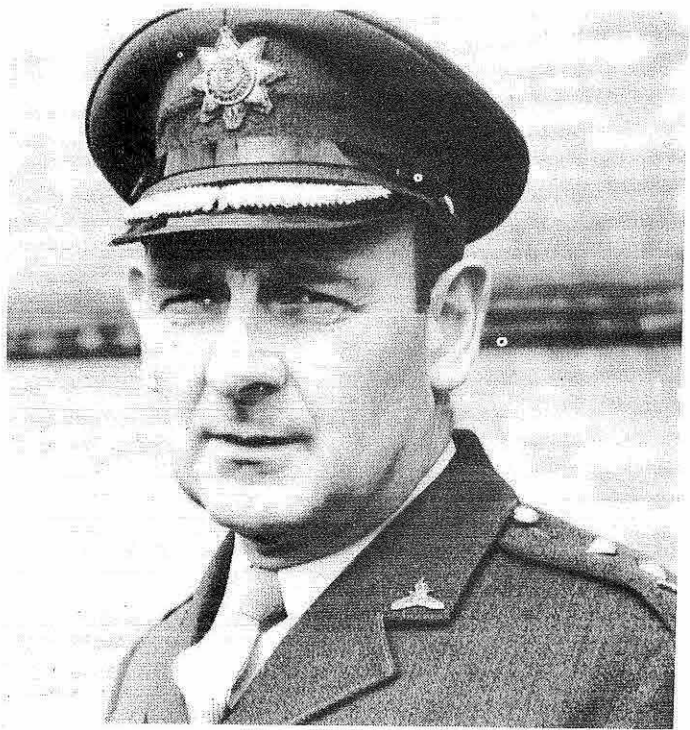




**5th Field Artillery Regiment
21st Anniversary 1980
1959-1980 Review**

A Message
from the
Director of Artillery



The 5th Field Artillery Regiment (F.C.A.) was formed in 1959, getting the nucleus of its personnel from the 50th Infantry Battalion (F.C.A.). Its members quickly adapted to their changed role and in a short period became competent in the use, for them, of new weapons tactics and techniques. The test of a Battery or a Regiment is its capability to put down Artillery fire where and when it is needed. The 5th Regiment has professionally demonstrated during Artillery exercises and firing practices in Glen of Imaal that it can meet this requirement. It can be very proud of the high standard which it has achieved in what is a short period in the history of a unit. This standard could not have been attained and maintained but for the enthusiasm and dedication shown by all members of the Regiment, both P.D.F. and F.C.A., over the years.

I thank the Regiment for its contribution to the Artillery Corps. since its formation, I congratulate it on its 21st anniversary and I wish it well in the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T.M. McDunphy'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

COLONEL

(T.M. McDunphy)

DIRECTOR OF ARTILLERY.

Glynns Hotel ; Gort . (Co. Galway)

Congratulations to 7th heavy mortar battery
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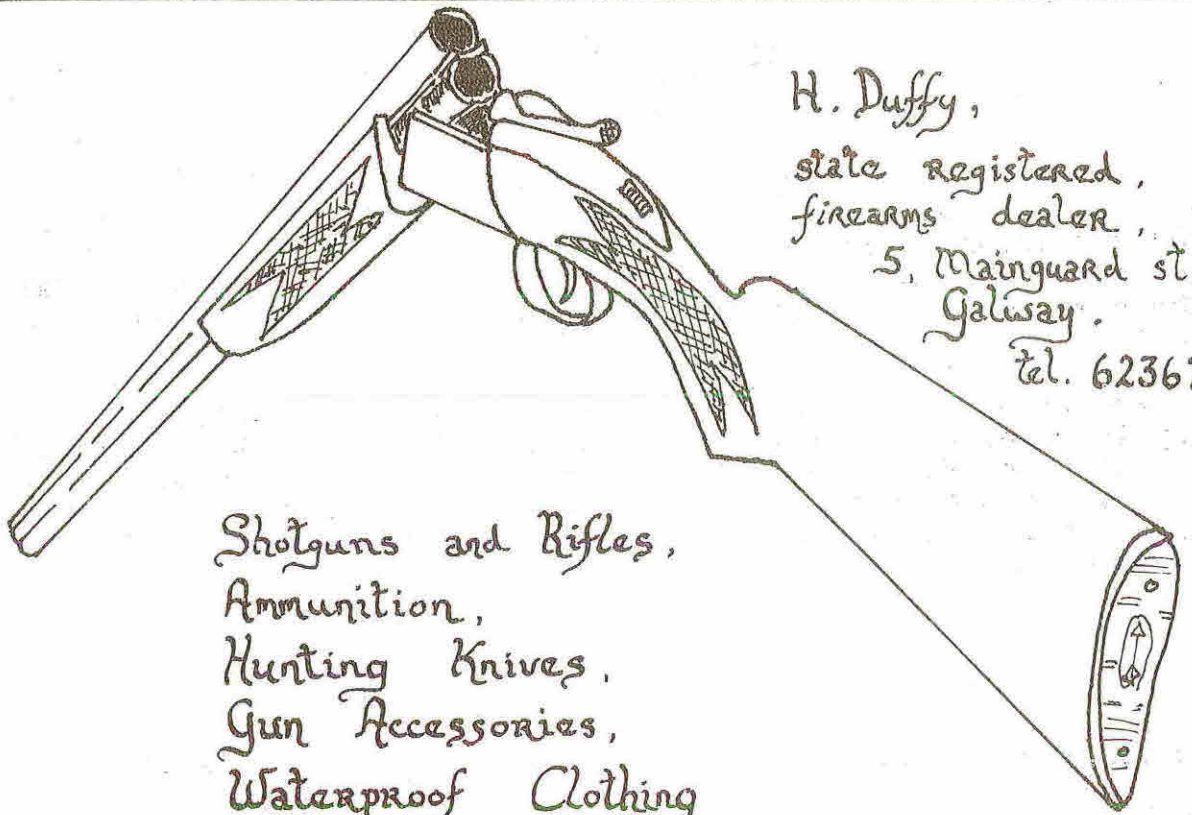
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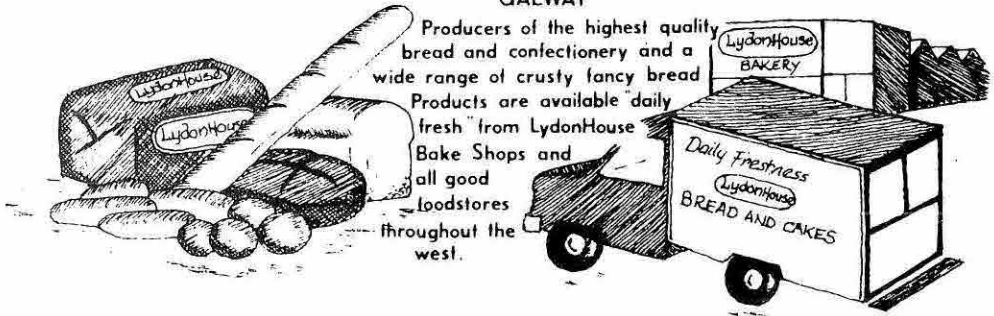
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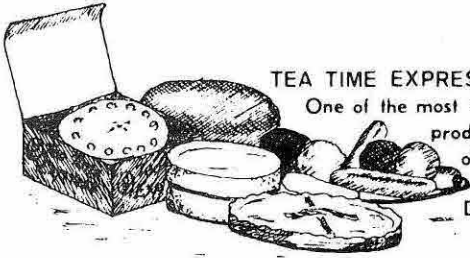
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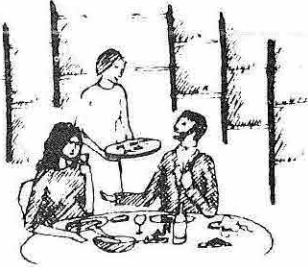


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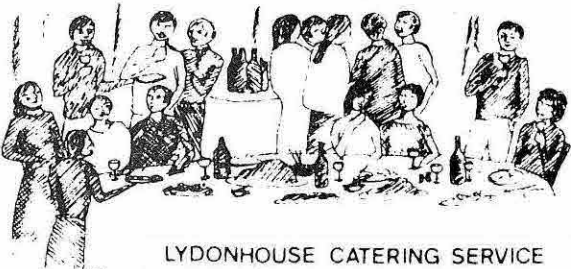


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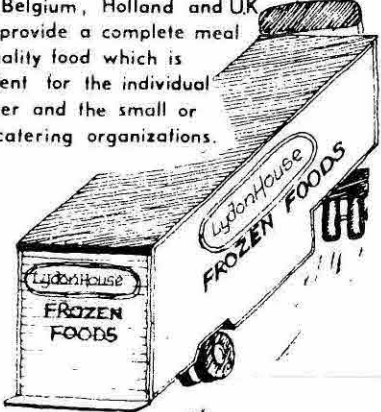
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An Introduction
by the
Regimental C.O.



The 5th Field Artillery Regiment will be of age in October, 1980. Twenty-one years have passed since that fateful day when, Col. J.P. Kane, and his regular training cadre arrived in Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa from Mullingar, to form the Unit. One of Whom still proudly serves on today, Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant Bobby Gander. The 50th Bn. Galway, the Gort Bn. and the Tuam Bn. were to be the nucleus of the 4th Fd. Arty. Bty, the 7th Hy. Mor. Bty and the 13th Hy. Mor Bty respectively.

Much sweat, tears and not a little laughter went into this task by all concerned. The success of which is easily gauged when one considers, the achievements of the Regiment to-date and its current level of performance. Nowadays its not uncommon for the Unit to annually supply three or four Guards of Honour, compete successfully in small arms competitions, conduct artillery deployment exercised and firing practices, individually by Btys, and collectively as a Regt. These are carried out on Annual Camp in the Glen of Imaal, when the Camp is occupied and administered by the Unit from its own resources. To achieve this standard requires a high level of training from all Ranks, P.D.F. and F.C.A. alike. The co-operation and enthusiasm shown by everyone makes anything possible, and highlights the value of teamwork. This results from the efforts of those associated with the Unit throughout the years, for which we are very grateful.

