



Cumann na nIar - Oifigeach Coimisiúnta

newsletter

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

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ARCO Web Site: www.iarco.info

Inaugural Defence Forces Veterans Day

The inaugural commemorative ceremony to honour the service of retired members of the Defence Forces was held in the DFTC on Tuesday, 02 September 2014. The event, which was hosted by the Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle and the General Officer Commanding the Defence Forces Training Centre, Brig Gen Shay O'Giollain was attended by the Minister for Defence Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. The Minister welcomed our members along with members, of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and the Organisation of Ex Servicemen and Women (ONE) to the Curragh Camp to commemorate the Defence Forces commitment to veterans.

Speaking at the event the Minister said "There are many honours and responsibilities associated with service in the Defence Forces. Today I am happy to acknowledge the important service that former servicemen and women have contributed to Irish society in domestic operations and in hostile regions around the world. Today we are recognising the service of all former members of the Defence Forces across all three services, the Army, the Naval Service and the



ARCO members 'On Parade'

*The President and Executive Committee of
ARCO wish all their members
A Happy and Healthy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year*



ARCO President Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd) alongside the Minister for Defence Mr Simon Coveney TD, Presidents of ONE and IUNVA, laying wreaths.

Air Corp, at home and abroad". Referring to the history of the Defence Forces on international deployments the Minister stated that "The 27th of July 1960 was a watershed moment when Ireland sent its first peacekeepers with the 32nd Infantry Battalion to the Congo, the first complete Irish unit sent overseas as part of a UN mandate. For a further fifty four years the Irish Defence Forces contributed to the cause of peace in places like Lebanon, Chad, Liberia, East Timor and Syria (to name but a few) and continue to do so today". The Minister also made reference to the courage and tenacity the Defence Forces have shown throughout 54 years of peacekeeping.

The Minister also paid tribute to the 86 members who died on operations at home and abroad in the service of their country and "paid the ultimate price in the cause of peace during that period".

The Minister reviewed a parade involving members of the Permanent Defence Forces along with a representative body from ARCO, IUNVA and ONET. Following a short multi denominational religious service, a wreath laying ceremony to honour departed servicemen and women took place. Our President, Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd) laid the wreath on behalf of ARCO. ARCO was well represented at the ceremony, with over 100 members attending, including the 30 members who were 'on parade' under the command of Col Con McNamara (Retd).



"Mutiny on the Curragh"

- 1914 crisis as British officers predict defiance of Government over Ulster.

by Liam Kenny,
Naas Local History Group

Mention "the Curragh Mutiny" of March 1914 and a barstool barrister is likely to retort that it was not a "Mutiny". And he or she would be right, it wasn't a mutiny ... there were no shots fired nor was there defiance of specific orders. But for a few days in March 1914 a crisis erupted, centred on the Curragh camp, which sent shock waves through the British establishment.

The crisis was inflamed by the expressed potential of members of the British officer class to refuse to obey if they received orders to march on Ulster so as to force the Unionists into accepting a Home Rule parliament located in Dublin.

In the early 20th century the Curragh Camp was one of the largest military assets in the British Isles. Thousands of troops across all the services trained, manoeuvred and exercised across the Curragh plains. The familiar redbrick buildings were hives of activity as soldiers and their horses engaged in the routines of military life. While a high tempo of military training was maintained at the Curragh, it was a relatively peaceful place. The Camp was regarded as part and parcel of local society and economy. The officers in particular were prominent in society circles in the county, many of them being assiduous members of the Kildare Hunt and its related social activities.

However a frisson of excitement was to permeate the camp in March 1914 when tensions arising from the imminence of Home Rule led to rumour and counter-rumour about a mutiny-like response by officers stationed there.

