhance the cultural and educational aspects of Irish military aviation to the wider community.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the Irish Defence Forces in the first instance and in the context of military aviation in Ireland; it is the responsibility of the Irish Air Corps to preserve its past. In recognition of its responsibilities in this regard, the Irish Air Corps Museum is being established, where some aspects of its heritage are on display for the visitor to interact with and interpret. This has been and still is quite a difficult task to achieve because of financial, staffing and resource constraints as well as operational demands, but the Irish Air Corps recognises its obligations to current and future generations of Irish people and is

actively investigating better ways to facilitate the communication of its history.

The Irish Air Corps Museum and Heritage Project

The Irish Air Corps Museum and Heritage Project, as it now exists, began its journey during the autumn of 2001. It was set up to identify, collect, catalogue and preserve as much of the history and heritage of the Irish Air Corps as possible, it is a difficult process. The collection itself is housed in a hangar built by the Royal Flying Corps in 1917.

The museum relies heavily on the wealth of experience within the technical staff of the Air Corps and its local resources and conservation work occurs between maintenance jobs on serviceable aircraft or during the volunteer's free time.

The only real exception to this is when everyone is pooled together coming up to major events such as open days, air shows or other event deadlines. These occasions are very successful and offer the Air Corps a great opportunity to showcase the museum.

The museum proudly displays an AVRO Cadet C7 bi-plane dating from the 1930s and an almost completely restored AVRO XIX. This aircraft dates from 1946 but the original Ansons arrived in Baldonnel in 1937 as the first twin-engine monoplane and first retractable undercarriage types.

It also houses a restored De Havilland Vampire, which was one of the original six aircraft to announce the arrival of the jet age into Ireland in the mid 1950s. Many

people will remember these jets from their dynamic displays over the Easter parades at the GPO in Dublin City during the 1960s and 1970s.

Also on display are two de Havilland Chipmunks and major parts of two others dating from the mid 1950s, a Percival Provost trainer from the same period, an Allouette II instructional helicopter airframe dating from the early 60s. There are also two Fouga Magisters, which retired in 1999, dating from the early 1970s, which replaced the Vampires as jet trainers.



A full size replica of the original Wright Flyer built by the Air Corps in 2003, a Link Trainer (1950s) and King Air (1980s) simulators, a mobile radar system dating from before WWII and three Bofors anti aircraft guns from the same period are on display, also a Rolls Royce Merlin V12 engine and many other parts from Supermarine Spitfires, Seafires as well as other parts from WWII era aircraft that were in Air Corps service or came down in Irish territory.

There are many other types of engines, photography equipment, photographs, charts, uniforms, weapons, propellers, tools, calibration equipment, family heirlooms, logbooks, model aircraft,



visitors pass through the museum and airbase each year and many of these are school tours, aviation groups and retired service members as well as serving soldiers. They see the restoration in progress, the artefacts on display and learn of the different threads of our history. They learn that

documentation on personnel and hundreds of other bits and pieces, which help to tell the story.

During "The Emergency" Period of WWII, neutral Ireland's Defence Forces, although ill equipped against the threat from belligerent forces, were willing to defend the country against invasion. If history had dealt a somewhat different card then the "Soldiers of Ireland" would have had to meet the onslaught and would have most likely have been overwhelmed. The small Irish Air Corps too would have been dedicated to action and whatever it would have been able to achieve, against vastly superior forces, its pilots and ground crews like the army would have committed themselves to the task and most likely, another generation of patriotic Irishmen would have been swept away.

This as we know did not occur but Irish military aviators and ground crews spent the war years preparing the aircraft and patrolling the skies over the Irish landscape prepared to go into battle and to serve knowing the possible outcome. How do we acknowledge, their service, preserve their stories and communicate this history?

This is one area where the museum, providing interaction and enhancing interpretation through the spiritual and imaginative aspects of heritage comes to the fore and its impact on education can be fundamental and inspiring.

Museum and Education

The museum is also involved in educating the defence forces and the wider community on the evolution of the Irish Air Corps and its history. Almost 2000

the old aircraft they see on display, although inanimate now, once lived surrounded by real flesh and blood, the flesh and blood of the pilots, technicians and ground crews, which made them fly and gave them life to dance on the Irish landscape and the imagination of the people.

The story of the evolution of Irish military aviation in all its forms holds a special place on the mantle of Irish military history and world aviation history and indeed the state and as such resonates through the memories and imaginations of its people. The history of the Irish Air Corps spans the whole of the 20th century and the dawning of the age of aviation and is a vital and integral if forgotten part of the narrative of a Irish social, military, political, state and family histories to name but a few. However, much of this history and heritage has been lost over the years with a very small part of its long story ever likely to have been recorded and saved in the fashion of those times.