It is on this past work that we build the present and prepare for the future, remembering we are only as good as our next performance.

Finally a special Thank you to 2/Lt., Eamonn Brennan, for undertaking the unenviable task of editing and producing the 21st Anniversary Magazine. May the next 21 years be as happy and productive for all, as those just passed.


JOHN HALL COMDT.

The Integration or the Birth of the 5th Field Artillery Regiment, by Colonel John P. Kane. (1st C.O. of the Unit)

Integration was a word bandied about early in 1959. I could be forgiven for thinking that it could not happen to me. It did. It was like this: I was happy enough even with the stern living of the fifties ie. economically speaking. There was little happening in the military firmament. Suez was over and Premier Sir Anthony Eden of England was struggling with his disgrace bravely being shored up by the die-hard true blue Tories. There was a so called and easily forgettable Border "campaign" intermittently going on just to the north of where we were then stationed, Mullingar's 3 Field Artillery Regiment. I rejoiced in the rank of Commandant and the title of Second in Command to that stern and stirring Officer Commanding, Col. Mark Harrington. There was internment in the Curragh but it did not impinge on such as me at all.

But perhaps I digress and I must start to find and found 5 Field Artillery Regiment around the shores of Galway Bay. General Patrick Mulcahy was our Chief of Staff (he was to retire before Integration took place) and he presided at a Conference at Military College, Curragh Camp where he outlined proposals for bringing FCA Batteries, Squadrons and Battalions into the Old Brigades and indeed new Brigades That's what Integration was about basically. We all thought that this was going to be a great boon not alone organisation wise (and it was to an extent) but we also persuaded ourselves that in Rank opportunity it would bring promotions galore for Offrs. and NCOs. Not so. Civil Servants and others whose minds are bent towards skinflintingly preventing an odd few bob going the Army's way, as always, had the final word. That seemed to us to be: "Do what ye like with re-organisation of the Defence Forces but don't have any increase in ranks and there will be no extra funds." It reminded us then of the saying: "If we had eggs we could have rashers and eggs if we had rashers".

There must have been something wrong with me then - I felt that there was always something wrong with me militarily - as I was "promoted" to Command of the new 5 Field Artillery Regiment with H.Q. in Dun Ui Mhaoliosa, Galway with the rank still of Commandant. One had to mov a growing family, find a house, schools, etc. with no disturbance allowance. Changed a bit since.

Those were the hardship days. Soldiering - that was the name it went by. It was likewise with that fine band of men who ventured West of the Shannon with me on that fateful Der Tag Thursday 30th October, 1959. It was "I" Day and by that evening by 23.59 hours we were integrated or on the way to it. Or were we ?

Before I left the Midlands for the western sea (it was Sept. 1959) I remember spending one Sunday afternoon on the shore of trout filled Lough Ennel sitting in a car writing to every officer and NCO of the old FCA Units of East Galway (Tuam Bn) and West Galway, Gort Bn and 50 Bn (Galway city and District). I told them of the transformation

that was about to take place, the wonders and mysteries of artillery, what a fine Corps it was and a new and Better FCA life with the Gunners. Things like more equipment, more instructors and a new Esprit de Corps were to be the order of the day. I had a couple of hundred copies of this manifesto published and duly distributed. Great stirring gather-round-the-new-Flag-stuff. It did not turn out that way tho'. On paper it was super. My pen had flowed freely but there was a flaw, of course, of which I was not even then so naive as to under rate. How could I wean these Infantry bods of differing Infantry Battalions, and worse still, seperate F.C.A. areas with totally differing loyalties and even liguistic back grounds to a new organisation and a new arm of the Service? Difficult? You can say that again!

After 4 years hard slogging I felt that North Galway (Tuam Hq) 13 Bty and South Galway (Gort Hq) 7 Bty were induced to accept fairly freely, finally the new concept. It was different with 4 Bty, Hq. Galway City. Their tradition they felt was unbreakable and they could but grudgingly be seduced. They wanted to wear their old badges, Flashes, etc. of old 50 BN (FCA). I must have had great forebearance and tact, mind you. I had to admire them even when the late Comdt. Sean Cullinane, E. Bty Comdr. (and formerly 50 Bn Commander) was at his most exasperating. He was annoying, frustrating, generous, enjoyable and original. He was great and we loved him. We admired him for his stubborn adherence to a glorious past and especially a past strewn with Command and all Army Rifle trophies and other splendours.

The other Battery Commanders were equally admirable but in different ways. Where would one get a sounder man than Comdt. Tom Higgins of 7 Bty. Tuam and North Galway? Easy but sound company at conference table or convivial table. Intelligent, just, compassionate, even tempered, never ruffled nor ruffleable. Thank you, Tom. You made my lead lighter.

Comdt. Martin Dolan N.T. of Gort's 7 Bty. What a character! What a talker! Such a story-teller. One couldn't keep to any agenda with him at a conference. He'd drag us back to 1940 when there was a row at Peterswell or was it Castledaly as if it had acute relevance to the 1960s. Sure, maybe it had. If he felt in the mood he'd conjure an ambush in 1921 also.

Martin's first shoot in the Glen was his best. It was a miracle also. He carefully worked out co-ordinates and OT angle and radioed back to the 120 mm mortars a mile - or was it 2 miles? - away behind the hills and at "FIKE" up came 28 lbs of a direct High Explosive Target round. He was bewildered. So were we. He demolished the bush in the centre of the small area target with the first shot. "Fire for effect" did the rest. He was rightly chuffed. There was nothing to it.

A little anecdote I can't let pass. Some months ago I was dining with a party consisting of a Galway couple, Professor and Mrs. Burke, a few midlanders and some U.S. friends at San Antonio, Texas - the Hilton of course. "And where are you from Mrs. Burke," I said. "Its Co. Galway and you wouldn't know the small place, very unimportant", "Tell me please", I said. "I know the county well." "You'd hardly know it - its a little place in South Galway called Ardrahan". I said

I knew it well and asked her if she knew Martin Dolan. "Wasn't he my first National School teacher", she said. Small world. But then who could forget such a teacher? Mrs. Margaret Burke was indeed a person most privileged as were all her class mates.

We had many snags when we came to set up a new Brigade stretching from North Donegal to North Clare. Col. Paddy Kearins was our new Bde O/C and he has his hands full with a new Artillery Regt, Cavalry Sqn. Supply and Transport Coy, Engineer Coy, etc. The 1st Battalion (An Cead Cathlan) was the only regular unit and we were dubbed "na cuartoiri (the visitors) and perhaps worse when we piled into disturb them as they hadn't been since 1940. We finally wrestled as best we could with problems aplenty with each other in our Regiment, with the other new units and with the Cead Cathlan.

Armies are wonderful organisations. The people in them make things work, make things fit into place despite the best endeavours of begrudgers, thwarters and obstacle builders in strange places. That's how it appears to the soldier who at times says: "Get out of my way and let me get on with the real job".

The Regiment is now 21 years founded and I am most proud that I was sent to Co. Galway to do a worthwhile job way back in October 1959. I want to thank and I just cannot thank them too much, the Offrs, NCOs and men of the P.D.F. who travelled with me and who guided the guns that trundled their noisy way over the Shannon and on through Aughrim's slopes to the western sea so long ago. Thank you Comdt. Martin Greaney, Comdt. Liam Donnelly, Comdt. Liam O'Coinne. Without the fine body of NCOs too we just could not have managed. Very good they were. None better. Some of them were and in no special order: CQMS. or Sgt. Pat Shanahan, Ed Columb, Fred Smith, Rich Gander, Frank Cassidy, Barney McGuire, Tom Durnin, Jos. Connaughton, Tom Muldoon, John Gavin, W. Early, M. Minogue, J. Connors and J. Keilly.

Finally, I would say to all in 5 Field Artillery Regiment: You are a fine organisation, you have prospered under many Officers Commanding, you will continue to make progress and don't ever forget that you belong to a fine tradition going back in this Century to the Irish Volunteers of 1913 whose blood stained uniforms from 1916 onwards gave Ireland a new pride and inspired the Nation of today to face a new and glorious future.

Ar Dheis De go raibh na baill ata innithe ar sli an Firinne. Ar Aghaidh dibh go 2001 agus an terna 21 adh !

A History of the 7th Battery by

Comdt. Martin Dolan .retd .



The proudest memory of my life is that of my association with the Volunteer Force of South Galway in its various aspects from 1940 to 1947.

It all began in June 1940 with the formation of the Local Defence Force and at its formative meeting I was elected leader of the Peterswell-Castledaly - Kilchreast Company. In August 1940 the country was divided into districts and I was elected District Leader of the Gort Battalion F.C.A. I was then twenty-nine years of age.

The district comprised ten parishes - Gort, Shanaglish, Tubber, Kilbeacanty, Peterswell, Ardrahan, Kinvara, Ballindereen, Clarinbridge, Kilchreast and Craughwell. These parishes all had sub-divisions as in the case of Kinvara which was known officially to us as Kinvara-Dooras.

The district corresponded with the Diocese of Kilmacduagh and the more ancient kingdom of Aidhne. It was also the area comprised by the Gort Garda District and the late Supt. William O'Halloran who did trojan work while the area was under his control.

Early in 1941 the L.D.F. came under Army Control and the Gort battalion became part of the East Galway area with Comdt. Tim Considine, the Gort Postmaster who was recalled to the Colours in 1939 as Area Officer. He is still remembered with esteem and affection and resides near the Curragh Camp.

Although small in area it is officially on record that percentage wise the Gort district contributed the largest number of men to the F.C.A. It was remarkable, too, for the enthusiasm of its members and in the early days of 1941 over 600 members from a roll call of 637 cycled to Galway to take part in the great parade of the Volunteer Forces of West Galway area.

When the flags were presented to the District, and its various companies in 1943, a parade of 997 officers and men out of a complement of 1003, marched through the town to the strains of the Battalion

Pipers Band trained by Band Master Eddie Treston. The salute was taken by the late Col. Felix McCorley, O.C. Western Command who also presented the colours to the various units.

In 1946 the L.D.F. was disbanded and its place was taken by the Forse Cosanta Aitricula (F.C.A.) and many of the familiar faces disappeared from our ranks. They left behind them, however, a tradition of patriotism and comradeship that has animated the volunteer forces of this district ever since.

The Gort Battalion F.C.A., to give it its new title, once again became part of the West Galway Area with myself as Battalion O.C. and Lt. Paddy Fahy as 2nd in command. Our Area Officer was Comdt. Sean O' Connor whose tragic death in December 1956 is still remembered with sorrow by all who had the honour to serve under him. He was succeeded by Comdt. Pat Quinlan whose heroic stand at Jadoville in the Congo peace operations until overwhelmed by vastly superior forces brought honour to Irish arms.

Two notable requisitions to the Battalion during this period was John Murray of Gort, and Toddie Byrne of Kinvara who rapidly attained the rank of Lieutenant and who now guide the fortunes of the unit with zeal and ability.

For the thirteen years of its existence the Gort Battalion held the honoured place in the Western Command. In shooting competitions and in Platoon competitions it was never out of the first seven places and one of our proudest moments came when in the Command Shooting Competition our team was beaten out of first place by a single point.

In 1959 the High Command decided to integrate the F.C.A. with the Regular Army and the County Galway Units became part of the Fifth Brigade under Col. Paddy Kerins, a fine soldier and comrade. The 50th Battalion (Galway), the Tuam Battalion, and the Gort Battalion were amalgamated as the Fifth Field Artillery Regiment - the 50th Batt. becoming the 4th Battery (25 pounder), the Tuam and Gort Batt. becoming the 13th and 7th, heavy mortar batteries respectively. Our Regimental Commander was that very fine soldier, Comdt. Johnny Kane, who very soon created a wonderful spirit of comradeship among the three units. Our training officer was that most energetic and agreeable young Lieutenant Liam O'Coinne, our Battery Instructor was Sgt. Tom Muldoon, a first class instructor, and the inimitable B.C.M.S. Fred Smyth did the office work, store keeping, and all the tasks that keep a unit in good heart.

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The changeover from infantry to artillery was painful in some respects. Many of our most able N.C.O's and three star privates felt that learning the mysteries of artillery would be beyond them, and that they, hitherto looked up to by their comrades, would "lose face". For some six months I spent my nights calling on those men who more or less said that they wished to resign and succeeded in getting many of them to stay on. I also spent a great deal of time seeking out likely recruits and was successful in replacing much of our losses in numbers.

Incidentally all Battery Commanders had been promoted to the rank of Commandant and the 2 i.c.'s to the rank of Captain. John Murray and Toddie Byrne, although not yet commissioned, acted unofficially as Officers and instructors and did excellent work in putting the battery on its feet.

It was an exciting period for all of us. Once again we felt we were making history and added to that was the fact that we belonged to an elite corp. the artillery. We all walked tall.

All too soon, however, we lost much of our swagger as the time for annual training loomed up, and we were informed that we would be posted to the Glen of Imaal where we would fire our beloved mortars for the first time. Surely we felt, the Army must be mad to expect us to fire at - and hit- targets after a scant eight months of artillery training.

Eventually the Regiment arrived at Coolmooney House and Camp in the Glen of Imaal, and were made heartily welcome by the late Col. Dalton, Col. Mattimoe, Capts. Kavanagh and Ryan, and the Late Dr. O'Connor. We had often heard of the "Spirit of the Glen" and here we found a spirit of friendship and comradeship that enveloped us like a cloak. The three Battery Commanders, the Late Comdt. Sean Cullinane, of the 4th, Comdt. Tom Higgins of the 13th, and myself were old comrades and friends while the geniality of Comdt. Kane soon bonded the young officers together, and it was a joy to us older men to see how they mingled together in work and sport.

Impromptu concerts and sing-songs made the evenings enjoyable, and our days were filled with work, hard work which was rewarded with such excellent shooting that officers and men of all three batteries, from the most senior officer to the most junior private felt like veterans of a crack regiment.

The training camp at Glen Imaal in 1961 was notable for one event. The Swiss Government had heard with interest of our Army's experiments in

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integration, and was anxious to see the results as its own army consists of a small number of regular troops and a large volunteer force. As we set up our guns in the early morning we were suddenly visited by some members of our General Staff together with the Swiss Charge d'Affaire, himself a Colonel of artillery, and a staff of Swiss military officers. We found that we were to take orders from these later.

All through a long and arduous day the three batteries fired at targets selected by the observers and those of us who took part still look back with pride on the accuracy displayed and on the praise lavished on us that evening.

The years passed, and with the promotion of our popular Comdt. Kane to the rank of Lt. Col. we were sent a new Regimental O.C. in the person of the late genial and efficient Comdt. Mickey Fitzsimons whose early death in 1978 saddened all who had the honour to know him. May God rest his gentle soul.

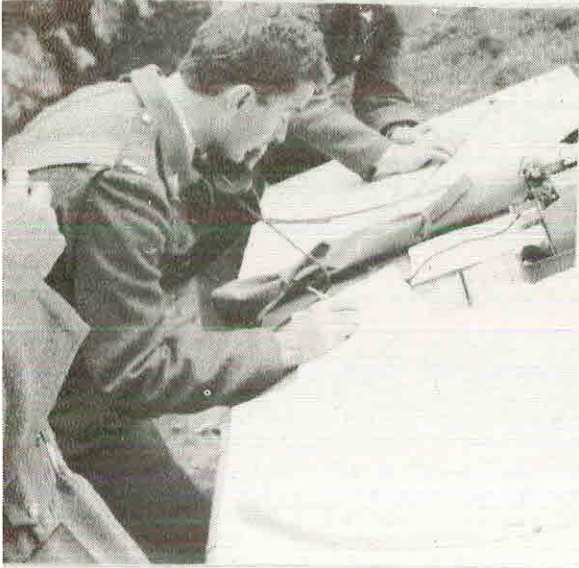
In 1966 I transferred to Dublin and was succeeded as Battery Commander by the late Comdt. Paddy Fahy, like myself a schoolteacher. He had been an officer of the Gort units since the days of the 1940, and had given an example of zeal, comradeship, and loyalty which inspired all who were privileged to serve with him. God grant him eternal rest.

The present Battery Commander is Comdt. John Murray with Capt. Toddie Byrne as 2 i.c. Any battery would be privileged to have two such officers. The present O.C. of the 5th Arty. Regiment is Comdt. J. Hall and he has struck up a very happy relationship with all the officers of the three batteries. The 7th Battery has two fine young officers in Lieut. Dermot O'Connor and Maurice Cotter and the officers N.C.O.'s and men have reached a very high standard of efficiency.

During annual training last August in Glen Imaal the Battery won the "Mick Quinn Perpetual Trophy" and also the coveted title of "Premier Battery."

I will close the history of the South Galway district volunteer force in its various manifestations as F.D.F., F.C.A., and Field Battery during the past forty years with the wish that the members will continue to maintain in the future the qualities of loyalty, diligence, and efficiency which has made the unit so respected in our Irish Army. God Bless them all, and their patriotic work.

The Early Years 60 - 65



QUAD LIMBER AND GUN
CASTELLAN, ATHENRY 1961.

4th Bty. C.P.O. 2/LT. LARRY HYNES
FINNER, 1960.



GORT No 2 GUN CREW: GLEN 1965.

Cpl. Ned COLUMNS AND Lt. MAHONY
REGIMENTAL G.P.: GLEN 1961.



SINGLE GUN EXPERTS, PETE CUBBARD AND
TOMMY RIDDELL: 1964.



YOUNG SIGNALLER VINCENT GAFFNEY
GLEN 1961.

The 4th Field Battery 1959 - 1980,

A Personal Journal by,

Capt. Ruaidhrí O' Tuathail F.C.A.

This year the Fifth Field Artillery Regiment comes of age in its twenty first year of existence. The Fourth Battery with its H.Q. in Galway is proud that it is one of the three Batterys of the Regiment. These twenty one years have not passed without leaving craters to mark the passing of each successive year. Nobody can deny that the 1959 "Integration" - when the Regiment was formed - was momentous if not mortiferous when so many of our comrades were posted to other Units such as Engineers or Transport.

Today Comdt. Sean Cullinane - a pharos among F.C.A. men - who became our Battery Commander (B.C.) at that time, has passed away to his final reward. Capt. Hubre Broderick has retired after many long years of service. Regular staff have come and gone also, Col. J.P. Kane our first Regimental Commander, Lt. Col. Griffin, Comdt. Pat Farrell, Comdt. Liam Gavin, Capt. John McGlinchey, B&MS Ned Collumb, B&MS Tommy Durnin, Sgt. Johnny Gavin, and last but not least our first Regimental Sgt. Major John O'Connor, who could pirouette on any barrack square; we are glad to know he is still fit and well. When it came to preparation for Guards of Honour John was in a class of his own. Comdt. Martin Greaney also is still going strong.

There have been many other changes. The battery has become more ambitious in its operations down through the years. In the first few years when we went to fire artillery pieces in the Glen of Imaal, we were content to bring the weapons into position any old way at all and then concentrate on the firing aspects. This is no longer the position. Today the Battery deploys properly as part of a Regiment by going through the various stages laid down for such an exercise. This in fact means that every gunner must know his job and be fully competent as regards his appointment.

Actual artillery "shoots" too have become more ambitious. Battery shoots are no longer the mainstay of our Firing Programme.

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We have been firing Regimental shoots for some years now, which means bringing artillery fire to bear on a particular target by simultaneous engagement using three firing units from different gun positions. We have also used helicopters to survey targets and have also done limited air/op artillery work. This year to mark its birthday the Regiment is in the process of an Artillery Night Shoot - Regimental - which is far removed from a day battery shoot.

