



The Artillery Club – 08 Sep 16

THE ARTILLERY CLUB

TAKE POST - NEWSLETTER 3/2016



INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 2/2016 promulgated on 18 June, consisted of sections covering Governance, Activities, the Artillery Corps and Looking into the Past. The Newsletter was very well received especially Comdt Lar Joye's articles on 1916 and the photographs associated with the Easter Commemorations.

Since the publication of Newsletter 2/2016, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details regarding upcoming activities such as the Visit to the Glen, Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National Memorial 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, consists of a selection of photographs kindly provided from the collection of Brigadier-General Tom McDunphy (Retd).

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner



Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office, Patrick Hugh Lynch and Club Membership. The photograph on the front page of this Newsletter consists of the Military Guard under the command of Lieutenant Alex Quigley drawn from the 2 Artillery Regiment at the National Memorial on Saturday, 20 August.

Upcoming Club activities include:

- The Inaugural Decades' Reunion on **Wednesday**, 14 September – RV Cadets' Mess at 1100hrs, and
- The 75th Anniversary of the Glen Accident, Friday 16 September – 1200hrs at the Monument at Seskin.

The School Commandant and Regimental Commanders are requested to circulate this Newsletter to all PDF and AR 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 Outputs

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

To-date, the Committee has populated the 2016 diary of events, 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, a Field Trip to Fort Dunree on 25/26 May, a visit to the Glen on 29 June, the Annual Golf Outing on 26 August in Blarney, and represented the Club at appropriate national and military commemorations.

Currently, the Committee is finalising the Field Trip to Granada on 02/06 October, the Wreath Laying and Annual Mass on 12 November and preparing for the Annual General Meeting on 02 December in Collins Barracks Cork.



Communications

The circulation of Newsletters, Activity Information and Death Notices is primarily by means of email. Since the last Newsletter, the Club's Email Contact List has increased from 162 to 185, far exceeding the Membership strength of 138. 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 138 compared with 129 in September 2015. 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

Club Merchandise -Plaque



Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) has sourced Club Plaques from Heraldic Artists, Dublin. The Plaques will be taken on charge as stock in the Club's accounts. Plaques were presented on the occasion of the Club's visits to Finner Camp and Fort Dunree. Members who wish to purchase a Club Plaque should contact Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd).



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Outreach Activity – Defence Forces Corps Clubs



As part of its Outreach Activities, during the month of July, the President has initiated an interface with the Cavalry Club, the S&T Club and the Signal Officers Club. This included an invitation to the respective Presidents to participate in the Club's Golf Outing in Blarney.

Outreach Activity – Royal Canadian Artillery



Lieutenant-Colonel Ray York provided a copy of Newsletter 2/2016 to Brigadier-General Ernest Beno OMM CD (Retd) Honorary Colonel of 7 Toronto Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery. As Regimental Commander 4 Field Artillery Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel York hosted Brigadier-General Beno in Columb Barracks, Mullingar when he was Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Artillery. Lieutenant-Colonel York has contributed to the Journal of the Toronto Gunner Community. Brigadier-General Beno (Retd) has been included in the Club's Contact List.

Committee's Short Term Priorities

The Club's short term priorities are: Field Trip to Granada and Malaga, Annual Mass, Annual General Meeting, 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 for 2017. 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, Officer Commanding Finner Camp, the Board of Directors Fort Dunree, the School Commandant, Artillery School and the Manager of the Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort, for the 2016 events implemented to-date.

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Reports on Club's activities executed since the last Newsletter (2/2016) and information on future activities are outlined below.

