



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

Military Archives Calendar 2018



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence



Voices from the Leb
40 Years of Peacekeeping with UNIFIL

January 2018 Voices from UNOGIL



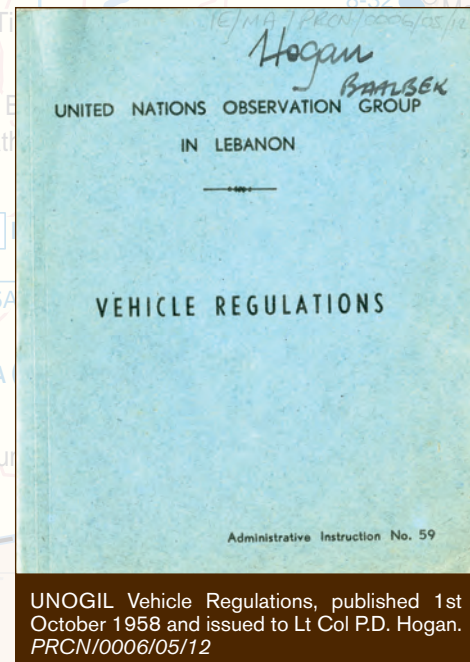
"Leaving for Lebanon" 29th August 1958. Group of departing officers included Lt Col J.J. Caselay, Lt Col P.D. Hogan, Lt Col W. O'Carroll, Comdt T.V. Furlong, Comdt E. Condon, Comdt P. Keogh, Comdt C. Hogan, Comdt F. O'Connor, Comdt J. Liddy and Comdt G.M. Gill. Courtesy Irish Times



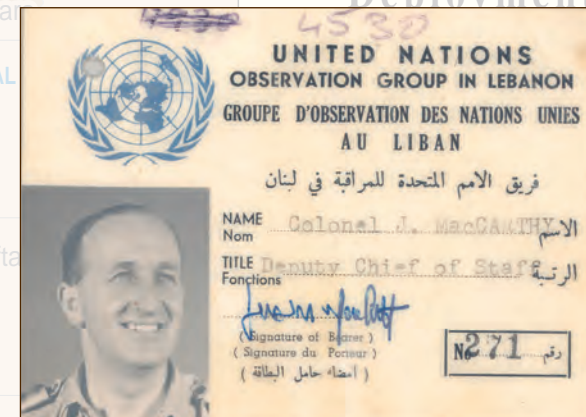
"Leaving for Lebanon" 29th August 1958, featuring Lt Col P.D. Hogan and his three sons. Courtesy Irish Times

"I am nearing the end of my magic carpet journey and it truly has been the most fantastic expedition. It is a long way to Tipperary."

Letter from Lt Col P.D. Hogan to his wife, 28 August 1958 written "Over the Aegean".



UNOGIL Vehicle Regulations, published 1st October 1958 and issued to Lt Col P.D. Hogan. PRCN/0006/05/12



ID card issued to Col Justin MacCarthy DSM (15th April 1914 - 27th October 1960), who led the first deployment of five officers in June 1958 and served at UNOGIL HQ, Beirut. During this mission, he was promoted to full Colonel and appointed Deputy Chief of Staff; Col MacCarthy held that appointment until the UNOGIL mission wound up in December 1958. In total, fifty Irish officers served with this mission over the six month period. (28 June - 18 December 1958)

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Cpl Dermot McLoughlin 10 January 1987

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INFORMATION CENTRE

MONDAY Dé Luain	TUESDAY Dé Máirt	WEDNESDAY Dé Céadaoin	THURSDAY Déardaoin	FRIDAY Dé hAoine	SATURDAY Dé Sathairn	SUNDAY Dé Domhnaigh
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30	31				



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

MAYfair 3816

DECEMBER 2017

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FEBRUARY 2018

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February 2018 Voices from the Leb

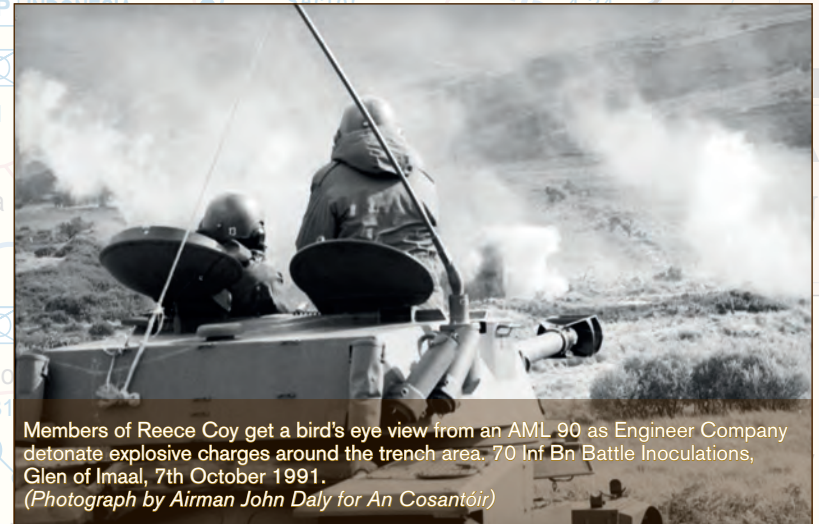


"It was a big decision family wise because one of the important things was my wife had to learn to drive the car and get her licence. We also had to get a phone installed in the house as there were no mobile phones back then."