Its personnel have witnessed generations of the same families in its ranks and many historic events in the cultural and political life of the country, indeed some have made that history but all have been a part of it. It is this history and that rich heritage, which can be found in the artefacts and airframes that the Irish Air Corps Museum wishes to preserve, document and display for future generations as an educational tool and a way of keeping the history alive. They are evocative of many periods of Irish history. 2012 will see the sixtieth anniversary of the De Havilland Chipmunk in Air Corps Service, it will also see the ninetieth Anniversary of the Irish Air Service/ Irish

Air Corps, a full decade of 100 year state commemorations and heritage events are upon us. The historiography of Irish military aviation and the Irish Air Corps will no doubt be told and retold by future historians and storytellers. However, this can never substitute for the enhanced impact and interpretation that interaction with artefacts and objects relative to the period and institution being studied can have on the imagination of all ages and backgrounds. To be able to view, touch, hear and smell the history up close and personal. To be able to interact with times gone by, to be able to interact with previous generations of ones own family and what they experienced - is truly wonderful and awe inspiring.

The collection of Irish Air Corps military aviation artefacts at Baldonnel could one day be the nucleus of a much larger and better- resourced Defence Forces Museum or National Aviation Museum if the imagination, structure and commitment are forthcoming. If this came to pass, the nation would be in ownership of an important element of Irish heritage and an attractive and rarely viewed exhibition material which would ultimately project a positive and professional image of the Irish Air Corps. This is what I hope the Air Corps Museum and Heritage Project can someday achieve.

Airman Michael Whelan M.A. Curator: Irish Air Corps Museum and Heritage Project.

The Air Corps Museum Project is staffed by current and retired service personnel including Roger Casement Branch O.N.E. volunteers. Access to the museum is through the Station Commander, Irish Air Corps Head Quarters, Casement Aerodrome, at Baldonnel, Dublin 22.

Chief of Staff to Minister for Defence on requirements to formalise collection of archival material, dated 1925 in QMGs Board Report on Military Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin, 1994.



Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Comdt Fergus Warner	Comdt Peter Rigney
Comdt Raymond Stewart	Lt Col Paul Allen
LtCdr Colm McGinley	Col Thomas Doyle
MG Dave Ashe	Comdt John Killock
Capt John Goss	Lt Col Paul Farrell
Lt Col John Molloy	Comdt Bryan Wallace
Lt Cdr Alan Costelloe	Cdr Eugene Ryan
Capt Brian Commey	

Deceased Officers *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-Anamacha*

Our condolences to the families and friends of those comrades who passed away since our last newsletter.

Comdt Paddy O' Shea	17 July 2011
Comdt R. (Kerry) Sloan	6 August 2011
Lt Col Freak Stewart	27 August 2011
Lt Cdr Harry Henry NS	10 September 2011
Lt Col Tadhg O'Cuill	19 September 2011
Col Noel O'Dwyer	19 September 2011
Lt Col Ray Swan	1 October 2011
Capt Finbar Drohan	5 December 2011
Capt Edward Healion	4 January 2012
Capt Sean Swords	13 January 2012
Comdt Garreth Evans	10 March 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE

The EXCOM are actively involved in representing the associations concerns regarding the provisions of the PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS (SINGLE SCHEME) AND REMUNERATION BILL 2011. Due to the ongoing discussions a report will be held until the AGM and the next newsletter. Updates are posted regularly on our website at www.iarco.info

The newsletter is issued in Spring and Autumn. Articles or items of interest are always welcome. If you have something to contribute please send it to the editor at brianandsheila@eircom.net or post to Col B. O'Connor (Retd) 92 The Paddocks, Naas, Co. Kildare.

An Cliaomh Gaisciochta



Lt Shane Walsh is pictured with his Father, Mother and sister after receiving An Cliaomh Gaisciochta from Col Brian O'Connor (Retd), President, ARCO. The award took place at the Commissioning Ceremony in the Curragh on the 8th March 2012. Shane from Templeglantine, Co. Limerick, received 1st place in his class. He has a degree in Architecture from University of Limerick. He has been posted to 2 Fd Arty Regt, McKee Bks Dublin.

Defence Forces Promotions

To Major General

B.G. Conor Boyle to DCOS SP.

To Brig Gen

Col D. Fitzgerald to GOC S BDE.
Col J. Aherne to GOC W BDE.
Col S. O'Giollain to GOC DFTC.
B.G. M. Finn has been appointed GOC E BDE

Opening of the new offices in the DFTC.



B.G. Liam McNamee opens the new offices in the DFTC.