Artillery Shoot – Glen Imaal - Wednesday 29 June



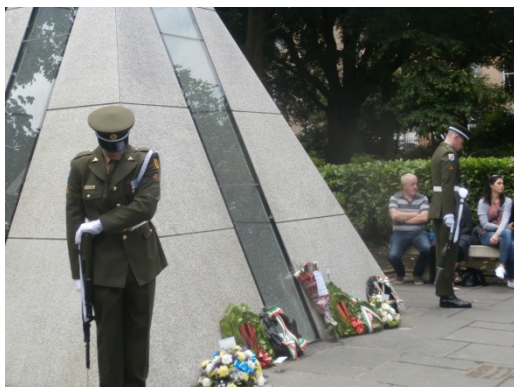
By kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel Mervyn Farrell, the School Commandant, and despite inclement weather conditions, 14 members of the Club and 1 guest attended the Artillery Shoot in the Glen on 29 June. Commandant Greg Burnes was the Club's host at Colliga Gun Position. Following a light lunch, Regimental Sergeant-Major John Morris provided an extensive brief including a Q & A session. Thereafter, the attendees watched the Live Firing Practice fired by personnel from both Regiments on a Gun Detachments Course.

Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme & National Day of Commemoration – July



Members of the Club attended the State Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme in the National Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge on Saturday, 09 July, and the National Day of Commemoration in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on Sunday, 10 July, 2016.

Wreath Laying – National Memorial Merrion Square – Saturday 16 July



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By kind permission of the military authorities, and a formal invitation from Lieutenant-Colonel Dermot Hanifin, the Club's President laid a wreath at the National Memorial, on Saturday, 16 July. The Military Guard was mounted by the 2 Artillery Regiment during the period 1200hrs to 1300hrs. The event was well attended by the Club's membership. The 2 Artillery Regiment Association was also in attendance.

Golf Competition – Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort - Friday 26 August



The Artillery Club's Annual Golf Outing took place on Friday, 26 August 2015 at The Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort, County Cork. Club members, spouses, partners and guests participated in the golf competition and later attended an enjoyable dinner in the Hotel. During the dinner, the Club President welcomed all attendees including Lieutenant-Colonel Larry Devaney representing GOC 1 Brigade and Mrs Carmel Devaney. A considerable number of attendees availed of overnight accommodation in the hotel. Thankfully, the weather was conducive for enjoyable rounds of golf.

A total of 27 golfers took part in the Single Stapleford competition, including 4 lady golfers.

Confined to serving and retired officers of the Artillery Corps, the Captain Jack Jones (RIP) Perpetual Trophy was won by Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Twomey (Retd), the inaugural winner of the trophy, with a score of 34 points. Mrs Nuala O'Flanagan won the Ladies' Prize with a score of 30 points. The winner of the Visitor's Prize was Lieutenant-Colonel Seán O'Meara (Retd), with the best score of the day – 37 points. His prize of a Euro Commemorative Solid Silver Coin, struck to honour the W.B. Yeats, was kindly donated by Commandant Ger Gibson (Retd).



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The Committee acknowledges the Club's Golf Organiser Commandant Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) and the support provided by the Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort, and a very sincere thanks to Commandant Jack Burke (Retd), who coordinated the successful event.

The Committee is also grateful to Commandant Jack Burke (Retd): Venue and Prizes, Commandant Chris O'Flanagan (Retd): Finance, Commandant Paschal Cullen (Retd) and Commandant Tom Goulding (Retd): Registration, Lieutenant-Colonel Brendan Crowley (Retd) and Colonel Fergus Bushell (Retd): Starters, and finally Lieutenant Olan Haskett and Lieutenant-Colonel Cormac Lalor (Retd): Scoring.

Glasson Hotel and Golf Club could be the venue for the 2017 Golf Outing.

Defence Forces Veterans' Day – Saturday 10 September

The 2016 Veterans' Day takes place on Saturday, 10 September in McKee Barracks, Dublin.

Veterans' Day reaches out to honour retired members of the Defence Forces and all Defence Forces Veterans have been invited to the event. Members of the Artillery Club may wish to attend this event. A shuttle bus service will be provided for Veterans from Busáras, and from Heuston and Connolly Railway Stations, to McKee Barracks (and return) beginning at 1030hrs. Attendees will have access to McKee Barracks from 1100hrs and parking will be available.

The Minister for Defence, the Chief of Staff and the General Staff will be in attendance.

A Ceremonial Parade, presided over by the Minister for Defence, will take place at 1400hrs. ARCO, ONET and IUNVA, have been invited to provide a Representative Body to participate in the ceremony. This will consist of a short multi denominational religious service along with the laying of wreaths to honour fallen comrades.

Refreshments will be served from 1430hrs and a wide range of Military Displays will be on view from 1530hrs.

Inaugural Artillery Club's Decades' Reunion – *Wednesday* 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. To date, the attendance figure is at 19.

Attendees will RV in the Cadet's Mess for coffee at 1100hrs and will be received by Captain Harmon and Cadets currently in training. Attendees will be provided an opportunity of reviewing their respective class photograph albums, will visit Cadet accommodation and view the personal kit issued to Cadets.

Thereafter, attendees will move to Pearse Hall where they will receive a brief from Lieutenant-Colonel Byrne, which will be followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess. The cost of the lunch is €15, including a glass of wine.



The College Commandant Colonel Dave Dignam and Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Byrne will be the Club's guests at the lunch. The Club is sponsoring those Gunner Officers commissioned in 2016.

Gunner Officers of the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve officers commissioned in 1946, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 06, 16, who have yet to indicate their attendance are requested to contact President (ppakenham@eircom.net) as soon as possible.

Dress: Serving Officers: SD2, Retired Officers: Jacket and Tie.

75th Anniversary Glen Imall Training Accident – Friday 16 September 2016



During 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the Defence Forces 1 Anti-Aircraft Battery was expanded to an Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The Brigade consisted of two Medium Batteries, two Light Batteries and a Searchlight Battery with the Brigade Headquarters garrisoned in Portobello Barracks, Dublin. In 1940, the formation was designated as the 1 Anti-Aircraft Battalion.

In June 1941, some of the Battalion's personnel, garrisoned in Kildare Barracks (renamed Magee Barracks in 1952), were assigned to the newly established 12 pdr Battery. As with many units at the time, this Battery also trained in mines and explosives.

On 16 September 1941, fifteen personnel drawn from this Battery and the Depot and School Artillery Corps, (three Lieutenants, one Battery-Sergeant, two Sergeants, five Corporals and four Gunners), along with a Lieutenant Engineer Instructor, were accidentally killed when a training mine exploded. May they Rest in Peace.

In 1958, a stained glass window was dedicated in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, McKee Barracks, and in 1986, the Minister for Environment Mr John Boland T.D. unveiled a Monument at Seskin Bridge, honouring and commemorating the sixteen Defence Forces personnel who died on 16 September, 1941.



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The 1941 accident remains the single tragedy with the greatest casualties in the history of Óglaigh na Éireann. John Caffery, the last known survivor of the accident, and who was also involved in the evacuation of Dunkirk, died on 03 October 2011, aged 94.

As advised in Newsletter 2/2016, the Committee explored appropriate avenues to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of this tragic accident, including a submission to HQ Defence Forces Training Centre.

Brigadier-General Joe Mulligan, GOC Defence Forces Training Centre has kindly invited members of the Artillery Club to attend a commemoration ceremony at the monument at Seskin Bridge on Thursday 16 September at 1200hrs. Members who wish to attend the ceremony are requested to contact the President as soon as possible (ppakenham@eircom.net) . To date, 5 members have indicated that they will attend.

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, 24 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 a representative of 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.

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

ARCO's Wreath Laying Ceremony, Garden of Remembrance Friday, 7 October



The Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) will conduct a formal and solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance on Friday, 7 October, commencing at 1200hrs. The purpose of the ceremony is to remember, honour and commemorate the participants in the 1916 Easter Rising. The ceremony also recalls the involvement of members of the 39 and 40 Cadet Classes, in the commemorations marking the 50th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1966



As part of the Defence Forces contingent, both the 39 Cadet Class and the 40 Cadet Class marched in the Easter Parade on 10 April 1966. As the senior Cadet Class, the 39 Cadet Class provided the Guard of Honour at the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance on Easter Monday, 11 April 1966.

The Cadet School officers on parade on the Easter Parade included Major-General Kevin Duffy (Retd) RIP. Colonel Dave Betson (Retd) and Lieutenant-Colonel Nick O' Connor (Retd) were members of the 39 Cadet Class. Members of the 40 Cadet Class included Lieutenant-Colonel Enda Breslin (Retd), Lieutenant-Colonel Cormac Lalor (Retd), Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Twomey (Retd), Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Wickham (Retd), and Commandant Jack Burke (Retd).

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ARTILLERY CORPS

Promotions and Appointments

The names of Gunner Officers selected for promotion were included in Newsletter 2/2016. The Club's membership congratulates the following officers who were promoted in the recent past

- Colonel Brian Cleary, Director Combat Support and ISTAR (Designate), and
- Lieutenant-Colonel Shane Bradley, School Commandant The Artillery School.

Recovery of 18pdr from United States of America - 160831

In recent weeks, a potentially very significant 18-pounder Mark II field gun arrived back in Ireland having left for America in 1959 as part of a consignment of surplus Irish military equipment. This particular gun was manufactured in England during the First World War for the Royal Artillery may very well have later played a significant role in Irish history.

The gun was on display for many years in at the *Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre*, Woodbridge, Virginia 22194-0346. In 2015, Ken Christmas Smith of the US Army Museum, discovered that the gun was for sale and subsequently facilitated the interface between the gun's owner Mr Glenn Gates and Commandant Lar Joye of the National Museum of Ireland, resulting in the owner kindly donating the gun to the Irish Defence Forces.



On 1 February, 2016, Colonel Conor Fitzsimons Military Advisor Irish Permanent Representation (UNNY), Comdt Stephen MacEoin OIC Military Archives, and Commandant Lar Joye visited the location of the gun in West Virginia and negotiated its return to Ireland.



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Photographs include one of Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Carey collecting the Civil War 18 Pounder from Mr Glenn Gates in West Virginia. The Club acknowledges Commandant Lar Joye's commendable initiative in securing this gun for the Defence Forces. Commandant Joye is Curator in the National Museum Collins Barracks and the Club's Secretary.



The above photograph shows an 18 Pounder in action during the Civil War. Six 18-pounder guns (two Mark Is and four Mark IIs) were used in the Civil War. Between 1926 and 1941, the Artillery Corps acquired additional Mark I and Mark II, as well as the more modern Mark IV, 18-pounder guns from England. Research continues to identify the serial numbers of the original 18pdrs given to Irish Army in 1922 and the particular guns which fired on the Four Courts.

Minute Gun – National Day of Commemoration

The 2 Artillery Regiment fired a Minute Gun during the State Ceremony associated with the National Day of Commemoration on 10 July in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham.

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Artillery Regiments Mount Military Guard – National Memorial



Both the 1 and 2 Artillery Regiments mounted Military Guards at the National Memorial, Merrion Square during the months of July and August.

The National Memorial was unveiled by President Mary McAleese in November 2008 and is the National Memorial to members of the Defence Forces, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died in the service of the State. It is a place of contemplation and remembrance, where families, relatives and members of the public can reflect on the sacrifice our fallen comrades have made for Ireland.

Commemoration - Lieutenant Maurice Dease VC – 23 August



On 23 August 2016, a ceremony in honour of Lieutenant Maurice Dease VC, 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, took place in Coole, County Westmeath. Manning a machine gun, Lieutenant Dease was killed during action in Mons on 23 August 1914. The 2 Artillery Regiment provided the National Colour Flag Party, and Standards of the Royal British Legion, ONET and IUNVA were on parade.

