



The Artillery Club – 18 Jun 16

THE ARTILLERY CLUB - NEWSLETTER 2/2016



Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner

INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 1/2016 promulgated on 11 March, consisted of sections covering Governance, Activities, the Artillery Corps and Looking into the Past. The format, which was very well received, will be reflected in this Newsletter.

Since the publication of Newsletter 1/2016, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details regarding upcoming activities such as the visit to Collins Barracks, the Field Trip to Fort Dunree and the Annual Golf Outing.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include Activity Reports, Planned Activities, and finally News from the Regiments.

Looking into the Past, contains two interesting articles written by Comdt Lay Joye on Field Artillery Support and Naval Gun Support associated with the 1916 Easter Rising.

Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office, Patrick Hugh Lynch and Club Membership. An example of the Artillery Corps involvement in the 1916 Commemorations are depicted in the photographs on the front page of this Newsletter.

Upcoming activities include the Visit to Glen Imaal on Wednesday 29 June – RV Colliga Gun Position at 1300hrs. The current version of the Club's Diary of Events for 2016 is attached as Annex A.

The School Commandant and Regimental Commanders are requested to circulate this Newsletter to all Artillery officers under their command, and are also, along with the Club's membership, encouraged to provide information for subsequent Newsletters.

Serving and retired personnel are encouraged to provide information, news and photographs, for publication in the Club's Newsletters.

GOVERNANCE

Focus

The Artillery Club's current focus remains on: executing appropriate activities, enhancing its Website, extending its Membership base and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events.

Committee

Since the 2015 AGM, the Committee convened on three occasions: on 28 January in McKee Barracks, on 25 February in Ceannt Barracks and on 28 April in Collins Barracks Dublin. The Committee will reconvene on 30 June and 29 September in McKee Barracks.

To-date, the Committee has developed the diary of events for 2016, conducted appropriate planning for the various activities, and successfully executed the visit to the Artillery School

and Curragh Museum on 25 February, visit to Collins Barracks on 28 April and a Field Trip to Fort Dunree on 25/26 May.

Currently, the Committee is advancing the Club's Membership Drive, finalising the visits to the Glen on 29 June, and coordinating the Annual Golf Outing on 26 August, and the Field Trip to Granada on 02/06 October

GOC 1 Brigade has kindly granted permission for the use of Collins Barracks Cork, on Friday 02 December, for the 2016 AGM and Saint Barbara's Day Lunch.

Communications

The circulation of Newsletters, Activity Information and Death Notices is primarily by means of email. A total of 162 individuals are currently on the Club's Email Contact List, far exceeding the Membership strength. Currently, 18 members are receiving the information by means of normal post.

Membership

Membership of the Artillery Club is open to all serving and retired commissioned Artillery officers of the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve.

The current membership is 136. The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription (€10) is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful to the 81 members who are currently paying their subscriptions by Standing Order.

Potential members are requested to contact the Membership Secretary Colonel McDermott (Retd), Woodenbridge, Ballybrittas, Co Laois, or email: seamus.mcdermott@gmail.com.

Web Site

The Club's Website was formally launched at the AGM on 04 December 2015. Its status remains at the "under construction" phase. The website is accessible through www.artilleryclub.ie

Committee's Short Term Priorities

The Club's short term priorities are: Participation in Golf Outing, Finalising CONOPS for Granada, Website, Membership (PDF and AR) and interface with other Corps Clubs.

ACTIVITIES

Diary of Events - 2016

The Club's activities are of an Artillery nature, hopefully appealing to a large number of members. Members are encouraged to offer recommendations for Club activities. The current version of the 2016 Diary of Events is attached as Annex A. The Diary remains iterative in nature and outlines activities which are associated with the Club's objectives.

The Club acknowledges the support provided by the Director of Artillery, the Artillery School, Curragh Museum, DFHQ Officers' Mess, Ceannt Officers' Mess, the National Museum of Ireland – Collins Barracks, Finner Camp and Fort Dunree for the 2016 events implemented to-date.



The Committee is exploring appropriate avenues to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the death of 15 gunners and 1 engineer officer who lost their lives on 16 September, 1941. RIP.

Reports on Club Activities executed since the last Newsletter (1/2016) and information on future activities are outlined below.

Visit to Collins Barracks – Thursday 28 April - Coordinator: Comdt Lar Joye

The Club's second activity of 2016 was its annual visit to the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, took place on Thursday 28 April, courtesy of Commandant Lar Joye – Curator.

