



## **TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER 2/2017**



### **INTRODUCTION**

Newsletter 1/2017 promulgated on 03 March, consisted of sections covering Governance, Activities, the Artillery Corps and Looking into the Past. The same format will be reflected in this Newsletter.

Since the publication of Newsletter 1//2017, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details such as the Commemorative Mass for Commandant D.K. Doyle (Retd) RIP, the handover of the Main Gates from Magee Barracks and Calling Notices for various Club activities.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include the Club's Website, Perpetual Trophy, Membership Card, Activity Reports, Planned Activities, a tribute to Commandant Tommy Wickham whose 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death on peacekeeping duties was commemorated on the Golan Heights, and finally News from the Regiments. Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office, Mr Patrick Hugh Lynch, Mr Oliver Breen and Club Membership.

Having just completed the Club's successful Field Trip to The West, it is fitting that Newsletter's *Looking into the Past Section* contains an extract from an article written by Colonel J.P. Kane (Retd) RIP "*Four and Five are Nine*", published in An Cosaintóir in July 1983. Colonel Kane's appointments included Regimental Commander of the 4 Field Artillery Regiment and 5 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA), and Brigade Commander 4 Brigade. The establishment of the Artillery Club was authorised by the military authorities in 1972. Since its establishment in 1972, the Club has had seventeen Presidents – the first holder of the chain of office was Lieutenant-Colonel J.P, Kane, Officer Commanding 4 Field Artillery Regiment.

Regimental Commanders and the School Commandant are requested to post this Newsletter on the Defence Forces IKON, circulate it to all PDF and AR Artillery officers under their command, and are encouraged to provide information for subsequent Newsletters.

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

Upcoming activities include the Artillery Shoot on 13 July, the Wreath Laying Ceremony in Merrion Square on 22 July and the Golf Outing in Glasson on 24 August. The current version of the Club's Diary of Events for 2017 is attached as Annex A.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **2017 Outputs**

To date, in addition to governance matters, the Committee approved two Newsletters before promulgation, significantly advanced the Website project, executed or participated in 7 activities, approved Membership Card Format, Tie Clasp and Lapel Pin, and completed projects such as the Commandant Dave Brown's Perpetual Trophy, and the formal handover of the Main Gates Magee Barracks to the Curragh Military Museum.

### **Focus for 2017**

Mindful of the objectives as prescribed in the Rules, the Club's focus remains on: executing appropriate activities, enhancing its Website, extending its Membership base, (18 potential members were identified through the Field Trip to the West), and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events.

### **2017 Committee**

Since the AGM, the Committee convened on four occasions: 26 January in McKee Barracks, on 23 February in Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnell, on 27 April in Collins Barracks Dublin, and on 29 June in McKee Barracks. The Committee will reconvene on 28 September in McKee Barracks.

During its meeting on 27 April, the Committee coopted Colonel Tom O'Callaghan and appointed him as Treasurer, replacing Colonel Ger Buckley who was selected for overseas service with the United Nations. The President conveyed the Committee's appreciation of Colonel Buckley's stewardship of the Club's financial framework.

To-date, the Committee has developed the Diary of events for 2017, conducted planning for the various activities, and successfully executed the visit to Baldonnell on 23 February, the Lecture and Weapon Display in the National Museum of Ireland on 27 April, and the Field Trip to Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa (5 Fd Arty Regt FCA) on 22 & 23 June.

## **Communications**

The circulation of Newsletters, Activity Information, Calling Notices and Death Notices is by means of posts on the Club's website and by email.

Going back to the first Newsletter, 1/2015 was distributed by email to 122 individuals. The Club's Email Contact List for this Newsletter is 219 individuals far exceeding the Membership strength of 155. Currently, 16 members are receiving Club 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.

Arising from the Committee's meeting on 29 June, the current membership is 155, which reflects an increase of 65 members, since the Membership Drive was launched in January 2015.

The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription (€10) is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful to the 103 members who are currently paying their subscriptions by Standing Order.

Subscriptions for the current year were due on 01 November, 2016. To date, 97 of the 155 members have paid their subscription. Has your Standing Order lapsed in recent years? As a small number of Standing Orders do not indicate the name of the payee, please check your details in case you are in this cohort.