For some years we have made our annual pilgrimage to the Glen but the Battery has visited other training locations also, Finner Camp, Mullingar, Kildare, and Dublin. Every gunner gathers his own memorable items as the years go by. We remember the various changes both important and nugatory. Ranks have changed, new weapons were acquired and shirts and ties were issued. The latter may seem an otiose mention but those gunners who remember performing Gun Drill in the summer heat of Coolmooney Camp or running line from the Gun Position to the O.P. in heavy choked "bullswool" uniforms know the importance of this change.

The unit has been represented in many competitions including the All Army on various occasions. In 1973 a team won the Artillery Corps. Gustav sub-machine gun competition which included both regular Army and FCA firers.

An ex-member of our parent unit the 50th Inf. Bn (FCA) became Minister for Defence, Mr. Robert Molloy, and in 1978 this unit provided a Guard of Honour for him. This was a singular occasion for the unit.

This year the 4th Battery provided a Guard of Honour for Mrs. Maura Geoghegan Quinn who thus became the first woman Cabinet Minister to inspect a military Guard of Honour since this state was founded! The Officer of the Guard was Lt. Gerry Murphy and Lt. Eamon Brennan was colour bearer. (Lt. Brennan's brother Senator Seamus Brennan was also a member of the unit at one time). Of course the Minister's husband is also an ex-member of the Regiment! In 1979 Peter Cubbard was promoted to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major which is the highest rank which can be filled by any non-commissioned Officer, Regular Army or F.C.A.

The last year has again brought many far-reaching changes. The Brigade structure which existed since 1959 has been set aside. We are now told that the F.C.A. is "on its own". Prior to this change, the Minister for Defence, Mr. Molloy and Senior Army Officers met a representative group of F.C.A. Officers in the Curragh Camp. An open frank discussion took place. This may seem to some to be a strange

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outrage way of operating any army, but surely in such a situation where one is dealing with a voluntary body of people a little democracy would not be amiss. Among the farrago of rumours doing the rounds prior to this meeting was one that all F.C.A. Corps units were to be disbanded. This would have been a terrible waste of resources as rumour also had it that it was not just a case of the shibboleth of competency but rather an across the board decision. However reason, logic, and common sense triumphed in the final analysis. Provided now that the resources of cadre and equipment are made available this change could be a very good trend. F.C.A. units should strive to be in a position where F.C.A. personnel are fully engaged in their own training and administration. This year all F.C.A. competitions are being carried out and administered by F.C.A. Personnel and while this can make heavy demands on units it is nevertheless a welcome change provided each unit accepts its fair share of such work. This year the Fourth Battery ran the All Army Gustaf Competition. It is not good enough to complain about lack of expertise if the personnel themselves do not strive for an acceptable level of competency in whatever appointment they hold. Some units hold courses for leader training and such courses are of immense value. The Regt. Commander Comdt. Hall held such a course for officers of the Regiment from Sept 1975 to April 1976. This was most beneficial. Now a course is to be held for F.C.A. officers in the Military College this summer. Let us hope that this will be the first of many courses at all levels. Let us also see if correspondence courses could not be utilised more.

Other changes are also on the way. The present tunic is to be replaced with one similar to the Regular Army. The officers tunic has already been changed.

Comdt. John Hall who came to us in 1975 has shown that his heart is in the correct place as far as the F.C.A. is concerned. While he demands results at all levels he has always shown himself more than willing to give his professional tutelage whenever this was required. We are all sorry to note at this time that Lr. Col. Mick Fitzsimons who spent many long years as Regimental Commander has passed away. May he rest in peace.

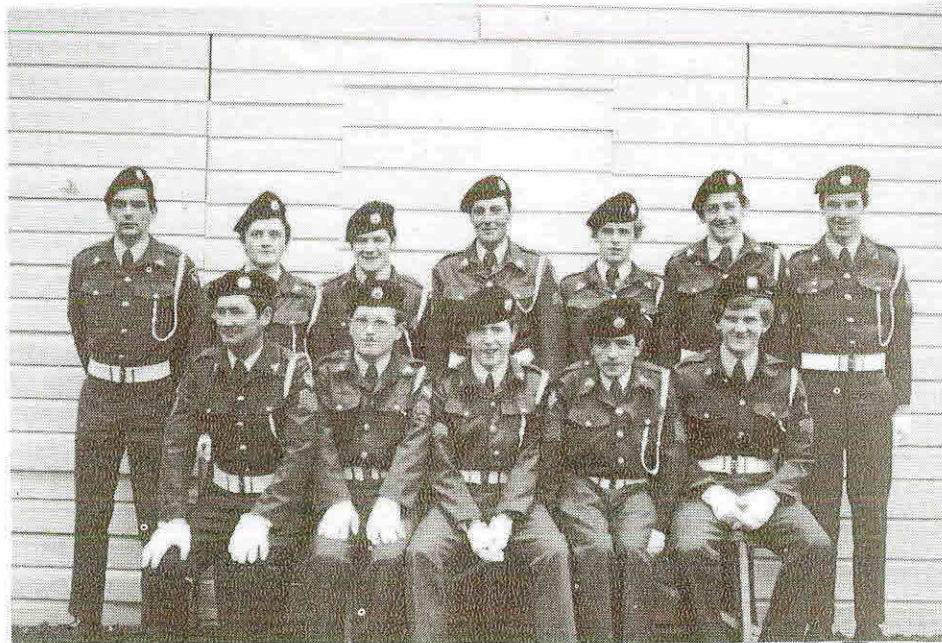
Gunners of this battery have fired many artillery pieces in the last few years, the 25 pdr. Gun howitzer, the 4.5 howitzer, the French 75s and the 18 pdr. Other gunners have operated the technical equipment necessary for artillery work.

.....over

Signallers have operated line and wireless equipment and other still have become involved in the more mundane though no less important work of administration. Many gunners have long service behind them at this time. Sgt. Martin Kane from Maree has already 40 years service !

One can find ex-gunners in many parts of the world today. Some have joined other forces or became doctors or architects, builders or businessmen, priests or politicians, shop assistants, or factoryworkers, but it is often surprising when one encounters one such gunner that he will still speak with fondness of the years he spent with the Battery and boast that he can still remember the sequence of laying, how to plot an artillery board or set up a radio net.

Our first twenty-one years may not have been "action packed" but they certainly did not lack colour or variety. May the next twenty-one be just as momentous.



HEAVY MORTAR : 13th BATTERY N.C.O.'s : MAY 1980 .

The B.C.'s



COMDT. HUGH DUFFY
B.C. 4th FIELD BTY.
1969 -



COMDT. J. MURRAY.
B.C. 7th HEAVY
MORTAR BTY. 1970 -



COMDT. TOM WHOLIHAN
B.C. 13th HEAVY MORTAR
BTY. TUAM.



CAPT. LARRY HYNES
B.C. H.Q. BTY.

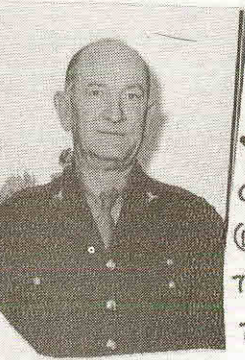


COMDT. SEAN
CULLINANE (R.I.P.)
COMPANY COMMANDER
50th BN & 1st B.C.
4th BTY.

COMDT. PADDY FANEY
GORT B.C.
1966 - 70
(APOLOGIES FOR PHOTO)



COMDT. TOM HIGGINS
13th BTY B.C.
1959 - '69



COMDT. MARTIN DOLAN
1st B.C. 7th BTY.

COMDT. TERRY LOHAN
(R.I.P.) SERVED WITH
THE 4th BTY. DURING
THE EARLY '70's.



COMDT. LIAM GAVIN
SERVED WITH THE
REGIMENT FOR MANY
YEARS AS
STAFF / TRAINING OFFICER.



LT. COL. M.O. FITZSIMMONS
(R.I.P.) O.C. 5th F.A.R.
1963 - 1974



CAPT. PLUNKETT MARRON
SUCCEEDED COMDT HIGGINS
AS 13th BTY. B.C.



COMDT. LIAM O' COINNE
SERVED AS REGIMENTAL
TRAINING OFFICER.

The 13th Heavy Mortar Battery (Tuam) , Some Faces and Memories , by Comdt. Tom Wholihan.

As a result of the 1959 Army re;organisation, the 13th Heavy Mortar battery was established with its H.Q. at Tuam, with sub units at Glenamaddy, Corofin, Miltown and Dunmore. This of course was a major challenge as artillery was a completely new area for the ex-Tuam battelion infantry men . The first training Officer to be appointed was Capt. Liam Donnelly a man of endless dedication, assisted by BCMS Barney Maguire and Sgt. Paddy Shanahane - a true professional - with a language all of his own when things went wrong !

Also on the scene at this early stage was a very young and green Tommy Gavin, now BCMS second to none. Another likable character was the ever jovial Peter Shaughnessy a man about which many tales abound. By saving the good wine to last we must mention Cpl. Joe Connaughton, an institution in his own right - and fondly known as the Colonel.

