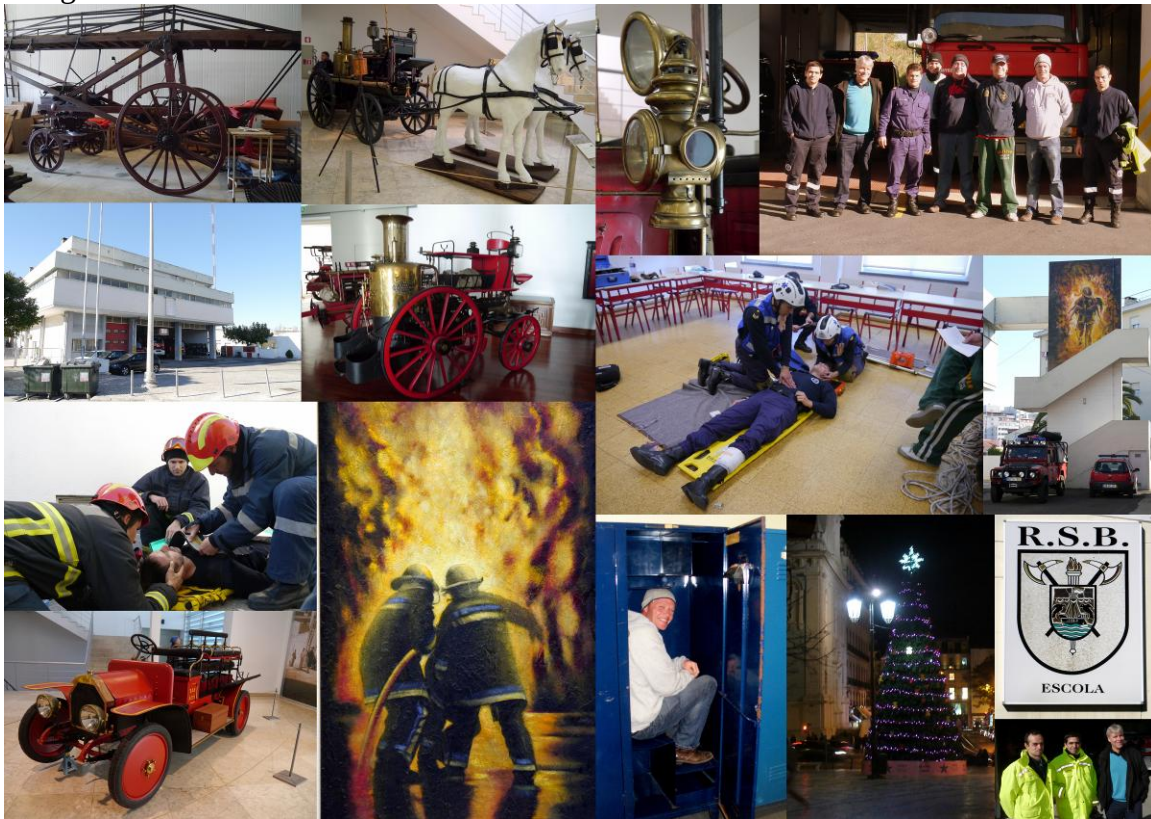


Portugal Trauma Challenge Dec 2013

Thursday the 5th of December.

John Comerford, Carlow IC brought Anto Kirwan and I to the airport in the afternoon. We met up with Des Quinn and Tom Collins from Cork Fire Service near the departure desk. We had a bit of time to walk around the shops and a bite to eat before flying out at 4:20 pm. The flight is just over 2 and half hours. We were met at the airport by Ricardo Patela, the duty airport chief at Lisbon airport and then met Carlos Amaro, who works in the airport and is also an EMT at the Lisbon fire department. Carlos introduced us to Alexandre Penha, one of the co-ordinators of the Trauma challenge and lead instructor's for the 6 week EMT course which is run at the training HQ. Alex then introduced us to the contact who had initially invited the two Irish teams over to Portugal, João Carolino. João, a senior member of ANSD, Portugal as well as one of the co-ordinators of the Trauma challenge.

With them both, we had a look around the training facility and the active fire station. Some of the appliances are very new including a USAR unit with a trailer loaded with shoring equipment. Outside there is a training area where they practice USAR techniques, it looks like the aftermath of an earthquake or warzone. They also have a number of search dogs that are part of their big family. Later on, after dinner which was provided by the Fire Service, we were introduced to Victor or Tom Sawyer, as he is better known. Tom is a Station Officer for his group and he took a bit of time out to show us the sights at night.



Next day, after breakfast, we were invited to sit in on some of the training that the Lisbon Trauma team were doing and helped them set up scenarios to 'have a run at'. We set up a

scenario involving a shooting to a person as a result of an argument. We followed this with the more common helmeted motorcyclist casualty. We also observed how other teams who are completing a 6 week EMT course dealt with a casualty down a lift shaft. In the afternoon we travelled to the fire museum in the city. The museum which is not yet completely finished contains some fine examples of fire appliances used by the Portuguese fire service over the last 300 years. Original horse drawn appliances and early motorised tenders, many completely restored as a labour of love by these highly skilled fire-fighters in their spare time. Definitely worth a visit

After saying goodbye to all the personnel at Lisbon, we travelled with Alex, the 120 km to Leiria to meet up with members of the fire service based there. We were greeted by João Agostinho, the duty Sub-Officer. João showed us where we would stay for the couple of nights and then introduced us to his crew and showed us around the station. The station is manned during the week from 8 to 5 by full-time fire fighters and is manned by volunteer fire-fighters at night and over the weekend. The appliances based at the station are well equipped and well looked after. They have a brand new MAN multi purpose ET/Rescue tender with a built in Hi-Ab, yet their own PPE is very basic and they are obliged to buy their own. João himself, purchased his second hand fire-kit from England. João is married to Diana, a volunteer fire-fighter herself.