The Curragh incident has to be seen in the context of the Home Rule campaign which divided opinion between the north and south of the island of Ireland. In the south the Home Rule movement under the leadership of John Redmond had skilfully negotiated the Westminster parliamentary process to prompt the British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith to bring in a Home Rule bill which would give a measure of independence to Ireland. In the north almost half a million Unionist people had the previous year signed a covenant and declaration vowing their outright opposition to any element of Home Rule and made it known that they were prepared to resort to any measures to block the devolution of government functions to Dublin.

The Unionists were highly organised. For some months they had been organising and drilling and in the summer of 1913 had

established the Ulster Volunteer Force which grew to 100,000 members. Two implacable opponents to Home Rule, Dublin-born Edward Carson, and James Craig, were the organisational brains who led the political and para-military preparations to resist Home Rule.

The Unionists had no shortage of support in political and military circles in Britain. The Conservative party under Andrew Bonar Law threw its weight behind the Unionist opposition to Home Rule while many of the most senior British army officers, serving and retired, were busy in the corridors of Westminster and Whitehall pushing the Unionist case, activity which included briefing sympathetic conservative media.

However the British Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith, was under political pressure to pass a Home Rule Bill. He depended on the votes of Redmond's Irish Parliamentary Party to sustain his Liberal party in Government. Two previous attempts to bring in Home Rule in the 1880s and 1890s had failed to get through the parliament, but Asquith saw an opportunity to settle the Irish question for once and for all so that Britain could concentrate on other threats to its empire including the war drums emanating from Germany.

The Home Rule Bill went through the various stages of parliament in the winter of 1913/14. From the autumn of 1913 there were vibes of dissent among British officers who might be called to enforce home rule on the Ulster Unionists. They were summed up in a memorandum of September 1913 written by Brigadier-General John "Johnnie" Gough who, on the instructions of a worried King George V, had been invited to Buckingham Palace to speak to the King's secretary on the attitude of the army if it came to marching on Ulster.

The fact that worries of a revolt among the officer class had reached the King who was commander-in-chief of the forces indicates how much apprehension there was in London as the Home Rule bill seemed to be in sight of becoming law. Gough estimated that as many as 60 percent of British officers would refuse to back up Home Rule by force on the Ulster Unionists. His reasons why – and these were the reasons put forward by the half million unionists in the North in opposition to Home Rule -- were threefold.

Firstly the Irish (as in the southern Irish) were not loyal citizens of the United Kingdom and had taken every opportunity to sneer at the King and the army. He recalled how Irish MPs had cheered in Westminster in 1899 when news of British army defeats in the

Boer War had come through. The thought of such disloyal men becoming leaders of an Irish government was repulsive. Secondly, Gough told the King's secretary that he wanted a "clean" government for Ireland and that a government run by southern Irish would promote "corruption and graft" and probably the country would be "inundated with unscrupulous Irish-American low class politicians".

And thirdly he said that he could not tolerate having a priest-ridden government. He said that "knowing the Irish priesthood as I do I had little doubt that religious beliefs would enter into politics and administration."

However, having given this formidable statement of objections he said that, as was the British way, the army would obey orders as it always had if the Unionists began violent action and if the army was required only to back up the constabulary in maintaining law and order. But expecting the army to enforce Home Rule by firing on Unionists resisting in an orderly manner would be an order that would test to breaking point the army's duty to obey orders. The Asquith Government was not deflected by such pre-emptive threats and continued to push the Home Rule Bill through parliament. However the rising opposition in Ulster prompted the Government and senior military officials to suggest that some troops should be moved from the Curragh and Dublin to guard isolated armoured posts in Armagh, Omagh, Enniskillen and Carrickfergus. This was to pre-empt the Ulster Unionists from raiding for arms to equip their 100,000 volunteer force. The Government's intention was that low-key



reinforcement would take place. There was no question of a major movement to suppress Unionist resistance.