The 2 Artillery Regiment's Colour Party consisted of Lieutenant Barry Piper, Sergeant John McDonnell and Sergeant Ollie MacNamee. Regimental Sergeant-Major Noel O'Callaghan is also in the photograph.

As part of the Decade of Centenaries, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, with the support of the Irish Government, has commissioned paving stones for all 24 recipients of the Victoria Cross during the First World War who were born in the Republic of Ireland. On 23

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August, 2014, the 100th anniversary of Lieutenant Dease's death, the first of the 24 commemorative Victory Cross Paving Stones was presented to Minster Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Corporal Gavin Carey, 2 Artillery Regiment RIP

Regretfully, the Artillery Club was advised of the tragic and accidental death of Corporal Gavin Carey, 2 Artillery Regiment, on Sunday, 28 August 2016, while swimming at Tullan, County Donegal. The thoughts of all members of the Artillery Club are with his immediate and extended family, and with the Regimental Commander, Officers and Enlisted Personnel of the 2 Artillery Regiment.

Following recruit training, Corporal Carey was assigned to the 4 Field Artillery Regiment, Columb Barracks, Mullingar. In 2009, as a Gunner, he served his country in the cause of peace with the 100 Infantry Battalion in Chad. Following the closure of Columb Barracks on 28 March 2012, he moved with the Regiment to Custume Barracks Athlone. With the disestablishment of the 4 Field Artillery Regiment in December 2012, he was assigned to the 2 Artillery Regiment in Athlone. Promoted Corporal in 2014, he successfully completed his Detachment Commanders Course in 2016. Recently, Corporal Carey was selected for service with the Mortar Troop, 109 Infantry Battalion due for deployment to South Lebanon with UNIFIL in May 2017.

Paying tribute to Cpl Carey, An Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny T.D. said *"On behalf of myself, as Taoiseach and Minister for Defence, and on behalf on all the citizens of the State, I want to express my sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of Corporal Gavin Carey following his tragic death. Gavin died as a serving member of the Defence Forces and I wish also to extend my sympathies to his colleagues in the 2 Artillery Regiment, Custume Barracks Athlone, at what is a very difficult time for them"*.

In offering condolences, the Chief of Staff, Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM said *"My thoughts are with Cpl Gavin Carey's family and friends at this very difficult time. As a soldier, he espoused the values we, as an organisation, hold dear. I would like to thank each of the agencies that helped with the search. Ar dheis Dé to raibh a anam."*

Corporal Gavin Carey RIP w/s accorded full military honours after funeral mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar, on 31 August, 2016. The Club's President represented the Artillery Club at the funeral, which was well attended by members of the Artillery Club, ONET and IUNVA who reside in Mullingar.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

The Club is grateful for the provision of the following photographs from the collection of Brigadier-General Tom McDunphy (Retd).

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GLEN IMAAL ARTILLERY SHOOT 1960 FCA
MCL. MARTIN BYRNE CLAUDE MALONE P. PATTERSON
ML O'CONNOR ML MALONE T. KAVANAGH



Cpl S. Moore, Comdt T.M. McDunphy, Lt K. O'Malley, Cpl P. Swan,
Cpl M. O'Malley. GLEN IMAAL 1960.

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THE ARTILLERY CLUB

September 2016

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 05 Sep 16)

Annex B: Coordinating Instructions Field Trip to Granada and Malaga (V 05 Sep 16)

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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 - 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)	14 Attendees with 1 Guest
30 June	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated – 01 July
9 July	Commemoration – Battle of the Somme - Islandbridge	President	Club Represented
10 July	National Day of Commemoration - RHK	President	Club Represented
16 July	Club Wreath Laying, National Memorial, Merrion Sq	President	Honour Guard – 2 Arty Regt
26 August	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner – Blarney Hotel Golf Club	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd) Comdt J. Burke (Retd)	27 Golfers + 8 Non-Golfers
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 (Retd)	19 attendees registered with 1 TBC
16 September	Defence Forces Commemoration 75 th Anniversary of Glen Explosion	CoL M. Smyth (Retd)	Calling Notice Issued 12 August
29 September	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
2 – 6 Oct	Field Trip – Granada & Malaga	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	24 Attendees Registered
12 November	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass – McKee Barracks	Secretary	
02 December	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch – Collins Bks Cork	Secretary	



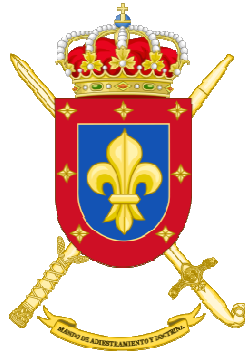
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Coordinating Instructions – Version 05 September 2016

Artillery Club's Field Trip – Granada and Malaga – 02 to 06 October 2016

Coordinator: Commandant Michael Flood (Retd)

(Changes in previous iterations highlighted)



Introduction

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, 24 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.

These Coordinating Instructions is iterative in nature and will be expanded as required and duly circulated to participants. Recommendations are welcome from all quarters.

Preparations

Participants are advised to check their passports upon receipt of these Coordinating Instructions, as the passport office are advising a six weeks turnaround at this time both for renewals and new applications.

Participants are also advised to have appropriate travel insurance and have in their possession a current European Health Insurance card.

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Participants are encouraged to bring appropriate dress, including Corps Tie, for the visit to MADOC.

Costs

All costs will accrue to Participants as they occur: Flights, Hotel, Internal Travel, Tours, Entrance Fees and Meals.

Whereas participants are free to select their own hotels in Granada and Malaga, it is considered desirable that favourable consideration be given to the recommended hotels, for obvious financial and coordination reasons.

Flights

Flights should be booked to Malaga Airport, and are available from Cork, Dublin and Belfast. Airlines operating flights to Malaga are Aer Lingus, Ryanair, Iberia Express and EasyJet.

Participants are requested to advise the Coordinator of their respective travel dates and times.

Internal Travel to Granada

Whereas there is no direct train service from Malaga to Granada, a regular coach service is available that operates directly from Malaga Airport and return. Distance: 124Kms via A92.

Participants are advised to directly prebook their coach ticket at www.alsa.es/en. One way ticket costs in the region of €12 and journey time is 2 hours 15 minutes approx.

Accommodation - Granada

The Club has secured a special overnight rate at the NH-Hesperia Hotel in Granada for Sunday 02 October, Monday 03 October and Tuesday 04 October.

Participants are responsible to make their required bookings direct by email at the following address .reservas@nh-hotels.com,

Special nightly rates are €86.66 per room, including breakfast, plus VAT @10% for double occupancy and €73.11 per room, including breakfast, plus VAT @10% for single occupancy.

When booking accommodation, please quote “Officers Granada “and use the booking reference 13244041. Participants are encouraged to book early as these rates expire on 31 July.

Participants are requested to advise the Coordinator when their booking have been made.

*The **Hesperia Granada** hotel is an elegant old building with an unbeatable location, right in the historic heart of Granada. It’s a short walk to the city’s most popular tourist spots, and it’s also very close to the city hall and the business district.*

Relocation to Malaga – 05 October

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On Wednesday 05 October, the Group will relocate to Malaga for one overnight.

Some participants have indicated that they are returning to Ireland on 05 October.

Participants over-nighting in Malaga may wish to travel together to Malaga, availing of local bus service, see above.

Accommodation – Malaga

The Group has obtained special rates for one night staying at the Hotel MS Maestranaza Malaga.

Participants are requested to advise the Coordinator when their bookings have been made.

Rates are €110 per room per night including, breakfast for double occupancy, and €100 per room per night for single occupancy.

Those over-nighting in Malaga are requested to book NLT 30 June, with Booking Reference “Artillery Officer” at maestranza@mshoteles.com for the attention of Marilo.

