

Obituary

2nd Lieutenant

Raymond Heery (RIP)

This issue of SIGNAL Magazine is dedicated to Ray's memory.

The Defence Forces, and particularly the Air Corps, are mourning the tragic death of 2nd Lieutenant Ray Heery who died when his Cessna R243 crashed shortly after takeoff on the afternoon of Thursday 6th of May at Clonbulloge Airfield, Co. Offaly. The aircraft was en route to Baldonnel having dropped off a number of colleagues at the airfield for a parachuting course when the accident occurred.

Ray, from the Ballinacree area of Oldcastle, Co. Meath was born on the 23rd of September 1982. He joined the Defence Forces as a member of the 77th Cadet Class as an Air Corps Cadet in September 2000 and, after completing initial training at the Cadet School in the Curragh, moved to Baldonnel as a member of the 21st Air Corps Cadet Class for his pilot training.

Having flown both Marchetti and King Air aircraft during his pilot training course, he received both his officer commission and pilot's wings from the Minister for Defence on the 12th of December 2002. Since then, Ray had flown Cessnas as a member of 104 Squadron in No. 1 Operations Wing where he had amassed over 400 flying hours.

Ray was an active member of his local GAA club, St. Brigid's, but his loss will be felt most profoundly by his cadet classmates, and in his relatively short time as a member of the Air Corps he had a great impact on all his colleagues. The large attendance at his funeral was a testimony to his popularity. Ray was buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church in his hometown of Oldcastle, with full military honours.



2nd Lieutenant Raymond Heery (RIP).

On behalf of the President, National Executive and members of RACO, we extend our sympathies to Ray's father Noel, his sister Catherine, brother Edward, all his relations, friends and many colleagues throughout the Defence Forces.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis.