

branches refused to take the decisions lying down, but this week we report with sadness that the branches in Doon and Dromcollogher will close their doors on Friday. Others have already been closed, including the architectural gem at the top of William Street.

We applaud those

who took the decision to close these branches, just what they meant to their communities. The hole they left behind will not be easily filled, although it is some consolation to the people of Doon and its hinterland that Tipperary Credit Union has expressed an interest in taking over the building.

I'M a Limerick man working in Saudi Arabia; driven away from my home and family back in 2009 by the recession, and I want to share a few recent experiences with everyone that makes me wonder: are Irish SMEs doing all they can to stay afloat?

We're moving house this Friday so I contacted two local companies advertising online; one in Abbeyfeale and another in Tralee, for Internet

connection, and for Saorsat/Sky TV services. Neither have responded in over a week.

When I was home in August, myself and the wife saw a nice marble dining table and chairs in a furniture store near Limerick city.

We liked it a lot, but at that time our offer on a house was just that, an offer. By the time it was accepted, I was back in Saudi Arabia and so I emailed the store with a view to buying

the table and chairs. You guessed it; no reply. A lost sale of around €1,400.

I needed a big job doing on my car's steering mechanism while I was away and emailed a local specialist garage in Limerick. No reply for two weeks.

I then went onto their website and sent a service inquiry using their own online form giving full details. No reply after another two weeks.

I needed the job doing

urgently before I got home and so having then searched for and found the email address for the service manager in Limerick, I tried again. This time I was successful but although he didn't reply he did forward my mail to a service advisor and the work (in excess of €1,300 worth) has now been done.

What I'm trying to say is that in times of trouble, Irish businesses it seem

RELIVING THE NEWS

with Sean Curtin

First wave set for Congo

From the Limerick Leader
January 1961

THE call for volunteers for the Irish contingent of the United Nations emergency Force in the Congolese Republic was responded to wholeheartedly by personnel of the 12th Battalion of the 3rd Brigade, Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick. Several Limerick City and County-born men were among the platoon group of 53 who left for Cork last evening. They will go next to the Curragh and then to the Congo.

With kit bags on their backs and beaming smiles on their faces the Platoon group, mostly from the 12th Battalion, set off in four trucks at 6.50 o'clock last evening for Collins Barracks, Cork. They constituted the complement from this area of for the Irish force of 650 officers and men who will serve in the turmoil-stricken Congolese Republic.

In the platoon of 53 were one Lieutenant, two sergeants, eight



corporals and 42 privates. The officer in charge, was Lieut. A. A. O'Riordan, a native of Inishannon, Co. Cork, who is well-known in Limerick, and is a former Captain of Young Munster RFC. He has served in this area since being commissioned.

One of the sergeants was David Mahon, of Garryowen while among the corporals were J. J. Kiely of Hennessy Avenue, Killeely; J. J. Mullins, Shanabooley Road,

Ballynanty; O. O'Donnell, Smith O'Brien Avenue, Killeely and also from the city who volunteered and among the group are Pte. Martin Behan, Castle Barracks; Pte. J. Finnan, Killalee; Pte. J. Holden, c/o Married Quarters, Sarsfield Barracks; Pte. A. Hussey, St. Ita Street, St. Mary's Park; Pte. M. Lysaght, Hyde Avenue; Pte. S. Corbett, Garvey's Range; Pte. P. Mullins, St. Munchin Street; Pte. Michael Dundon, Hall's Buildings, Nicholas Street; Pte. Patrick Troy, Creagh Ave., Killeely, and Pte. J. Foran, O'Callaghan Avenue. The two youngest volunteers selected to go were Pte. JJ Foran, O'Callaghan Avenue and Pte. Laurence Higgins of Rathjordan, Herbertstown, Co. Limerick.

Lt. O'Riordan, asked by our reporter, how he felt about the journey replied that he often felt more nervous before playing a Munster Cup game.

It is of interest to note that the packs being used by the men are of the British 1908 issue. They have been in the stores for 50 years and are serviceable. The packs were worn by troops in the 1914-18 war also.

The Limerick Leader Circulation Department has made arrangements to send copies of the Limerick Leader each week for the Limerick troops.

FROM THE ARCHIVE



Taoiseach Charles Haughey being greeted by local residents during his visit

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