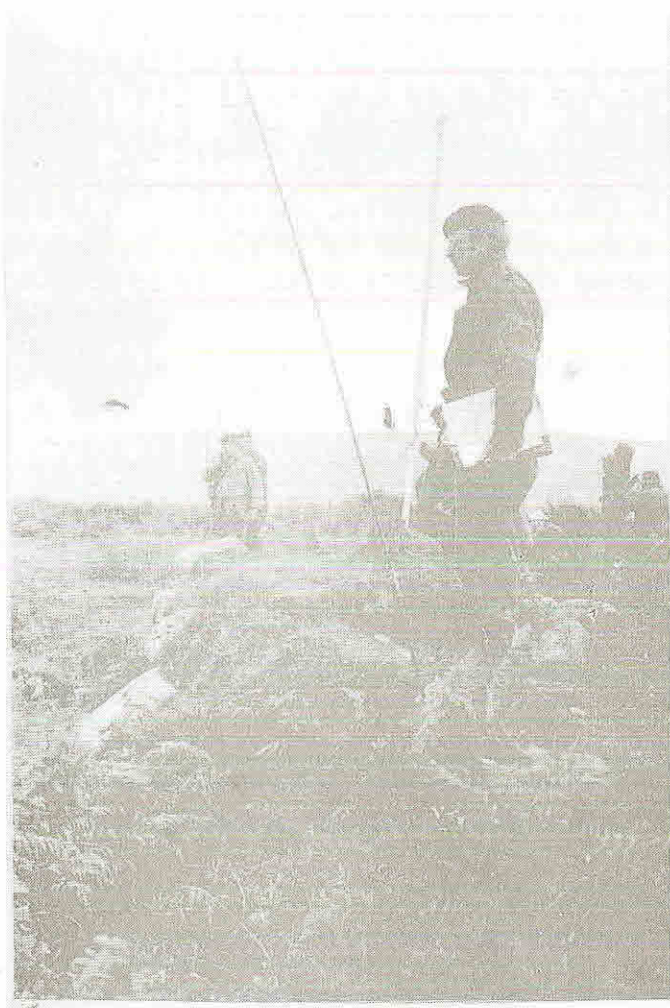
This staff worked long and hard to produce a battery of the highest standards.

Naturally the F.C.A. personnel took up the challenge and with Comdt. T. Higgins at the helm assisted by Captains T. Joyce, P. O'Gara, P. Marron(Griddler) R.I.P. and Lieuts. J. O'Brien, J. Burke, and a young Vincent Gaffney. Capt. J. Burke became the mainstay of the shooting teams while Capt. Plunkett Marron became Battery Commander on the retirement of Comdt. Higgins. Plunkett died two years ago, a true gentlemen and fine officer. Over the years there were many fine NCO's including Joe Niland, Paul O'Hora, S. Tierney and P. Brennan. A number of famous names passed through the Battery as for example Mark Kilillea, the present Junior Minister at the Dept. of P. & T. and of course Noel Tierney Galway's greatest full back. Members were also "lost" to the Gardai, the Cadets, and to the Priesthood. In the early 1970 the older NCO's retired and a new crowd came to the fore. Sgt. Liam Ainsworth joined the P.D.F. staff during this period, as did the present BS Johnny Kelly who rapidly rose through the ranks. Around him was built up an excellent body of NCO's who were now the core of the Unit, and they include Sgt. Morley, Dooley, Doherty, Lyons, and Tannion. However with the experience of older times behind them, Sgt. Tadgh Mullins a crack LMG man and Sgt. Frank Hession a marksman with the rifle are a tremendous advantage to the battery. They certainly set the standard for the young corporals with their high standards and excellent attendance.

Lastly Comdt. Tom Wholihan and Capt. Vincent Gaffney are two very active officers with the Battery and they yearly guide it to the standards required for the live firing practices in the Glen of Imaal.

The greatest resource of an P.C.A. unit is an endless supply of recruits. The 13th Battery Area is well endowed with schools which provide recruits of a very high standard. By instilling discipline into the youth of the area, the 13th Battery is providing a useful and indeed an essential service to the Community. It prepares them for Leadership by exposing them to the responsibility, which in turn leads to maturity.

The future may hold many surprises but the 13th Battery is CONFIDENT that it can meet all challenges and continue to function in an efficient and useful manner.



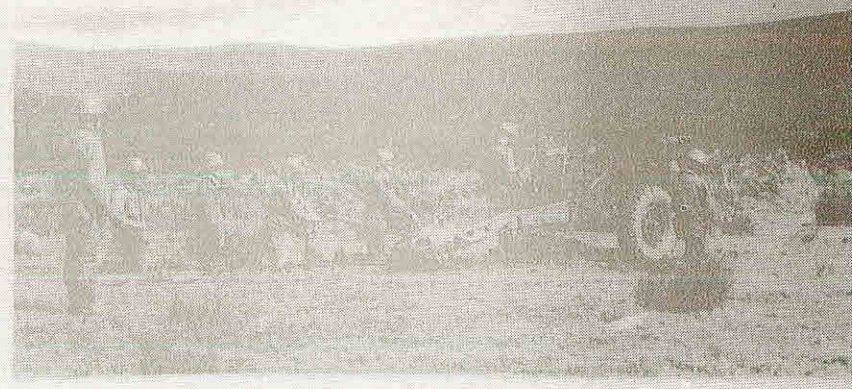
CAPT. RUADHRI Ó TUATHAIL,
4th BATTERY, WATCHES FOR THE
FALL OF SHOT FROM THE
LEITRIM OP.



NO. 1 GUN,
CPL. CUBBARD & CREW
FINNER, July 1963.



TOP OF THE CLASS 1979 AND BEST SHOT CPL. DAVE DILLON WITH THE C.O. COMDT. HALL.



CPL. NEARY & CREW WAIT FOR THE ACTION.



7th BATTERY GNRS PREPARE TO FIRE THE 81 MM. MORTAR IN THE GLEN.



CAPT. O'TUAITHAIL WATCHES AS GNRS. PREPARE TO FIRE THE 84 MM RECOILESS ANTI-TANK RIFLE.



2LT MAURICE COTTER BRIEFS A SECURITY PARTY.

A Short History of Artillery in Ireland .

Firearms were perhaps first introduced into Ireland in 1483 when the Earl of Kildare received a present from Germany of six muskets. By 1487 we read of one of the O'Donnells being killed by a "cannon" in some local skirmish and also in that year of Kildares use of Artillery against Balroth castle.

In 1495 heavy guns were used successfully against the besiegers of Waterford. By 1500 the use of firearms of all sorts was quite common if only reserved for those few Chiefs who could afford them and of course the troops of the English King.

The fact that artillery had been introduced to the country greatly favoured the English in their efforts to establish a permanent conquest. No castle could now hope to stand up to a heavy bombardment. Edenderry, the stronghold of the O'Connors of Oifaly was reduced in a day in 1521. Maynooth the great stronghold of the Kildares had a breach opened in its walls after five days bombardment and the Castle was taken by storm in 1535.

No matter how strong the Castle or how well its defences were organised, if the besiegers were equipped with artillery those defending could have little hope. The native Irish had no artillery worth the name. During the nine years war they proved unable to take any major town and stormed only a few Castles, preferring to rely on blockade tactics. This was a factor in the defeat of Hugh O'Neill during this war. The Cromwellian Wars saw the extensive use of artillery in the storming of Drogheda, Wexford, and other places. Only at Clonmel did Cromwell suffer a major reverse and this was due to the failure of the artillery to keep pace with his advancing troops.

The Williamite War of 1689-91 saw the Jacobite Irish lacking in artillery of note. For this reason they were unable to capture Derry and Enniskillen. The siege of Derry can be described as a mere blockade with no attempts being made to carry the city by storm. This war is also noted for the defences of Limerick (twice) of the Bridge of Athlone and the famous dash to Ballyneety by Sarfield where the Williamites heavy artillery was destroyed.

After the War Ireland remained in a miserable state for some time. Eventually the wretchedness of the people and the American and French revolutions combined to cause the great rebellion of 1798. The most celebrated of the Irish side were the Wexford men. Even their enemies attest to their amazing courage in the face of fire. These badly armed and untrained rebels were seen to charge right up to the mouth of cannons so that they might make use of their pikes. One story is told of how, at New Ross, a rebel ran up to an enemy cannon and stuffed his wig down the muzzle thinking that this could cause the gun to explode in the faces of its users. Irish knowledge of artillery not being what it is today, he was himself blown to pieces. Also at New Ross the rebels managed to capture a Cannon,

but lacked the knowledge to use it. They forced a prisoner to start firing the piece into the town. However he deliberately aimed too high merely knocking the eave off a house with no effect on the soldiers below. He turned around to his captors and said ("Isn't that a fine shot"), (Yes) one replied ("But here is a better one") and he shot the erring gunner dead.

The 1916 Rising saw the use of Artillery by the British to reduce the Insurgents position - half Dublin being destroyed in the process. The War of Independence saw little opportunity for the use of heavy guns by the British Army and their auxiliaries - the Nationalists proving elusive targets. The most famous episode of the Civil War was the bombarding of the Four Courts. The artillery used by the Government was borrowed for the occasion from their erstwhile enemies, the British. The guns appeared to have been less than competently handled as several of the shells landed in the gardens of the Vice-Regal Lodge now Arus an Uachtarain. Since then artillery has not seen action in this country but doubtless we will see its use at some future occasion.



CPL. TONY LARKIN AND SGT. DERMOT O'CONNOR
WAITING TO COMMENCE AN AERIAL OP.
EXERCISE WITH THE C.O. IN THE GLEN.



CARDINAL O'FIACH , COMDT. HALL AND
COMDT. WHOLIHAN (TUAM 1980).



SGT. LIAM AINSWORTH PREPARES
THE AMMO. FOR THE 84 MM
RECOILLESS RIFLE.



THE OP PARTY (1978 GLEN). L TO R.
CAPT.S McMAHON & O'TOOLE , SGT. FANNON,
SIGNALLER, SGT'S BRENNAN , O'CONNOR ,
PL. LARKIN , COMDT. MURRAY.



7th BTYS. 120 MM HY MORTAR
BEING AIRLIFTED TO THE
BTY. POSITION.

CHINESE
TORTURE ?

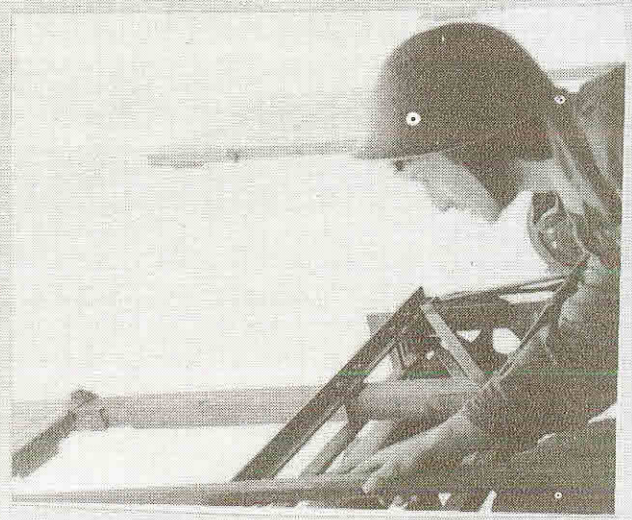
The Chinese Government bought ten Boeing 707 jets from the United States. Curious as to why they also ordered four spare engines for each, Boeing investigated and discovered that Chinese technicians have built their own 707, copying the Boeing down to the last detail. Almost. The Chinese failed to establish the plane's centre of gravity. So now they have a jet that roars up and down the runway. But can't fly.



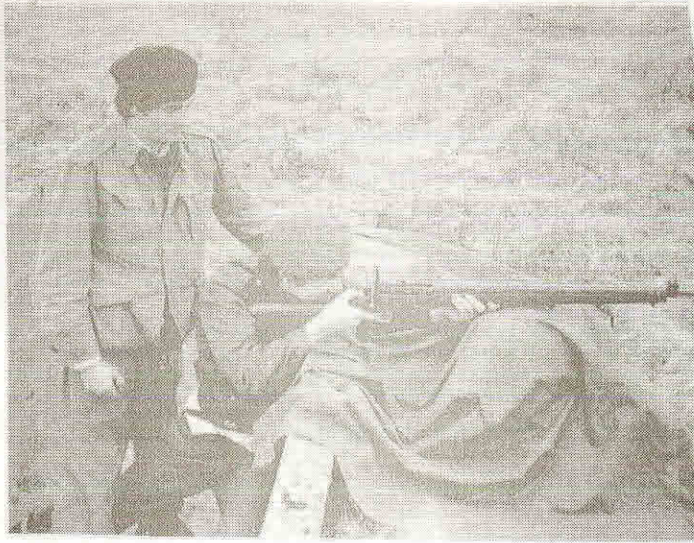
COME IN NR. 5
YOUR TIMES UP.



2/LT D.O'CONNOR
BAPless



A GUNNER USING THE NEW
INVERSE (TWIN GEARED) TRAJECTORY
ROD WITH THE ULTRA FAST
FUEL INJECTION.



SGT. GREANEY COACHES A MEMBER
OF THE RIFLE TEAM.



GNR. LOUGHLANN, CPL. CONNAUGHTON
IN THE FACHMOBILE - FULL LOAD.



FINNER 1983 - CPL. BRAY AND CPL. CUBBARD
STILL SERVING.



CAPT. MARTIN MOLLOY
HANDS OVER THE
MUSTER PARADE,..
GLEN 1978.

A Letter from the Press
to
the members of the 5th F.A.R.

Dear Reader,

I trust you found overleaf a selection of the widely acclimated(sic) criticisms of Phelim MacGillacuddy's new book "Porter-my battlefield" (Guinness and MacPhersons) which is now in the shops.

Enclosed please find chapter 567, which can be reproduced if so desired without contacting the copyright holder.

We hope you enjoy it.

Yours in books,

Madeline le Trois-Poissons
(Secretary)

Press Release compiled by Headfeld, Birkewood and Trois-Poissons, registered practitioners in Public Relations, Old Clyde Rd. Havesham Common, Watford. Registered office at Vicarage Cottages, Haselmere, Lake District.

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.....

(A member of the Trois-Poissons Group).

also

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGO.....8/7/'80 -12 p.m.

"In a strangely evocative way Phelim MacGillacuddy portrays what life is really like in the FCA, but more importantly he shows that that life doesn't necessarily have to be one totally devoted to the gun, homosexuality and discipline, but rather shows that a certain truth is inherently inherent".

- The Irish Tinker Review.

"There is little doubt that MacGillacuddy's book is a major literary achievement, particularly (sic) when one considers that it was written in toto in Barney Dariens pub in Salthill".

- Scarborough Champion.

"This book relates what is happening in Irish Society need not be condemned.... but rather in many ways it articulates the real problem in Irish society".

- Fidelma O'Reilly writing in the Knights of Columbanus Yearbook.

"Truly an evocative story ...well written... a masterpiece".

- The Bookseller.

"Quite simply its a bloody great book.

- Tom Forbes writing in the Publican and Vintner.

"I was somewhat taken aback by many of the assumptions made in the book, particularly those relating to modern warfare.... I don't think its true to say every battle is fought and planned in a pub nonetheless a compelling narrative".

- General Malcolm Troy-Gallipoli writing in the Just War Yearbook.

Excerpts from "Porter My Battlefield"

by Gnr. Phelim M^c Gillicuddy (retd.)

I can still remember that first Summer in the FCA - a Summer that was noted for its heat and lack of porter. I was only 17, but at that age realised that the Defence Forces and its various projects held the best chance for advancement in later life.

Although I was 17, I was somewhat small for my age, and in build was more akin to a throated heron than the full bodied call of the American Eagle. While these comparison may seem somewhat incongruous, they tend to explain part of my desire in joining the FCA and for forfeiting two weeks in the Summer to drill in heatwave conditions.

Firstly it should be noted that my main interest, nay my only interest, in adding my name to the FCA was in a desire to make money. I had hoped to earn enough to spend the rest of the Summer in easy enjoyment in Barney Dariens' public house on the road to Salthill, and it was fully with such thoughts of the creamy porter that Barney's wife, Maisie, poured that spurred me to abandon my Keats and Shelly - I was a noted follower of the Romantic poets - and enlist for two weeks.

Prior to joining, I knew, contrary to what many of my contemporaries claimed, that the FCA would not be a "holiday with pay". At the time, and even now, I avoided any form of physical exercise, not from any instructions from the doctor - far from it indeed as my doctor constantly urged me to take up some outdoor pursuit, and stop languishing in Barney's hostelry - but rather from an abject and somewhat articulated hatred of fresh air and its exponents.

Suffice it to say that I visited Kenmore Barracks on that first day with a conscious desire to have the two weeks completed as quickly as possible. In that sense my manner of joining was totally unsatisfactory, but with Barney, and, indeed, Maisie, urging me to take up some interest other than the Romantic poets and porter, I felt strangely even morally bound to comply.

Looking back on those two weeks now, I often contemplate on how disciplined and ordered a life it was. I had been used to the free-ranging and carefree atmosphere of Barney's and the uncontrollable diversions of my home, while in the FCA there was what one might call "ordered chaos". However it was not all so, and among the memories I still retain from that opening two weeks was the calm before reveille, and the chaos at its sounding.

Most of us that Summer had little experience of what the FCA was about, but thankfully it didn't take us too great a time to discover and evaluate the experience. There is little doubt that the constant marching and drilling appeared then to be of little benefit, and the discipline somewhat overbearing, but it was only later that one came to appreciate what a character-forming influence it had.

Even now as I sit here in Dariens' pub, with the television talking to itself in the corner, and the afternoon sun throwing a peculiarly cloudy

look to my pint of porter, the experience of that first Summer in the FCA is apparent. For a start Barney has far more respect for me since I became acquainted with a gun, and know the rudiments of drill and exercise; he has also tended to fill my glass with a greater haste since I appeared in his doorway in uniform prior to last year's St. Patrick's Day parade.

"Ah, the uniform looks grand on ye Phelim", he gestured. " And sure what woman worth her fried rashers wouldn't take you down by the prom as her very own".

Even Maisie was strangely articulate: "Well declare to God if it isn't the fighting man himself, in his green, the colour of God's grass and patriotism".

And she added, as she topped up my pint; "Declare to God if there isn't more sense in you now, and you once hiding in the corner with those nightingale poets".

Since then, I have returned each Summer to the force, finding in it a certain affinity with the existence that I now lead. Although I no longer read the Romantic poets, I still have some interest in poetry, browsing occasionally through the works of Austin Clarke between Company, or thumbing through the collected poems of W.H. Auden; but the hostility that I had engendered by my presence in the bar no longer remains, and I no longer have to remain silent upon a stool in Dariens.

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COMDT. JOHN P. KEANE WATCHES AS CPL. BOBBY GANDER INSTRUCTS THE 5th FAR OFFICERS IN THE WORKINGS OF THE 25 PDR. FOR THE 1st TIME.

"2 Ready Over"