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

## **Perpetual Trophy**

On behalf of the Club's membership, in consultation with Mrs Mary Brown, and with the support of the Artillery School, the Committee has commissioned a Perpetual Trophy in memory of Commandant David M. Brown (Retd) RIP.

The Trophy consists of a mounted Director No 7 Mark 5, extensively used by our Field Artillery Units from 1941, with the introduction the Ordnance QF 25-pounder, up to the early 1970s when it was replaced by the Director L1A1. The following number is inscribed on the director used as the Trophy: O.S. 1815GA POC 393 o.53910.S.A.

The No 7 Director (12° 30' field of view and ×4.5 magnification) appeared in the 1930s. It was graduated from 0 to 360° for use with the later models of the No 7 Dial Sight. It supplemented and gradually replaced the No 6 Director that had entered service after WW1 and was very similar in appearance and functions. The No 7 Director was a compact instrument measuring both vertical and horizontal angles.

In the 1960s, the Royal Artillery converted No 7's scales to mils. The director's single point levelling arrangement was replaced by three levelling screws for use with Stand Instrument No 39, as used with its replacement L1A1 Director. The introduction of mils meant that the No 7 director was converted and used until it was replaced by an entirely new L1 Director within the Royal Artillery in the mid 1960s.

With the introduction of the L1A1 and new 25 pdr Dial Sights, into the Defence Forces, Field Artillery Units converted from degrees to mils.



The Perpetual Trophy project was successfully overseen by Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd). The Trophy will be presented to the Best Student on Artillery Regimental Survey Courses. The next such course, which is of 8 weeks duration, is scheduled to commence in October.

### **Web Site**

Having registered [www.artillery.ie](http://www.artillery.ie) as the domain in January 2010, the Artillery Club actively engages with World Wide Web and various social media outlets, as a means for sharing information with the widest possible audience, addressing the needs of the Artillery Corps community.

The Club's membership was briefed on the Website's Action Plan during the 2015 Annual General Meeting, and the domain was subsequently activated with a "silent" Artillery Club Website.

During the month of June 2017, significant progress has been made on the development of the Club's Website. The Committee remains indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart McNamara for his advice and expertise, and for the provision of the Website's design and software. Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Murphy kindly provided excellent photographs for the newly designed Website.

An ambitious project, exploiting the vision of previous Committees, the Club's Website is now accessible through [www.artilleryclub.ie](http://www.artilleryclub.ie)

In addition to the Home Page, the Website's menu includes: About Us, News & Events, Membership, Information, Photograph Gallery, Contact, and Links. A Search Engine is provided on the Home Page.

Whereas the Website is now fully active, the posting of suitable material within various sections of the Menu, remains work in progress.

Availing of the Website, the Club will endeavour to enhance awareness of its mission, objectives, governance and membership. The Website will provide information on a range of issues such as the Artillery Corps, Club Activities, Club Projects and Artillery Heritage.

To date, the following postings have been made on the Website:

- **Pages:** About Us, Membership, Merchandise,
- **Posts:** Launch of Revised Website, Field Trip to The West, Calling Notice - Golf Outing, Newsletter 1/2017,
- **Field Trips:** The West, Fort Dunree, Granada & Malaga, Lisbon,
- **Artillery Heritage:** Curragh Military Museum, Soldiers & Chiefs NMI Collins Barracks, Fort Camden, Fort Dunree and Fort Mitchell,
- **Photo Gallery:** Field Trip to The West, Visit to Collins Barracks, Visit to Baldonnel, Main Gate Magee Barracks, 2 AA Battery Reunion, Barbara's Day 2016, AGM Collins Barracks, Inaugural Decades' Reunion, Foreign Field Trip – Granada & Malaga,
- **Links.** 14 external institutions and associations.

Safeguarding the legacy of the Artillery Corps, the Website will provide a repository for appropriate articles and publications. Supporting this particular objective, the associated Picture Gallery will contain photograph albums reflecting the Artillery Corps and the Artillery Club. The Website facilitates links with external Websites associated with the Club's objectives and activities. Finally, the Website will be part of the wider community of Artillery based Websites such as that of the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association which was established in 2011: <https://2fara.wordpress.com>



In due course, the procedures whereby the Club's membership can be involved in the provision of material, including photographs, will be circulated. In the interim, observations

on the Website will be welcomed. The Committee has appointed Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd) as the Webmaster.

