



The Artillery Club – 30 Jun 18

TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB's NEWSLETTER 2/2018



INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 1/2018 promulgated on 25 February, 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 1/2018, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details regarding upcoming activities such as the Field Trip to Birr and Templemore, the Gala Dinner, and the Foreign Field Trip to Vienna.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include Data Protection and Privacy Policy, Activity Reports, Planned Activities, and finally News from the Regiments. Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office and the Club Membership.

Looking into the Past, contains an extract from an article published in the November 1973 edition of An Cosantóir, titled “At the Beginning”, written by Lieutenant-General P.A. Mulcahy (Retd). This particular edition of An Cosantóir marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps, and can be viewed on the Club's Web Site.

The School Commandant and Regimental Commanders are requested to post this Newsletter on IKON, circulate it to all Permanent Defence Force and Army Reserve 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 Club activities include the Gala Dinner on Thursday 05 July, Guard Mounting Ceremony (2 Arty Regt) on Saturday 18 July at the National Memorial, and the Golf Outing on Thursday, 23 August. The current version of the Diary of Events for 2018 is posted on the Club's website and is attached as Annex A.

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner

GOVERNANCE

Focus for 2018

Mindful of the Club's objectives as prescribed in the Rules, the focus remains on executing appropriate activities, enhancing its Website, extending its Membership base and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events.

Outputs 2018

During 2018, the Committee convened on two occasions: 25 January in McKee Barracks, on 22 February in Dublin Port, 26 April in Cathal Brugha Barracks Dublin, and on 28 June in McKee Barracks.



The Committee will reconvene on 27 September in McKee Barracks.

To-date, the Committee has developed the diary of events for 2018, conducted initial planning for the various activities, and successfully executed the Field Trip to Dublin Port on 22 February, Field Trip to Cathal Brugha Barracks on 26 April, and the recent Field Trip to Birr and Templemore (3 Fd Arty Regt and 31 Fd Arty Regt) on 21/22 June.

Data Protection and Privacy Policy

On 28 June, the Committee approved the Artillery Club's Data Protection and Privacy Policy.

The purpose of the Policy is to protect the rights, privacy and personal information of the Club's members in accordance with the Data Protection Acts, 1988 – 2003, and the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective from 25th of May 2018.

In addition to routine governance, the Policy covers the Club's website, emails, and individual photographs.

The Policy will be shortly posted on the Club's Web Site (www.artilleryclub.ie) within the About Us Section.

Co-opted Committee Member

During the April meeting, Col Brian O'Connor (Retd) was formally co-opted on to the Committee.

Communications

In addition to posting information on the Club's Website, the circulation of Newsletters, Activity Information, Calling Notices and Death Notices is primarily by means of email.

The Club's Email Contact List for this Newsletter is 261 individuals, an increase of 10 from the previous Newsletter, and far exceeding the Membership strength of 177. Currently, 15 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.

As of 28 June, the membership is 177, compared with 159 in October 2016, 129 in October 2015, and 96 in October 2014.

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

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the current year were due on 01 November, 2017. To date, 126 of the 177 members have paid their annual subscription.

The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription (€10) is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful to the 112 members who are currently paying their subscriptions by Standing Order.

The Curragh Military Museum

During the 2017 Annual General Meeting, members unanimously agreed that the Artillery Club, within its competencies, would offer GOC Defence Forces Training Centre the means to support and maintain the Artillery display in the Curragh Military Museum on behalf of the Artillery Corps. On 11 January, the President submitted a proposed framework to the GOC Defence Forces Training Centre. On 26 April, the Committee appointed a Working Group consisting of Col Brian O'Connor (Retd), Comdt Lar Joye, Col Seamus McDermott (Retd) and RSM John Morris (Retd).

Web Site

The Club's Website is accessible through www.artilleryclub.ie. Since the circulation of Newsletter 1/2018, the following postings were made on the Club's Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (7):** Newsletter 1/2018, 95th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps, Obituary - Col M.D. Shannon (Retd) RIP, Defence Forces Veterans' Day, Field Trip Birr & Templemore, Foreign Filed Trip Vienna, and Gala Dinner.
- **News and Events (2):** Newsletter 1/2018, Updated Diary of Events 2018.

