



Pension Restoration

The Alliance of Retired Public Servants (of which ARCO is an active member) recently sent a letter to Mr Paschal Donohoe T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform highlighting a number of events that occurred in the past few weeks.

The issues mentioned were:

- the granting of access to Garda organisations to the WRC and Labour Court;
- the Labour Court proposals in relation to GRA and AGSI claims;
- the subsequent public calls of major public service unions for urgent revisiting of pay restoration under Landsdowne Road; and
- the references in official statements to "the wider implications" of the Labour Court recommendations in relation to the continued operation of the Landsdowne Road Agreement requiring careful consideration

It was pointed out that these issues were clearly "game changers" which are greatly impacting on the growing concerns of public service pensioners, as they are on serving public servants.

The Alliance believes that the time has now come for revisiting pension arrangements. The overwhelming view is that the low level and slow pace of pension restoration under the FEMPI 2015 Act is wholly inadequate and pensioners have to be involved, like the public service unions, in official discussions which now appear imminent in regard to FEMPI and related matters.

What is absolutely clear, however, is that the concept of 150,000 public service pensioners having no access to third party industrial relations machinery, on a permanent or ad hoc basis, in the event of possible disagreement in due course with government about pension restoration and pension increases is increasingly untenable. In effect, pensioners' voices are being 'gagged' and it is important that pensioners lobby their public representatives demanding that their voices be heard. Lobbying at a local level is an effective method of ensuring that your concerns are noted and can be fed up to national level.

Points to remember when talking to your public representative are;

- Average Public Sector Pension is approx. €20,000.00.
- Unlike Public Sector workers, PS pensioners have NO
- It is ironic that 100 years after the 1916 rising, the state uses emergency law against the very people who spent their lives serving their country.
- For the second year running, we have the fastest growing economy in Europe. The emergency must be well and truly over.

In our Newsletter, No 29, we highlighted the changes in relation to Pension Restoration which were introduced by the Government in June 2015. The second phase of this restoration is due on 01 January 2017. This second phase will see an additional €500.00 per annum restored to those affected. As a result, any public service pensioner on a pension of less than €26,000.00 per annum will no longer be subject to the pension reduction. ARCO is continuing to work with the Alliance to have the exemption threshold increased, so that all members will attain full pension restoration sooner than outlined in the 2015 Government announcement.





Jadotville Recalled

By Declan Power

September 13, 1961, marked the start of a horrendous five-day siege that, to this day, remains the biggest and bloodiest battle ever fought by the Irish Defence Forces. It commenced when most of the members of A Company, 35 Inf Bn were attending a mass parade following their deployment to a place called Jadotville as part of a UN mission to the Congo to restore order and stability following its independence from Belgium.

As the enemy forces – native rebel troops led by war-hardened European mercenary officers – approached A Coy lines in a hostile fashion, a young sentry looked for guidance from his sergeant.

And as the incoming mortar rounds and machinegun bullets started to pound the Irish trenches, it fell on the inexperienced shoulders of Sgt John Monaghan from Athlone to hastily organise the defence. Monahan himself had just returned from washing and shaving to find the well-armed natives closing in on the Irish positions. Still in his singlet, the young NCO frantically shouted orders to the other gun crews and jumped behind a Vickers machinegun, with which he proceeded to cut down swathes of the advancing enemy. The Katangan rebels – who had expected to overrun what they knew to be largely young and unblooded troops – were taken aback by the ferocity of the Irish response.

And yet what was to become known as the Siege of Jadotville, fought 55 years ago in the strife-torn former Belgian Congo, does not even merit a mention in the history books studied by Irish schoolchildren. Until comparatively recently, there was little recognition for the 157 Irish soldiers who dug in and fought on the outskirts of that dusty mining town for almost a week against a force that at its peak numbered 3,000.

Instead, they and their commanding officer have been airbrushed out of official accounts of Ireland's role as UN peacekeepers in the postcolonial Congo and branded cowards – often to their faces. For, after five long days, their food and ammunition exhausted, their commanding officer, Comdt Pat Quinlan, agreed to surrender after tense negotiations during a period of ceasefire. They were the first Irish soldiers to be captured in such a public way by enemy forces since the foundation of the state.