### **Membership Card – Lapel Pin – Tie Clasp**

Arising from the 2016 AGM, at its meeting on 29 June, the Committee formally approved the design and format of the Club's Membership Card. Applications for Membership Cards, should be made to the Membership Secretary, Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd), accompanied by an ID photograph and €5 towards the cost of card.

On 29 June, the Committee approved the design for the Lapel Pin. The likely cost of a Lapel Pin will be in the region of €3. The Committee has purchased 50 Tie Clasps which are now available at a cost of €5. The newly acquired items, namely, the Lapel Pin, Tie Clasp and Club Plaque, will be included in the Club's Merchandise Catalogue and duly posted on the Website.

### **Committee's Short Term Priorities**

The Club's short term priorities are: Field Trip to the Glen, Wreath Laying Ceremony, Golf Outing, finalising the Coordinating Instructions for Lisbon, Membership (PDF and AR), Website Enhancement and interface with other Corps Clubs.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Diary of Events - 2017**

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 2017 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 GOC Air Corps, GOC Defence Forces Training Centre, Commandant Lar Joye, Officers Commanding Custume Barracks and Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa, and Regimental Commander 2 Artillery Regiment for events implemented during the first six months of 2017.

Reports on Club Activities executed since the last Newsletter (1/2017), and initial information on future activities are outlined below.

### **Visit to Collins Barracks – Thursday 27 April - Coordinator: Comdt Lar Joye**

The Club's annual visit to the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, took place on Thursday 27 April. The visit included an informative lecture and weapon display kindly delivered by the Club's Secretary, Commandant Lar Joye, on the subject "*A History of Ireland in 10 Weapons*".

Attendees were shown and briefed on the following weapons: a 1796 light Cavalry sword by Read of Dublin, a Heavy Cavalry sword used at Waterloo, a Brown Bess Musket, Dublin

Castle, a Fenian Shotgun, a AK 47, a Howth Rifle, a Lee Enfield Carbine used in the Boer War, a Howdah Pistol, a Gentleman's Dueling Pistol, c1750 by Collins of Dublin. The “missing weapon” was a Thompson SMG which was on display elsewhere.



**Field Trip – Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa (5 Fd Arty Regt FCA) 22 & 23 June – Coordinator: Colonel Conor Fitzsimons (Retd)**

The Club's Field Trip to The West commenced with a visit to Custume Barracks, Athlone on Thursday, 22 June where the participants were formally received by Lieutenant-Colonel Dermot Hanifin, Regimental Commander 2 Artillery Regiment. Following lunch in the Officers' Mess, the Group was provided with a comprehensive brief on the Regiment's activities. Subsequently the Group was taken on a conducted a tour of its Headquarters, including the Keogh Room, and its gun park.



The 2 Artillery Regiment is the lead unit for the 56 Infantry Group deploying to UNDOF on the Golan Heights in September 2017. Corporal Eivers demonstrated the RBS 70 simulator and briefed the Group on the recent Air Defence Live Firing Practices which took place in Sweden during the month of May, see photograph on the first page of this Newsletter.



Participants then visited the 2 Ordnance Group where the President and Colonel Conor Fitzsimons (Retd) provided a brief on the significant role in Irish history and the pending conservation of an 18 Pounder Mark II Field Gun, recovered from West Virginia in August 2016, (see Newsletter 3/2016).



Having arrived in Galway, attendees booked into the Connacht Hotel, availed of the hotel facilities and enjoyed a communal dinner, before retiring at an appropriate hour.

On Friday 23 June, the Group was welcomed to Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa by the Officer Commanding 1 Cathlán Coisithe Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Campion and received an extensive brief on the unit's activities.



After coffee, the Group actively engaged in a round table discussion "Reminiscences of 5 Field Artillery Regiment", led by former Regimental Commanders: Colonel Brian O'Connor (Retd) and Commandant Jack Burke (Retd), ably supported by former Battery Commanders: Commandant Hugh Duffy (Retd) – 4 Battery, Commandant Larry Hynes (Retd) HQ Bty, Commandant John Murray (Retd) – 7 Battery and Commandant Gerry Lyons – 13 Battery and Commandant John Wholihan. A former Gunner of the Regiment – Colonel Conor Fitzsimons (Retd) and Commandant Mick Duffy (Retd) enhanced the reflections and memories of times past.





Following lunch in the Officers' Mess, the Group was provided a conducted tour of the Military Museum by Sergeant Maloney its Curator.

