



TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER 4/2017



INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 3/2017 promulgated on 31 August, consisted of sections covering Governance, Club Activities, the Artillery Corps and Looking into the Past. The same format will be reflected in this Newsletter.

Since the publication of Newsletter 3/2017, through the medium of emails and website postings, members were provided with specific details for the Decades' Reunion, the Field Trip to Lisbon, Glen Shoot – Last Round, and the Annual Mass for Disbanded Artillery Units of the 2 Eastern Brigade.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include the Club's Website, Activity Reports, the Annual General Meeting & Saint Barbara's Lunch, and finally News from the Regiments. Photographs are credited to the Club Membership.

The Newsletter's *Looking into the Past Section* contains an extract from an article titled "*The 38th (Irish) Infantry Battalion: last unit in action in the Congo*" written by Dr James McCafferty DSM, BA (Hons), PhD. The extract refers to the action of Captain Tom Boyle's Heavy Mortar Troop serving with ONUC in 1962. The full article can be read on the Club's Website in the Publications Section.

The Director of Artillery, 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.

The Club's final activity for 2017 is the Annual General Meeting, followed by St Barbara's Day Lunch, taking place on Friday, 01 December in McKee Barracks, Dublin.

For record purposes, the Club's 2017 Diary of Events is attached as Annex A.

GOVERNANCE

2017 Outputs

During 2017, in addition to governance matters, the Committee approved four Newsletters before promulgation, significantly advanced the Website project, and executed, or participated in, 13 activities.

Committee Outputs

Since the 2017 AGM, the Committee convened on five occasions: 26 January in McKee Barracks, on 23 February in Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel, on 27 April in Collins Barracks Dublin, and on 29 June and 28 September in McKee Barracks. The Committee will reconvene on Friday, 01 December at 1000hrs, in McKee Barracks, prior to the Annual General Meeting. The first meeting in 2018 is scheduled for Thursday, 25 January 2018.

During 2017, the Committee advanced the Club's Website, planned various activities, and successfully executed the visit to the Air Corps in Baldonnel on 23 February, the Lecture and Weapon Display in the National Museum of Ireland on 27 April, the Field Trip to Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa (5 Fd Arty Regt FCA) on 22 & 23 June, the Field Trip to the Glen on 13 July, the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National Memorial on 22 July, the Annual Golf Outing on 24 August in Glasson, the Decades' Reunion on 13 September and the Foreign Field Trip to Lisbon from 01 through 05 October.

During 2017, the President and Committee Members represented the Artillery Club at various events including the National Day of Commemoration, Veterans' Day and the Cavalry Club's Annual Dinner. The President represented the Club at the Annual Cavalry Club's dinner in Cathal Brugha Barracks on 04 November.

Currently, the Committee is preparing the 2017 Annual General Meeting in McKee Barracks, Dublin on 01 December, and examining possible Club activities for 2018.

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 232 individuals, an increase of 110 recipients since 2015, and far exceeding the Membership strength of 157. 16 members are receiving Club information by means of normal post.

Annual Audit

The Club's financial records for period ended 31 October 2017 have been provided to the Auditor, and will be distributed in the context of the 2017 Annual General Meeting, taking place on Friday, 01 December in McKee Barracks.

Membership Subscriptions (€10) for the current year were due on 01 November. The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful to the 104 members who are currently paying their subscriptions by Standing Order.

Web Site

The Club's Website is accessible through www.artilleryclub.ie. The Webmaster is Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd).

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 provides information on a range of issues such as the Artillery Corps, Club Activities, Club Projects and Artillery Heritage.

Since the circulation of Newsletter 3/2017 on 31 August, the Website's Photo Gallery was populated with over 366 photos and 11 videos. In the same timeframe, the following postings were made on the Club's Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (4):** Newsletter 3/2017, Report on Golf Outing, Upcoming Activities and the AGM's Calling Notice.
- **Field Trips – Homepage (1):** Report on Lisbon.
- **Membership (1):** Revised Merchandise Catalogue
- **News and Events (1):** Diary of Events 2017
- **Photo Gallery**
 - **Artillery Corps:** 15 Albums
 - **Artillery Club:** 19 Albums
 - **RTE Archives:** 11 Video News Items
- **Publications – Information Section (4):**
 - **Artillery Corps:** An Cosantóir July 1973 and 75th Anniversary of the Artillery Corps – November 1998.
 - **Artillery Units:** Crested Notepaper 4 Fd Arty Regt.
 - **Overseas:** Hy Mor Tp - 38 Inf Bn ONUC

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.