While the recently made film, 'Siege of Jadotville' was adapted from the book 'Siege at Jadotville' there are a number of areas of dramatic licence taken that the professional military observer will have noted. For example, apart from the Coy Comd, Comdt Quinlan, the only other observable commissioned officer in the unit is shown to be a 'Lt Donnelly' in command of the 60mm mortars.

Even though this is outlined in the book, I will quickly outline the composition of A Coy. At the time of the Jadotville action, A Coy was composed of: No 1 Platoon under Lt Joe Leech No 2 Platoon under Lt Tom Quinlan (later to win a DSM for actions in the Battle of the Tunnel and retire a Brigadier-General) No 3 Platoon under Lt Noel Carey Support Platoon under Capt Liam Donnelly.

The company 2i/c was Capt Dermot Byrne and the company sergeant was C/S John Prendergast, with CQMS Pat Neville as the other senior NCO of the company and who administered his stores and managed the welfare of the company throughout the action.

Attachments

Attachments included the following: Comdt Joe Clune – Doctor Fr Thomas Fagan – Chaplain Lt Kevin Knightly – Armoured Car Detachment commander plus nine other ranks (incl fitters). To set the matter straight, A Coy, including its armoured car attachment, was 157 all ranks. There has been some speculation on the strength of A Coy as deployed to Jadotville and as to whether attachments were included or not. In general the figure for the strength of A Coy always includes the attachments.

Without attachments, A Coy, as deployed to Jadotville, stood at 145 all ranks. This did not correspond to its official nominal roll at the time as a number of other ranks and one officer, Capt Kevin McCarthy, were deployed on other duties back at 35 Irish Bn HQ in Elizabethville.

Capt McCarthy had been kept on the initial coy strength, but re-deployed to Bn HQ to assist as the battalion cine photographer as he was one of the few with such expertise in the Defence Forces at the time.

Attached Swedish personnel included: Lt Larse Fromberg who was attached to A Coy as a liaison officer and interpreter and was with A Coy on their initial deployment but not listed on the Coy nominal roll. Lt Bjarne Hovden, pilot of the ill-fated helicopter that attempted to re-supply the beleaguered Jadotville garrison. Warrant Officer Eric Thors, Hovden's co-pilot.

Military historians agree that Kerry-born Comdt Quinlan had no alternative but to surrender when he did. What the film does not show however is that the enemy had requested a cease-fire on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept 16, 1961.

In the period between that afternoon and the evening, a battle of nerves was commenced between Comdt Quinlan and an array of adversaries. Despite the terms of the ceasefire laying down for joint-patrolling but not further manoeuvring of forces on either side, the Kantangan forces deployed closer to Irish lines.

The Fouga jet continued to demonstrate the Katangan control of the skies. Quinlan at this point knew UN reinforcements had failed twice to take Lufira Bridge and therefore he could expect no imminent breakthrough to support him or his men.

A request by Quinlan through his chain of command to allow for a demonstration of UN airpower by an over flight by Indian or Ethiopian jets came to nothing as the jets still had not successfully negotiated the necessary transit through neighbouring airspaces to deploy to Katanga.

In the end, Quinlan was faced with negotiating his surrender with the Katangan minister of the interior, Mr. Godfroid Munongo, a very senior and experienced political figure. Among other things, Munongo had complimented the Irish on their military performance and honourable fight at Jadotville, but warned Quinlan that many locals were incensed at the losses caused by the Irish and were making ready to storm the Irish positions in protest. Munongo also made it known that local feelings were running high about alleged UN force's atrocities and killing of prisoners at Elizabethville.

So among the many things that must have been on Quinlan's mind at this point, was the notion of his men being provoked into defending themselves against a violent civilian mob...and then being wiped out by the gendarmes with an end narrative that A Company had to be finished off as they had attacked unarmed civilians! The Irish troops, many of them teenagers who had never before left Ireland, were up against battle-hardened native troops led by seasoned mercenaries like the infamous ex French marine, Bob Denard.

All round, he was faced with a series of unpalatable options. But, as I have stated in the book, his final decision was largely based on the fact that his mission objective was and had always been unobtainable, i.e. the protection of people who didn't need or want his protection.

With that in mind it meant Quinlan then turned to his secondary objective, saving his men from being slaughtered needlessly.