The Club remains grateful of opportunity of visiting the 2 Artillery Regiment and availing of the hospitality of Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa. Presentations of the Club's Plaque were made to HQ 2 Artillery Regiment and to the Officers' Mess Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa.

A key objective of this Field Trip, namely an opportunity for former Gunner Officers of the 5 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) to muster, was a resounding success. In this context, the Committee acknowledges the support from Commandant Padraic McDunphy (Retd), Commandant Mick Duffy (Retd), Commandant Shane Dooley and Captain Brian Duffy in the "recruitment" of attendees. 18 additional email addresses of Gunner Officers accrued from the Field Trip, all of whom were formally invited by the President to become members of the Club.

**Artillery Shoot – Glen Imaal – 13 July Co-ordinator Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd)**



As in recent years, the Club will attend an Artillery Shoot in the Glen on 13 July. During the course of the day, the Club President will present the Captain Jack Jones (RIP) Perpetual Trophies to the Best Students from recent Young Officers and No 1s Courses. Calling Notice will be issued later with an associated posting on the Website.

**Golf Competition – Glasson Hotel Golf Club - Thursday 24 August -- Coordinators: Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) and Lt Col Ray Twomey (Retd)**

The Artillery Club's Annual Golf Outing takes place on Thursday, 24 August 2017 at Glasson Hotel and Golf Club, Killinure Cottage, Glasson, Athlone, County Westmeath, followed by dinner in The Glasson Hotel at 2000hrs approx. Both the Golf Outing and Dinner are open to Members of the Artillery Club, their Spouses, Partners and Friends.



The Calling Notice was issued on 01 June, and duly posted on the Club's Website.

Tees are reserved from 1130hrs to 1230hrs. Those who wish to avail of Buggies (€25 each) are requested to reserve buggies directly with the Glasson Golf Club, quoting *Artillery Club Golf Outing*, telephone number: 090 658 5120. Rooms have been reserved in the Glasson Hotel for Members and Guests at reasonable rates.

Event and Accommodation Bookings and payment (Cheque or SEPA) are required by Comdt Chris O’Flanagan (Retd), 129 Celtic Park Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9, NLT Friday, 07 July.

**Artillery Decades’ Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1947-2017, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Mil Col – Wednesday 13 September – Coordinator: Colonel Mick Smyth (Retd)**

The Committee remains grateful for the support of Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Byrne DSM, Commandant The Cadet School, for supporting this annual event now in its second year. The reunion envisages assembly in the Cadet’s Mess, Brief on the Cadet School and reunion lunch in the Officers’ Mess Pearse Barracks.



For planning purposes, Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve officers commissioned in 1947, 57, 67, 77, 87, 97, 2007 and 2017, are urgently requested to contact the Club’s President ([ppakenham@eircom.net](mailto:ppakenham@eircom.net)) and Event Coordinator ([michaelsmyth007@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsmyth007@gmail.com)). Calling Notice later.

**Field Trip – Portuguese Artillery School – 01 through 05 – Coordinator: Commandant Michael Flood (Retd)**



**Programme**

The Artillery Club’s 2017 Foreign Field Trip takes place from Sunday, 01 October to Thursday, 05 October visiting Lisbon, Portugal. See posting on Website. The trip centralises on a visit to the Portuguese School of Arms, which includes The Artillery School, in Mafra, on Wednesday 04 October. At this stage of the process, the tentative programme is as follows:

- **Sunday 01 October:** Travel Day,
- **Monday 02 October:** Free Day,
- **Tuesday 03 October:** Visit to the Military Museum of Lisbon and Visit to the Castle of São Jorge,
- **Wednesday 04 October:** Visit to the School of Arms (with lunch in the mess) and Guided Tour to the National Palace of Mafra,
- **Thursday 05 October:** Travel Day.



**General Information.** As in the Club's 2016 successful Field Trip to Granada and Malaga, travel dates are flexible. It is envisaged that the majority will travel to Lisbon on Sunday, 01 October with most of the group returning on Thursday 05 October. All costs will accrue to participants as they occur, e.g. Flights, Hotel, Internal Travel, Tours, Entrance Fees and Meals.

### **Participation**

Participation in the Field Trip remains open to members of the Artillery Club and their spouses, or partners. Currently, 31 individuals will be participating in the Field Trip.