The War Office summoned the hapless Sir Arthur Paget, Commander of the British army in Ireland, to London on 19 March 1914 to discuss the security situation on the eve of the Home Rule Bill's final stages in parliament. From this point the conflicting stories of what triggered the "Curragh Mutiny" began to get legs. Within a matter of days Britain faced a crisis which had the potential to alienate the British army from the British government – an unprecedented situation in the constitutional history of the United Kingdom and one which was centred on the hitherto peaceful out-station of the Curragh camp.

Lynx-eyed reporters in camp . . . the Curragh Mutiny revisited

by Liam Kenny,
Naas Local History Group

The Curragh Mutiny, as it is popularly known, centered around potential disobedience by British army officers who made it clear in March 1914 that they would not march on Ulster to enforce Home Rule on the unionist population. The implications of the episode (the Curragh Crisis might be a better title) – for the history of 20th century Ireland and the United Kingdom are the subject of debate by historians dealing with the high level politics of the time. However, the Curragh Crisis also had local impacts and particularly for the local newspapers who found themselves dealing with a situation of national and international importance on their doorsteps.

While many of the significant players in the crisis were located in London and Dublin, it was the position of the officers at the

Curragh Camp that threatened the hitherto seamless relations between government and military.

The Curragh camp then - as now - was not an installation hidden behind high walls and gates. Rather it was an open camp and its personnel were fully integrated into the daily social and economic life of mid-Kildare. It was not surprising then that the wider population in the Curragh environs would notice any tensions among the military in the camp.

News of that there was something afoot in the camp reached the correspondents of the two local newspapers in the county: the Kildare Observer which had a leaning towards the establishment and including the officer class, and the Leinster Leader which was radically in support of the nationalist agenda and had little time for the agencies of British government in Ireland.



A look back at the reports of the local papers in the last week of March 1914 provides intriguing local insights into the crisis as well as highlighting the editorial stances of each publication. Both papers agreed that there was heightened security in the camp over the previous days. The Kildare Observer reported: "There was considerable commotion here on Friday when news leaked out that General Gough had resigned, that the Fire Station and Magazine had extra pickets put on and the military police were carrying revolvers."

The Leinster Leader reported the increased tension at the camp in terms which anybody who has passed time there on a long Sunday would recognise: "The Curragh Camp on Sunday presented a rather unusual appearance. As a rule, the Sabbath day is very quiet, even a sleeping one at the camp, but on Sunday last it was in a hustling air. The sentries at the different points were in their full regimentals and moving about their business in a manner which showed that something more than usual was required of them."

Having described in factual terms the heightened tensions at the camp, the newspapers diverged in their subsequent commentaries on the events. The Kildare Observer, which would have been read by the officers at the camp, responded by attacking the intrusions of reporters from the national press who came to the camp. The Observer used striking imagery in relation to the outside journalists: "The lynx-eyed reporters from the metropolis (Dublin) and from England were on the spot in less time than it takes to write."

The Observer was also quick to point out what it claimed was exaggeration in the reports filed by the outside reporters. It complained that "an eminently respectable English paper told its readers on Saturday morning", that 'A hundred officers had resigned and the men were doing likewise'. In another column it accepted that there had been some resignations "but that the matter has been exaggerated in the Press there is no doubt whatever."

It went on to point out that some stories reported in the national press were without foundation: "During the week sensation followed sensation on the Curragh – in the papers." It cited a report that had appeared in the "metropolitan Press" claiming that a soldier attempting to get in to the Newbridge barracks after dark had been shot dead by a sentry. The Observer recorded the local reaction: "There was no truth whatsoever in the report and which was a source of much laughter among the officers and men in Newbridge barracks."

If the Observer reacted defensively in relation to the reportage in the national press of the situation at the Curragh, the Leinster Leader had less reserve and indeed through its reports and commentary sprinkled fuel on the flames of controversy burning in the officers' mess halls. The Leader reported the serious claims from a non-commissioned officer that there were weapons being spirited away from the magazine and smuggled north to arm the unionists. Further there was an implication that the highest levels in the camp were turning a blind eye to such seditious activity.