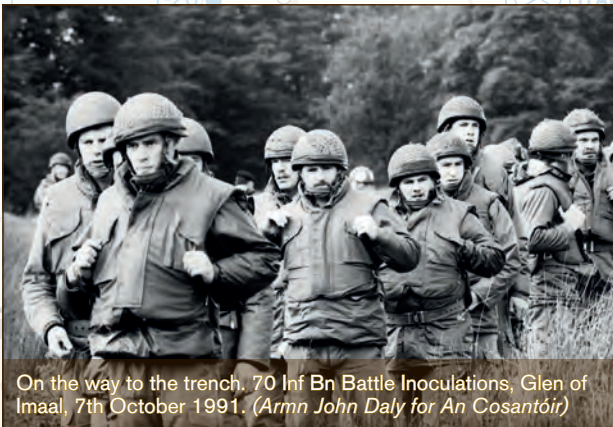
Contributor to Military Archives Oral History Project Commandant (Retd) Tony Roe recalls preparing for his tour overseas with the 45 Inf Bn in 1979.



"Above. We are opening fire." Sgmn Paul O'Connor issuing the warning to the trenches accompanied by Capt Ciaran Cullen, Signals Officer. 70 Inf Bn Battle Inoculations, Glen of Imaal, 7th October 1991. (Armn John Daly for An Cosantóir)



Members of Reece Coy get a bird's eye view from an AML 90 as Engineer Company detonate explosive charges around the trench area. 70 Inf Bn Battle Inoculations, Glen of Imaal, 7th October 1991. (Photograph by Airman John Daly for An Cosantóir)



On the way to the trench. 70 Inf Bn Battle Inoculations, Glen of Imaal, 7th October 1991. (Armn John Daly for An Cosantóir)



Ministerial review of 109 Inf Bn, Donegal Town, 24th October 2016. (Photograph by Defence Forces Press Office, 2016)



Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE), 47 Inf Gp, 21st October 2014. (Photograph by Defence Forces Press Office, 2014)

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

CS James Martin 10th February 1981

Pte Declan Deere 14th February 2000

Pte Brendan Fitzpatrick 14th February 2000

Pte Matthew Lawlor 14th February 2000

Pte John Murphy 14th February 2000

Pte Kevin Barrett 18th February 1999

Pte Michael McNeela 24th February 1989

RSM John Fitzgerald 24th February 1987

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

JANUARY 2018

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MARCH 2018

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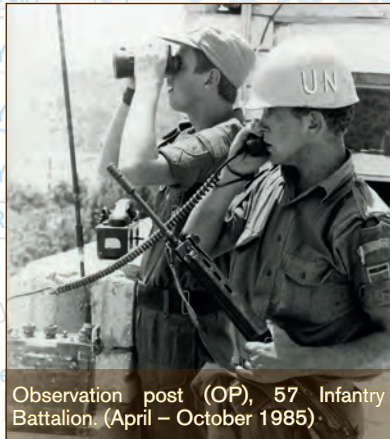
March 2018 Voices from the Leb



**“This is soldiering in its rawest form to us. Coming from a military family, I felt proud I was doing my bit.” [...]
“I never thought it was a bad idea. I was exactly where I wanted to be.”**

Contributor to Military Archives Oral History Project, Private Peter Benedict McGuinness recalls being overseas for the first time in 1987 with 61 Inf Bn.

Irish peacekeepers training in bomb disposal, 68 Inf Bn, 23rd November 1990. (UN Photo/John Isaac)



Observation post (OP), 57 Infantry Battalion. (April – October 1985)

October 1989 – members of 66 Inf Bn on patrol equipped with a mine detection device. During this period, IRISHBATT frequently conducted training courses for members of other international battalions on subjects including mine detection and immediate action drills/protocols to perform on encountering war debris and booby-traps. (Image from An Cosantóir prints and negatives, Military Archives)



The Operations (command) bunker, Camp Shamrock, 29th July 1993. Col John Martin (CO) of 73 Inf Bn is pictured standing with Comdt Joe O'Byrne, Sgt Jamie Campbell, Cpl F. Carroll and Sgt J. Killalea. Comdt Joe O'Byrne (scribe) was a member of the medical platoon (Dental Officer) and this image shows him assisting the Ops duty panel in the command bunker during the IDF bombardment of South Lebanon (25th – 31st July). (IE_MA_Box_003_025)



