

## RELIVING THE BATTLES OF THE CONGO — AND REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



Group from the 33rd Battalion, which served in the Congo and was the first — and only — Limerick contingent which marched off to U.N. peacekeeping duties through the streets of the city, which held its re-union at Sarsfield Barracks recently.

# PRAISE AS LIMERICK SOLDIERS GO TO LEBANON

A CONTINGENT of Limerick soldiers, part of the latest battalion to go to the Lebanon, were told by Defence Minister Mr. Michael Noonan that theirs was a valuable contribution to peace and security in the stricken area.

The Limerick men, who had just undergone a period of intensive training prior to their departure, were drawn from all over the city and county.

The entire Irish Battalion is under the command of Limerick-based Lt. Col. Jimmy Farrell, whose family — he has three children — are based in the city also.

### Headquarters

He became O/C 12th Battalion, which has its headquarters in Limerick city, in October, 1986.

He has had two previous tours of duty in the Lebanon — in the winters of 1978/1979 and 1985/1986.

Said Minister Noonan — "This tradition of service far from home in the interest of all has brought great credit to all of you and to Ireland."

The numbers going from Limerick city amount to the best part of a platoon, 17 of them from 12th Battalion. Others will be drawn from Southern Command FCA headquarters in Limerick.

Also going is Cpl. Mick Kiely, piper, of Limerick, who will be part of the 62nd Battalion Pipe Band based at Tibnin; he will be popular, particularly at Christmas and

Minister Noonan continued: "The professional advantages for you as members of the Defence Forces in undergoing overseas service are also very substantial. The conditions which you will encounter in your area of operations will give you experience at first hand of the demands of military life in a challenging operational situation."

### Decision

"You will be required to make on the spot decisions and to use tact, restraint, diplomacy and reasoning."

"You will gain valuable experience in operational patrolling, in defusing tension and in controlling various elements in your operational area."

"Officers will be required to exercise command in demanding operational situations. Your experience as soldiers will be considerably broadened and you will acquire additional skills and knowledge of procedures."

"The wide experience and knowledge gained will be of great benefit to the Defence Forces at home particularly in the discharge of their many functions in aid of the civil power. The experience and discipline of overseas service will also prove very useful to each and everyone of you not only in your military careers but also in civilian life."

"In discharging your responsibilities you will be required to display qualities of courage, composure and judgement which are necessary in the unique type of military operation hat this United Nations peace-keeping

peace and security in your area of operations."

### Tour

The minister said that since reviewing the Battalion which was now about to return from its tour off duty in Lebanon, he had visited southern Lebanon and observed for himself the conditions under which UNIFIL was required to operate.

As a result of this first hand experience he appreciated the problems of UNIFIL and the great work which was being done by Irish personnel.

"During my visit, I met with many local community leaders who had the highest praise for the members of the Irish contingent," he said. "Irish troops have left a great and lasting impression in the area. They have given a lifeline to the local population. They have provided support and humanitarian assistance to those in need, as indeed, have other Irish men throughout the world."

"A vital element in the success of any contingent serving overseas is the support which the troops receive from their wives, families and friends at home. Your wives and families are called on to make a considerable sacrifice through your absence abroad for six months."

"They are required to sacrifice six months of family life and they too in their own way are a party to the noble effort in the cause of international peace. The contribution of your wives and families is essential to the success of your mission and should not be overlooked or taken for granted."

"They should, of course,

to maintain and improve communications between our troops overseas and their families at home."

## Too many firms not recognising supervisory training—IMI

THERE are still too many companies which do not give supervisory training the recognition it deserved, said IMI director-general Mr. Maurice O'Grady, in Limerick.

Speaking to members of the Mid-West branch of IMI, he said that the reason appeared to be that these companies did not realise the vital contribution of front line managers to the success of the enterprise.

### Failure

He warned those companies will learn the hard way, or go out of business altogether in the face of the increasing global competition and an unforgiving marketplace.

"It has been proven, over and over again, that those companies which give priority to the ongoing development of their management teams are those that succeed and, thereby, create the wealth necessary for our survival and prosperity as a nation."

Mr. O'Grady pointed out: "The job of supervisor in any business or industry is a vital one. The supervisor is the front line manager, the one who takes all the blame, and just sometimes the credit, for keeping the troops happy and productive. It is the qualified supervisor who ensures the smooth and efficient operations of enterprises, large and small."

He continued "Most businesses today are complex and very demanding of effectiveness from their management teams — and let me emphasise that these include supervisors. It is no easy task to deal direct with the workforce — it requires understanding and a knowledge of how people will behave under different conditions and in a variety of circumstances."

### Skills

"But managing people is only one of the skills which good supervisors practise. They must also (as managers) be aware of the aims and objectives of their companies and play a positive and well informed role in company planning and decision making."

"Supervisors must convey the instructions and directives from senior management to the workforce — must accurately interpret the response from the shop floor and ensure that senior management is aware of the opinions and concerns of the workers."

"By doing this, supervisors

## Waiting list for operations lengthens

DESPITE claims by the Health Board that the provision of the new theatre suite at Croom Orthopaedic Hospital has a substantial improvement in the total number of major operations this year, the waiting lists for operations other than hip replacements has increased by 80 and the overall waiting list for outpatients has increased by almost 100.

The waiting list for hip replacement operations has been reduced, but only by 15, which Board CEO Mr. J. A. Hynes attributes to "the increasing demand for this type of operation."

The advantages of the long awaited new theatre, however, have been offset by the limited availability of anaesthetist cover.

In 1985 the number of

intended to meet additional cover at Croom when the new theatre became available.

But since then, the demand for anaesthetist services in areas such as the new ophthalmic unit at the Regional and for the expanded dental care service operated by Community Care at St. Camillus Hospital, has limited to one extra day the amount of operating time available at Croom.

However, Mr. Hynes says that the rosters and commitments of anaesthetists are at present being examined to see if any improvements can be made.

He said that there was no point in proceeding with an application for a fourth orthopaedic surgeon at present because of the anaesthetist situation and also because of the Government embargo on staff recruitment.

But the whole orthopaedic situation in the country is