It could be legitimately argued that Quinlan while not outclassed on the battlefield, was certainly out manoeuvred on the negotiation front following the ceasefire. Had a show of force such as an over flight of UN jets been possible, it is likely the uneasy stand-off between A Coy and the Katangan gendarmerie at Jadotville would have continued until UN reinforcements eventually broke through.

Initially, in captivity at a local hotel Quinlan and the blue bereted youngsters he commanded were commended by Munongo in front of the world's media for the extraordinary bravery and discipline they demonstrated to hold out as long as they did

A Coy were held hostage from September 18 until October 25, when they were released in a prisoner swap. But on their return to Ireland, instead of being hailed as heroes, they were accused of cowardice. Although their immediate superiors recommended that a number be decorated, none ever was. Just a year before the siege of Jadotville,

Ireland had been shocked by the deaths of nine Irish soldiers massacred at Niemba. In death, these brave young men were granted full military honours.

However, due to a combination of ignorance and pettiness, State and public alike have forgotten what should have been one of the finest tales of gallantry and skill-at-arms involving Irish soldiers

The Irish soldiers had gone to Africa after Belgium's notoriously savage 75-year colonial rule of the Congo – a brutalised land immortalised in Conrad's novel *Heart Of Darkness* – had ended abruptly on June 30, 1960. The transfer of power to an untrained and inept central government was far too rapid.

Disillusionment spread rapidly through the civil population and, more importantly, the armed forces, as the rosy promises of the new politicians failed to materialise.

In an attempt to stem the pending chaos, and perhaps with more than a twinge of guilt, Belgium intervened – with calamitous results.

The prosperous, mineral-rich province of Katanga took advantage of the chaos by seceding from the new state. Jadotville – now called Likasi – was the centre of a major mining operation. A Coy were made the scapegoats for the most bizarre defeat in the history of a UN mission when over 150 men were captured by the Katangan rebel forces.

The area around Jadotville was known for its huge copper and cobalt deposits that traditionally underpinned the Congo's economy. The area was also of major international strategic importance. The uranium used to make the first atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki came from a mine at Shinkolobwe near Jadotville.

Not surprisingly, cynical overseas investors who bankrolled a gendarmerie of native troops led by foreign mercenaries backed Katanga financially. Col Roger Trinquier, a retired French counter-insurgency specialist, initially led these mercenaries. However, he was soon replaced by Comdt Robert Falques, a former officer of the French Foreign Legion and veteran of France's colonial war in Indo-China. Despite the characterisation of the mercenary leader at Jadotville being Falques, it was actually a 'Major' Michel de Clary, a former French soldier about which little is known. While he commanded the mixed mercenary/native gendarmerie force, he undoubtedly would have been taking his directions strategically from Falques in Elizabethville.

Another myth, which sprung up in those days, was that Irish mercenary, 'Mad Mike' Hoare was somehow involved. This is untrue...it was to be some years before Hoare led what became known as '5 Commando', a mercenary unit hired to fight against rebellious Congolese tribes during the Simba Revolt.

But back in 1961 the new Congo state could not survive this illegal secession of Katanga, as it was responsible for delivering over 70% of the country's mineral wealth. It was against this backdrop that the ONUC force was deployed to assist the central government in stopping what the UN considered to be an illegal secession by Katanga.

Dr Ralph Bunch, then the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG), oversaw the main ONUC mission for the whole of the Congo while Ireland's Lt Gen Sean McEoin led the ONUC military forces. Because the mission to end the secession of Katanga was considered such a serious undertaking in its own right, the ONUC forces assigned, including the Irish battalion, were given their own separate leadership. This comprised Dr Conor Cruise-O'Brien as SRSG for Katanga and India's Brigadier K. A. S Raja was the force commander. While the film version shows Dr O'Brien having direct contact with Comdt Quinlan whilst in the field, this would not have been the case in reality. However, there are a number of elements that do show him to have been somewhat out of the loop on a matter of strategic significance to him. The film shows an Irish senior NCO being



sent back to report to Irish Bn HQ and to O'Brien. This was not far from reality.