Three members of 'A' Coy on patrol, 65 Inf Bn. (MA_PC_0408, Cpl Curtis private collection)



UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Gnr Paul Cullen 17th March 1988

Pte Gerard Hodges 20th March 1982

Pte Mannix Armstrong 21st March 1989

Cpl Fintan Heneghan 21st March 1989

Pte Thomas Walsh 21st March 1989

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>St Patricks Day</i>	18
19 <i>Bank Holiday</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 <i>Good Friday</i>	31	



**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

FEBRUARY 2018

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APRIL 2018

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April 2018

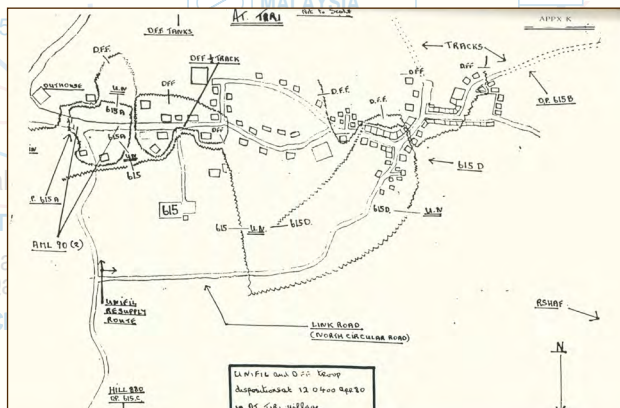
Voices from the Leb



Armn Niall Joseph Boland

"I knew Derek Smallhorne and before he went overseas, we went on the beer. We went to the Harp in town, we went to the Palace bar, and we had a great night. When I went overseas with the 47 Inf Bn, my job was to drive a water truck, American army M35s and every so often, you would do ops driver and I would be where Derek Smallhorne slept, in a little bunk that he slept in. It was in a bank in TIBNINE that the Irish had. Things he had written before he left were still on the wall [...] And I thought, Janey, isn't it very sad, he was so close to getting home."

Contributor to Military Archives Oral History Project Airman Niall Joseph Boland, remembers Private Derek Smallhorne who was murdered at Bint Jbeil alongside Private Thomas Barrett in the days immediately following the Battle of At Tiri.



Hand drawn map of the battleground, extracted from the Unit History of 46 inf Bn.



Oliphant listening post, one of 53 posts manned by 46 Inf Bn on a 24 hour basis over its tour of duty of South Lebanon (November 1979 to May 1980). Image from MA_PC_0732, Comdt Eamonn (Ned) Kelly private collection.

Pte J. O'Donoghue, C Coy, on roof of UN post, At Tiri.



View from UN Post, At Tiri.



Disabled DFF halftrack at the entrance (avenue) of UN post 6-15 at At Tiri. It was disabled by four rounds fired from an AML 90 on Saturday 12th April 1980.



Background Image: Memorial unveiled by Lt Col Owen McNally at the technical school, Bint Jbeil, in remembrance of Ptes John O'Mahony, Thomas Barrett and Derek Smallhorne who were kept captive at that place following their kidnap, 18th April 1980. It was in this school that Pte O'Mahony was shot and left for dead (he ultimately survived) and Ptes Barrett and Smallhorne were later found murdered a short distance from this site. The memorial was unveiled 28th October 2017.

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Pte Stephen Griffin 16th April 1980

Pte Derek Smallhorne 18th April 1980

Pte Thomas Barrett 18th April 1980

Pte Hugh Doherty 27th April 1981

Pte Caoimhin Seoighe Missing in action. 27th April 1981

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
						1 <i>Easter</i>
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

MARCH 2018

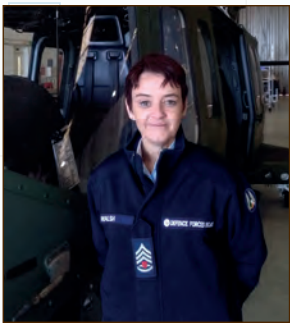
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MAY 2018

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May 2018

Voices from the Leb



"We were given chai and while we were sitting there, a child came up, a little girl. She started playing with me; I'd say she was three or four. I have no Arabic but I got down on my knees to play with her. We were joking and playing and afterwards, a local woman came up to me and said 'thank you'. I said 'for what?' and she told me that the little girl had lost all her family and that was the first time she had smiled since it happened [...]"

Contributor to Military Archives Oral History Project, FQMS Tracey Walsh, (79 Inf Bn) recalls being part of a memorial ceremony a week after the attack on FIJIBATT, Qana which killed over 100 civilians.



Receiving a well-earned cup of tea (chai) from a local woman, At Tiri village, 1993. (Armn John Daly for Public relations section)



28th/29th April 1996, Mr Sean Barrett, Minister of Defence and Lt Gen Gerry McMahon, Chief of Staff, assessing the damage in the immediate aftermath of Operation Grapes of Wrath (IE_MA_115_071, UNIFIL, 78 Bn)



Foot patrol in an urban area, 67 Inf Bn (1988-1989). (IE_MA_Box_45_102, UNIFIL)



(IE_MA_115_136, UNIFIL, 78 Bn)



(IE_MA_115_134, UNIFIL, 78 Bn)

During Operation Grapes of Wrath, many humanitarian missions were carried out by 78 Inf Bn, often at great personal risk, to deliver food, water and medicines to the local population, and to evacuate those who wished to leave their homes. Rescue missions were mounted following shellings to assist the injured, the old, the infirm and to locate survivors. In addition, 78 Inf Bn carried out three clinics a week in the Regimental Aid Post and, when operationally possible, at clinics located in At Tiri, Rshaf and Bayt Yatun.

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Sgt Charles Forrester 21st May 1989

Pte William Kedian 31st May 1999

Sgt Edward Yeates 31st May 1980

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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7 ● <i>Bank Holiday</i>	8	9 ◆ <i>Army Holiday</i>	10	11	12	13
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

APRIL 2018						
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JUNE 2018						
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June 2018 Voices from the Leb



"In 2000, I went overseas again as the Sergeant Major in Operations in Naqoura. That was an amazing job and again, an amazing time because in that time, the Israelis withdrew, the militia compounds disintegrated and the UN were now securing and marking 'The Blue Line' from the sea to the Golan Heights. General Sreenan was the Deputy Force Commander and we were very involved in map making and being out on the ground recording locations."

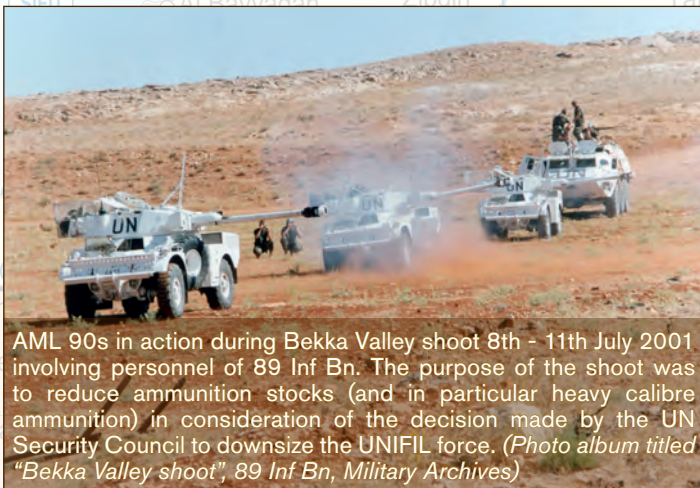
Contributor to Military Archives Oral History Project, F1t Sgt (Retd) James Perkins remarks on how the mission evolved between his trip with the 79 Inf Bn (1996) and his second trip with the 86 Inf Bn (2000).



Officer Commanding 81 Inf Bn Lt Gen Dermot Earley (then Lt Col) briefs UNIFIL Force Commander Maj Gen Wozniak, 29 May 1997. (An Cosantóir prints and negatives, Military Archives)



Briefing ahead of patrol, 105 Inf Bn. (Photograph, Defence Forces Press office, 2012)



AML 90s in action during Bekka Valley shoot 8th - 11th July 2001 involving personnel of 89 Inf Bn. The purpose of the shoot was to reduce ammunition stocks (and in particular heavy calibre ammunition) in consideration of the decision made by the UN Security Council to downsize the UNIFIL force. (Photo album titled "Bekka Valley shoot", 89 Inf Bn, Military Archives)



Cpl Declan Ryan, No. 4 Support Wing, Air Corps rapidly dismounting from a Mowag APC with Tpr Hooper in the background. This photo is taken in the vicinity of Post 6-52. (Photography by Defence Forces Press Office, 2012)

- OGL patrol base
- OGL Team boundary
- Inter sector boundary
- Inter-battalion boundary
- Area of Responsibility Battalion
- Aero Medical Evacuation Team
- Force HQ Support Unit
- Military Community Outreach Unit
- Multi-Role Logistic Unit
- Multi Task Force Protection Unit

* Located outside of sector
Deployment less than Company strength is not shown on the map

The designations and markings shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Background Image: Irish peacekeepers observing the "Blue Line" at the Israeli - Lebanon border.

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

COMS Kieran Stokes 14th June 1993

Pte Niall Byrne 23rd June 1981

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

MAY 2018						
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JULY 2018						
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July 2018

Voices from the Leb



President Mary McAleese pictured during her visit in 1997 to Irish peacekeepers in Lebanon at the beginning of her first term of office. She was the first Irish head of state to visit troops abroad. She travelled to Lebanon to visit personnel of 104 Inf Bn on her final official trip overseas in October 2011.