### **Accommodation**

Whereas participants are free to select their own hotel in Lisbon, it is considered desirable that they avail of the Ibis Lisboa Liberdade Hotel, which is the recommended hotel, for obvious financial and coordination reasons.

### **Coordinating Instructions**

Coordinating Instructions will be issued in due course. Recommendations are welcome from all quarters.

## **ARTILLERY CORPS**

### **Overseas Appointments**

The Committee wishes successful tours and safe return journey home to the following Artillery Corps officer who is due to deploy on overseas duty in the coming months:

- Col Ger Buckley: HQ UNIFIL South Lebanon – 15 July

**UNDOF Commemoration – O.6374 Commandant Thomas P. Wickham RIP**



On 07 June, a Commemoration Ceremony, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Commandant Thomas (Tommy) P. Wickham, who was killed on duty with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), took place in Camp Ziouani on the Alpha side of the 1974 Cease Fire Line.

The ceremony was conducted under the auspices of UNTSO's Observer Group Golan and the 55 Infantry Group serving with the United Nations Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF). Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Kiely, Chief Observer Group Golan and Lieutenant-Colonel David Cowhig Officer Commanding 55 Infantry, together with personnel of their respective units, and Irish Observers serving throughout UNTSO, participated in the Ceremony. Following a religious service conducted by Rev Fr Pat Mernagh CF, wreaths were laid at a specially commissioned memorial in Camp Ziouani, and musical honours were rendered.

At the time of his death, Commandant Wickham was deployed to the Golan Heights as an unarmed United Nations Military Observer. Tragically, he was shot and killed by a Syrian soldier, while trying to relieve United Nations observer positions on 07 June, 1967. The action occurred at a Syrian checkpoint at the old Roman bridge near the village of Ar Rafid on the Golan Heights in the vicinity of Quineitra, just one day after the start of "The 6 Day War".

Commandant Wickham was killed in the cause of peace just two weeks after his wife Patricia (Pat) and their three youngest children Barbara, Denise and Alan arrived in Damascus to join him for his tour of duty with UNTSO.

Remaining in Ireland, daughter Joyce was about to complete her Intermediate Certificate in the Dominican Convent Cabra, and son Brian was undergoing training in the Cadet School. On commissioning, Brian was posted to the 2 Field Artillery Regiment and retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel. Joyce, who was tragically murdered in January 1996, was married to Colonel Ray Quinn (Retd) a former Director of Artillery. Pat Wickham is now 92 years old and resides in Dublin.



A member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Cadet Class, Commandant Wickham was commissioned in 1941 and appointed to the Artillery Corps. A proud and dedicated gunner, he served in the Artillery School Magee Barracks, Kildare, and the 2 Field Artillery Regiment, McKee Barracks Dublin.

Commandant Wickham also served as an Instructor in the Command and Staff School, The Military College. In addition to his service with UNTSO, Commandant Wickham served as Operations Officer with the 38 Infantry Battalion in the Congo from November 1962 to April 1963.

Following Requiem Mass in Arbour Hill on 13 June 1967, Commandant Wickham was buried with full military honours in the United Nations Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery. Attendance included the Lord Mayor of Dublin, An Taoiseach, Government Ministers, the General Staff and personnel of the 40 Cadet Class.

Speaking in Dáil Éireann on 16 May 1968, the Minister for Defence, Mr Michael Hilliard TD, stated inter alia:

*“Deputies will recall the death last year, in tragic circumstances, of Commandant Thomas Wickham while serving with the Truce Supervision Organisation, and again I know that I am speaking for the entire House when I extend renewed sympathy to his wife and family. In awarding posthumously the United Nations Service Medal to him the Secretary-General of the United Nations said in the citation:*

*Commandant Wickham died carrying out his duties for the United Nations in the cause of peace in the Middle East. This Medal recognises and honours his courage and his devotion to a cause for which he gave his life.”*



In addition to being posthumously awarded the UNTSO Medal, in recognition of his supreme sacrifice Commandant Wickham was awarded An Réalt Míleata (The Military Star). The Military Star is posthumously awarded by the Minister for Defence to personnel of the Permanent Defence Force or the Chaplaincy Service, killed in hostile action while on approved overseas military duties.



Commandant Wickham's citation for the Military Star is shown above. His portrait hangs in the Cadets' Mess, The Military College. A lecture room in the Artillery School, Magee Barracks was dedicated to Commandant Wickham. On the School's deployment to the Curragh Camp, the honour was retained.

Another commissioned officer of the Defence Forces, Commandant Michael Nestor was killed by a road side bomb on 25 September 1982 whilst serving with UNTSO in Beirut.



On Saint Patrick's Day 1980, Lieutenant-General William Callaghan DSM, Chief of Staff UNTSO, unveiled a memorial plaque to Commandant Wickham in St Peter's Church Tiberius. The ceremony was attended by all available Irish personnel, military and civilian serving with UNTSO. At a later stage, a memorial plaque was also erected alongside that of Commandant Wickham, honouring Commandant Michael Nestor.

In conjunction with the 2 Field Artillery Regiment, the Artillery Club will honour Commandant Wickham RIP during a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National Memorial, Merrion Square, on Saturday 22 July, 2017.

### **Handover of Restored Main Gate Magee Barracks – 13 April**



Within its competencies, the Artillery Club actively supported Regimental Sergeant-Major John Morris' notable initiative, in conjunction with like minded individuals, of preserving, restoring and relocating the gates of the former Magee Barracks, Kildare which garrisoned numerous Corps units over the years and, in particular, The Depot and School, The Artillery School.

The gates, which depict 22 guns deployed in action, guarded the entrance to Magee Barracks, Kildare, from the late 1930s until the barracks closed in 1998.

The Club's Committee was encouraged with the attendance of a considerable number of its members at the formal handover of the restored Main Gate of Magee Barracks to the Curragh Museum on 13 April. Colonel Tom O'Callaghan, Commandant Command and Staff School, presided over the event. Members took the opportunity of acknowledging the commendable work undertaken by Regimental Sergeant-Major John Morris and the DFTC's Command Vehicle Base Workshops in this project.

In an effort to maintain the Corps tradition and heritage, all Gunners who pass through the Artillery School will, in future, be photographed on the completion of their respective courses in front of the Magee Barracks gates now located on display in the Curragh Museum. While the Artillery Corps may have closed the location of its original Alma Mater, the symbolism that these iconic gates represent, will be retained for future generations of Gunners.

### **Commemorative Ceremonies – May and June 2017**

- **Castlepollard.** On 30 May, a Commemorative Mass and Unveiling Ceremony in honour of Right Rev Monsignor John Coghlan, Army Chaplain from 1915 to 1945, took place in Saint Michael's Catholic Church, Castlepollard, on 30 May 2017. Ordained in 1913 for the Diocese of Meath, during the First World War, Fr Coghlan served with the Royal Inniskillings in Flanders, where he was wounded, and later in the Middle East.



The Colour Party was provided by the 2 Artillery Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Brian Clarke.

Between the wars, Fr Coghlan served in Germany, China and Malta. In the Second World War, Fr Coghlan was Chief RC Chaplain in the British Expeditionary Force. Following the withdrawal from Dunkirk, Fr Coghlan was awarded a CBE and appointed Army Vicar-General. At the end of the war, he retired with the rank of Colonel and a knighthood. He returned as Parish Priest to Multyfarnham, County Westmeath. Right Rev Monsignor John Coghlan retired to Dublin where he died in 1963, and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

- **100th Anniversary Battle of Messines.** Organised by the Irish and British Governments, a Commemoration Ceremony took place on 07 June 2017, at the Island of Ireland Peace Park, marking the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Messines. Wreaths were laid by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Belgium's Princess Astrid.



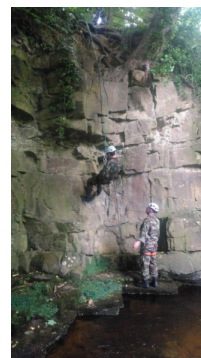


The above photograph includes the Chief of Staff Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, Brigadier-General Philip Brennan and Gunner Officers: Colonel Paul Whelan and Lieutenant-Colonel John Prendergast, both stationed in Brussels.

**21 Gun Salute.** On 31 May, the 2 Artillery Regiment fired a 21 Gun Salute from the Gun Battery marking the 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone on the east pier in Dún Laoighaire Harbour. The ceremony also included a fly-past by the Air Corps.



**Gaisce Awards.** Over 30 young Gaisce participants from across Ireland embarked on a four-day Defence Forces Adventure Challenge. They were put through their paces by soldiers from 2 Artillery Regiment under the supervision of Lieutenant Brian Clarke, Sergeant Kenny McCaul and Sergeant Jackie Wykes.



