



## FOREWORD

FROM

COLONEL MICHAEL SHANNON

**DIRECTOR OF ARTILLERY**

I sincerely thank the OC 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, the Chairman and Committee who have worked so hard to organise the competitions, demonstrations and displays and competitors from all the Regiments. Thanks also to all the Corps and Services, who have helped by providing equipment, bands etc.

I welcome in particular all retired members of the Artillery Corps and members of the Artillery club. To everybody who has taken time to be with us today, I say Fáilte is Fice, Fáilte Isteach.

M.D. SHANNON  
COLONEL  
DIRECTOR OF ARTILLERY



Headquarters,  
2 Field Artillery Regiment,  
McKee Barracks,  
Dublin 7.

Telephone 774301

Date 19 SEP 92

MESSAGE FROM OFFICER COMMANDING 2 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

I am privileged and honoured to join with the Director of Artillery in welcoming you all to McKee Barracks, for the fifth Artillery Corps Field Day. I sincerely hope that all present will enjoy the afternoon's activities.

This is a suitable occasion to record my appreciation and that of the Organising Committee for the cooperation we received in the preparation of the Field Day. I thank Brig Gen J.J. Flynn DSM, GOC Eastern Command and Col J.A. Flanagan, OC 2 Bde for their support. The Regiment acknowledges the assistance afforded by the Camp Commandant, McKee Barracks, and all Units who have contributed to today's programme.

I am always conscious of the close association between the Artillery Units of the Eastern Command. To the members of 7 Fd Arty Regt (FCA) and 2 Air Def Bty (FCA), I say thanks for your help today.

All personnel of the Regiment are mindful of the part played by members of the Corps on service with the United Nations. Accordingly, the attendance today of the families of those Gunners serving with UNIFIL is welcomed.

In conclusion, I hope that everyone will enjoy the Field Day, that it will induce fond memories of times past and foster our 'Esprit de Corps'.

W.H. GIBSON.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

OFFICER COMMANDING 2 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT





# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
15.00	Official Opening by Director of Artillery	Band Stand
	Displays of Equipment	Square
	Band of the Eastern Command	Band Stand
	Pony Rides for Children	Church Green
15.15	Volleyball Final	Arena
16.00	Gymnastic Display	Arena
	Pipe Band Recital	Band Stand
	Soccer Final	Norton Pitch
16.20	Explosive Ordnance Disposal Demonstration	Arena
16.30	Tug - Of - War Final	Jumping Enclosure
16.40	Garda Siochanna Motor Cycle Display	Arena
17.00	Presentation of Prizes	Band Stand
17.30	Buffet	Dining Hall
Through Out	Refreshments on Square and all Messes, Kiddies Corner in 7 Bn Hall.	





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# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

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## THE ARTILLERY CORPS

On 24 March, 1924, Major P.A. Mulcahy (later to become Chief of Staff from 1955 to 1960), with two officers, took over nine 18 pounders at Islandbridge Barracks, (now Clancy Barracks). In June of the same year, the 1st Battery was established. Its strength was 11 officers, 62 men and 10 horses. The same month, the Battery made its first ceremonial appearance at the Wolfe Tone Commemorations, where the white lanyard was proudly on display.

The Battery moved into McKee Barracks (then called Marlborough), in Autumn 1924. However, in January of 1925, the gunners redeployed to Kildare Barracks which has been the home of the Corps ever since. Glen Imaal in September 1925, was the location of the Corps' first annual firing practices.

Initially the Field Batteries were equipped with 18 pounders, French 75 mm guns, 4.5 inch and 3.7 inch Howitzers. The first guns in the Ack Ack were four 3 inch 20 cwt medium guns, two of which were mobile, (they had four wheels), the other two were semi-mobile - they had only two wheels. The arrival of 3.7 inch A A guns and Bofors LA 40s in 1940, coincided with the expansion of the A A in the Defence Forces, during the war years.

The 120 mm Heavy Mortar was purchased in 1954. Using a modified artillery board, the mortars were first fired in Oughterard. This weapon was deployed with the United Nations in the Congo and since then gunners have seen service in the support role in Cyprus and Lebanon.

Between 1977 and 1982, the Corps underwent major changes in its organisation and equipment. September 1979 witnessed the separation of the FCA Batteries from the PDF Batteries, and the establishment of FCA Regiments. Simultaneously, Coastal Defence elements were reduced and a Guided Weapons and Air Defence Section was introduced to the Artillery School. Each PDF Regiment was increased by an additional Battery.



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# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

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The same period saw the introduction of FACE, AWDATS, LASER RANGE FINDERS, PACER and MORCOS. October 1980 heralded the arrival of the RBS 70 Surface to Air Missile. The initial firing of the 105 mm light gun on 12 March, 1981 was the first firing of a new field gun for the Corps since the 25 pounder was fired at Seskin Gun Position, in March, 1949.

In recent years, the challenge of updating Field Artillery with the required modern technology has been undertaken. Giraffe Search and Track Radar, GUNZEN and Multi Role electronic fuzes have enhanced the Corps' capabilities. The Corps provides conventional fire support, as required, by combat units of the Defence Force.

Today, the Artillery Corps has two main branches, Field Artillery and Air Defence. There are three PDF Field Artillery Regiments and six FCA Field Artillery Regiments. The Air Defence Regiment has four Batteries, one of which is PDF and the remaining three are FCA. The Directorate is located at McKee Barracks and the Artillery Depot and School are in Magee Barracks, Kildare.



*Artillery/Air Corps Cooperation.*



# 7 Field Artillery Regiment

*Mc Kee Barracks  
Dublin 7*

## **7 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (FCA) 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The 7 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) has existed as an independent unit since 1979 when it was newly formed as part of the organisation consequent on PR 1. The sub-units of the Regt have existed, however, since the early days of the LDF. In 1942 an independent LDF Bty was formed from an Ack Ack element which was based in Ballyfermot and was designated the 41 Bty. It was initially equipped with 4.5 HOWs and commanded by a regular officer, Capt Nolan. It was based in Collins Bks. In 1944 the 41 Bty was split to form a second Bty, the 42 under command of Capt Buckley. Both Btys were now equipped with two 60 pdrs Mk 1.

Both Btys have fired their Arty Weapons annually since 1944, to the present, a record to which they are justly proud of. The only exception to this was in 1946 when the LDF became the FCA when annual training took place in Gormanston and No Arty firing took place.

From 1946 to 1959 the only changes to take place were in armaments, the Btys firing 18 pdrs in 1947, 4.5 HOW's in 1948 and French 75s for the last time in 1959. 1959, the year of integration, saw major changes in the unit. Both Btys were integrated with the 2 Fd Arty Regt and moved to McKee Bks. The 41 Bty now became the 14 Bty and was equipped with 18 pdrs. The 42 was equipped with 120 Hy Mors and became the 19 Hy Mor Bty.



During the early sixties the Btys changed their armaments from 18 pdrs to 4.5 HOW's and then 25 pdrs.

1979 saw major changes coming about with the formation of the 7 Fd Arty Regt (FCA) as an independent FCA unit. The 14 Bty became a Hy Mor Bty, thus the Regt becoming an all Mortar Regt. This organisation also brought about the establishment of a HQ Bty.

1992 our 50th Anniversary was marked on 29 July in the appropriate location of Glen Imaal where both Btys carried out their annual firing practices culminating with two gun crews from 14 Bty firing for their first time the 105 mm light gun in front of a large audience consisting of both PDF and FCA retired members of the unit.



*7 Fd Arty Regt (FCA) - Glen of Imaal 1992*

## McKEE BARRACKS

The Barracks was built during the four year period 1888-1892, to the design of Lt Col J.T. Marsh, BE, on a site chosen for its proximity to the city railway stations and port, and the training facilities for the cavalry which it was intended to house, in the Phoenix Park. The 45 acre site cost £15,000. Before the buildings were completed they merited an article in the Irish Builder of October 15th 1891. Named Marlborough Barracks, and occupied by the 10th Hussars, the strength to be accommodated was 862 men and as many horses. The cost of building was £80,000.

The buildings, of brick in the Elizabethan, Queen Anne and Tudor styles were grouped on three sides of a 120 yard long barrack square; the suggestion that the design was intended for India can be dismissed as folklore. The Riding School and Stables are on the West side of the square, the Billet Blocks and Married Quarters on the East, and the Officers' Mess on the North. The Church and the Administration Block on the South were built in 1957 and 1939 respectively.

The Officers' Mess, with its fine public rooms, is crowned with a pinnacle 86 feet high; the Army Crest replaced the Royal Crest and a bust of the Duke of Marlborough has been removed from over the main door. The facade with its moulded brickwork is of a very fine quality, as is the workmanship in the other blocks. Tall chimneys, broken gables, turrets, cupolas and parapets give the barracks a character unique in Irish military architecture. A coloured architectural elevation of the Officers' Mess, signed H. Lorock, 1888 and a modern picture of it by Louisa Maxwell hang in the Mess.

The Non-Commissioned Officers' (NCOs') Mess; reputed to have originally been used as Training Rooms, where the design of large and high windows gave ample light for sandtable and map exercises, has recently undergone sensitive refurbishment. The Mess is used by its members for social and military functions and maintains a standard befitting its unique character and design. A thriving Mens Club is housed in the buildings formerly used as an NCO's Mess.

On 17th December, 1922, the Barracks was handed over by the British Army to Comdt Bernard J. McMahon, E Company, 2 Battalion, Dublin Brigade. It was used for a few years by the Gardai before occupation by the Army, when it was renamed after Brigadier Richard McKee (1893-1920); Brigadier McKee had joined the volunteers on formation in 1913, serving with G Company, 2 Battalion, Dublin Brigade. In 1916 he served under Thomas McDonagh at Jacob's Mills and in 1918 he was Officer Commanding Dublin Brigade and

Director of Training. On Bloody Sunday (21st November, 1920) he was arrested by the 'Auxiliaries' (Auxiliary Division, Royal Irish Constabulary) and taken to Dublin Castle, where he was killed that night. A bronze bust of McKee, by Laurence Campbell RHA, was placed in the hall of the Officers' Mess in 1950.

When Radio Eireann was established on 1st January, 1926, the call sign 2 RN issued from the Barracks area where the station had established its transmission mast. It remained there for about 5 years.

The Garrison Church was opened and dedicated to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in 1957, having been built by the Corps of Engineers. It contains three stained glass windows by S. Tomlin, Irish Stained Glass, in memory of the sixteen members of the Forces killed in an explosion in the Glen of Imaal on 16th September, 1941.



*Bygone Days. McKee Bks 1939. An 18 pounder with the Equitation School in the background.*





*Exercise Sunny Hill*



*GAISCE - 1992*



*7 Fd Arty Regt. Annual Camp 1992.*



*2 Fd Arty Regt on the move.*

## LIMBERS V's CAISSONS

In 1908 Lt Edmund Gruber, 5 Field Artillery Regiment, stationed in the Phillipines, was detailed to write a regimental song to be used at a unit review.

Lt Gruber recalled hearing a Sergeant assure him, as guns and limbers groaned over rough ground : “They’ll be all right, Sir, if they keep ’em rolling.”

With this as the core for his song “The Caissons”, Lt Gruber produced the official march which John Philip Sousa later made famous :

“Over hill, over dale, we have hit the dusty trail,  
And those caissons go rolling along.  
‘Counter march, Right about,’ hear those wagon soldiers shout,  
While those caissons go rolling along.

*(Chorus)*

For it’s Hi-yi-yee! in the Field Artillery,  
Let us call off our numbers loud and strong  
*(spoken: ‘Call off!’)*  
And where e’er we go, everybody shall know  
That those caissons are rolling along.  
*(spoken: ‘keep ’em rolling!’)*  
That those caissons are rolling along”

“To the front, day and night, where the doughboys dig and fight,  
And those caissons go rolling along.  
Our barrage will be there, fired on the rocket’s glare,  
While those caissons go rolling along.

*(Chorus)*

“With the cavalry, boot to boot, we will join in the pursuit,  
And those caissons go rolling along,  
Action front, at a trot; volley fire with shell and shot,  
While those caissons go rolling along.

*(Chorus)*



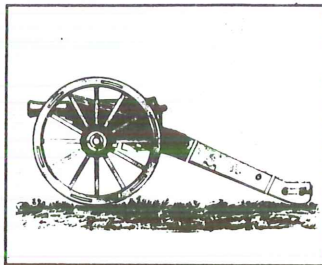
“But if fate me should call, and in action I should fall,  
Keep those caissons a’rolling along.  
Then in peace I’ll abide when I take my final ride,  
On a caisson that’s rolling along.

*(Chorus)*

*(After last chorus: Bat’—try, Hal—t!)”*

A humorist (Fairfax Downey) in 1936 thought it necessary to  
“mechanize” the march :

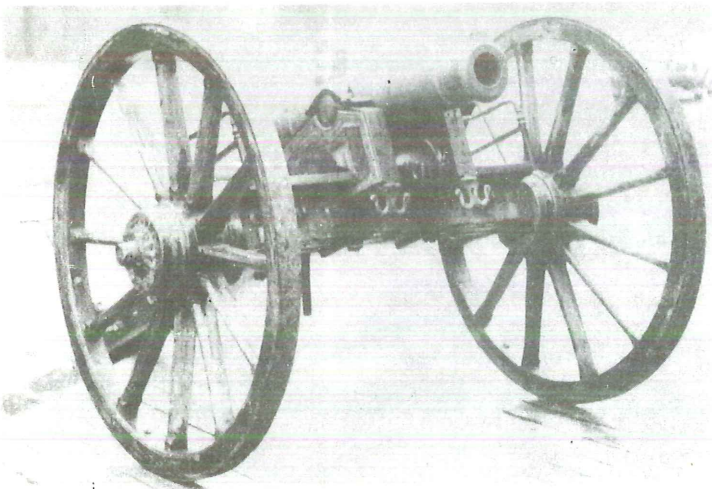
“If our engines go dead, won’t our faces be red,  
With the caissons and horses all gone.  
For the foeman of course will yell, ‘Get a Horse!’  
Motor trucks with the pieces hooked on.  
“Then it’s HI! Hi! See! The field artilla-ree!  
S-q-u-a-k-! S-q-u-a-k!  
No more we’ll go with a team in tow,  
If our motors keep buzzing along.”



## SIKH GUNS McKEE BARRACKS

The Guns at the entrance to the Officers' Mess are Sikh Guns captured by the British Army in India during the Sikh wars of 1845-1849. They were cast in a gun foundry at Lahore in the Punjab, patterned on Napoleonic guns known to European officers employed by the Sikhs. Guns of this type were superior in range and weight of shot to the opposing British artillery used in the major battles of the Sikh wars at Ferozeshah 1845 and at the final battle of Gujrat 1849.

The guns were presented to Lt Gen Sir Hugh Gough (later Field Marshal Lord Gough) C.I.C British Army in India during the campaigns. They were on display in the National Museum for a number of years before finding their appropriate resting place in McKee Barracks where they are under the care of the 2 Field Artillery Regiment.



*Sikh Gun - McKee Bks.*



# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

## SOCCER COMPETITION

<u>Prelim</u>	<u>Quarter Final</u>	<u>Semi Final</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Winner</u>
2 AD Bty V (1100)	_____	_____		
3 FAR	V (1330) 1 AD Regt	_____		
		V (1500)		
4 AD Bty V (1230)	_____	_____		
5 FAR		_____		
	V (1430)			
8 FAR V (1200)	_____			
Dep/Sch				
2 FAR V (1000)	_____			
7 FAR	V (1300)			
6 FAR V (1030)	_____	_____		
4 FAR	_____	V (1530)		
3 AD Bty V (1130)		_____		
1 FAR	V (1400)	_____		
	9 FAR			

## NOTES

- Norton Pitch located behind HQ 2 Garrison Supply and Transport.
- Points for Magee Shield:
  - Winner 3 Pts
  - Runner Up 2 Pts
  - 3rd / 4th 1 Pt
- Final 16.00 hrs Norton Pitch.





# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

## VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

<u>Prelim</u>	<u>Quarter Final</u>	<u>Semi Final</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Winner</u>
1 FAR V (1030) 9 FAR	8 FAR V (1230) _____	_____		
1 ADR V (1000) Dep/Sch	3 FAR V (1200) _____	V (1400) _____		
2 FAR V (1130) 6 FAR	2 AD Bty V (1330) _____	_____		_____
7 FAR V (1100) 5 FAR	4 FAR V (1300) _____	V (1430) _____		

### Notes

1. DFAA Rules will apply
2. Final will take place on Square at 15.15 hrs.
3. Points for Magee Shield:

- Winner 3 Pts
- Runner Up 2 Pts
- 3rd / 4th 1 Pt



# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

## TUG OF WAR COMPETITION

<u>Quarter Final</u>	<u>Semi Final</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Winner</u>
3 FAR V (1230) Dep/Sch	_____	_____	
	V (1400)		
	1 FAR	V	_____
2 FAR V (1300) 6 FAR	_____	_____	
	V (1430)		
	4 FAR		

### Notes

1. DFAA Rules will apply.
2. Final will take place in Equitation School Jumping Enclosure at 16.30 hrs.
3. Points for Magee Shield:
  - Winner 3 Pts
  - Runner Up 2 Pts
  - 3rd / 4th 1 Pt
4. In the event of two (2) or more Units having equal points for the Magee Shield, the Unit with the greatest points in the Tug - of - War will be declared winners of the Shield.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Defence Force have mounted a major campaign to increase the standard of safety in the workplace. 1992 is the European Year of Safety and the Defence Force want to make an impact on safety awareness.

In order that everyone can have an enjoyable and safe day today, please observe the following :

- Take care when handling equipment and entering vehicles.
- Do not touch electrical fitting.
- Supervise your children throughout the Field Day
- Keep out of the Arena Area during demonstrations.

The organising Committee requests the everyone is safety conscious throughout the afternoon. Problems or observations should be directed to Capt D. Campion, Safety Officer, through the reception. A Medical Facility is available at the Ambulance located within the Arena Area, outside the Administrative Building.

## BARRACK PERSONNEL SUPPORT SERVICE

Sgt Tony Murray is the Personnel Support Service Officer for McKee Barracks. Tony works full time in his office providing assistance to serving personnel and their families. His door is always open.

Since May of this year accurate information on all welfare matters has been available. If you need assistance contact Sgt Murray in McKee in person or by phone - Ext 6165. be assured of a friendly voice at the end of the line.





# ARTILLERY CORPS FIELD DAY

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Officers Commanding 2 Field Artillery Regiment, 7 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) and 2 AD Battery (FCA) wish to convey their appreciation to the following for their support and cooperation :

GOC Eastern Command

OC 2 Bde

Director of Artillery

Camp Commandant, McKee Barracks

OC DFHQ Officers' Mess

Mess Presidents, NCOs' Mess & Mens Club McKee Barracks

OC 5 Inf Bn

OC 2 Cav Sqn

OC 2 Grn S&T Coy

OC 2 Fd S&T Coy

OC AHQ Sig Coy

OC 2 Fd Sig Coy

OC 2 Grn Ord Coy

OC 2 Grn MP Coy

OC CTD (E)

OC St. Bricks Hospital

Conductor, Band of the Eastern Command

OC Observer Corps

OC DFAVS

OC ASOC

PSSO McKee Barracks

OIC DFPP

Supt GS Traffic Section

OC's of Artillery Corps Units

Artillery Club



