



Cumann na nIar - Oifigeach Coimisiúnta

# newsletter

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

Issue No: 29 ( Autumn/Winter 2015)

ARCO Web Site: [www.iarco.info](http://www.iarco.info)

## Government's new White Paper on Defence

*On 26th August last, The Minister for Defence, Mr Simon Coveney T.D. launched the Government's new White Paper on Defence. Included in the White Paper was reference to a Veterans Policy.*

A veterans' policy has been worked on by the three Defence Forces associations for some years now and in November 2009 the then Assistant Secretary of the Department was requested to use his good offices to arrange a meeting with the Department to further develop a veterans' policy. This issue has been mentioned and discussed at the various meetings held each year with the Department.

ARCO met with then Minister, Alan Shatter TD, in March 2013. Amongst the items discussed were the White Paper and the issue of recognition. Minister Shatter stressed that ARCO was officially recognised and would be assured of every facility and courtesy afforded to ONET and IUNVA. The Assistant Secretary attending the meeting was invited by the Minister to offer similar remarks, which he did.

ARCO currently represents about 800 members with a cohort of retired commissioned officers from the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps. This represents a significant percentage of retired commissioned officers.

Our membership reflects a considerable reservoir of experience and expertise within the realm of defence – thus facilitating our submissions on the White Paper and Foreign Policy and External Relations. The Association is very well positioned to contribute to the development of a Veterans' Policy. It has been part of the network of defence



contributors for twenty-three years and is ready to play its part in future developments in the veterans' area.

At a meeting with the Department of Defence on 20 Nov 2015, it was agreed that the three veteran organisations (ARCO, ONET and IUNVA) would each nominate one representative to a subgroup that would be established to look at areas of veterans' policy.

## Public Service Pension Reductions.

*On 16th June the government agreed to reduce the Public Service Pension Reductions.*

The Executive Committee of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers has considered the June statement by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the government's decision to commence the restoration of Public Service Pension Reductions.

ARCO congratulates the Alliance of Retired Public Servants in achieving this on behalf of its members. While acknowledging this as a step in the right direction, ARCO is aware that the objective of the full restoration of service pensions remains to be achieved. This, along with negotiating rights for public service pensioners and a strategy to address the need for real pension increases will continue to be the guiding principle for the Alliance, of which ARCO is an active member.

The changes announced in June provide for a restoration of pension income subjected to the Public Service Pension Reduction on a phased basis over three years as follows,

- 1 January 2016 – return of €400 to most PSPR-impacted pensioners
- 1 January 2017 – return of €500 to most PSPR-impacted pensioners
- 1 January 2018 – return of €780 to most PSPR-impacted pensioners

Political parties are now in "election mode" and are aware that a large percentage of our members actually vote. So remember, when they come calling to your door, lobby them to make sure that they support the restoration of our pensions fully and that USC is fully removed. We, as retired Commissioned Officers, have borne our share of pension cuts in order to help restore the financial situation in our country and we deserve, and expect, the restoration of our pensions.