Capt Liam Donnelly was the one who reported back to his Bn Commander, Lt Col Hugh McNamee and Dr O'Brien. In his own memoir 'To Katanga and Back', O'Brien demonstrates his lack of grasp of the gravity of the situation that was unfolding militarily.

While one can rightly argue that it was not for Dr O'Brien to grasp military matters, he should perhaps have thought about the political and broader significance about a UN contingent being cut off and surrounded and how this would impact on the forthcoming Operation Morthor (the attempt to launch an attack against Katangan forces around Elizabethville and so end Katangan secession).

Dr O'Brien seemed more caught up in the political machinations and less inclined to see the military ramifications of the decisions he was making. So it was little wonder that when the ceasefire came into effect at Jadotville on Sept 16 that he seemed to think the status quo would continue indefinitely. In his own book he expresses surprise that a little over a day later A Coy had surrendered. Had he been paying closer attention to the radio transmissions between A Coy and Bn HQ, patchy as they were, this would have been less of a surprise.

The Irish soldiers who found themselves fighting at Jadotville in July 1961 were part of the fourth Irish contingent to be deployed to the Congo, the 35th Bn. They were drawn

from the Western Command, based in Mullingar, and included soldiers from Mullingar, Athlone, Galway and Finner Camp in Donegal.

The men of A Company, under the command of Comdt Quinlan had been sent to Jadotville, ostensibly to protect the largely Belgian civilian population there.

Former corporal John Gorman, 60, from Moate, Co. Westmeath, remembers it well. 'We were sent in after another Irish company had been pulled out. Before that, a Swedish contingent had been deployed but they had pulled out, reckoning it was too difficult an area to secure. To this day, I don't know why we were sent. The people there didn't want UN protection and had more in common with the mercenary-led rebels. They detested us.' Sgt Bobby Allen, now deceased, who returned to the Congo in 1962 for a second tour of duty and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, recalls the attack: 'There were mountains of them coming at us. They weren't very well trained but there were so many and they just kept coming.' But for the fact that Comdt Quinlan had ordered his troops to dig slit trenches, Bill Ready, also recently deceased, believes he and his fellow troops would have been overwhelmed.

An Irishman named Charles Kearney working for Union Miniere and living in Jadotville had passed on intelligence to his countrymen estimating Katangese forces at between 4,000 and 5,000. In the early hours of the attack, the

Irish had repulsed waves of up to 60-strong and had also to defend against heavy mortar fire. BBC reports at the time estimated falsely that at least 50 to 60 Irish had been killed. The Irish company's limited resources included Belgian-made FN rifles, small arms and grenades, Vickers machineguns, two armoured cars and a section of 60mm mortars. With these weapons, the Irish were steadily inflicting casualties on the Katangese.

An attempt was made midweek for a rescue force to get through to the besieged A Company. The rescue force, Force Kane 1, twice tried to clear Lufira Bridge and come to their comrades' aid. Both times, despite having armoured-car support, they were beaten back by heavy fire.

On the first occasion, an armoured car got stuck on one of the obstacles placed there and became the target of withering enemy fire. Gunner Murphy from Cork braved the fire to leap from the car and free the axle, allowing his comrades escape to safety.

A second attempt, backed by Indian and Gurkha support, was also to fail. Five Irish were seriously wounded. The Gurkhas were not so lucky; they lost five dead, with 15 being wounded.

Now finally, after a number of books and a film have been made about their exploits, the men of A Company have been honoured.

(con'td on page 5 . . .)



Capt Noel Carey (Retd) pictured with his son Lt Col Pat Carey and the COS



L-R. Leo Boland (former rifleman and later driver with Noel Carey) Capt Noel Carey (Retd) and Comdt Liam Donnelly (Retd), Support Platoon Commander at Jadotville



Former Medical Sgt, Harry Dixon (in wheelchair) with John Gorman (former rifleman and retired Cpl) pictured with Minister, COS and GOC 2 Bde.



The author, Declan Power (Centre), pictured with the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe and the COS, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett, DSM

DF Veterans' Day: 10 September 2016



Following on from the inaugural commemorative ceremony to honour the service of retired members of the Defence Forces, which was held in the DFTC on Tuesday, 02 September 2014, the 2016 Ceremony was held in McKee Barracks, Dublin on 10 September. The event, which was hosted by the Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM and the General Officer Commanding 2 Brigade, Brig Gen Howard Berney, was attended by The Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D. The Minister welcomed our members along with members, of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE) to the McKee Barracks to commemorate the Defence Forces commitment to veterans.

The Minister stated that, "Veterans Day is an opportunity for comrades-in-arms to meet, reminisce and, most importantly, to remember friends and colleagues who have passed away. Such public recognition of our Defence Forces veterans is very important, and I am happy to be associated with this year's event." Referring to the Programme for Government, the Minister stated, "It contains a specific commitment to support our veterans for the public service and outstanding contribution they have made to the State. The White Paper on Defence, published in August 2015, recognises the contribution and service of veterans and sets out our Veterans Policy for the coming decade".

The Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mellett DSM stated that he wished "to thank and to compliment the Veterans' Organisations for their proud participation in all centenary celebrations and for highlighting that your service to Ireland and the Defence Forces did not end when you retired"

The Minister reviewed a parade involving members of the Permanent Defence Forces along with a representative body from ARCO, IUNVA and ONE. Following a short multi denominational religious service, a wreath laying ceremony to honour departed servicemen and women took place. ARCO President, Commander Gerard O'Flynn (NS) (Retd) laid the wreath on behalf of ARCO.



(con'td from page 4...)

On Sept 17 last, after some negotiation, it was decided by the Minister of State with responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe TD, to honour A Coy survivors and the next-of-kin of those deceased in a unique way. In a special ceremony at Custume Bks, Athlone the Minister presented each member and next-of-kin with a copy of a unit citation recognising their bravery and professionalism.

This is the first time the state has decorated an entire formation by awarding such a citation. The Minister acknowledged the uniqueness of this by stating on record that those qualifying for the citation would in due course be issued with a special insignia to wear for ceremonial occasions.

However, it remains to be seen if Defence Force Regulations will be amended to allow for such recognition of serving members who, as a unit, perform acts of gallantry in the field.

The photos were taken at the Ceremony held at Custume Barracks, Athlone on 17 September 2016.

Force Commander UNIFIL

Maj Gen Michael Beary (former GOC 2 Bde) assumed command of the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon, at a ceremony held at UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura, south Lebanon on 19th July 2016. Maj Gen Beary is in Command of approximately 10,600 uniformed personnel from over 40 countries (incl 360 personnel from Ireland) with a land, maritime and air component.



Outgoing Force Commander Major-General Luciano Portolano (left) hands over the UN flag to Major-General Michael Beary (right) at the ceremony held at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura, south Lebanon. July 19, 2016. Photo by Pasqual Gorriz (UN)



Maj Gen Michael Beary addresses the ceremony after assuming command at the transfer of authority ceremony held at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura, south Lebanon on July 19, 2016. Photo by Pasqual Gorriz (UN)



Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe TD, and Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, attended the transfer of authority ceremony as Major General Michael Beary assumed command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at Force Headquarters, Naqoura, south Lebanon.



In his address at the ceremony the Minister congratulated Major General Beary on his appointment. He said *"Major General Beary will bring extensive command and peacekeeping experience to the post and I have no doubt but that he will serve with distinction in this important position. It has been thirty years since an Irish person has held this post and I want to warmly congratulate him and his family on this great occasion."*

Equal Opportunities

"The Government are committed to a policy of equal opportunity for men and women throughout the Defence Forces and to the full participation by women in all aspects of Defence Forces activities."

The Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D., was speaking at the Parade for Irish Troops heading for service with UNDOF. The Parade was held in Galway City on 19 September 2016.

The Minister reviewed the members of the 54th Infantry Group who will leave in the coming weeks for service with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights.

The Minister congratulated Lieutenant Colonel Mary Carroll (Pictured above accompanying the Minister during the inspection of the troops) on being the first woman to have held the prestigious appointment of Officer Commanding an Irish Defence Forces contingent on an overseas mission.



Speaking during the Review, the Minister said,

"For close to 60 years now, our Defence Forces have played a vital role as peacekeepers all over the world in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Ireland has an honourable tradition of supporting the United Nations in the cause of stability and security."