MS Maestranza Málaga is in central Málaga, just 100 metres from Malagueta Beach. It offers a rooftop terrace and hot tub with panoramic city views, and rooms with free Wi-Fi. The hotel is set next to the bullring and the Alameda Gardens. The Alcazaba and Gibralfaro Castle are also nearby.

Return to Ireland

Those travelling home to Ireland, will make their own travel arrangements to Malaga Airport: direct local bus from Granada (Wednesday 05 October), or local train from Malaga (Thursday 06 October)

Coordination

Participants are requested to advise Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) of their travelling dates, flight times and confirmation of hotel(s) booking, copy to Club President.

Recommendations

Participants are invited to make recommendations regarding the Field Trip for due consideration by the Coordinator – Commandant Michael Flood (Retd).

After Action Review

Participants are encouraged to make observations which will inform the Committee’s After Action Review.

Annex A. Programme

Annex B. Participants

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Programme

Artillery Club's Field Trip – Granada and Malaga – 02 to 06 October 2016

Sunday 02 October - Granada

Travel Day

Coordination Brief, RV in Hotel Lobby – time to be announced

Overnight in NH-Hesperia Hotel in Granada

Monday 03 October - Granada

The Group will be received by **the representative** of the Secretary-General (Chief MADOC), briefed on the Training and Doctrine Command and tour former convent which houses MADOC

Tour of the Cathedral and Royal Chapel

Lunch organised by MADOC (no mess facilities), cost €25 per person

Overnight in NH-Hesperia Hotel in Granada

Tuesday 04 October - Granada

Pickup at Hotel by MADOC transport

Availing of prebooked entrance tickets costing €13 per person (payable on 03 October), the Group will visit the palace and fortress complex of Alhambra

Dinner in local restaurant

Overnight in NH-Hesperia Hotel in Granada

Wednesday 05 October - Malaga

Movement to Malaga

City Tour: Roman Theatre, Plaza de la Merced, Santiago Church, Cathedral, Plaza del Obispo (Bishop's square) and Saint John's Church. Hop on Hop off Bus Service available with strategically-placed bus stops covering all the city's highlights

Hail and Farewell

Overnight in Hotel MS Maestranaza Malaga

Friday 06 October

Return to Ireland, or onward travel within Spain

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner



The Artillery Club – 08 Sep 16

Artillery Club's Field Trip – Granada and Malaga – 02 to 06 October 2016

List of Participants (24)

Number	Name	Date to Spain	Coach to Granada	Date from Spain	Hotel Granada	Hotel Malaga	Remarks
1 - 2	Paul & Nancy Pakenham	02 Oct EI 2580 0555hrs		06 Oct EI 589 2205hrs	Yes	Yes	
3 - 4	Michael & Ita Flood	24 Sep EI 586 2015hrs		06 Oct EI 587 2100hrs	Yes	Yes	
5 - 6	Chris & Nuala O'Flanagan	24 Sep		06 Oct	Yes	Yes	
7 - 8	Ray & Rosemary Twomey	02 Oct EI 2582 0950hrs		13 Oct	Yes	Yes	
9 - 10	John & Betty Miley	02 Oct EI 2580 0555hrs		06 Oct EI 589 2205hrs	Yes	Yes	
11	Eamonn Fogarty	02 Oct FR 7044 1005hrs	1600	15 Oct	Yes	N/A	
12	Richard Armstrong	02 Oct		05 Oct	Yes	N/A	
13	Dick Brady	02 Oct		05 Oct	Yes	N/A	
14	John O'Brien						
15 - 16	Joe Brady & Guest	N/A		N/A			By Car
17 - 18	Cormac & Eileen Lalor						
19 - 20	Tony & Mary Brogan	02 Oct EI		06 Oct EI	Yes	Yes	
21	John Hughes						
22 - 23	Larry & Eunice Holmes	N/A		N/A			By Car
24	Danny O'Connor	02 Oct		06 Oct			

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner