



THE ARTILLERY CLUB - NEWSLETTER 2/2015

INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 1/2015 promulgated on 17 January, outlined the Information Brief which provided an overview of the Artillery Club. The document was very well received by members. Observations received, fully endorsed the Committee's deliberations on the role of the Club.

The objective of this particular Newsletter is to provide information regarding activities within the following areas: Club Governance, Club Activities and the Artillery Corps. A "Looking into the Past" section is also included. The School Commandant, Regimental Commanders and Club Members are encouraged to provide information for the Club's Newsletters.

GOVERNANCE

Focus

During the period 2015 – 2016, the Artillery Club will focus on key measurable outputs such as organising appropriate activities and projects (including the elaboration of the Club's History and the revision of the Club's Rules), extending its Membership base, enhancing its communications strategy through its Newsletters, launching a dedicated Web Site, improving interface with other Corps Clubs, and active involvement in the Decade of Centenaries.

Committee

The following members were elected during the Club's Annual General Meeting, held in the Officers' Mess, Custume Barracks on 4 December 2014: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd) (President), Col Seamus McDermott (Retd), Lt Col Cormac Lalor (Retd), Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd), Comdt Michael Flood (Retd), Comdt Richard Armstrong (Retd) Comdt Mick Sutcliffe, Capt Lar Joye and Capt Peter Murray (Retd).

The Annual General Meeting agreed that the Committee would elect the Club's officers, less that of the President for 2015. During its meeting of 15 January, the Committee appointed the following officers: **Chief Executive** Lt Col Cormac Lawlor (Retd), **Honorary Secretary** Capt Lar Joye, **Honorary Treasurer** Comdt Michael Sutcliffe. The Committee took the liberty of establishing a new appointment that of **Membership Secretary**, filled by Col Seamus McDermott (Retd).

With the approval of the School Commandant, Comdt Rory Finegan has kindly accepted an invitation to be co-opted on to the Committee as **Liaison Officer**.

Since the AGM, the Committee convened on two occasions: 15 January and 26 February. The Committee will reconvene on the following dates: 30 April, 25 June, 24 September and 04 December (before the AGM on the same day).

To date, the Committee approved the Information Brief (Newsletter 1/2015), endorsed the Club's existing communications strategy through Newsletters, Emails and Post, developed an iterative list of activities for 2015, agreed to revise the Club's Rules, decided to revisit the question of a Web Site, and launched a Membership Drive. The Mess and Auditorium have been booked for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 04 December.

Membership

Membership of the Artillery Club is open to all serving and retired commissioned Artillery officers of the Permanent Defence Force and the Army Reserve, (previously the Reserve Defence Force).

During its February meeting, the following new members were elected to the Club: Capt Paul Tassie (Retd) 1 Regt, Comdt John Carroll (Retd) 3 Regt, Comdt Bill Cooke (Retd) 3 Regt and Lt Ester Granger HQ 2 Bde.

Current Membership for the PDF is 13 serving, 45 retired, total 58. Army Reserve membership is 67, including newly elected members. Total Membership is 125. Regarding 2015 subscriptions, so far 79 officers have paid the €10 subscription.

Commencing with a membership baseline of 125, the Committee has formally launched a Membership Drive consisting of two stages:

Stage 1: 26 Feb to 25 June. Serving PDF and Serving AR personnel,

Stage 2: 26 June to 24 September. Retired PDF and Retired AR personnel.

Currently, the Club has no email address for 23 members, all of whom will receive newsletters by post. The Membership Secretary undertook to obtain email address from this cohort.

Rules – Revision Process

The Rules of the Club are the basis of the Club's effective governance, transparency and accountability. The Committee agreed that revised Club Rules should be presented for approval at the AGM on 04 December 2015, necessitating the circulation of draft rules to all members NLT 07 November (28 Days before AGM). The President undertook to take the lead in the drafting process, with all committee members engaged in the project.

The following timeline was established: 30 April: Approval of Headings, 25 June: Promulgation of First Draft to Committee, seeking observations, 24 September: Approval of Final Draft. Members who wish to participate in the process are invited to contact the President.

Club Clothing

The Committee agreed that there was a requirement to develop and circulate a catalogue listing garments, sizes and price list. The catalogue will be circulated as part of a Newsletter in due course.

Window Insert – Garrison Church McKee Barracks

Arising from its February meeting, the Committee is examining the feasibility of sponsoring an insert into one of the windows in the Garrison Church, depicting the Club's Logo.

Committee's Short Term Priorities

The Committee's short term priorities are: Foreign Tour - Spain, Newsletter 2/2015, Headings for Revised Club Rules, Membership Drive and Clothing Catalogue.

ACTIVITIES

Diary of Events

The Club's activities are of an Artillery nature, hopefully appealing to a large number of members. The current version of the Diary of Events is attached as Annex A to this Newsletter. The Diary of Events is iterative in nature and will be revised as appropriate. Details will be timely issued in advance of a particular event. Members are encouraged to offer recommendations for Club activities.

The Club acknowledges the encouragement and support provided by the Chief of Staff, the Director of Artillery, the Artillery School, the 1 Artillery Regiment the 2 Artillery Regiment, the Spanish Royal Artillery School, DFHQ Officers' Mess, the National Museum of Ireland and the Royal Curragh Golf Club for its 2015 events.

Collins Barracks – 19 March – Coordinator: Capt Lar Joye

The inaugural event for 2015 saw 16 members of the Club attending the PALS Production and visiting the World War 1 Exhibition in Collins Barracks on 19 March: D. Betson, P. Cullen, T. Goulding, P. Murray, S. McDermott, M. O'Herlihy, P. Pakenham, B. Cooke, J. Carroll, P. Tassie, N. O'Connor, P. Tassie, J. Brady, N. Murphy. T. Carter.

The Committee remains grateful to Capt Lar Joye's coordination of this event and conducting the tour of the Exhibition.

Email from Captain Bill Cooke (Retd): *“Many thanks for the opportunity to see PALS through the auspices of the Artillery Club. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Collins Barracks. The ASGARD was something totally unexpected for us. The outdoor performances were reminiscent of days long gone by. The PALS was an eye-opening insight relating to young men in military life and the terrible awning which enveloped them. Of course, meeting with some of our gunner friends from the past and making new acquaintances from the*

Artillery Corps made the event a marvellous occasion for both John Carroll and myself”.



(Photograph courtesy of Joe Brady)

All attendees were extremely impressed and deeply moved by the intimate encounter with camaraderie, friction of war, soundscape, special effects, location, and professionalism of the PALS Production involving the actors, Laura Murray, John Cronin, Liam Heslin, Shane Thomas Whisker and Thomas Reilly, and under the direction of Louise Lowe.

As part of the Museum’s World War 1 centenary programme, award-winning innovators ANU Productions is presenting “PALS”, an immersive World War I experience, based on the events surrounding the 1915 campaign at Gallipoli in Turkey, and inspired by the previously untold stories of the D Company, 7th Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and the everyday lives of the Irish people who were affected by the Great War. This highly recommended imaginative production runs until 30 April.

Tickets €5: www.pals-theirishatgallipoli.com

The National Museum’s World War 1 Exhibition unveils the complexity of the Great War and its remembrance in Ireland by showing the huge variety of ways in which Irish men and women were personally involved. The Exhibition looks at the social, economic and political reasons for Irish soldiers to join the British Army and what happened to them, remembering that more than half of them were dead by Christmas 1914. In particular, it looks at the Irish Regiments in the British Army who went to the Western Front in 1914 and to Gallipoli in 1915. At the same time, many women supported the war effort by working in shell factories or volunteering as nurses at the front. The exhibition is installed over two galleries, covering the years 1914 and 1915. Text panels mediate the bigger picture by shedding light on critical events and themes while 21 personal stories linked to the exhibition objects are used to engage the visitors and facilitate easy access to the topic. Admission is free.

The Royal Artillery School, Segovia -April – Coordinator: Comdt Michael Flood (Retd)



The Committee has successfully explored the possibility of visiting the Spanish Artillery School in Segovia in April. The associated tour will take place during the period 25 through 29 April. The programme provides scope for members to tailor their trip to Spain to fit their respective requirements. Spouses and partners are welcomed.

As of 20 March, 17 participants, including 3 spouses, will be travelling to Spain: Joe Brady, John and Betty Miley, Nick O'Connor, Chris O'Flanagan, David Browne, Eamonn Fogarty, Dan O'Riordan, Richard Armstrong, Richard Brady, Michael Flood, John O'Brien, Danny O'Connor, Paul and Nancy Pakenham, Ray and Rosemary Twomey. Other members who wish to avail of the tour should contact the Tour Coordinator: mike5555@gmail.

Participants are encouraged to timely organise their respective flights, passports, holiday insurance and accommodation in Madrid and Segovia (see recommended hotels). Coordinating Instructions, including the programme, are attached, as Annex B. Presentations will be made to the School Commandant: Brigadier-General Alfredo Sanz y Calabria.

Golf Competition – Royal Curragh Golf Club – 10 September – Coordinator: Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd)



The Committee is indebted to Col Bill Gibson (Retd) who undertook the liaison role with the Royal Curragh Golf Club, and succeeded in obtaining permission to use the facilities of the Club for the Golf Competition, including dinner, scheduled for Thursday 10 September. The format will reflect previous years and details will be promulgated at an appropriate time. As a Defence Forces Society, it is envisaged that the green fees will be in the order of €20.

ARTILLERY CORPS

Commissioning – 12 February

Minister for State at the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe T.D, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle, attended the Commissioning Ceremony of 18 new Officers and 4 Maltese Officers at the Defence Forces Training Centre. The School Commandant is Lieutenant-Colonel Tom O'Callaghan, Artillery Corps.

The 90th Cadet Class included 14 university graduates, 4 of whom have Masters Degrees, 3 cadets who had previous service with the Permanent Defence Force and 3 cadets who have previous service with the Reserve Defence Forces.



The Artillery Club extends sincere congratulations to the following officers who were appointed by Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle to the Artillery Corps:

Lt Salma Bedair - FST Det Comd No 2 Bty, 2 Artillery Regiment. Salma was born in Cairo and resided in Castleknock before reporting to the Cadet School. She has a Masters in Crime Science from University of Limerick.

2/Lt Philip Dowling - FST Det Comd No 2 Bty, 1 Artillery Regiment. Philip from Portlaoise, has completed two years of a Sports Science Degree at University of Limerick and has had trials for Munster and Leinster underage rugby squads.

Lt James McKeon - FOO , No 2 Bty (STA) 1 Artillery Regiment. From Dublin, James has a degree in Music from NUI Maynooth and national medals in Judo.

Lt Denis Sheahan - GPO 1 Bty 1 Artillery Regiment. An Arts graduate from University of Limerick, Denis has represented Kerry at minor and Under 21 level.

Saint Patrick's Day 2015



(Photograph Courtesy of Defence Forces)

On Saint Patrick's Day, 431 Defence Forces personnel were deployed to 16 countries, in 15 peace support missions. 181 personnel serving with UNIFIL celebrated St Patrick's Day with a blessing of shamrock, which was presented by the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Conor O' Boyle. Speaking in Lebanon, Lieutenant- General Conor O' Boyle stated, inter alia:

"I have seen at first hand the professionalism and hard work of Irish men and women of the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service deployed on operations and in some of the most troubled regions of the world. On this, our National day of celebration I thank you for your commitment to peace and security and assure you, of our enduring pride in your endeavours far from home."



(Photograph Courtesy of Defence Forces)

On Saint Patrick's Day, the 138 Óglaigh na hÉireann personnel deployed with the 46 Infantry Group on the Golan Heights became the third Irish contingent to receive the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) Medal.

While in Sierra Leone, 5 medical personnel deployed in Kerrytown were presented with their shamrock by the Irish Ambassador to Sierra Leone, H.E. Sinead Walsh. Defence Forces personnel serving overseas are also deployed in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Western Sahara, Mali, Kosovo, Bosnia, Jerusalem, Brussels, New York and Vienna.

Overseas

The Artillery Club salutes the following Artillery Officers who are currently serving overseas and wishes them rewarding tours of duty, and safe return home to their respective families and units:

DFHQ: Col Mick Smyth – SHAPE, Col Conor Fitzsimons – UNNY, Comdt Rory Esler – UNIFIL, Capt Jason Culloty – EU NBG Sw, Capt Conor Twomey – UNTSO.

1 Brigade: Comdt Michael Parsons – UNDOF, Comdt Dave Sweeney – EU NBG Sw, Comdt Kevin Baston – MONUSCO, Capt Colm Hogan – UNIFIL, Lt Tim Cunningham EU NBG Sw, Lt Jeanne O'Brien – UNIFIL.

2 Brigade: Comdt David Lavin – UNTSO, Comdt Andrew Shinnick RSM Afghanistan, Capt Danielle Murphy – KFOR, Lt Eoin Murphy – UNIFIL.

DFTC: Lt Col Arthur Armstrong – EU NBG Sw, Capt Karen O'Sullivan – MONUSCO.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

Extract from "An Cosantoir" November 1973: "Coast Defence Artillery, Commandant J.E. Dawson and Lieutenant C. Lawlor"

"Fort Davis (Formely Fort Carlisle)

Fort Davis on the eastern tip of Cork Harbour was build around 1797 and was first used as a POW camp for French troops of the Napoleonic campaigns, Between 1860 and 1868, the Fort's present form began to take shape and by 1901, the armament consisted of two 9.2", two 6" and four 12 pounder guns.

The Fort was taken over on 11 July 1938 at the same time as Spike Island. The preliminary work was carried out by an advance party under Lt Barry O'Brien who arrived on 6 July. They were relieved by the main body under Capt D.J. Collins. The British flag was lowered by Master Gunner Berret of the Royal Artillery and the Tricolour was hoisted simultaneously with that of Spike Island.

All 6" shoots in the harbour were fired from Fort Davis. Each summer, day and night shoots were fired as the culmination of the year's training. A coast shoot was most interesting to watch. Away on the horizon would be seen a launch with its three target floats strung out

behind on a 1,000 yard cable. The launch could make about nine knots. The order “Wind In” would come and the fronts of the targets would rise out of the water. Within seconds, projectiles would raise spray to engulf the targets. Scoring a direct hit did not necessarily require the float to be struck, as rounds plus or minus within certain limits would strike a hostile craft on the superstructure or under the waterline. Scoring was marked by an officer aboard the towing vessel looking through an instrument known as a “rake”.

A night shoot was even more spectacular, as the gunners were aided by powerful searchlights to illuminate the targets.”

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Serving and retired personnel are encouraged to provide information for publication in the Club’s Newsletters.

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.

THE ARTILLERY CLUB

March 2015