Committee's Short Term Priorities

The Club's short term priorities are: 2017 Annual General Meeting scheduled for Friday, 01 December, in McKee Barracks, and the 2018 Activity Programme.

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 final version of the 2017 Diary of Events is attached as Annex A.

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, Regimental Commander 2 Artillery Regiment, School Commandant Artillery School, Commandant of the Military College, and the Glasson Hotel and Golf Club for events implemented during 2017.

Reports on Club Activities executed since the last Newsletter (3/2017), and information on remaining 2017 activities are outlined below.

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)

Gunner Officers of the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve officers commissioned in 1947, 57, 67, 77, 87, 97, 07, 17 were invited to participate in the second Decades' Reunion which took place in The Military College on 13 September.

See posting and photographs on Website.

13 members participated in the event, including Lt Gen N. Bergin DSM, and Maj Gen W. Dwyer and Col E.V. Champion who as members of the 30 Cadet Class were commissioned in 1957. Apologies were received from all officers not in attendance.



Following coffee in the Officers' Mess, the Club was formally received in the Cadets' Mess, where they received a comprehensive brief from Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Byrne DSM, Commandant The Cadet School, on the prevailing issues relating to cadetship induction, training and education.

Club members took the opportunity of reviewing their respective class photograph albums, and were briefed on the personal kit and weapons issued to Cadets. The College Commandant Colonel Michael Dawson and Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Byrne were the Club's guests at the lunch.



We remain grateful to Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Byrne DSM for making the resources of the Cadet School available throughout.

Pending the approval of the appropriate authorities, it is envisaged that the 2018 Decades' Reunion will be held in The Military College on Wednesday, 12 September for Gunner Officers commissioned in 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1998, 2008 and 2018.

Foreign Field Trip – Portuguese Combined School of Arms – 01 through 05 October – Coordinator: Commandant Michael Flood (Retd)



The Club's 2017 Foreign Field Trip took place from Sunday, 01 October to Thursday, 05 October visiting Lisbon, Portugal. Participation in the Field Trip was open to members of the Artillery Club and their spouses, or partners. 28 individuals participated in the Field Trip.

[See posting and photographs \(3 Albums\) on website.](#)

On arrival in Lisbon, following a review of the coordinating instructions, the Group dined in a local restaurant. Availing of a rented bus and a tour guide, on Monday 02 October, the Group visited the National Palace and Gardens at Queluz, explored Sintra, took photographs at Cabo da Roca (Europe's most western point) and indulged in local ice-cream in Caiscas.



Under the auspices of the Combined Arms School, the Group were conducted on an informative tour of the Military Museum on Tuesday 03 October, which housed an impressive display of artillery weapons and equipment.



Availing of military transport kindly provided by the Combined Arms School, the Group deployed to Mafra on Wednesday, 04 October. The Group was honoured to be accorded a formal reception on our arrival at the National Palace in the Scholar Acts Hall. A wide-ranging brief on the Combined Arms School's impressive outputs supporting the Portuguese Armed Forces, provided the Group with a comprehensive understanding of the extensive activities of the School – "*Se Mostrarão Nis Armas Singulares*".



The brief was followed by an impressive display of artillery equipment. Thereafter, the Group experienced Mafra's impressive architectural and religious heritage by visiting Mafra's National Palace, Convent and Basilica. The Group remains grateful to the Combined Arms School for hosting a most enjoyable lunch in the Archers Room, and for facilitating the exchange of gifts in the Elliptic Hall.



On arrival back in Lisbon, a Hail and Farewell took place in the Cervejaria Trindade restaurant, marking the end of a most rewarding and enjoyable Foreign Field Trip encompassing the Combined Arms School, the Military Museum, and despite the 7 Hills of Lisbon, finding time to visit local attractions such as the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, Castelo de São Jorge, Oceanário, Praca do Comércio, and experience Tram 28.