The NCO was reported as claiming: "There was no doubt that a large number of small arms and ammunition which should comprise the current stock of the Curragh Camp magazine are at present in the possession of the opponents of Home Rule in the North."

Both papers contrasted in their reporting on the question of ammunition being transferred to the Curragh magazine. The Leader informant claimed that the transfer of ammunition to the Curragh from the artillery barracks in Newbridge and Kildare was to make up for the deficiencies in the camp magazine, which had been pilfered for the northern Unionists.

However the Kildare Observer had a far more benign explanation for the ammunition transfer. An officer at Newbridge barracks told the paper that "We have an ammunition column here and some of our stores were recently moved to the Curragh, which may be the reason for the startling suggestions." One senior officer was sceptical of the approach of the national and English press to the crisis. Major Anderson of the 5th Division told an Observer reporter "newspapers get bits of information here and there and have tried to make an alarming story."

The Leinster Leader came to a similar conclusion but with different implications: "Screaming placards and scare headings led to the belief that a state of mutiny had occurred ... from the maze of the reports and rumours it has been possible to glean that nothing more sensational had happened than seventy officers, sons of Irish landlord families and Tories, and whose anti-Irish upbringing proved stronger than their sense of discipline" had threatened to resign rather than March on the north.

And thus the two local newspapers reported on the Curragh "mutiny" – as big a crisis as the British political-military machine had ever faced – from their differing political perspectives with a degree of defensive localism permeating their reports.

'We all got certificates at the conclusion of the course'

by Comdt Billy Campbell (Retd)

Taking the course photograph has become one of the traditional ways of marking its conclusion. The photograph provides a memory for the students and in many cases, especially with the passage of time, can become the only tangible record of the course and of those who attended and ran it. Walk through the corridors and classrooms of any of the training establishments of the Defence Forces and you will see, lining their walls, the course photographs of students and instructors from the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps. These photographs date back as far as the early 1920s when, in the aftermath of the Civil War, Óglaigh na hÉireann set about organising and formalising the education of its members. The story, however, is older than this and the tradition of taking the course photograph was established almost as soon as the Volunteers were founded in November 1913. As evidence of this the photograph shown here is of thirty-one of the nearly fifty officers, almost all from the Cork area, who attended the two-week Officers' Training Course that commenced on Saturday, 22 January 1916, at the Volunteers' Hall in Sheares Street, which is in the heart of Cork City.

The course was run by Captain J.J. 'Ginger' O'Connell who can be seen standing at the right hand side of the middle row in the photograph. Jeremiah Joseph O'Connell was a Mayo man who spent two years in the United States Army between 1912 and 1914. He was Chief of Inspection of the Volunteers when the course was run. O'Connell was interned in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising and went on to become Director of Training of the Volunteers, following the death of Dick McKee in November 1920. He is depicted, in his then appointment of Assistant Chief of Staff, in Leo Whelan's portrait, IRA GHQ Staff, 1921, which hangs in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin. He supported the treaty and on 26 June 1922 was kidnapped and held for four days by an anti-treaty force that had occupied the Four Courts. This was one of the factors that led to the outbreak of the Civil War on 28 June. He survived the



Officers' Training Course, January 1916, Volunteers' Hall, Sheares Street, Cork City.

Front Row seated: Cornelius J. Meany, Cornelius Mahoney, Patrick P. Twomey, Martin O'Keefe, Michael Leahy, William Kelliher, James Murphy, Chris McSweeney.

Second Row: Sean O'Sullivan, Christopher O'Gorman, Michael F. Lynch, Seán Lynch, John Manning, Charles Wall, James Walsh, Seán Carroll, Riobárd Langford, Maurice Ahern, Tom Hales, Tadhg Barry, Captain J.J. 'Ginger' O'Connell.