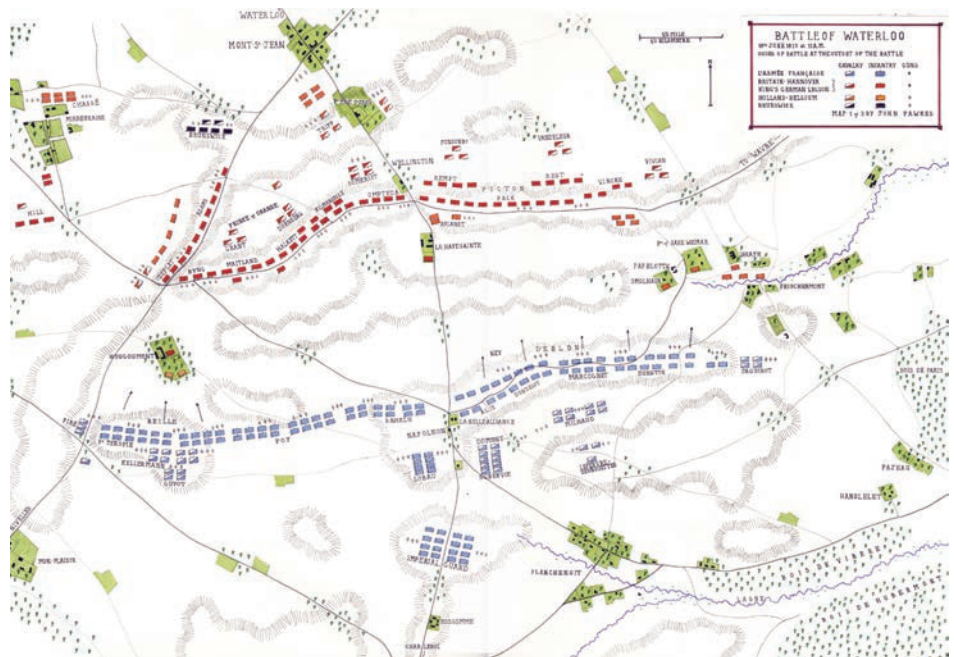
# Waterloo

18 June 1815

*2015 marks the 200th anniversary of the historic Battle of Waterloo, which is seen as one of the most significant military campaigns in European history. Col Donal O'Carroll (Retd) explains what happened.*

After his exile in Elba, Napoleon entered Paris on Sunday 9 March 1815. Most of the population welcomed the return of the emperor and he, with his usual energy, set about overturning much that had been introduced by the Bourbons in his absence, but above all in assembling an army. Of the four armies in the field against him only two, the Anglo-Dutch (a combination of the armies of Great Britain and the Netherlands) and the Prussians, were in position in cantonments near the French-Dutch frontier since May. The Russians and the Austrians were too far away to influence operations in the short term. Although the Anglo-Dutch and the Prussians were in contact with each other they would take an estimated three days to concentrate in a united force. Napoleon was determined to catch them before that, and so defeat them separately.

Although on paper the emperor had 305,000 men he could find only 123,000 for his invasion force because of the many commitments he faced. Nevertheless, with this number the campaign could begin. On 6 June orders went out to the various commanders detailing the deployments to be made. The plan was that for the advance the army would be divided into two wings with two corps in either wing. The two were to advance from concentration areas inside the French border on roughly parallel axes of advance about ten miles apart. The left wing was to be under the command of Marshal Ney, the right under Marshal Grouchy. The



## *Order of Battle at the Outset of the Battle*

advance across the border began at 03.00 hours on 15 June.

The opposition, the Anglo-Dutch of the duke of Wellington and the Prussians of Field Marshal Gebhard von Blücher, were spread out over a distance of around 150 miles and a depth of up to 40 miles. Wellington's HQ was at Brussels, Blücher's at Namur. Wellington had two corps, located to the west of the allied area, commanded respectively by the prince of Orange and Lord Hill. Blücher had four corps located to the east of the area. Due to the excellent French security arrangements the allies had little intelligence of the opposition's movements.

The French advanced with Ney's force of two corps, (Reille and d'Erlon) on the left and Grouchy's two (Vandamme and Gérard) on the right. The axes of advance were from six to ten miles apart and were both directed towards Brussels about 45 miles to the north. On the left wing good progress was made despite the attentions of Dutch skirmishers and artillery.

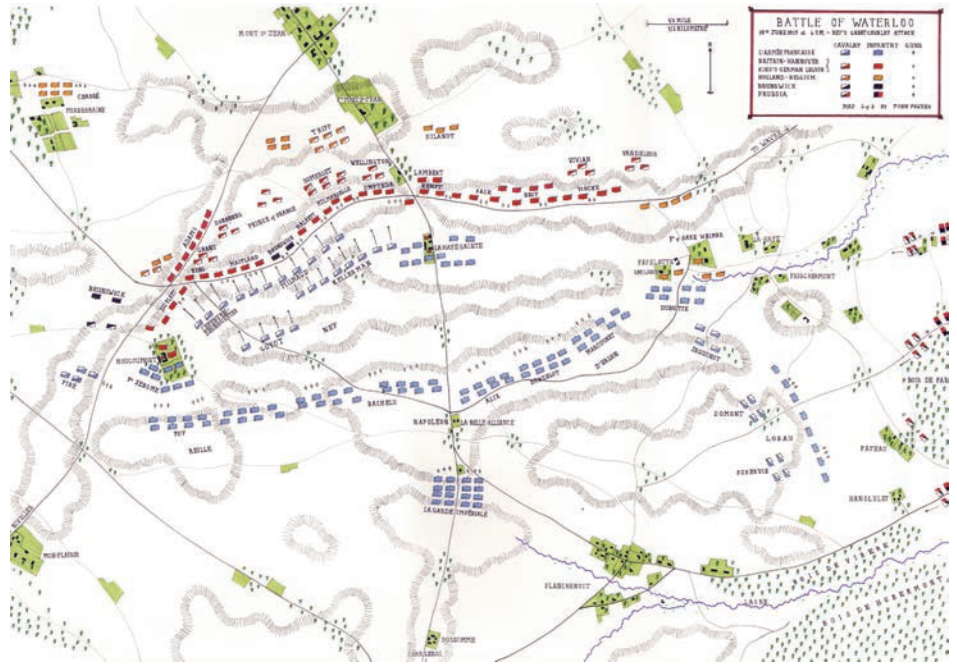
However, unusual hesitancy on the part of Ney resulted in the failure to secure Quatre Bras, a key intermediate objective. On the other wing, Grouchy's progress was somewhat slower. Darkness halted his advance a few miles short of Ligny which is not as far north as Quatre Bras and about seven miles to its east. As Blücher at Namur became aware that his outposts were under attack he sent a message to Wellington who was at a ball in Brussels given by the duchess of Richmond. With little sleep the duke rode fast for Quatre Bras ordering all available Anglo-Dutch infantry, cavalry and artillery to join him. To the east, Blücher's army was concentrating in the Ligny area.