President Higgins, his wife Sabina and Minister of State with responsibility for Defence Paul Keogh, on their arrival to the FINIRISH BATT headquarters 28th April 2015. They were welcomed by Lt Col McCarthy, Officer Commanding 47 Inf Group UNIFIL. (Photograph, Sgt Mick Burke, for Defence Forces Press Office)



19th July 2016, outgoing Force Commander Maj Gen Luciano Portolano hands over the UN flag, and command, to Maj Gen Michael Beary (Photograph, Defence Forces Press Office, 2016)

“Regular engagement & support of local communities is the key to addressing concerns effectively and preserve stability in south #Lebanon”

Tweet by Maj Gen Michael Beary, 9th September 2017.



Lt Gen James Sreenan DSM photographed by Irish Times, 29th March 2004. Lt Gen Sreenan was Deputy Force Commander and Acting Force Commander of UNIFIL, May 1999 to August 2000. This period covered the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and for his work at this time he was awarded the Medal of the National Cedar in the rank of Commander by the Lebanese President, Gen Emile Lahoud. (Photograph Courtesy of The Irish Times)



Lt Gen DSM William Callaghan's visit to 58 Inf Bn UNIFIL (1986). Lt Gen Callaghan was Force Commander from February 1981 to May 1986. He was awarded a DSM (1st class) in October 1984 in recognition of his service as Commander of UNIFIL. (Photograph, Defence Forces Press Office, 1986)

Deployment less than Company strength is not shown on the map

Background Image: Visit of Kofi Annan to 79 Inf Bn, 29th June 1996, featuring Coy Comdr C Coy Comdt John Durnin and Force Commander Maj Gen Wozniak (*An Cosantóir prints and negatives, Military Archives*)

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Pte Philip Grogan 10th July 1979

Tpr Paul Fogarty 20th July 1986

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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9	10	11  <i>Army Holiday</i>	12	13	14	15
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

JUNE 2018

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AUGUST 2018

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August 2018

Voices from the Leb

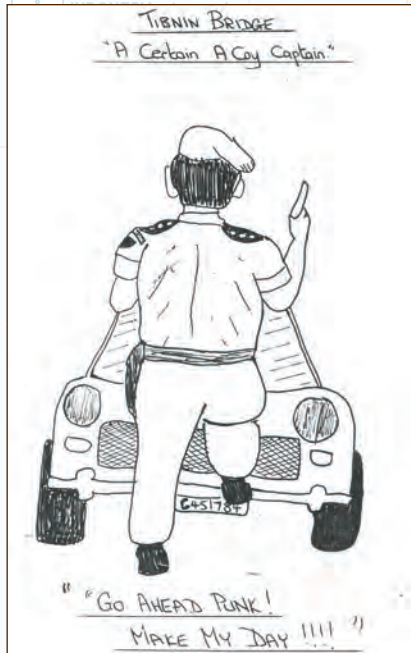


Illustration from "The Green Bag", a magazine produced by and for personnel of 60 Inf Bn. (IE_MA_PC_0153, Cpl Raymond Duke collection)



Cpl John Fitzgerald (65 Inf Bn) listening to Michael O'Muircheartaigh's commentary on the All Ireland Senior Football Final which was relayed live to UNIFIL courtesy of Telecom Eireann, RTE and United Nations owned Radio Scorpion. (Photograph Coy Sgt W Donovan for An Cosantoir) '89



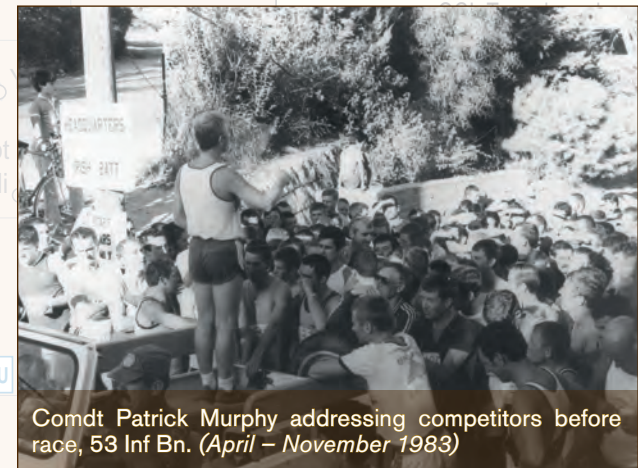
"Recreation time in AO", 16 June 2014 (Photograph, Defence Forces Press Office)



Footballer Damien Duff plays a match with troops during a visit to 106 Inf Bn, 4th July 2012. (Photograph, Defence Forces Press Office, 2012)



