



## **SSAFA - FUNDRAISING LECTURE**

SSAFA-FORCES Help is hosting a fundraising lecture on Thursday 26th February 2026 at the Masonic Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 at 11 o'clock. The Lecture will be our 15th in the series and will be given by Marcus de la Poer Beresford and will be entitled "*Wellington and the Connaught Rangers in the Iberian Peninsula*".

"Whenever anything very gallant, very desperate is to be done, there is no corps within the Army I would sooner employ". The Connaught Rangers (88th Foot) were raised in the West of Ireland in 1793. Throughout their 129 history the Rangers remained the most Irish of all the Irish regiments in the British Army. After a number of very challenging campaigns the Regiment came of age in the titanic contest between Great Britain and Napoleonic France in the Iberian Peninsula 1809-1814. Marcus's presentation will look at the early development of the Regiment and its role in the battles and sieges in Portugal and Spain leading up to Napoleon's abdication in 1814.

Marcus de la Poer Beresford (the Lord Decies) read history at Trinity College Dublin before qualifying as a lawyer. He retired from legal practice in 2010 in order to return to his first love, history. Marcus's earlier research and post graduate thesis focused on Ireland in the 18th century and the Irish diaspora in Europe. In recent years he has written and lectured extensively on the Napoleonic Wars, with particular reference to the Iberian Peninsula and the involvement of Irishmen in these wars, the subject of his 2018 fundraising lecture. His publications include "*Marshall William Carr Beresford: The ablest man I've yet seen in the army*" and "*Peninsular & Waterloo General: General Sir Denis Pack and the war against Napoleon*". He is currently working on the history of the early years of the Connaught Rangers.

SSAFA – Forces Help is a charity registered in Ireland and cares for those living in Ireland with past service in the British Forces, who or whose dependents are suffering from hardship or distress. As of November 2025, the Republic of Ireland Branch dealt with cases 997 and almonised €228,443 from service and Branch Benevolent Funds. Money raised from this lecture will enable us to continue our essential work in the Republic.

Tickets will cost €25 each, which will include refreshments.

*Col Richard Kinsella-Bevan*

**Col Richard Kinsella-Bevan- SSAFA Branch President Republic of Ireland**

continued.....



**SSAFA – FUNDRAISING LECTURE**  
**THE MASONIC HALL, MOLESWORTH STREET THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

NAME: (in capitals) .....

ADDRESS: .....

Tel No: ..... E-mail Address: .....

I require ..... ticket(s) @ €25 each & enclose a cheque made out to SSAFA or pay by bank transfer

**IBAN No: IE32BOFI90008487453079 BIC: BOFIE2D** for €.....

PLEASE Return to the Branch Manager by post SSAFA, 26 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2, D02PP79 or

email: [yvonne.harrison@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:yvonne.harrison@ssafa.org.uk)

You can also pay at the door on the day but please reorder your tickets by contacting the SSAFA Branch Manager. **BY NO LATER THAN Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026** (Tel: 01-6772554/Mobile: 08684506203)

Republic of Ireland Branch Registered Charity No: 20006082 *Established 1885.*

Please tick this box if you do not wish for SSAFA to hold you contact details for future fundraising events