Annual Veterans' Day – 08 October

The Curragh was the location of the 4th Defence Forces Annual Veterans' Day which took place on Saturday, 08 October and was well attended by members of the Club. The event incorporated a Wreath Laying Ceremony, Veterans' Parade and an extensive equipment display.



The Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe, T.D. presented a Centenary Commemorative Plaque to the Organisation of National Ex-servicemen and Women (ONE), the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO), to acknowledge the central role played by veterans of the Defence Forces in the 1916 Centenary Commemorative events and to recognise their service to the State.

Commemoration – Battle of Passchendaele 10 November

Between the 31 July and 10 November 1917, an estimated 320,000 allied and between 260,000 and 400,000 German casualties, resulted from heavy fighting for a movement of the front line of only 8 kilometres in the West Flanders region of Belgium.



The Passchendaele Salute 2017, under the patronage of Mrs Janice Charette, High Commissioner for Canada, took place on 10 November 2017 at Fort Seclin, near Lille in France. Events included a ceremony of remembrance and 100 Gun Salute to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Battle of Passchendaele.

The Gun Salute was fired by 10 guns drawn by horses: 4 x 18pdrs; 3 x 13pdrs; one 4.5 Howitzer, 2 French 75s, and a 13pdr A/A gun on a Pierce Arrow 1917 lorry. The guns crews came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand, and UK.

Coordinated by Commandant Lar Joye, 18 serving and retired Gunner Officers and 2 spouses travelled to Lille, with the following crewing an 18 pdr Saluting Gun: Lieutenant-Colonel Eamonn Fogarty (Retd), Commandant Michael Sutcliffe, Lieutenant Mark Rasmussen (Retd), Lieutenant Niall Costello, Captain Tom Butler (Retd) and Commandant Lar Joye.



Arriving in Belgium on 08 November, the party toured the Belgium Bomb Squad facilities at Ypres. Gun training was conducted at Fort Seclin on 09 November. A Drumhead Service was conducted at 1100hrs on 10 November, followed by the 100 Gun Salute. A battlefield tour of the Battle of Passchendaele took place on 11 November, with the party returning home on 12 November.

Annual General Meeting & Saint Barbara's Lunch – 01 December



The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, 01 December in the Auditorium, School of Catering, McKee Barracks, Dublin, followed by the Annual Saint Barbara's Lunch in the Defence Forces Officers' Mess.

The Calling Notice and associated documentation was posted on the Club's website and circulated by email to members on 07 November.

Please note coffee will be available in the Officers' Mess from 1030hrs. The Saint Barbara's Lunch, costing €30 per person, including wines, will take place in the Mess at 1330hrs.

Please notify the Club's Secretary Commandant Lar Joye (larjoye@gmail.com) of your intention to attend both the AGM and Lunch, or otherwise, NLT Friday, 24 November. Mobile: 086 8605678. Include the Club's President in associated emails.

For administrative purposes, those attending the Saint Barbara's Lunch are requested to pay the cost of the lunch (€30) directly to Colonel Tom O'Callaghan NLT Friday, 24 November, by post to the following address: The Military College, Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh, County Kildare. Email address: tom_ocallaghan@hotmail.com

Alternatively, those attending the lunch can SEPA transfer the €30, NLT 24 November, directly into The Artillery Club's Bank Account, Bank of Ireland Kildare Town. Please cross reference your SEPA transfer with your full name and reference to "Lunch 01 Dec 17".

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BIC CODE: BOFIIIE2D

Alternative Use of Containers



Observed by Colonel Michael Smyth (Retd) in Spain – captions welcomed!!

ARTILLERY CORPS

STA Detachment - 55 Infantry Group – Golan Heights - UNDOF



Left to Right: Cpl Brendan O'Connell (1Arty Regt), Gnr Ronan Guerin, Lt Patrick Wilson, Gnr Robert Sinnott (2 Arty Regt) & Sgt Alan Smyth (Arty Sch) .

56 Infantry Group – Golan Heights - UNDOF

The 2 Artillery Regiment is the lead unit for the 56 Infantry Group which deployed to the Golan Heights in September under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Dermot Hanifin.