Sean McKenna and Lt Col Rory Campion opening the 2FM Lebanon studio, 27th April 1993. (IE_MA_Box_045_12)



Comdt Patrick Murphy addressing competitors before race, 53 Inf Bn. (April - November 1983)

Deployment less than Company strength is not shown on the map

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Sgt John Lynch 6th August 1997

Lt Aengus Murphy 21st August 1986

Pte Patrick Wright 21st August 1988

Pte Gerard Moon 25th August 1978

Cpl George Bolger 29th August 1987

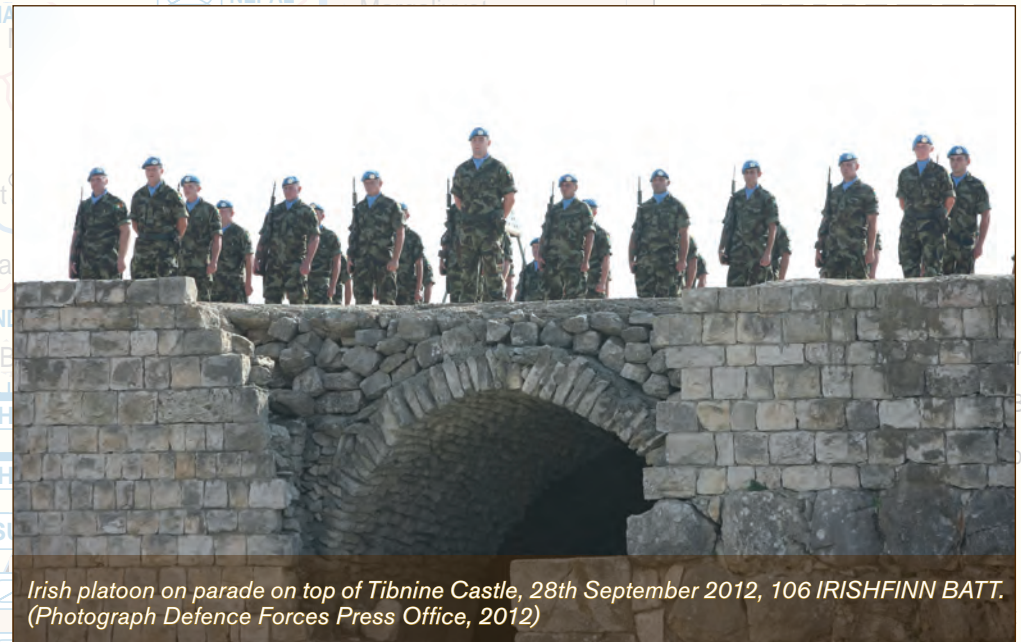
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13	14	15 ● <i>Army Holiday</i>	16	17	18	19
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JULY 2018						
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SEPTEMBER 2018						
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September 2018 Voices from the Leb



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations



MTFPU Multi Task Force Protection Unit

* Located outside of sector
Deployment less than Company strength is not shown on the map

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Tpr Jonathan Campbell 5th September 1999

Pte Michael Dowling 16th September 1998

Comdt Michael Nestor (UNTSO) 25th September 1982

Cpl Peter Ward 29th September 1992

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

AUGUST 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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OCTOBER 2018

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October 2018 Voices from the Leb

“Ireland could not make such a substantial contribution to international peace support operations without the ongoing commitment of Defence Forces personnel to serve overseas in often difficult and dangerous circumstances. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of your families and friends and thank them for their support, which enables you to serve abroad [...]”

Minister of State with Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Keogh, T.D., on welcoming personnel of 109 Inf Bn home in May 2017.



The boundaries and names shown and any designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Armn Stephen O'Connor 3rd October 1993

Cpl George Murray 9th October 1984

Cpl Vincent Duffy 18th October 1980

Pte Peter Burke 27th October 1982

Cpl Gregory Morrow 27th October 1982

Pte Thomas Murphy 27th October 1982

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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29 • <i>Bank Holiday</i>	30	31				



**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

SEPTEMBER 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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NOVEMBER 2018

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November 2018 Voices from the Leb

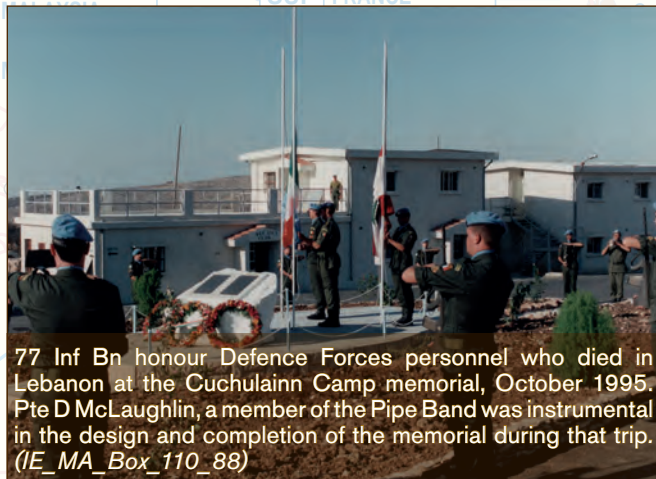


“One of the things I remember most as DCOS Ops and my first visit back to Lebanon, was laying a wreath in Tibnine. I knew some of those guys. It makes it very real to you. You’re standing there be it as a Private in a Guard of Honour, or a General at the front of one, it makes no difference. At some stage it dawns on you what you are remembering and what this is about. You stand taller, you walk prouder because you are honouring those people that invariably paid the ultimate cost.”