Attendees assembled on the Museum's Reception at 1415hrs and moved to the Theatre – Lecture Room for a comprehensive and informative lecture by Commandant Joye. The excellent lecture titled "*The Landscape of the 1916 Rising*", with a military focussed on topics such as Ireland and WW1, the Dublin Battlefield, Artillery in 1916, Armoured Trucks, and the Aftermath. See Commandant Joye's excellent articles in the "Looking into the Past" section of this Newsletter.



After his much appreciated lecture, Commandant Joye provided a guided tour of the very impressive 1916 Exhibition in the Riding School. Many of the exhibited objects have never

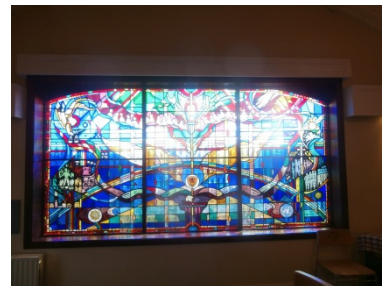
been on public display while others, such as the Irish Republic flag which flew over the GPO, have been specially conserved.

Field Trip – Fort Dunree – 25/26 May – Coordinator: President



The first part of the Field Trip was a visit to HQ 28 Infantry Battalion, Finner Camp on 25 May. As Lieutenant-Colonel Stephan Howard was operationally deployed in support of the visit of Prince Charles to Donegal, the Club was received by Commandant John Martin, 2 i/c 28 Infantry Battalion.

Commandant Martin was the Club's Guest of Honour at lunch, following which Lieutenant Owen Tully and Rev Fr Alan Ward CF brought us on a conducted tour of the impressive facilities within the Camp. In recognition of the hospitality and support received, the President presented the Club's Plaque to the Officers' Mess.



Thereafter, attendees booked into the Innishowen Gateway Hotel, availed of the hotel facilities and enjoyed a communal dinner, before retiring at an appropriate hour.

On 26 May, we were kindly received in Fort Dunree by Mr Dermot McLaughlin Vice Chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors and Mr Richard Doherty Museum Manager. Colonel Brian O'Reilly (Retd) formally welcomed the Club to the Military Museum and provided us with a wide-ranging brief of the evolution of the unique facility into its present configuration, located in stunning countryside. Apparently, Fort Dunree has become a unique location to celebrate weddings.



Colonel O'Reilly (Retd) was joined by Colonel Jim Prendergast (Retd) for an extensive tour of the Fort, its coast artillery guns, underground bunkers, the Inishowen Friends of Messines Memorial, the Military Museum, the Saldanha Suite housing the Rockhill collection of military memorabilia, and the Wildlife Discovery Room.



Following lunch in Fort Dunree, the group drove to Derry where it received an inclusive tour of the Walls of Derry provided by Mr John McNulty, with Richard Doherty in attendance.



The Club remains grateful of the invitation to visit Fort Dunree Military Museum on its 30th Anniversary and sincerely appreciates the advice and support provided by Colonel Brian O'Reilly (Retd) during the planning and execution of this memorable activity, supported by Colonel Jim Prendergast (Retd). In this context, the President presented the Club Plaque to Mr McLaughlan, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors – Fort Dunree Military Museum. (www.dunree.pro.ie)

Artillery Shoot – Glen Imaal Wednesday 29 June - Co-ordinator Col Seamus McDermott (Retd)

By kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel Mervyn Farrell, the School Commandant, the Club will attend the Artillery Shoot in the Glen on Wednesday 29 June. The Club will RV in Colliga Gun Position for light lunch, followed by a briefing on the Shoot at 1330hrs. Firing Practice is expected to commence at 1400hrs with the programme completed by 1600hrs. Those intending to travel are requested to contact Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd). On account of concurrent activities in the Glen, the Club's freedom of movement is confined to Colliga Gun Position, at this time.

Wreath Laying – National Memorial Merrion Square – Saturday 16 July



By kind permission of the military authorities, and a formal invitation from Lieutenant-Colonel Dermot Hanifin, the Artillery Club will lay a wreath at the National Memorial, on Saturday, 16 July at 1200hrs. The Honour Guard will be mounted by the 2 Artillery Regiment during the period 1200hrs to 1300hrs. All Club members and their respective families are encouraged to attend.

Golf Competition – Blarney Hotel Golf Club - Friday 26 August -- Coordinators: Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) and Comdt Jack Burke (Retd)

Participants. The Artillery Club's Annual Golf Outing takes place on Friday, 26 August 2016 at The Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort, County Cork, followed by dinner in The Blarney Hotel at 2000hrs approx. Both the Golf Outing and Dinner are open to Members of the Artillery Club, their spouses, Partners and friends. Already a considerable number of Club members have responded to Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) indicated their intent to play, with some advising of overnight requirements.

Competitions. Singles Stableford – Ladies & Gents competitions. Competition for the Capt Jack Jones (RIP) Perpetual Trophy is restricted to Artillery Officers (PDF & AR) serving and retired. Guests of members are welcome to play and there will be visitors' prizes. Tees are reserved from 1100hrs to 1300hrs. Four buggies (€25 each) are reserved and will be allocated on a 1st come basis.

Handicaps. Artillery Club Members and their respected Guests, with current official GUI and ILGU Handicaps, will play to their official current handicap on the day. Non members of a GUI/ILGU affiliated club will be allocated a maximum handicap on the day: 18 for Men and 24 for Ladies.

Hotel. Twenty rooms have been reserved in the Blarney Hotel for Members and Guests at the following rates: €124 pps 1 night B&B including golf and dinner, €150 pps 2 nights B&B (Dinner and Golf on 1st Day only), Single supplement €25 per night on top of above rates.

- If you intend to stay and avail of these very good rates, ably negotiated by Comdt Jack Burke (Retd), payment will be required by Friday, 01 July to secure your booking. The Club is obliged to pay the hotel a 50% deposit for the rooms, 6 weeks prior to the event to secure the room bookings. For those members not overnighing, the Fees are: Golf Only: €35pp (including €10 to prize fund as in 2015), Dinner Only: €35pp.
- Hotel Room Cancellation Policy: Individual cancellations should be made 24 hours prior to arrival. Any cancellations after this time will be charged for the first night's accommodation.

Methods of Payment. By Bank through SEPA Transfer: The Artillery Club Bank Account, Bank of Ireland Kildare Town, IBAN: IE70 BOFI 9011 6711 3871 91, BIC CODE: BOFIE2D. Please cross reference your SEPA Transfer with your name for ID purposes. By Cheque (payable to the Artillery Club) and posted to: Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd), 129 Celtic Park Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9.

Booking Form. Attached as Annex B.

Artillery Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1946-2016, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Mil Col – 14 September – Coordinator: Colonel Mick Smyth

The Committee is grateful for the support of Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Byrne, Commandant The Cadet School, for supporting this inaugural event. The reunion envisages assembly in the Cadet's Mess, Brief on the Cadet School and reunion lunch in the Officer's Mess Pearse Barracks.

For planning purposes, Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve officers commissioned in 1946, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 06, 16, are requested to contact President and Coordinator (ppakenham@eircom.net). Calling Notice later.

Field Trip – Granada and Malaga – 02 to 06 October – Coordinator: Commandant Michael Flood (Retd)



The Club's 2016 overseas Field Trip takes place from Sunday, 02 October to Thursday, 06 October visiting Granada and Malaga. The trip centralises on a visit to the Spanish Training and Doctrine Command (MADOC) in Granada, on Monday 03 October.

As in the Club's 2015 successful visit to Segovia, travel dates are flexible. It is envisaged that the majority will travel to Malaga on Sunday, 02 October and will avail of the Bus Service to Granada.

Participation in the visit remains open to members of the Artillery Club and their spouses, or partners. To date, 27 personnel (Members and Spouses) have advised of their intention to participate in the Field Trip. Some members have indicated that they may be remaining in Spain after Thursday, 06 October for individual programmes.

On Monday 03 October, the Group will be received by the Secretary- General (Chief MADOC), briefed on the Training and Doctrine Command and tour the facility. A tour of the Cathedral and Royal Chapel and a communal lunch is also envisaged on Monday.

On Tuesday, 04 October, the Group will avail of prebooked entrance tickets to the palace and fortress complex of Alhambra. On Wednesday, 05 October, the Group will relocate to Malaga.

The current version of the Coordinating Instructions is attached as Annex C for appropriate action by all participants.

ARTILLERY CORPS

Promotions

The Club's Officers and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Gunner Officers who were recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Hanley, Deputy Director, Human Resource Management
- Lieutenant-Colonel Mervyn Farrell, School Commandant, The Artillery School, who is preparing for deployment to J4 European Union Training Mission Mali, and
- Commandant Shane Bradley, whose promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel is imminent and is expected to deploy shortly to UNIFIL.

Likewise, the Club's Officers and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Gunner Officers who were recently selected for promotion to the rank of Commandant

- Captain David Clarke currently serving with MONUSCO, and
- Captain Aileen Leonard, 1 Artillery Regiment

Regimental Commander

Following his successful command in UNDOF, Lieutenant-Colonel Darragh McKevitt returns as Regimental Commander 1 Artillery Regiment, Collins Barracks, Cork.

Head of Mission & Force Commander UNIFIL



The Club's Officers and Members convey their congratulations and best wishes to GOC 2 Brigade, Brigadier-General Michael Beary who, on 27 May, was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Artillery Personnel - KFOR



Having served as School Commandant The Cadet School, Lieutenant-Colonel Tom O'Callaghan, recently took up the appointment as Deputy Director in the Joint Implementation Commission with KFOR.

Artillery Personnel – UNDOF Golan Heights



Gunner Charlene Bailey photographed on International Womens' Day, and Lieutenant-Colonel McKeivitt and RSM Dineen on the Medal Parade on 28 March 2016.

Combined Captain's Guard of Honour – International Womens' Day - Royal Hospital – Kilmainham



Captain Danielle Murphy was the OIC of the Combined Guard of Honour, with the Army Component drawn from the 2 Artillery Regiment, with Sergeant Lorainne Poynton from Mullingar as the ranking Army NCO. Photograph includes the Regimental Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Dermot Hanifin and Regimental Sergeant-Major Noel O'Callaghan.

Easter Sunday Military Parade – Dublin 2 Arty Regt



Both the 1 and 2 Artillery Regiments provided marching elements. The element from the 2 Artillery Regiment was commanded by Commandant James Troy, with Lieutenants Alex Quigley and Barry Piper. 2 Artillery Regiment also provided a Troop of 105mm Guns and a BV 206 AD Vehicle.

British Army Artillery in 1916 – Comdt Lar Joye



Artillery dominated the battlefields of the First World War, killing and maiming millions of men. Such weapons could also be used to destroy buildings in order to defeat insurgents shelling within. The British used the 18 pounder artillery gun in Dublin in 1916, and the Irish Free State used similar weapons at the beginning of the Civil War in 1922. There were only 8 of these in Athlone at the outbreak of the Rising and only 4 of them were in working order and these were sent quickly to Dublin. Naturally as Britain was preparing for the Somme offensive in France during the summer of 1916 that is where all their artillery was.

As in France the 18 pounder was found not to be an effective weapon, it fired a shrapnel shell which is like a large grenade and was designed to explode above the heads of soldiers fighting out in the open. Soldiers in trenches and in buildings could withstand such shelling and what was needed was high explosive shells. These were developed as the war progressed but were not available in 1916.

The 4 guns were broken into pairs, and used to shell Liberty Hall from Tara Street and destroy barricades on the North Side of the city. In the end most of the destruction in Dublin was due to fires started by the shelling and the rebels, this meant it was too dangerous for the Dublin Fire Brigade fireman to put out the fires and by Thursday night the city centre was all on fire. A team of soldiers called gunners was required to operate this weapon efficiently. An officer received target instructions and calculated the specific direction and elevation for the gun-layer to point the weapon. Several men set the fuses and delivered shells to the gun, which could fire once every eight seconds. Then it was a matter of firing as fast as possible however in the confines of Dublin City firing would have been at a slower pace.

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 1.4 tons (1.28 tonnes)

Calibre: 3.3 inches (8.4 cm)

Rate of Fire: 10 rounds per minute

Weight of Shells: 18.5 lb (8.4 kg)

Types of Shell: Shrapnel & smoke,

Range: 6,500 yards/6,000m

Crew: 7

In Irish and British Service: 1904-1974

TSS Helga II – Comdt Lar Joye

One of the myths of the 1916 Rising is the shelling and destruction of Dublin by the Royal Naval battleship the *Helga*. However, the *Helga II* was not a ship of the Royal Navy but originally built for the Department of Agriculture in 1908 in Dublin Dockyard, and it was pressed into war service as an armed yacht during World War One serving as anti-submarine patrol and escort vessel. Like the rest of the immediate response of British Government, the *Helga* was rushed into position to assist the British Army who lacked enough artillery to fire on the Rebel positions. As a result, the *Helga II* gained an undeserved reputation of playing an essential part in the Rising.

Prior to World War One, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction used the *Helga* for fishery patrols and scientific research including the survey of Clare Island from 1909 to 1911. As can be seen in the drawing of the ship, the *Helga* contained a laboratory and was designed as marine research ship. In 1915, the *Helga* was taken over by the British Admiralty and became known as *HMS Helga* and classified as an Armed Auxiliary Patrol Yacht. The ship was armed at the front with a 12 pounder coastal defence gun, crewed by 2 sailors with a range of 11,000 metres and could fire 15 rounds a minute. At the rear, there was a smaller 3pdr gun, known as a pom pom.

The role of the *Helga* during the 1916 rising is well covered by John de Courcy Ireland in the now out of print book entitled “*The Sea and the Easter Rising*”, published in 1966. On 25th April, the *Helga* sailed from Dun Laoghaire to shell Boland’s mill and on the following day fired over the loop line railway bridge at Liberty Hall. In total, the *Helga* only fired 40 rounds during the Rising and it is difficult to analysis how effective the fire from her guns was. Indeed two of the ship’s crew refused to fire the guns during the engagement.

After 1923, the *Helga* was renamed the *Muirchu* (Seahound) and taken over by the new Irish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, followed by the Marine and Coastwatching Service in 1939. After being retired she sank off Tuskar on route to Dublin to be broken up by the Hammond Lane Foundry Company on 8th May 1947. In 1951, the Department of Agriculture presented to the National Museum a variety of items associated with the *Helga*, including the *Helga* name plate, pennants, model and ensign. More recently, the Irish Naval Service has lent the brass ships bell of *Muirchu* which is on display in the *Soldiers & Chiefs* exhibition.

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.

THE ARTILLERY CLUB

June 2016

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 18 Jun 16)

Annex B: Booking Form – Golf Outing

Annex C. Coordinating Instructions Field Trip to Granada and Malaga (V 18 Jun 16)



ARTILLERY CLUB's DIARY of Events – 2016

(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)

Date	Event	Coordinator	Remarks
28 January	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated – 12 Feb 16
25 Feb	Arty Sch: H/O of COS's Portrait, Brief and Demo, Lunch & DFTC Museum	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	31 Attendees
25 February	Committee Meeting – Ceannt Officers' Mess – 0930hrs	Secretary	Minutes Circulated – 04 March
28 April	Lecture & 1916 Exhibition, NMI Collins Bks Dublin	Comdt Lar Joye	23 Attendees
28 April	Committee Meeting – Collins Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated – 28 April
25/26 May	Field Trip –Finner, Fort Dunree & Derry. Travel Day, Tour Day, Return Day. Hotel Package Buncrana. .	President	7 Attendees
29 June	Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	RV Colliga Gun Position for lunch at 1300hrs
30 June	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
9 July	Annual Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
10 July	National Day of Commemoration - RHK	President	
16 July	Club Wreath Laying, National Memorial, Merrion Sq	President	Honour Guard – 2 Arty Regt
26 August	Annual Golf Competition – Blarney Hotel Golf Club	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd) Comdt J. Burke (Retd)	Calling Notice Issued with Newsletter 2/2016
10 September	Defence Forces Veterans' Day – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
14 September	Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1946-2016, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Mil Col	Col M. Smith	Officers commissioned in 1946, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 06, 16, requested to contact President & Coordinator
29 September	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
2 – 6 Oct	Field Trip - Granada, incl Alhambra and Spanish Training and Doctrine Command. 2 Travel Days, 2 Tour Days, 1 Day with Trg and Doctrine Command	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	27 Attendees Registered
12 November	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
02 December	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch – Collins Bks Cork	Secretary	

Annex B

Booking Return: Artillery Club Annual Golf Outing 26 August 2016

Member's Name: _____ Handicap: _____

Golf and Dinner Guest Name: _____ Handicap: _____

Dinner Guest Only Name: _____

Payment for Accommodation, Golf and Dinner: €124pps -1 night stay. €150 - 2 nights stay

Payment for Accommodation and Dinner only: €89pps - 1 night stay. €115 - 2 nights stay

Payment for Golf Only: €35pp (including €10 to prize fund as in 2015),

Payment for Dinner Only: €35pp.

Payment for Golf and Dinner: €70

Please complete Booking Proforma and return, with appropriate payment by cheque if not availing of SPEA Transfer, NLT 01 July 2016 to Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd), 129 Celtic Park Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9.

Contact Details: email: chris@ashcrow.com

Mobile: 087 2575 271

Annex C