Photographs show Lieutenant-Colonel Hanifin, Commandants Noel Maher (DCO), Jamie Swan (MP Officer) during the Ministerial Review in Athlone, and Lieutenant James McKeon (S8/PIO/STA) on the Golan Heights.

110 Infantry Battalion - UNIFIL



Personnel of 2 Artillery Regiment serving with Heavy Mortar Troop: Sergeant Murty Purfield with his detachment of Gunnners Jason Bannon, Conor O Connell and Larry Whelan.

EU Training Mission Mali



Sergeant Billy Wykes, 2 Artillery Regiment in his capacity as a Tactical Instructor, conducting Artillery deployment training.

Training with the Royal Artillery - October

On 06 October, a Fire Support Team consisting of personnel from both the 1 Artillery Regiment and the 2 Artillery Regiment deployed to Catterick and participated in a STA Patrols course with the 4/73 Battery Royal Artillery. Lieutenant Barry Piper was OIC of the Fire Support Team.



Last Rounds – Glen Imaal – 09 November

Assembling at Keogh's House, serving and retired members of the Artillery Club availed of the invitation of Lieutenant-Colonel John Prendergast, School Commandant, to witness Empty Guns, with retiring gunners including Lt Col Noel Murphy, Comdt Derek Hanley, RSM John Morris, Artillery School and RSM Noel O'Callaghan 2 Artillery Regiment firing their Last Round.

Colonel Brian Cleary, Director of Artillery, welcomed everyone and provided an insight into the careers of the retiring gunners. Colonel Ray Yorke, Director of Training, Colonel Tom O'Callaghan, Commandant Command and Staff School, and former Directors: Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd), Colonel Michael Dunne (Retd), and Colonel Jim Prendergast (Retd), together with Colonel Tom Carter (Retd), Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd) and Colonel Conor Fitzsimons (Retd) were in attendance.



Attendees appreciated the School's renowned hospitality and availed light refreshments before the shoot.

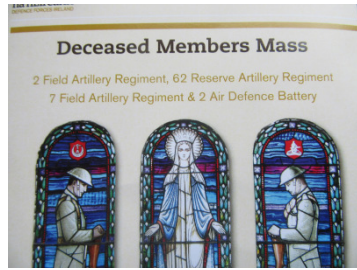


[See Club's website for photo album](#)

On behalf of all members of the Artillery Club, the Committee salutes the commendable service of all those who fired their Last Round in the Glen, for their distinguished service at home and abroad with the Permanent Defence Force and the United Nations, and wishes them, and their respective families all the best for the future.

Units' Annual Mass and Wreath Laying – 11 November

The Annual Commemorative Mass for deceased personnel of the 2 Field Artillery Regiment, 62 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA), 7 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) and 2 Air Defence Battery (FCA), took place in the Garrison Church, McKee Barracks on Saturday 11 November. The celebrant was Rev Fr Pat Mernagh CF.



Following the Mass, a Wreath Laying Ceremony took place at the Flag Pole after which attendees adjourned to the Catering Complex for refreshments. Wreaths were laid by the Director of Artillery, Col Brian Cleary, on behalf of the units, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd) on behalf of the Artillery Club, by the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association and the Dublin Artillery Association.



BQMS Paul Glifford coordinated the ceremonial, musical honours were rendered by instrumentalists from the School of Music. Sergeant Anto Byrne (Retd) played a Piper's Lament.



See Club's website for photo album: artilleryclub.ie.

As in previous years, the event was very well attended by both serving and retired personnel of the Artillery Corps and, in particular, by families with an Artillery connection.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

Extract from "The 38th (Irish) Infantry Battalion: last unit in action in the Congo" written by Dr James McCafferty DSM, BA (Hons), PhD

The following extracts from an article, kindly provided by its author, refers to the action of Captain Tom Boyle's Heavy Mortar Troop in 1962, serving with ONUC. The full article can be viewed on the Club's website. Three members of the Heavy Mortar Troop were subsequently awarded the DSM: Capt Tom Boyle 4 Fd Arty Regt, Sgt John Quirke 4 Fd Arty Regt and Cpl Bobby Allen 4 Fd Arty Regt.

“The 38th (Irish) Infantry Battalion (38 IrBatt) was the last Irish unit to engage in combat operations with UN forces in the Republic of the Congo. Formed on 1 November 1962, commanded by Lt. Col. P. J. Delaney, Military College, the battalion began its departure on 7 November 1962.....”.

“.....In their base at Camp Prince Leopold Farm, 38 IrBatt were engaged in ground and helicopter reconnaissance, trenching works at the camp and on-going weapon training. The establishment of 38 IrBatt included a troop of 120 mm heavy mortars – the largest calibre weapon used by the Irish army in the Congo. Remarkably, and almost without exception, the personnel of this mortar troop were drawn from the same parent unit in Ireland – the 4th Field Artillery Regiment – then stationed at Mullingar, Co. Westmeath”.....

“.....On 28 December 1962, the President of Katanga, Moise Tshombe, made an abortive attempt to stop firing by his own forces: this attempt failed, and Indian UN troops in brigade strength commenced a series of attacks in Elisabethville. The 120 mm heavy mortar troop of 38 IrBatt was detached to the Indian UN brigade during this phase of operations - directed against radio communication centres and Katangese gendarmerie positions.....”.

“.....The 120 mm heavy mortar troop, which had been detached, to the Indian UN brigade, was in continuing action with them in Elisabethville before moving to support the Ethiopian battalion on an attack on a Katangese Gendarmerie strongpoint known as ‘Simba Hill’ en route to Kipushi. At the conclusion of this latter phase of action, 38 IrBatt heavy-mortar troop supported their own battalion as they closed on Kipushi. Following the Kipushi operation, the heavy mortar troop was moved back to the Indian UN brigade as they assaulted Jadotville and then Kolwezi, Katanga.

This meant that the men who manned the 120 mm mortars were in action on a continuous basis from 28 December 1962 to 21 January 1963. The unit history of 38 IrBatt describes the effect of this heavy mortar fire thus:

The devastating effect of the 120 mm mortar on the Katangese gendarmerie has been borne out at all stages of the operation. The efficiency of the 38 Battalion Heavy Mortar Troop and its application to duty has been evidenced in the many public statements and citations given by all concerned.

In this period of action, 38 IrBatt heavy mortar troop fired a total of 225 mortar bombs: by way of comparison, in a shoot at Glen of Imaal in February 2017, 2 Artillery Regiment fired a total of 150 bombs.¹ The report of the heavy mortar troop in the 38 IrBatt unit history lists a number of conclusions – clearly intended as guidance for future operations, on the basis of ‘lessons learned’. The main points made were the importance of highly skilled crews and that each gun-towing vehicle should be capable of also carrying ammunition – the Land Rover vehicles used were not powerful enough to tow the weapon, carry crews and ammunition also....”.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Serving and retired Gunner Officers are encouraged to provide information, news and photographs, for publication in the Club’s Newsletters.

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.

THE ARTILLERY CLUB

November 2017

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 15 Nov 17)

¹ Source: - RSM Noel O’Callaghan, 2 Artillery Regiment



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	Minutes Circulated
08 July	Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	Club Represented
09 July	National Day of Commemoration - RHK	President	Club Represented
13 July	Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	30 Attendees (Serving & Retired)
22 July	Wreath Laying, National Memorial, Merrion Square	President	Club Represented
24 August	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner – Glasson Hotel Golf Club	Comdt C. O’Flanagan (Retd) Lt Col R.Twomey (Retd)	23 Attendees – See Website
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)	13 Attendees – See Website
08 October	Defence Forces Veterans’ Day - DFTC	Secretary	
28 September	Committee Meeting – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
01 – 05 Oct	Field Trip – Portuguese Artillery School, Lisbon	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	28 Attendees – See Website
09 November	Gunner Officers & RSMs’ Last Round – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	Calling Notice – 02 Nov 17
11 November	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass – McKee Barracks	Secretary	Calling Notice – 18 Oct 17
01 December	AGM and St Barbara’s Day Lunch – McKee Bks	Secretary	Calling Notice - 07 Nov 17