Contributor to Military Archives Oral History Project, Maj Gen Ralph James recalls paying tribute to Irish Defence Forces personnel who died in Lebanon.



Monument unveiled to the memory of SS Caoimhín Seoighe who went missing in action in Lebanon, 27th April 1981. The monument is located on Inis Oirr and was unveiled on 29th May 2015. (Photograph, Defence Forces Press Office, 2015)



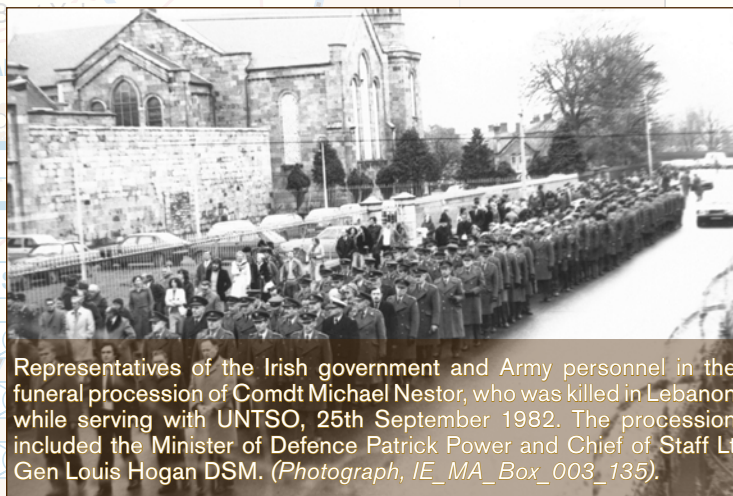
77 Inf Bn honour Defence Forces personnel who died in Lebanon at the Cuchulainn Camp memorial, October 1995. Pte D McLaughlin, a member of the Pipe Band was instrumental in the design and completion of the memorial during that trip. (IE_MA_Box_110_88)



Wreath laid by Lt Col Owen McNally, Officer Commanding the combined Irish-Finnish Battalion (110 IRISHFINN BATT) at the Tibnine Bridge on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the deaths of Cpl Gary Morrow, Pte Peter Burke and Pte Thomas Murphy, 27th October 2017. (Photograph by Cpt Donal Mitchell)



Former Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny, TD, at the Tibnine memorial, 16th June 2014. (Photograph, Defence Forces Press Office, 2014)



Representatives of the Irish government and Army personnel in the funeral procession of Comdt Michael Nestor, who was killed in Lebanon while serving with UNTSO, 25th September 1982. The procession included the Minister of Defence Patrick Power and Chief of Staff Lt Gen Louis Hogan DSM. (Photograph, IE_MA_Box_003_135).

- OGL Team boundary
- Inter sector boundary
- Inter-battalion boundary
- OR Area of Responsibility Battalion
- NET Aero Medical Evacuation Team
- ASU Force HQ Support Unit
- COU Military Community Outreach Unit
- RU Multi-Role Logistic Unit
- FPU Multi Task Force Protection Unit

* Located outside of sector
Deployment less than Company strength is not shown on the map

The boundaries and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Cpl Michael McCarthy 15th November 1991

Comdt Michael O'Hanlon 21st November 1989

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

OCTOBER 2018

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DECEMBER 2018

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December 2018 Voices from the Leb



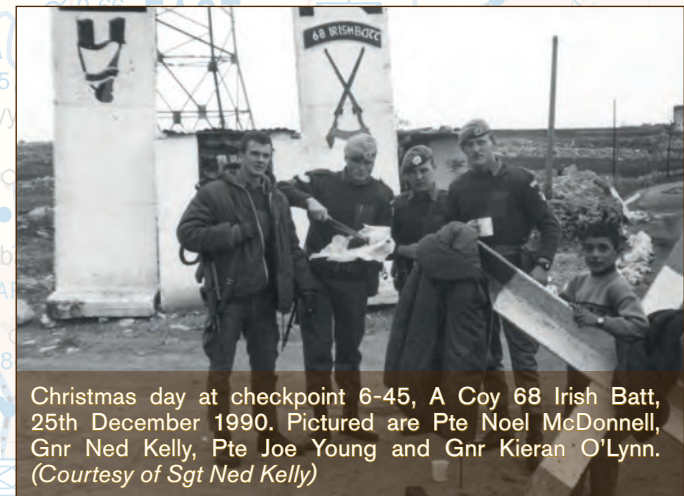
"As with all things army, everything begins with a meeting."

Treasa Davison on travelling to Camp Shamrock to make preparations for her one off special Soldier Chorus Line Christmas Concert, 1997 (80 Inf Bn). Davison travelled to Lebanon twelve times over the course of her career where she recorded soldiers' Christmas greetings for her popular RTE series Overseas Requests and Lebanon Requests.

First UNIFIL Christmas. Cpl J. Sweeney at Naqoura, December 1978.



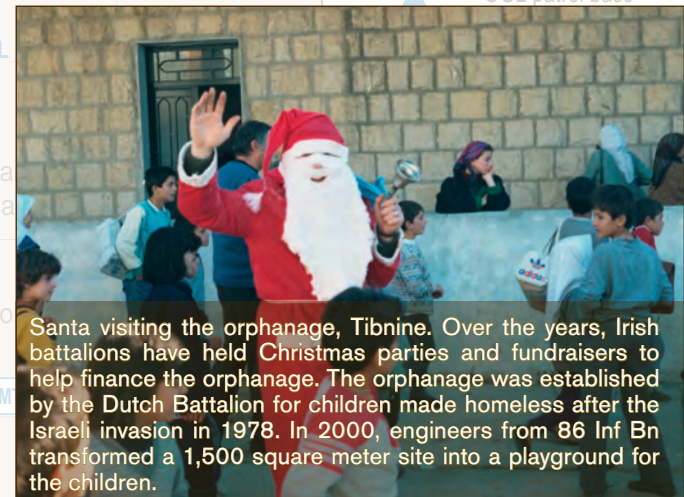
Javelin Platoon, Recce Company 109 Inf Bn, December 2016.



Christmas day at checkpoint 6-45, A Coy 68 Irish Batt, 25th December 1990. Pictured are Pte Noel McDonnell, Gnr Ned Kelly, Pte Joe Young and Gnr Kieran O'Lynn. (Courtesy of Sgt Ned Kelly)



Fellow Mayo native Lt Joanne Kelly, Former Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny TD, Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett and Lt Col Brendan McGuinness in the run up to Christmas in Lebanon, 21st December 2015. (Photograph Defence Forces Press Office, 2015)



Santa visiting the orphanage, Tibnine. Over the years, Irish battalions have held Christmas parties and fundraisers to help finance the orphanage. The orphanage was established by the Dutch Battalion for children made homeless after the Israeli invasion in 1978. In 2000, engineers from 86 Inf Bn transformed a 1,500 square meter site into a playground for the children.

UNIFIL personnel who died this month

Pte William O'Brien 6th December 1986

Cpl Martin Tynan 13th December 1992

Pte John Marshall 17th December 1980

Cpl Thomas Reynolds 24th December 1978

MONDAY <i>Dé Luain</i>	TUESDAY <i>Dé Máirt</i>	WEDNESDAY <i>Dé Céadaoin</i>	THURSDAY <i>Déardaoin</i>	FRIDAY <i>Dé hAoine</i>	SATURDAY <i>Dé Sathairn</i>	SUNDAY <i>Dé Domhnaigh</i>
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24	25 • <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 • <i>Stephen's Day</i>	27	28	29	30
31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>						



**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

NOVEMBER 2018

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JANUARY 2019

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Former OIC Military Archives, Comdt Victor Laing pictured interviewing Comdt Fergus Gleeson, who was Military Police Officer, HQ Coy, 89 Inf Bn at Battalion Headquarters in 2001.

Over the years, staff of the Military Archives have recorded interviews with serving and retired personnel for preservation in the archives and eventual release to the public. On November 9th 2017, the Military Archives officially launched the Military Archives Oral History Project. The project was established in 2015 with the aim of digitally recording memory, oral history and tradition associated with the Defence Forces since its inception. In its first two years more than 120 interviews and 164 hours of testimony have been gathered.

The Project includes direct testimony from interviewees who have served in the Congo, Lebanon, Cyprus, Chad and in other overseas missions as part of United Nations missions. Interviews also document the Irish Defence Forces soldiering experience at home from the 1940s with particular mention of the Emergency (World War II), the training, evolution and development of the Defence Forces in the 1950s, the Troubles, the Air Corps, Naval Operations, ceremonial responsibilities, alongside the many human and social stories associated with those experiences. The Project will continue to reach out to personnel from across all ranks in the Defence Forces and will also capture memory and tradition from individuals who have had connections or knowledge relating to the Defence Forces.

2019 Calendar

JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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JUNE						
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JULY						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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