Back Row: Paud O'Donoghue, Cornelius Ahern, Seán O'Driscoll, Eugene Walsh, Denis O'Brien, Seán Collins, Séamus Courtney, Jeremiah Mullane, Michael Hyde, Liam O'Brien, Michael McCarthy.

fighting and commanded the Southern District Command during that war. Colonel Ginger O'Connell died in service in 1944 at the age of fifty-seven.

Ginger O'Connell had organised a short officers' course in Cork in 1915 but returned to run this one, which was based on the United States Army system. The course provided officers with the skills needed to take charge of military instruction in their units. Half of those pictured gave statements to the Bureau of Military History between 1947 and 1957 and recount their attendance, many with great pride, on the course (hence the title of this essay). Of those pictured in the back row of the photograph: Seamus Courtney, the Fianna Leader for Munster, died on 22 July 1918 as a result of imprisonment and poor health, Jeremiah Mullane, the 1st Lieutenant of the Mourne Abbey Company, died on 29 April 1917 and Michael McCarthy was killed in action at the Kilmichael ambush on 28 November 1920.

The officer standing on O'Connell's right is Tadhg Barry, a native of Blarney Street, who was educated at Blarney Street National School and the North Monastery. He was a journalist, GAA official, founding member of the Irish Volunteers in Cork, full time Branch Secretary to the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and a Sinn Féin Alderman on Cork Corporation. On 15 November 1921, Barry was shot and killed without cause by a sentry at Ballykinlar internment camp, Co. Down, where he was being held. His funeral was amongst the largest ever seen in Cork and Michael Collins returned from the Treaty negotiations in London to attend it. Tadhg Barry's gravestone in the republican

plot of St. Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork City gives his age as being thirty-three when he died. The 1901 Census of Ireland however, indicates he was forty-one at the time.

The officer on Barry's right is Tom Hales from Knocknacurra, Ballinadee, near Bandon. Tom and his brothers, Seán, Bob and William, fought with the IRA in West Cork during the War of Independence. During the Civil War the Hales brothers fought on opposite sides. Tom commanded the anti-treaty forces at the ambush at Béal na Bláth, which resulted in the death of his friend, Michael Collins. On 7 December 1922, his brother Seán, a pro-treaty TD and a Brigadier General in the National Army, was shot dead in Dublin in reprisal for the Free State's execution of anti-treaty prisoners. On the following day four members of the anti-treaty Army Executive: Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Richard Barrett and Joseph McKelvey, who had been held since the first week of the war, were executed on the orders of the government. Tom Hales was elected to Dáil Éireann as a Fianna Fáil TD for the Cork West constituency in the 1933 general election. He was defeated in the 1937 general election when he stood as an Independent. Tom Hales died in 1966 at the age of seventy-four.

I have a personal connection with this photograph through the officer standing fifth from right in the middle row. This shows a very youthful Riobárd Langford who would have been nineteen at the time, according to the Cork City and County Archives, where his papers are deposited. However, the 1901 and 1911 censuses indicate he was two years older. In January 1916 he was the 2nd Lieutenant of C Company, 1 Battalion, Cork No. 1 Brigade. Riobárd was a member of Conradh na Gaeilge and was

involved in military operations during 1916 and the War of Independence. He took the anti-treaty side in the Civil War and operated the republican mobile field printing press throughout that war. Riobárd had established the Lee Press (Cló na Laoi) on the City's South Terrace in 1913 at the age of seventeen (or nineteen depending on the source you consult). His sons run the family printing business there today. He raised twenty-three children on the South Terrace. I attended the nearby Model School in Anglesea Street with some of them in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Riobárd Langford died in 1978.

Space does not allow us explore the histories of the other Volunteer officers pictured in this most remarkable photograph. Do go on-line however to the Bureau of Military History's fascinating website and read the witness statements of many of them at: <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/>.