On 16 June battle was joined at Ligny. Grouchy inflicted heavy losses on the Prussian infantry drawn up on a forward slope and at the mercy of the French gunners. Gallant action of the Prussian cavalry led by Blücher in person allowed the shattered infantry to escape, though with 30,000 casualties. Blücher withdrew to Wavre about ten miles east of



Waterloo. With his left wing now exposed as a result of this withdrawal Wellington retired north to a good position at Mont-Saint-Jean a few miles south of Waterloo and informed Blücher that he intended to fight his battle there if he could be sure of Prussian support. During 17 June Blücher reorganised his army at Wavre. He ordered Thielmann (III Corps) to oppose Grouchy and ordered his other three corps to prepare to march to Mont-Sainte-Jain at first light on 18 June. Bülow (IV Corps) whose corps had suffered least was ordered to lead, followed by Pirch (II Corps) and Ziethen (I Corps).

At Mont-Sainte-Jean on 17 June Wellington prepared his defence. His location was a crescent-shaped ridge running east to west with its concavity to the north. His divisions facing south held a line about a mile and a half in length along the ridge. The difficult Bois de Paris was to the east. The position, which was bisected by the south to north Brussels highway, offered him the reverse slope deployment that he favoured. His main line of defence lay largely on the reverse side of the ridge with his reserves in rear. In the lower ground forward of the main line there were three strong chateaux or farms each having farm buildings and yards with stone walls of considerable



#### *Great Cavalry Attack*

strength. On the right, Hougoumont was held by the four light companies of the

four battalions of the British Guards' Division which was on the ridge a few hundred yards behind them. In the centre, La Haye Sainte was occupied by a battalion of the King's German Legion, a British regiment, raised to acknowledge the royal family's German background. Its position was on the east side of the highway to Brussels: on the west side, about fifty yards nearer the ridge were six companies of the 95th Rifles, later the Rifle Brigade. At the left end of the position were the strong farms of

Papelotte and Fischermont held by troops of the prince of Saxe-Weimar whose main force held the left of the main line of defence.

Napoleon having arrived at Mont-Saint-Jean on the morning of 18 June decided to occupy the high ground south of the ridge held by the Anglo-Dutch. He planted his artillery on the forward slopes in front of his position. At 11.00 hours he issued final orders. Reille (II Corps) was ordered to seize Hougoumont. What might have seemed to be an operation that could be carried without great difficulty proved to be much the



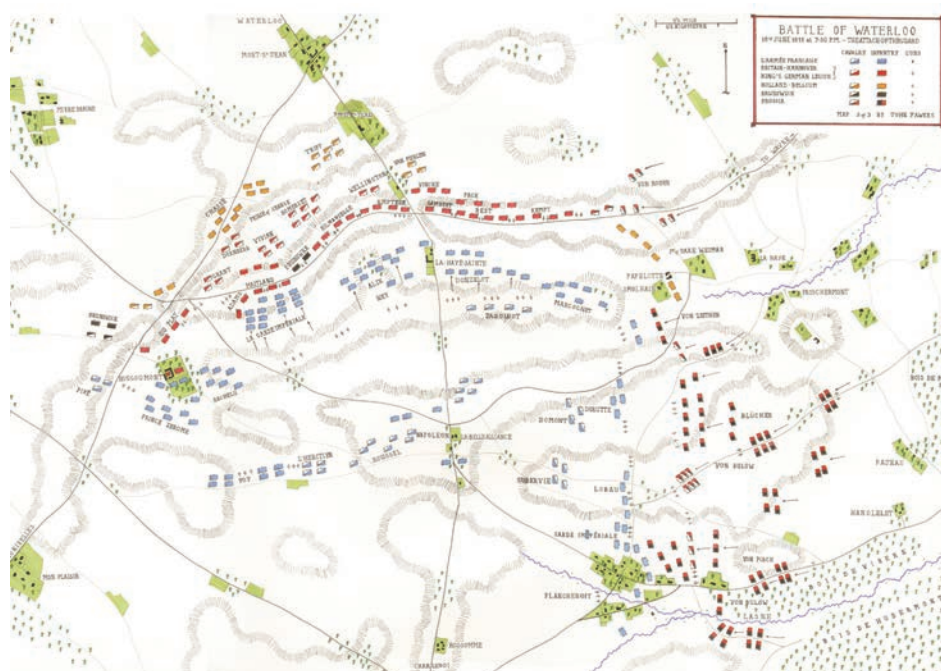




opposite. Reille committed one of his three divisions to the task but in the ensuing fighting the commander of the first brigade involved was killed and there were many casualties. Another brigade was repulsed and eventually Reille's whole corps spent the day investing Hougomont which never fell, thus depriving Napoleon of valuable infantry that he was later to need. It must be borne in mind that two of his corps were meantime still engaged under Grouchy against the Prussians in the Wavre area.

At 15.00 hours, d'Erlon (I Corps) was ordered to attack the Anglo-Dutch centre-left. He adopted an echelon formation for his four divisions making a line which extended north-eastwards from the Brussels highway towards the left of Wellington's position. As the divisions marched down the slope they passed through the French gun-line after which the gunners could give overhead fire. The allies in the shelter of the reverse slope suffered little but there was fierce fighting at La Haye Sainte where the KGL and the 95th put up stout resistance. A counter-attack led by the redoubtable Sir Thomas Picton, who was killed in the action, was followed by a charge of the heavy cavalry of the Household and Union Brigades which drove back the French.

About mid-afternoon, Napoleon was feeling unwell and withdrew to the farm of Rosomme. Ney took over. Noting wagon movements on the Anglo-Dutch ridge (they were, in fact, ambulances and supply wagons) Ney assumed that the allies were withdrawing and decided to attack with the IV Reserve Cavalry Corps of 3,000 troops to which were added a further 2,500 of light cavalry. On a narrow front of 700 yards between Hougomont and La Haye Sainte the force charged up the hill. At 400 yards range the allied gunners had a field day. The infantry defenders on the ridge formed squares, but with no horse artillery to blow holes in the squares and no follow-up infantry



*The Attack of the Guard*

to exploit, all the surviving cavalry could do was to ride around ineffectually. Ney now added another 3,500 cavalry to compound the problem. Not one square broke. Later, Napoleon on his return was aghast that such a charge should be launched without infantry support.

At about 17.00 hours Bülow, whose progress through the difficult Bois de Paris to the east had been slow, seeing the precarious situation of Wellington, decided to attack before his corps was complete. He sent two battalions to link up with Saxe-Weimar at Papelotte and he moved towards the village of Plancenoit deep in the rear of the French position. As Pirch's II Corps came into the Bois de Paris La Haye Sainte finally fell: the KGL survivors moved back to the ridge. 18.30 hours saw the crisis of the battle with more and more of Wellington's reserves being called to plug gaps in the centre. Ney ordered artillery to the La Haye Sainte position and sent an ADC to Napoleon for infantry but he had more pressing problems from the Prussians. Bülow was now attacking Plancenoit with two large brigades and artillery. The

village was taken but then re-taken by eight battalions of the Young Guard reinforced by two of the Old Guard. Ney made a frantic call for infantry to exploit the capture of La Haye Sainte. Napoleon's reply: 'infantry! Does he expect me to make it'. All the infantry were either engaged at Hougomont or facing the Prussians, who now included Ziethen's I Corps. Only the Old Guard was left. Its battalions formed up on the French ridge and prepared to move off in two columns led by Napoleon himself. He was persuaded to hand over to Ney who said that if he, Napoleon, was lost, France would be lost. Led by Ney the columns marched off in the direction of the crossroads on the highway but as they ascended the ridge they veered to the left and met the British Guards and Halkett's Hanoverian brigade. As they saw the scenes of devastation resulting from the failed cavalry charges the defenders stood up and, joined by others, charged. A general retreat began, 'La Garde recule!' - 'the Guard is retreating'. On the ridge, Wellington waved his hat and ordered a general advance. The great battle was over.