The Minister went on to say

"I recently attended a UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London where one of the main issues discussed was improving peacekeeping, including increasing the involvement of women at all levels in overseas missions. One of the key messages coming from that conference is that increasing the participation of women at all levels in overseas deployments, is key to sustainable peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the engagement of, and with, women contributes effectively to peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives."

Upcoming Events 2017

Date	Event
17 March 2017	DF involvement in St Patrick's Day Parades
16 April 2017	1916 Easter Sunday Commemoration
03 May 2017	1916 Commemoration, Arbour Hill, Dublin.
18 - 23 May 2017	International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes.
07 June 2017	Messines, Belgium: Ceremony to commemorate the 36th Ulster Division and the 16th Irish Division fighting side by side in WW1.
09 July 2017	National Day of Commemoration. Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin
July/Aug 2017	Ceremonial Guard, Merrion Square Memorial, Dublin. Exact dates to be confirmed
13 December 2017	DF Carol Service. Arbour Hill Church, Dublin. 2000hrs



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



Important Notice

Members of ARCO who have NOT been receiving messages through the Texting Service should ensure that their current mobile phone number is recorded on our database. Please forward your mobile number to campbellbilly4@eircom.net

Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Capt Eamon O'Boyle	Comdt Eoghan O'Neachtain
Comdt Gerard O'Leary	Lt Col Peter O'Grady
Comdt Gavin Kennedy	Capt Gregory Kelly
Lt Col Des Doyle	Lt Col Niall Connors
Brig Gen Colm Campbell	

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.

Maj Gen Charles J. MCGuinn	12 Aug 2016
Lt Col Donald A. (Danny) Flood	18 Aug 2016
Lt Col Paul Browne	04 Sept 2016
Lt Col Colman Goggin	15 Sept 2016
Lt Col John Costelloe	25 Sept 2016
Comdt John Barry	01 Oct 2016
Col Frank Lawless	07 Sept 2016
Lt Comdr Donal O'Callaghan	14 Oct 2016
Lt Col Patrick McMahon	08 Nov 2016
Comdt Brendan Cassidy	09 Dec 2016.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This 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 declancarbery@hotmail.com or post to Col Declan Carbery (Retd), 61, The Paddocks, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Wreath Laying Ceremony Garden of Remembrance - Friday 07 October 2016

The Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) held a formal and solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance on Friday, 07 October 2016.

The purpose of the ceremony was to remember, honour and commemorate the participants in the 1916 Easter Rising. In parallel, the ceremony recalled the involvement of the ARCO membership in the commemorations marking the 50th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1966. As part of the Defence Forces contingent, both the 39 Cadet Class and the 40 Cadet Class marched in the Easter Parade on 10 April 1966. As the senior Cadet Class, the 39 Cadet Class provided the Guard of Honour at the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance on Easter Monday, 11 April 1966.



The Ceremony was attended by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Brendan Carr, the Minister with Responsibility for Defence Mr Paul Kehoe, T.D. the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Major General Kieran Brennan, representatives of Veterans' Associations and



the Alliance of Retired Civil Servants and Senior Gardaí. The Ceremony incorporated appropriate prayers, reflections and music. After the solemn laying of a wreath by ARCO's President Commander Gerard O'Flynn (NS) (Retd), a minute of silent reflection was observed, which was followed by the rendering of the Last Post, the raising of the Irish Flag to full mast, the rendering of Reveille and the playing of the National Anthem.

First Reflection: Poem - We Saw a Vision: was read by Lt Col Maurice Kealy (Retd), 40 Cadet Class. The Second Reflection: the Poem by Patrick Pearse - Fornocho do chonac thú: was read by Lt Lorcan O'Rourke (Retd) 39 Cadet Class.

The Third Reflection: the Poem - "Garden of Remembrance" - written by Thomas McCarthy: was read by Lt Col A.J. O'Donovan (Retd) 39 Cadet Class.

Fr Séamus Madigan, Head Chaplain to the Forces, recited the Prayers and the piper was Anthony Byrne, 5th Infantry Battalion.

ARCO acknowledges the support received from all quarters including the Department of Defence, the Department of Arts Heritage and An Gaeltacht, Dublin City Council, the Defence Forces, the Office of Public Works, An

Garda Síochána and the Order of Malta. A

reception for all guests, participants and attendees took place immediately after the ceremony in the Gresham Hotel.