Each year over 20,000 young people across Ireland take part in Gaisce – The President’s Award.

## **LOOKING INTO THE PAST**

**Extract from An Cosaintoir July 1983**

**“Four and Five are Nine**

**(The Western Command Artillery Family)**

**5<sup>th</sup> Regiment by Colonel J.P. Kane (Retd)”**

*“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 NCO's. The latter was not to be so, as the clever civil servants in the Dept. of Defence had foreseen our innocent hopes and had, as usual, arranged otherwise.”*

*“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 the new 5th Fd. Arty. Regt. with HQ in Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa, Galway, still with the rank of Commandant. One had to move 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 the fateful Der Tag Thursday, 30th October, 1959. It was 'I' Day and by that evening by 23.59 hrs. we were Integrated or on the way to it. Or were we?”*

*“Before I left the Midlands for the Western Seas (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 50th 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, separate FCA areas with totally differing loyalties and even linguistic backgrounds 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, the new concept. It was different with 4 Bty., HQ Galway City. Their tradition, they felt, was unbreakable and could but grudgingly be seduced. They wanted to wear their old badges, flashes etc.”*

*“We had many snags when we came to set up the new 5 Brigade stretching from North Donegal to North Clare. Col. Paddy Kearns was our new Bde. O/C and he had his hands full with a new Artillery Regt., Cavalry Sqn. Supply and Transport Coy, Engineer Coy, etc. The 1st Bn. (An Cead Cathlan) was the only regular unit and we were dubbed 'na cuartaire' (the visitors) and perhaps worse when we piled in to disturb them as they hadn't*

*been since 1940. We finally wrestled as best we could with problems aplenty with each other in our Regt. , with the other new units and with the Cead Cath.”*

*“Armies are wonderful organisations. The people in them make things work, make things fit into place despite the best endeavours of the 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 5th Regt. was 21 years old in 1980 and celebrated suitably. 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. NCO's and men of the PDF 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, Major J. J. McGlinchey, Comdt. Liam O'Coinne. Without the fine body of NCO's too we just could not have managed. Very good they were. None better. Some of them were (and in no special order): Pat Shanahan, Ed Columb, Fred Smith, Robert Gander, Frank Cassidy, Barney McGuire, Tom Durnin, Jos. Connaughton, Tom Muldoon, John Gavin, W. Early, M. Minogue, J. Connors and J. Reilly.”*

*“In conclusion I seek permission as an old Gunner to salute 5th Fd. Arty. Regt. the eldest child of the 4th Fd. Arty. Regt. May I also say to the 4th Fd. Regt. on its 40th birthday, Fad saol cugaibh agus go mairfidh sibh an cead! Bhi sar saol againn san da aonad, an 4ú agus an 5ú.”*

## **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

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

***Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.***

## **THE ARTILLERY CLUB**

**June 2017**

**Annex A: Diary of Events (V 29 Jun 17)**



**ARTILLERY CLUB's DIARY of Events – 2017**

**(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)**

Date	Event	Coordinator	Remarks
26 January	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes circulated on 13 February
23 Feb	Field Trip – Air Corps, Casement Aerodrome	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	27 Attendees including 4 Guests
23 February	Committee Meeting – Casement Aerodrome – 1500hrs	Secretary	Minutes circulated on 23 February
27 April	National Museum Ireland, Collins Bks, Dublin	Comdt Lar Joye	18 attendees including 1 Guest
27 April	Committee Meeting – Collins Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated 23 May
22/23 June	Field Trip – Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa (5 Fd Arty Regt FCA).	Col C. Fitzsimons (Retd)	17 Attendees including 3 Guests
29 June	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
08 July	Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
09 July	National Day of Commemoration - RHK	President	
13 July	Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	
22 July	Wreath Laying, National Memorial, Merrion Square	President	
24 August	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner – Glasson Hotel Golf Club	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd) Lt Col R.Twomey (Retd)	Calling Notice Issued 01 June
24 September	Defence Forces Veterans' Day	Secretary	
13 September	Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1947-2017, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Military College	Col M. Smyth (Retd)	
28 September	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
01 – 05 Oct	Field Trip – Portuguese Artillery School, Lisbon	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	
11 November	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
01 December	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch – McKee Bks	Secretary	