# Your Annual Service

*Following on from an article on medical matters by Col. Maurice Collins (Retd) in a previous Newsletter, a number of members have asked that this article by Comdt Michael Baynes (Retd) be published again. Michael believes that personal legal matters should receive equal attention in the "regular check-up" scheme of things.*

## 1. Consult Your Solicitor

Independent professional advice is recommended in every matter. You will find a plethora of guides and booklets of every description for every subject but there is no substitute for good professional advice in a given situation as individual circumstances are rarely identical. It is worthwhile to establish a relationship with

professional advisers be they doctors, accountants, architects or whatever.

Solicitors are ideally poised to be of assistance in personal matters particularly in respect of wills, succession, real property, employment, family law or general litigation. Is time of the essence in such matters and is the Statute of Limitations of any urgent relevance to issues in your life? Your solicitor can issue and defend legal proceedings on your behalf. The solicitor's profession is highly regulated for your benefit and there is considerable protection in place for clients, including professional indemnity insurance.

## 2. Where Are Your Title Deeds?

If your property is mortgaged, your title deeds will be in the custody of the relevant bank or building society by way of security as distinct from safekeeping. Check if the mortgage applies only to the property

which is the subject of the loan or does it also apply to "all sums due" including personal loans and overdrafts? If you repaid your mortgage in full, did you recover your title deeds? If so, has the mortgage itself been registered with the Property Registration Authority as being satisfied in full? Have top-up mortgages been released and might there be a cross mortgage on a second property?

Have any title matters changed? Are there any boundary disputes or issues relating to rights of way or easements in relation to septic tanks that require to be regularised? Have you acquired the freehold title in addition to a leasehold interest (by a purchase of the ground rent) and is that title properly registered? Do you need a formal review?

On the other hand, have there been any events that will impact upon title matters such as deaths on title, insolvency, marital status, family law proceedings, sub lettings or further building developments that would occasion a grant of planning permission (or an architect's certificate of exemption) and certificates of compliance with the Building Regulations and so on? Building Energy Rating certificates are also relevant for sales or lettings. Preserve all such original records.

Do not be tempted to tidy up the file by discarding old title records such as old search results or probates etc. Maintain all deeds and accompanying records together, no matter how old, in a secure place.

### 3. Have You Completed A Personal Assets Record?

Everybody should maintain an updated summary of relevant personal asset information that will serve as an informational guide to family members in the event of death or incapacity. \*Typical record sheets (obtainable from solicitors and accountants) will record employment, pension, taxation and social welfare information, general financial and legal information and a reference to wills, executors, trustees and professional advisers, as applicable.

### 4. Have You A Valid Will?

A retired army officer once boasted to me that he had made a will as far back as the 1960s when he served on UN duty in the Congo. He was not so pleased when I advised him that the will was invalidated by his subsequent marriage! My advice is that every existing will should be located and reviewed especially in the light of altered family and taxation circumstances. What of capital tax implications for beneficiaries? Is financial and tax planning advice required? Are you aware that some capital tax thresholds have been reduced

over the past number of years? Some are now availing of reduced property values to dispose of property to children. Do you need to update the appointment of executors, trustees or guardians of infant children or do you simply need to update financial values?

If you have not made a will, then you (and your spouse) should do so without delay. You will not be a prisoner of it as you may alter it as frequently as you wish. It is not expensive to have a will professionally drawn and you can also avail of the opportunity to have a consultation on succession law and other relevant matters at the same time.

### 5. Consider An Enduring Power of Attorney?

This particular statutory form of attorney allows a person of good mental health to give a power to specifically nominated persons to take lifetime decisions for them in the event of mental incapacity. A will is different in that it takes effect from death and the usual power of attorney is also different in that it ceases to have effect when the donor becomes mentally incapacitated. Such decisions may relate

to personal care, property and financial affairs etc. It is an invaluable facility for older persons, in particular, and it is worth investigating further.