Pic shows Two Lisbon Trauma Teams with Two Irish Teams from Carlow & Cork

Next day we had the trauma event to attend to. Carlow and Cork were asked to do a demo each of a single casualty trauma event, the Carlow team had an abdominal injury to deal with and the Cork team had a fall from height. The 19 Portuguese teams set about competing with each other with 19 completely different scenarios for the rest of the day. Professionals competed against volunteers, some of the volunteers who competed were quiet young but willing to participate and represent their Brigades. The skills of many of

the teams were very high. Lisbon Trauma team won first place and deservedly so, we had seen them practice the previous afternoon and could clearly see how well they had dealt with what was in front of them. At the end of the day, Carlow and Cork completed a complex scenario each, as our last demonstration. Carlow had two casualties one with gunshot wounds and the other with a knife wound. Cork had to deal with two casualties as well, both with knife injuries. In both cases we had to assess both casualties, identify the more seriously injured casualty, and treat both on scene and handover to Advanced Paramedics at the end of the 10 minutes.



Cork

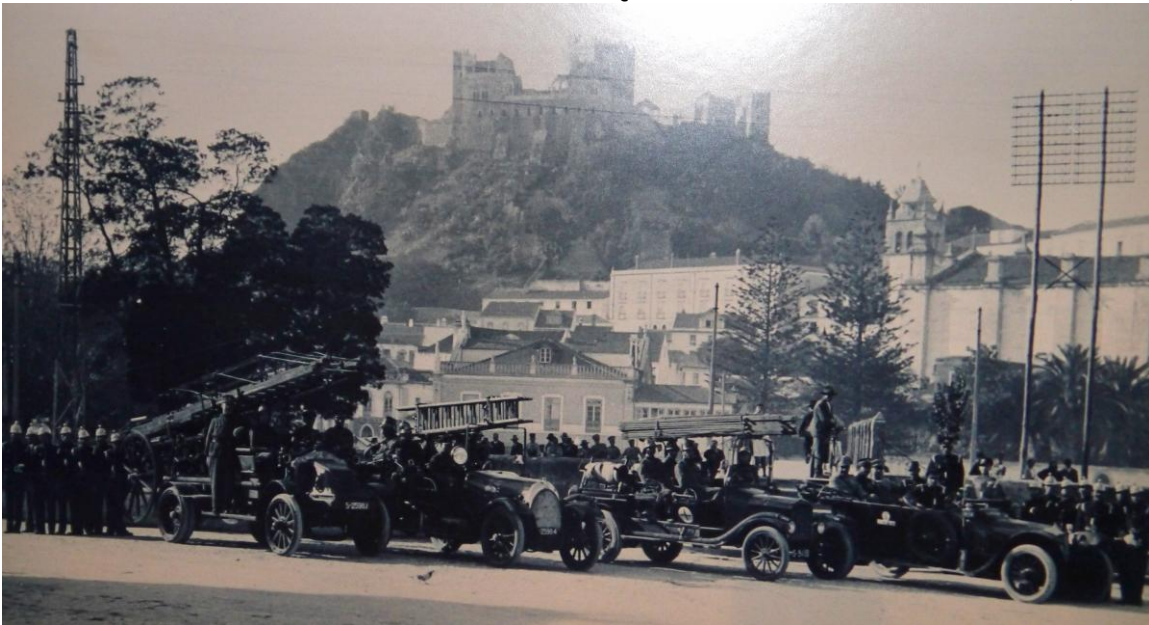


Carlow

After the competition was over, there was an opportunity to get a few photos with the participants and the organisers of the event. All in all it was a great day; we all learned more and made many new friends.



Afterwards we had dinner back at João's fire station with all his colleagues. After dinner, we travelled into town to see the main Leiria HQ and visit their own small museum,



Leiria Fire Service in the 1920's



Some of the equipment on display at the Fire Museum in Leiria

After the visit to the museum, we spent an hour or so in the huge shopping centre at the edge of town which stays open until midnight, picking up a few bits to break the ice at home. From there we headed to Diana's Chocolate shop to load ourselves up with sugar for the night. From there, it was straight to a few of the drinking establishments to see how things would go over there! We were back at the Station early enough for breakfast, if we wanted any.

An hour or so later all 4 of us were kicking ball on the soccer court, must have been the sugar still in our blood. Afterwards João showed us his new toy, the MAN Rescue Tender with all sorts of gadgets on it. It was more like a HASBRO Transformer, the way all these doors and arms pop out of it. A great piece of work.



Leiria's New ET



Des, Miguel, João and Paul

After presenting Joao and colleagues with some t-shirts, saying our good-byes to all, we headed back to Lisbon airport. We had a wonderful time in Portugal and have to genuinely say the hospitality we received from everyone was brilliant. *Paul Curran*

7th December 2013 Portugal Trauma Challenge

Portugal will hold at the 7th of December in the historical city of Leiria the I TRAUMA CHALLENGE.

This event will be the first event of this type being developed in Portugal. For one day, 19 Portuguese teams and 2 Irish teams will compete in a one single evaluation of trauma standard scenarios for 10 minutes showing the best practice to be provided in trauma casualty care.

The public is free to attend at the Municipal Stadium of Leiria. Come and enjoy the wonders of the beautiful landscapes as well giving support to these fantastic teams.

This event is organized by ANSD PORTUGAL in collaboration with Leiria Volunteer Fire Service."

'If one life can be saved because of this event, then our efforts have truly been compensated'

ANSD Portugal