Go on-line also and explore the testimonies and accounts of the Volunteers who took part in the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War through the unique collection that is the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection. Ginger O'Connell's pension application file was included in the first on-line release of material from the collection on 16 January 2014. The collection is being made available on a phased basis leading to 2016 at:

<http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection>

One of our members, Charles O'Rourke, Blackrock, Co. Dublin contacted the editor with the following observations.

"I have just finished reading the **"Guide to the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection"** published by Oglai na hEireann and printed by the Defence Forces Printing Press 2012.

The contents (pictures and reproductions of contemporary documents) provide interesting insights into the organisation and conduct of the war which led to the creation of the Irish Free State. In particular, it includes three essays by Charles Townshend, Professor of International History at Keele University; Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD and Eunan O'Halpin, Professor of Contemporary Irish History at TCD. These make this recently-available archive come to life. Townshend, for example, postulates that the British Military Commander in Chief, General Nevil Macready, was "firmly and

outspokenly convinced" that there could be no military solution to events in Ireland but was overruled by his CIGS.

There are reproductions of letters written in 1925 by Colonel M. Costello, Director of Intelligence, and references to many major participants in the struggle for independence (and the subsequent Civil War) many of whom would have been known by "older" officers who served during in the 50's and 60's"





Medical Fitness Standards for Driving



Irish medical fitness standards for driving have, in the past, been rather scant, empirical and diagnosis based. Since 2013, however, there has been a significant change in this situation, when the Road Safety Authority (RSA), assumed responsibility for driver licensing and established the new National Driver Licence Service.

In preparation for this transition, the National Programme Office for Traffic Medicine (NPOTM) was established as a joint initiative between the RSA and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). The NPOTM, under the Directorship of Prof. Des O'Neill, sought representatives from diverse medical and paramedical professional bodies, the AA, An Garda Síochána and the Irish Patients Association, to draw up new Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines. An early decision was to establish two (2) Licence Groups. Group 1 is essentially private vehicle licences (the established categories A, A1, A2, AM, B, BE and W) and Group 2, the commercial and large PSV licences (categories C, CE, C1, C1E, D, DE, D1 and D1E).

In 2012, the RSA published the new Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines for Group 1 Drivers and this was followed in 2013 by the, necessarily, higher Guideline standards for Group 2 drivers. The Guidelines are intended to assist doctors and other healthcare professionals in advising their patients on their fitness to drive, requirements for reporting conditions to the Licensing Authority and guidance on the review of stability, progression or improvement of these conditions. If you are really stuck for bedtime reading, the latest, 2014, edition is available on the RSA website, www.rsa.ie

There are, to me, two key changes in the new approach to medical standards for driving. The first is a recognition that driving is a normal, frequently essential, part of modern living, and that to be deprived of this facility can have very significant implications for the social, emotional and economic welfare of the individual concerned. The second is a recognition that driving is a skill that requires many competencies, such as vision, hearing, spatial perception, memory, concentration, judgement, muscle power, sensation and co-ordination; one's ability to drive safely depends on functional capacity and adaptation to limitations rather than the simple diagnosis of a particular disease.

The new guidelines, therefore, while necessarily prescriptive in some circumstances, give flexibility to the medical advisor in relation to the individual patient's capacity to adopt and compensate. There is provision for referral by one's GP for an independent medical opinion and, of course, for appropriate specialist opinions, including multidisciplinary team assessments and reviews.

There is no age limit placed on one's ability to drive but age related physical and mental changes vary greatly between

individuals, and the frequency of multiple medical conditions is more likely as birthdays accumulate. Consequently, drivers of 70 years of age and older must renew their licence every three years and are required to have a medical report completed on each occasion. This can be reduced to annually if they have a medical condition that requires review.

The following RSA summary of the roles and responsibilities of drivers, health professionals and driver licensing authorities gives a good guide to the spirit and thrust of the new, world class, guidelines:

Driver:

- To report to the National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) and their insurance provider any long-term or permanent injury or illness that may affect their ability to drive safely: if holding a licence from an EU country other than Ireland, or a recognised country for licence exchange, and developing a condition which could affect safe driving, the driver must contact the NDLS to arrange for an exchange of their licence.
- To respond truthfully to questions from the health professional regarding their health status and the likely impact on their driving ability.
- To adhere to prescribed medical treatment and monitor and manage their condition(s) and any adaptations with ongoing consideration of their fitness to drive.
- To comply with requirements of their licence as appropriate, including periodic medical reviews.

Health professional:

- To assess the person's medical fitness to drive based on the current *Sláinte agus Tiomáint* medical standards.
- To advise the person regarding the impact of their medical condition or disability on their ability to drive and recommend restrictions and ongoing monitoring as required.
- To advise the person of their responsibility to report their condition to the NDLS if their long-term or permanent injury or illness may affect their ability to drive safely.
- To treat, monitor and manage the person's condition with ongoing consideration of their fitness to drive.
- To report to the NDLS regarding a person's fitness to drive in the exceptional circumstances where there is a risk to the public and the driver cannot or will not cease driving.

National Driver Licence Service (NDLS):

- To make all decisions regarding the licensing of drivers. The NDLS will consider reports provided by health professionals.
- To inform the driving public of their responsibility to report any long-term or permanent injury or illness to the NDLS if the condition may affect their ability to drive safely.
- Will act on reports of third parties, Gardaí, general public and healthcare workers regarding concerns of public safety relating to medical fitness to drive.





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.

Lt Col Ciaran O'Halloran	07 April 2014
Capt Patrick Gallagher	18 April 2014
Comdt Gerald (Gerry) C. Newman	13 May 2014
Col Gerard (Gerry) Manning	24 May 2014
Comdt Tom Byrne	31 May 2014
Col Jim Fagan	24 June 2014
Capt John Buckley	25 July 2014
Comdt Paddy Keogh	23 Aug 2014
Lt Col Niall Callanan	24 Sep 2014
Capt Joseph Patrick (Joe) Finucane	27 Sep 2014
Comdt Stephen (Steve) Lyons.	02 Oct 2014
Lt Col Padraig Brophy	26 Oct 2014

Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Capt Niel Twomey	Comdt Francis Sheeran
Comdt Michael Rohan	Comdt Patrick Butler
Lt Col Edmund Fogarty	Comdt John.J. Moriarty
Col Brian O'Keeffe	Lt Col Frank O'Reilly
Comdt Dave Clarke	Lt Col John White

ARCO's Texting Service

As part of our aim at improving communications with our members, you should have received texts informing you of important events which are of interest to you. If you have NOT been receiving these texts, perhaps you may wish to confirm your mobile phone number by forwarding it, along with your Name and Address to Comdt Billy Campbell at campbellbilly3@eircom.net

Dates For Your Calender

Defence Forces Events

Dec 2014 - July 2015

The following Ceremonial events are open to the public. Timings will be confirmed.

10 Dec 2014	Defence Forces Carol Service, Arbour Hill. 2000hrs
17 Mar 2015	Defence Forces involvement in selected St Patrick's Day Parades
05 Apr 2015	1916 Easter Sunday Commemoration
06 May 2015	1916 Commemoration Arbour Hill, Dublin
14-19 May 2015	International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes
12 July 2015	National Day of Commemoration Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin.

GOAL has contacted the Defence Forces in relation to the expansion of its International Team in Sierra Leone and Liberia as it scales up its programmes in these countries. GOAL has enquired if retired members of the Defence Forces would be interested in volunteering for this mission. The positions most suited are those relating to construction and logistics. Full job descriptions and the country operating context are available from GOAL



EDITOR'S NOTE

The newsletter is issued in Spring and Autumn. The editor welcomes articles or items of interest or suggestions as to what should be included. If you have any contribution or suggestion please send them to the editor **Declan Carbery** at declancarbery@hotmail.com or post to Col Declan Carbery (Retd) 61, The Paddocks, Naas, Co. Kildare.