### 6. What About A Document Audit?

Having mentioned title deeds and wills, have you located, filed, indexed and reviewed other significant legal documents, such as, legal agreements, landlord and tenant records, legal

proceedings records (including court judgements, awards or decrees), family law records (birth and marriage certificates, separation agreements, maintenance orders, or a decree of divorce), corporate or partnership records, recent returns to the Companies Registration Office or the Revenue Commissioners, company directorships (including valid resignations therefrom), tax clearance certificates, deposit receipts, guarantees, warranties, builder's indemnities, copyright, organ donation and graveyard plot records.

Do not forget items in storage in banks for safe keeping, if any, and what of old prize bonds, share certificates, life assurance policies or post office accounts? Are there any medical or social welfare records that may be relevant to entitlements or eligibility in later years? Might you still be the registered owner of the car you sold recently and have you notified all and sundry of your last change of address? The list is endless!

Doubtless, I have omitted items of significance to some but hopefully I have drawn attention to matters of general interest to many. Comments welcome.

*Comdt Michael J. Baynes (Retd), Solicitor.  
Email: baynesco@eircom.net*

*In the next Newsletter, Michael will have a Short Guide to Capital Acquisition Tax.*





# Dates for your Calender

## STATE CEREMONIAL PROGRAMME 2016:

Date	Event	Location
Friday 1 January	2016 Opening event of the State Commemorative Programme, including a flag raising ceremony.	Dublin Castle
Monday 7 March	Secondary School Flag Ceremony	Croke Park
Tuesday 8 March	Commemoration event to highlight the significant role played by women in the 1916 Rising	Royal Hospital Kilmainham
17 March	St Patrick's Day Parade.	Various
Saturday 26 March	A Remembrance Ceremony for all those who died during the events of 1916 will be held in the Garden of Remembrance. The event will have a cultural element with appropriate music and poetry included.	Garden of Remembrance
Saturday 26 March	A State event for relatives of all those who took part in the events of 1916 will be held. This event will be led by the relatives and will be a respectful and appropriate evening for families to reflect on the involvement of their ancestors and to mark the events of 1916	Venue to be decided.
Easter Sunday 27 March	A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Sigerson Monument by appropriate dignitaries for all who served during Easter week. Dublin-born Dora Sigerson designed the memorial to the 1916 dead and bequeathed funds in her will for its erection.	Glasnevin
Easter Sunday 27 March	A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the grave of Edward Hollywood, who was the weaver of the first Irish Tricolour in 1848.	Glasnevin
Easter Sunday 27 March	A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the grave of Peadar Kearney, who wrote the lyrics to the Soldiers' Song - Amhrán na bhFiann	Glasnevin
Easter Sunday 27 March	A wreath-laying ceremony will take place on the site where the 1916 Leaders were executed.	Stone Breakers Yard, Kilmainham Gaol
Easter Sunday 27 March	Ceremonies at the GPO on Easter Sunday A military ceremonial and wreath-laying by the President. Parade involving Defence Forces, Gardaí and Emergency Services	GPO
Easter Sunday 27 March	A State Reception in Dublin Castle will take place, at the Taoiseach's invitation, for the guests invited to the parade.	Dublin Castle Complex
Easter Monday 28 March	Synchronised wreath-laying ceremonies will be held at 1.15p.m – the time that the first shots of the 1916 Rising were fired - at strategic points around Dublin and other key regional areas, starting at Dublin Castle.  Appropriate ceremonies will be held at each site according to the significance of the site in the events in 1916.  The Ireland 2016 Project Team will work with relevant local authorities to ensure that each event is appropriately commemorated. Other events may be developed in conjunction with other local authorities over the course of the programme.	Dublin Castle National Archives - (formerly Jacob's Factory) City Hall Boland's Mill The Four Courts College of Surgeons Moore St (TBC) Ashbourne Enniscorthy Cork Galway (City and County)
Tuesday 29 March	A ceremony will take place to commemorate the significant contribution of the Irish Citizen Army and James Connolly in the events of 1916 at Liberty Hall, in conjunction with the Trade Union movement.	Liberty Hall
Sunday 3 April	An Interfaith Service will be held at the Remembrance Walls at Glasnevin Cemetery to commemorate all those who lost their lives during the Easter Rising, including civilian dead.	Glasnevin
Thursday 21 April	A ceremony, to include wreath-laying event for Sir Roger Casement, will take place at Banna Strand in County Kerry.	Banna Strand. Ballykissane Pier
Sunday 24 April	A commemorative event will take place at Arbour Hill to include Requiem Mass, Inter-faith graveside ceremonies and wreath-laying.	Arbour Hill
Sunday 24 April	Dublin City Council to unveil a plaque at each of the 11 Garrisons involved in the 1916 rising	Dublin
Tuesday 26 April	The official opening of the Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines	Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines
3-12 May	Official ceremonies will take place between 3rd and 12th May to commemorate the 15 executions	Stonebreakers Yard, Kilmainham Gaol. Cork – Loc. TBC
19 - 23 May	International Military Pilgrimage (TBC)	Lourdes
Date (May?) TBC	A ceremony will take place at Grangegorman Military Cemetery for British soldiers who died during the Easter Rising.	Grangegorman Cemetery



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



## Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Lt Col Jim McCarthy	Comdt Colm Farrell,
Lt Col Ian Hanna	Comdt Terence McNamara
Comdt Ciaran Motherway	Comdt Philip Smyth
Capt Declan O'Brien	Comdt Fiona Smyth
Col Billy Harrington	Capt Chris McQuaid
Comdt Roderick McNamee	Comdt Walter Freyne
Brig Gen Seamus Ó'Giolláin	Comdt Margaret Ledwidge
Col Eamon Ó'Siochrú	Comdt Paul Logan
Comdt Pat Lavelle,	Lt Col Patrick Ryan
Cdr Noel Goulding,	Comdt Gerard King

## Defence Forces Promotions

*ARCO would like to congratulate the undermentioned officers on their promotions to the listed appointments since our last Newsletter.*

Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM	.....Chief of Staff
Maj Gen Kieran Brennan	.....D COS Operations
Maj Gen Kevin Cotter	.....D COS Support
Brig Gen Philip Brennan	.....GOC 1st Bde
Brig Gen Joe Mulligan	.....GOC DFTC

## 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.

Capt Michael (Mick) Maher	16 May 2015
Comdt Gerard (Gerry) Williams	24 May 2015
Col George Murphy	28 May 2015
Comdt William (Billy) O'Neill	30 May 2015
Lt Col Patrick A. (Tony) Kelly	04 June 2015
Comdt Paddy Pender	25 July 2015
Lt Col Jack Griffin	31 Oct 2015
Maj Gen Patrick (Paddy) Nowlan	06 Nov 2015
Capt Patrick (Paddy) Butler	07 Dec 2015

## ARCO AGM 2015

*The following were elected at the AGM which was held on 02 October 2015 in McKee Bks, Dublin.*

President: ..... Cmdr Gerry O'Flynn  
Vice President: ..... Col George Kerton

Hon Secretary: ..... Lt Col Joe Ahern  
Hon Treasurer: ..... Lt Col Richard Cummins

Hon Membership  
Secretary: ..... Col Richard Heaslip

Eastern Region Representative  
..... Brig Gen Paul Pakenham  
..... Comdt Billy Campbell

Southern Region Representatives  
..... Lt Col Mick Baston  
..... Comdt Sean Murphy

Western Region Representatives  
..... Col Senan Downes  
..... Brig Gen Gerry McNamara.

DFTC Regional Representatives  
..... Lt Col Seamus Rouine  
..... Col Con McNamara.

Naval Service Regional Representatives  
..... Cmdr Gerry O'Flynn  
..... Comdt Peter Daly

Air Corps Regional Representatives  
..... Lt Col Richard Cummins  
..... Capt Ray Bonar

Ex-Officio Retiring President  
..... Brig Gen Liam MacNamee

CAOGA ..... Lt Col Sean Scanlon

Newsletter ..... Col Declan Carbery

Auditor ..... Comdt Pat Casey

ARCO congratulates Cmdr Gerry O'Flynn (Retd) on his appointment as President of the Association. ARCO would also like to wish Brig Gen MacNamee (Retd) a happy retirement ... again, and thank him for his excellent stewardship of ARCO during the period of his Presidency of the Association.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The newsletter is issued in Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter. 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 Declan Carbery at [declancarbery@hotmail.com](mailto:declancarbery@hotmail.com)