- **Photo Gallery**
 - **Artillery Corps:** Nil.
 - **Artillery Club (2):** Field Trips: Cathal Brugha, Birr & Templemore.
- **Information Section (1):** Unit Flashes.
- **Publications Section (0):**
 - **Artillery Corps:** Nil
 - **Overseas:** Nil

Currently, the Picture Gallery contains 17 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 23 Albums on the activities of the Artillery Club.

Members are reminded that only a small portion of the Website requires text population including *Artillery Corps Disposition and History*, and *Corps Units' Disposition and History*.

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: Gala Dinner, Golf Outing, Foreign Field Trip to Vienna, Artillery Wing – Curragh Military Museum, Membership (PDF and AR) and interface with other Corps Clubs.

ACTIVITIES

Diary of Events - 2018

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. As already mentioned the current version of the 2018 Diary of Events is posted on the Club's website and attached as Annex A.

Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledges the support provided by Dublin Port Company, OC Cathal Brugha Barracks, Director DF School of Music, the Garda Training College, and Birr Castle for activities already implemented during 2018.

Reports and Information

Reports on activities executed since the last Newsletter (1/2018), and information on future activities are outlined below.

Return Visit to Portuguese Artillery School – 23 April. Comdt Richie Armstrong (Retd) and Capt Dick Brady (Retd), accompanied by their respective spouses, paid a return visit to the All Arms School in Mafra, and made a presentation to Capt Jorge Nascimento of a pewter 105mm Gun replica on behalf of the Artillery Club for display in the St Barbara's room.

(Note the Unit Flash in the background.) See Newsletter 4/2017 for report on the Club's Foreign Trip to Lisbon.



Visit to UNIFIL – McKee Officers' Club – April

Marking the 60th Anniversary of Defence Forces deployment to Lebanon, McKee Officers' Club conducted an extensive trip to the Lebanon, which included visits to UNIFIL HQ and the Irish Battalion's Area of Operation.



Gunner Officers who participated included Col Billy Nott (Retd), Col Ned Campion (Retd), Lt Col Richard O'Leary (Retd), Comdt Rory de Bruir (Retd), Comdt Michael Flood (Retd), Capt Tom Nolan (Retd) and Capt Dick O'Connor (Retd).

Visit to Cathal Brugha Barracks: 26 April (Col Conor Fitzsimons Retd).

The Artillery Club conducted a successful and memorable Field Trip to Cathal Brugha Barracks on 26 April. The extensive programme included a brief by Commandant Margaret Bannister on the Defence Forces School of Music, a rehearsal by the Army Number 1 Band under the baton of Captain John Carpenter, and an informative insight into Military Archives by Captain Daniel Ayiotis, and an impressive conducted tour of the Visitors' Centre by Company Sergeant Masterson.



Commandant Bannister's forthright insight into the remarkable history, impressive outputs and numerous challenges facing the School of Music was appreciated by all. She reminded us that the School's instrumentalists, serving in the Defence Forces military and pipe bands, are a valuable national asset, making a significant impact on Ireland's rich musical and cultural heritage. Commandant Bannister's presentation enhanced our understanding, that irrespective of rank, personnel of the School of Music, whose careers, on average, span 40 years, closely protect their artistic integrity and rich legacy, in the art and science of military music.



Following Captain Ayiotis's comprehensive brief, members of the Artillery Club now have an enhanced understanding of the role of Military Archives in acquiring, preserving and making available the documentary heritage of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board. The Club commends the work of the professionally trained archivists in cataloguing and digitising significant collections such as the Bureau of Military History, the Civil War and the Military Service Pensions Collection. Your online collections, including the 1922 Irish Army Census and Image Gallery, facilitate worldwide research.