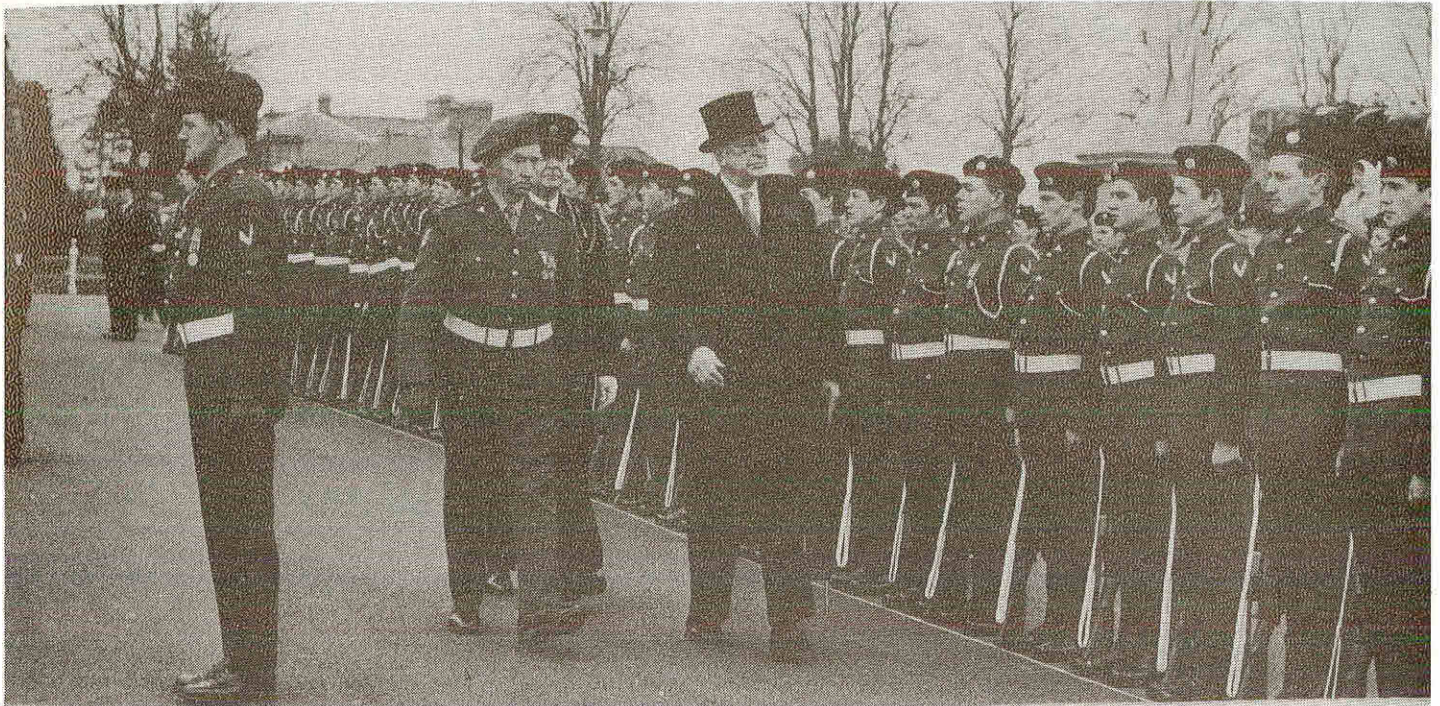
by

2/LT. Dermot O'Connor,
Gort.

I suppose I first noticed it five years ago, the mood which comes over the young and not so young men of South Galway as August approaches. The first sign is to be noticed in a certain establishment in Jack's - which is frequented by more and more of the said young men talking business i.e. the ladies are not invited. the next sign is that approx six of these young men begin to wheeler-deal at a terrific rate and phrases such as "not a hope, his mine" can be overheard. The third and confirmative sign is the nonalcoholic glazed look which comes over most faces present.

With this insight into the symptoms of the mood, any GPO worth his salt knows that "Glenitis" has struck - a strange melody which causes men to abandon jobs, relationships both temporary and permanent and the normal run of the mill worries of life for a full fortnight. Tales are told and retold of previous shoots, Mortars are spoken of reverently and the abilities of the other two batteries slaughtered by word and proposed deed. Numbers' 1 get their crews together teach them 'new' shortcuts to quicken reaction times, confidently suggest the shock which will fall on the other crews and finally threaten the crew with the most ungodly retaliations should they forget what they have been taught. Recruits at first cannot grasp the depth of this affliction - cannot comprehend the terrors of two weeks army cooking, the rigors of a forced march to Fintans, the difficulties involved in getting a dance at a Disco in Donard, or the sheer bliss of being part of a good crew in the 'best' battery.

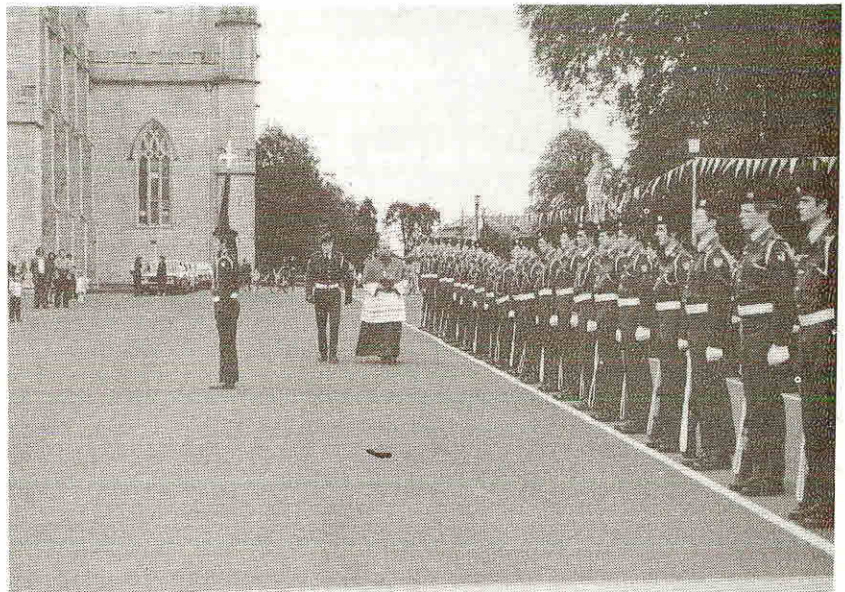
So at the end of the training year, in mid July, the GPO looks back at the years training (never enough) then heads off to Jacks on a Saturday night to determine the state of his battery. As you know my friends, it is with great confidence and a glazed look on my face that I say " 2Bty ready, over"



PRESIDENT ÉAMON DE VALERA INSPECTS A 5th F.A.R. GUARD OF HONOUR AT TUAM CATHEDRAL, ST. PATRICKS DAY 1969. OFFICER OF THE GUARD IS CAPT. MARRON, OFFICERS 2/LT. GAFFNEY AND LT. WHOLIHAN.



AIRE NA GAELTACHTA
MÁIRE GEDGEGAN-QUINN INSPECTS
A 4th BTY. GUARD OF HONOUR
ST. PATRICKS DAY 1980.
OFFICER OF THE GUARD



CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FIAICH INSPECTS A 13th
BATTERY GUARD OF HONOUR OUTSIDE TUAM
CATHEDRAL. OFFICER OF THE GUARD CAPT.
V. GAFFNEY. FLAG OFFICER 2/LT. E. BRENNAN.



AGREE THE NIGHT IS DUNG ; UNFORTUNATELY YOU'RE NOT "



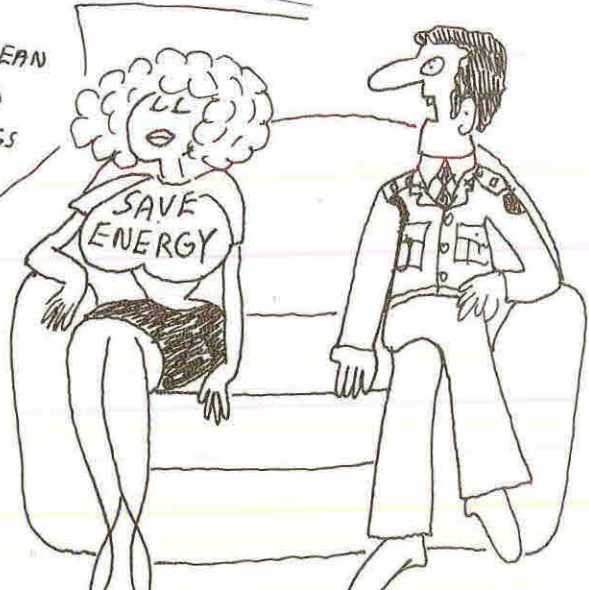
"I THINK I'VE FINALLY GOT THE WAITERS ATTENTION "



GOING TO CHARGE YOU DUFFY ; YOU'RE CRAZY TO PAY IT."

Some men can steal victory from almost certain defeat. Major General Ambrose Burnside normally progressed in the opposite direction. No advantage, numerical or tactical, was so great that Burnside could not throw it away in seconds. During the American Civil War Burnside had 12,000 troops at his disposal at the battle of Antietam. He overcame this advantage by ordering them to march in single file across an exposed bridge upon which enemy guns were trained in large numbers. Later he learned the river was only waist deep and could have been forded without danger at any point. Some time later he planned to dynamite a trench along which his men could run in safety into the middle of the enemy camp. As the smoke was clearing, his men ran in only to find they couldn't climb out again at the other end a large loss resulted. The President, on hearing of this said "Only Burnside could have managed such a coup, wringing one last spectacular defeat from the jaws of victory."

HEY ONLY MEAN ELECTRICITY AND AND THINGS E THAT



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MURPHY'S LAWS:

There are many collections of Murphy's Laws, each a series of related or inevitable effects arising from the original. Among them are:

- Nothing is ever as simple as it seems.
- When left to themselves, things always go from bad to worse.
- If an instruction can possibly be misunderstood, it will be misunderstood.
- Nature always sides with the hidden flaw. It is impossible to make anything foolproof, because fools are so ingenious.

SEARGENT INSTRUCTOR: "WATCH WHERE YOUR SHOOTING, THAT MAN! YOU ONLY JUST MISSED ME"
BAD MARKSMAN: "SORRY SERGEANT, I'LL TRY HARDER"

WHATS THE CUSHIEST JOB IN ANY OF THE WORLDS ARMIES?
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN THE IRISH ARMY.

A TODDLER SURPRISED HIS FATHER BY ANNOUNCING ONE DAY THAT HE WAS GOING TO JOIN THE ARMY.
"BUT YOU CANT" SAID HIS FATHER "YOUR AN INFANT"
"THATS RIGHT, IM GOING INTO THE INFANTRY"

THE IRISH BANKING LAW:

In order to get a loan, you must first prove that you don't need it.

"NO, GUNNER! THAT IS NOT THE CIGARETTE LIGHTER"



"I SEE THE MINISTER IS RESIGNING, AND NOT EVEN A TEA-PARTY FOR HIM"

OFFICERS MESS



FINISH YOUR DRINK LIEUTENANT AND GET YOUR ASS OUT OF HERE

SIMON'S LAW:

Everything put together sooner or later falls apart.

DHAWAN'S LAW FOR THE NON-SMOKER:

The cigarette smoke always drifts in the direction of the non-smoker regardless of the direction of the breeze.

HARA'S LAW OF BUREAUCRATIC LAW:

It is more important to have a rule to by than what the rule actually says.

KNES'S LAW

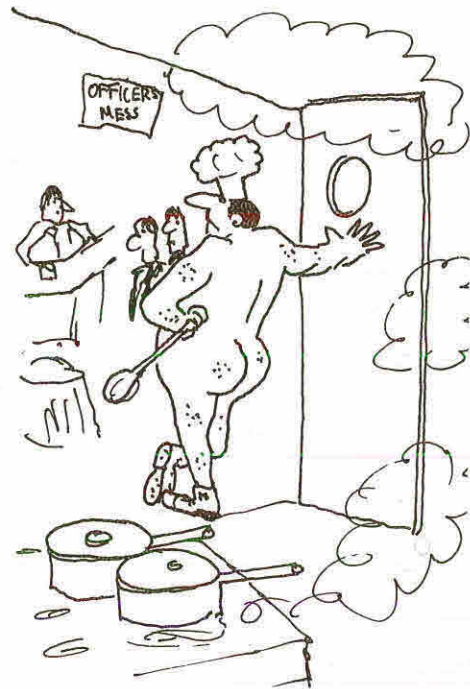
The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.



WE GOT THE WRONG BOX BEJAYSUS ;
 IS THE ONE WITH OUR SANDWICHES " !



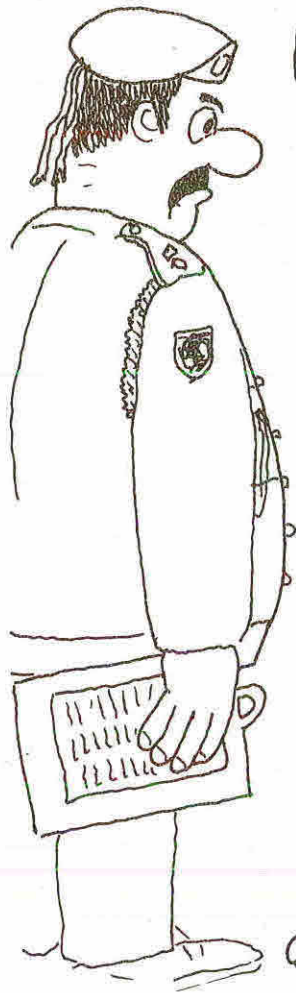
NOT AN UNUSUAL NAME. THERES A
 IN THE CAMP STORES.



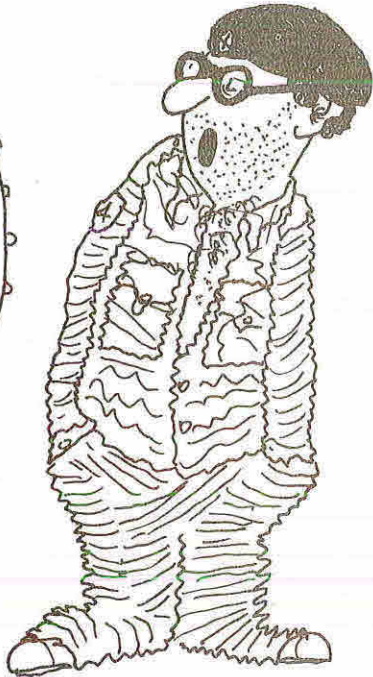
" I THINK THE COOK
 IS COMPLAINING ABOUT
 THE HEAT IN THE
 KITCHEN AGAIN "



" I DONT HAVE ANY
 MEDALS TO SHOW BUT
 I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN
 SOME EXCITING ENGAGEMENTS
 MYSELF "



WHAT DOES THE ARTILLERY WANT?
- FASHION MODELS
OR KILLERS



The least successful weapons :-

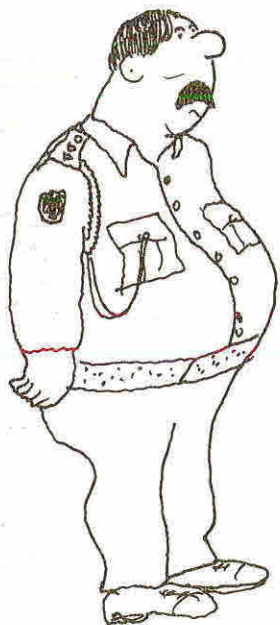
The British Contribution to this category was the No.74 hand grenade, known as the sticky bomb. It had an adhesive coating which enabled it to stick to the side of an enemy tank. But it also enabled it to stick to the floor, which was generally what happened.

Once stuck, the soldier had a considerable five second delay in which to extricate himself. Even if he succeeded, only a practised shot putter could hope to lob the four and a half pound bomb far enough to ensure his own safety.

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As part of a training exercise near Portsmouth in 1947. The destroyer Saintes, was required to fire at a target pulled across its bows by the tug Buccaneer. It fired a shell, missed the target, and sank the tug.

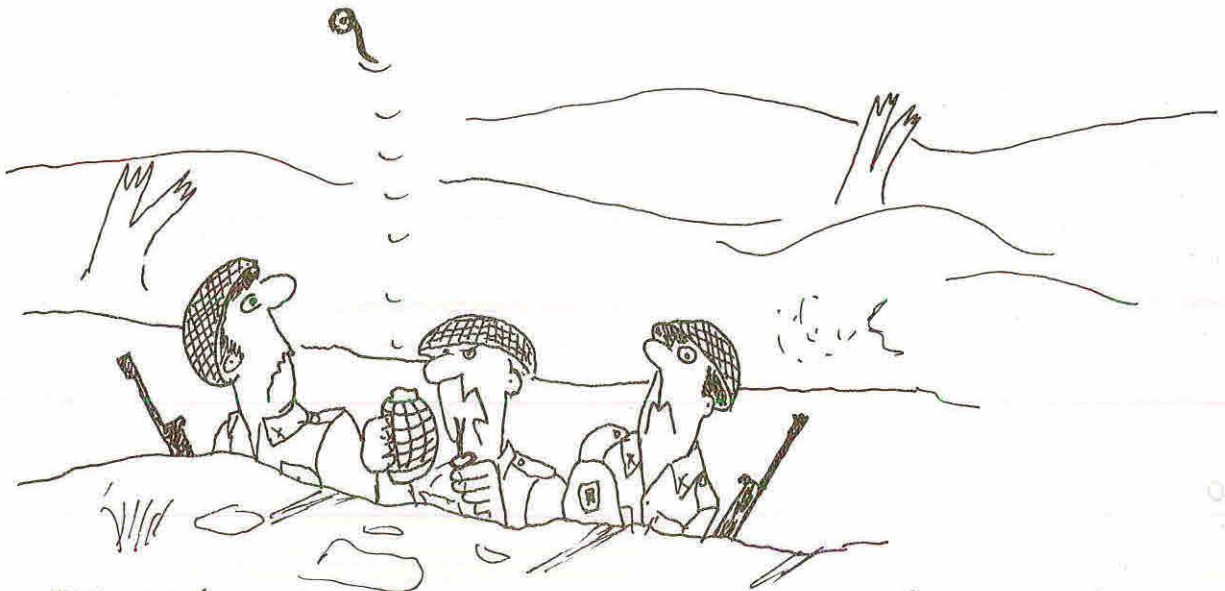
MEDICAL OFFICER



A paint scraper worth 30p was accidentally dropped into a torpedo launcher of the U.S. nuclear submarine Swordsfish and jammed the cylinders loading piston. For over a week divers tried to free the piston while Swordsfish was waterborne but all attempts failed. She had to be dried docked and subsequent repairs costed £84,000.

.....

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS. LIEUTENANT - YOUR LIVERS O.K. . NOW THE BAD NEWS YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO THE BEER.



THEY DON'T MAKE THEM VERY GODS... THE PIN COMES OUT

The Firemans strike of 1978 made possible one of the greatest animal rescue attempts of all times. Valiantly the Army had taken over emergency fire fighting and early in January they were called out by an elderly lady to retrieve her cat which had entrapped itself up in a tree. They arrived with impressive haste, and in no time at all they had discharged their duty. The old lady was so grateful that she invited each and every one of them in for tea.

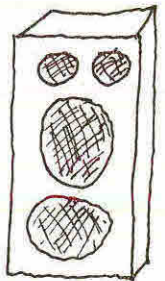
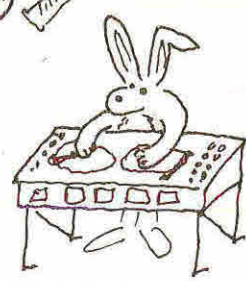
Driving off later with fond farewells completed, they inadvertently ran over the cat and killed it.

SONIC INVASION



Mobile Disco Show; a sound and lighting show that will really **blow** your mind.

We cater for all kinds of musical tastes especially
Heavy Metal



Roots by Capt. Larry Hynes

HQ. Bty. 5th F.A.R.

I would hate to see this occasion pass without throwing an eye backwards to whence we came. I don't mean that we should wallow in nostalgia, but rather that we remember with deep appreciation the mens from whom we inherited the Bullswool.

We evolved from the 50th Battalion and there still serves among us an odd old KGU man as Sean Cullinane was wont to call us. The 50th Bn. was debatebly the best unit in the FCA, but certainly it contained some of the better people in the Soldering world, and some of these moved into the 4th Bty. on integration.

The name of Sgt. Brian Brennan springs to mind, training Sgt. extraordinaire, without whom some of us still wouldn't know our cle from our deas. O'Connor John - or Big John - as he was lovingly known was our first RSN, and he really was a Kingpin in the young Regt.

How many of us remember "Tich" O'Connor "Galley" Smith, Frank Mulvey Lt. Bob Tierney, Joe Fitzpatrick, or Tommy Fitzpatrick ?

How about Tom Durnin ? How many of us can remember Dickie Byrne or Bobby Molloy in uniform ?

The list of names is long and no one head could remember them all - those who merely passed out and those who has passed on. Standing orders, routine orders, are continuing formulae, but without the men to carry out these orders we would have no Regt. today, so I would as all gunners on the occasion of our 21st look back with pride and gratitude to the men from whence we sprang.



GORT "A" TROOP : FINNER 1963.