During the informative tour of the refurbished Military Archives, one of the cultural legacies of the 2016 Centenary Programme, participants on the Field Trip were very impressed with the Reading Room, Conservation Room and Storage Room, which enhance the capability of safeguarding and making accessible Ireland's military heritage for future generations.

Members of the Artillery Club are encouraged to participate in the Oral History Programme under the auspices of Military Archives.



The Visitors' Centre is dedicated to the memory of Francis Sheehy Skeffington, Thomas Dickson and Patrick McIntyre, newspaper editors and pacifists, who were arrested and executed without trial, in the guardroom exercise yard on 26 April 1916. The displays include personal memorabilia that belonged to General Michael Collins, such as his writing desk, the flag that draped his coffin, and his death mask. Uniforms on view include a Blue Hussar's tunic.

Participants also availed of the renowned facilities of the Officers' Mess for coffee and a most enjoyable lunch.

See website for event photographs

Defence Forces Veterans' Day



Collins Barracks Dublin was the location of the 5th Defence Forces Annual Veterans' Day which took place on Sunday, 13 May and was well attended by members of the Club. The event incorporated a Wreath Laying Ceremony, Veterans' Parade and a reception in McKee Barracks.

Field Trip to Templemore and Birr – 3 & 31 Fd Arty Regts: 21/22 June (Comdt Derek Coulter Retd)

The Club's successful Field Trip to the midlands commenced with a visit to the Garda College in Templemore on Thursday, 21 June where the 24 participants, including 5 spouses, were formally received by the curator of the Garda Museum, Sergeant John Reynolds. Following lunch, the Group received a conducted tour of the College. Sergeant Martin Fogarty welcomed the Group to the training enter for D Company 3 Infantry Battalion, formally the HQ of 31 Field Arty Regiment. Subsequently, Sergeant John Reynolds provided

the Group with a comprehensive brief on the history of policing in Ireland, McCan Barracks and An Garda Síochána.



Thereafter, the Group re-assembled at Templemore Town Hall and viewed two refurbished 4.5inch howitzers on permanent display due to the commendable efforts of the McCan Branch of ONET, along with an impressive engraved granite stone from Glen Imaal.

Having arrived in Birr, attendees booked into Dooley's Hotel and Emmet House, availed of the hotel's facilities and enjoyed a communal dinner, before retiring at an appropriate hour.

On Friday, 22 June, Comdt Derek Coulter (Retd) provided an interesting insight into the history of the 3 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA), the 31 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) and Crinkill Barracks. The Barracks was the Depot for the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadian) from 1882 to 1922.



The Group was formally welcomed to Birr Castle, Gardens and Science Centre by the 7th Earl of Rosse and Lady Rosse for an adapted and focussed tour of the Demesne. Following his father's and grandfather's footsteps, Lord Rosse was commissioned in the Irish Guards and served in Egypt, Jordan with the Arab Legion, and later in Switzerland and Austria. His service with the United Nations Development Programme from 1960 through 1978 saw him deployed initially in Ghana, and thereafter in New York, Iran, Bangladesh and Algeria.

Lord Rosse advised that his father served during the Second World War, and his grandfather the 5th Earl of Ross, William Edward Parsons, a major in the 1 Battalion Irish Guards was mortally wounded at the Battle of Fesubert in 1915 and died in June 1918.

Lord and Lady Rosse kindly devoted a considerable amount of their time in bringing the Group on a private tour of the Castle, home of the Parsons family since 1620, including the Great Hall, Dining Room, Muniments Room, Music Room, Drawing Room, and Library.



Birr Castle experienced two sieges, the first in the 1640s when the family moved for a time to London, before returning at the end of the Cromwellian period. In 1690, the castle was besieged by Patrick Sarsfield, but of no avail. Having observed the impact of cannon on the walls of the Castle, the Group offered to conduct a crater analysis to determine where Sarsfield had his gun lines.

A sample of the vast range of artefacts held in the Castle was displayed to the Group, including the Colour of the Kings County Rifles, the 3rd Earl of Rosse's (1800 – 1867) Blue Ribbon and Star of the Order of the Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, a Plan of the Volunteer Army on parade on 20 September 1784, which included the Parsons Town Artillery, and the sword and medals of the 5th Earl of Rosse, who was buried in Birr, on 10 June 1918, 100 years ago.

The Group was briefed by Archivist Lisa Shortall in the Castle's Muniments Room, location of the estate's extensive archives. The diary (some in code, yet to be broken) of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Wentford KB Chief of Staff to Field Marshal Wade was made available. The diary, from 1745, covered military actions during the Jacobite Rebellion. Ms Shorthall also provided sight of correspondence from 1828 between Lord Oxmantown future 3rd Earl of Rosse and the Duke of Wellington. The Duke diplomatically rejected a recommended strategy for the "forcing" the Dardanelles.



Leaving the castle, Lord Rosse led the Group on a walk through the garden terraces, explaining some of the many variations of rare trees and herbaceous plants. Walking through meadows which were not ploughed since 1620, the Group was shown the Carroll Oak, planted over 500 years ago. Lord Rosse provided a extensive brief on the Great Telescope

built by the 3rd Earl of Rosse in 1845, which was the world's largest telescope up to 1917. Using this telescope, the 3rd Earl discovered the Whirlpool Nebulae, the very first hint at the existence of other galaxies, reflected in the motto: "*Pro Deo et Patria ad Astra - For God and Country to the Stars*".



The Club remains grateful of opportunity of visiting Birr Castle and availing of the hospitality of Lord and Lady Rosse. In the Whirlpool Spiral, a plantation of lime trees in the shape of the Galaxy, planted on the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the M51, a presentation of the Club's Plaque and Tie was made to Lord Rosse.



Following lunch in the Castle Courtyard, "in their own time", participants in the Field Trip visited the Radio Telescope (1 – LOFAR) built in 2017, the Science Centre and Formal Gardens.

Birr Castle is a valuable national asset, testimony to lives of the Parsons Family over the past 400 years in astronomy, photography, engineering, botany and service to the State and its institutions.



A key objective of this Field Trip, namely an opportunity for former Gunner Officers of the 3 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) and 31 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) to muster, was a resounding success. In addition, the Field Trip yielded an additional 3 email cords and 1 postal address of former colleagues of these Regiments. The Committee acknowledges the work of Commandant Derek Coulter Retd), ably supported by Captain Eoin Wolohan (Retd) in planning and executing the memorable and most enjoyable Field Trip.

See Web Site for photographs of the Field Trip.

60th Anniversary – Peacekeeping Operations



The 60th Anniversary of participation by Ireland in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations was celebrated in Dublin Castle on Sunday 24 June, led by An tUachtarán Michael D. Higgins. Members of the Artillery Club were in attendance.

Gala Dinner: 95th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps

The Artillery Corps was established on 23 March 1923.

As previously advised, to mark the 95th Anniversary of the establishment of The Corps on 23 March 1923, the Artillery Club will host a formal Gala Dinner in DFHQ Officers' Mess, on Thursday, 05 July, 1930hrs for 2000hrs. The Chief of Staff Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM and Mrs Elizabeth Mellett will be our guests of honour at this significant event.

The formal Gala Dinner is open to members and spouses / partners. As of 30 June, the attendance is 72.

The cost of the six course meal, including wine and gratuities, is €55. **Personnel attending are requested to pay for the cost of the meal by either by Bank through SEPA Transfer, or by Cheque posted to Col Tom O'Callaghan, DFHQ, McKee Barracks, Blackhorse Avenue, Dublin 07 A065.**

Order of Dress: Dress Uniform or equivalent. Medals will be worn.

For record purposes, photographs may be taken at this event, some of which may be posted in the Photo Gallery of the Club's website: www.artilleryclub.

Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: 23 August (Col Tom Carter Retd & Comdt Chris O’Flanagan Retd)

The Club’s Annual Golf Outing takes place on Thursday, 23 August 2018 at the Hermitage Golf Resort, Killenard, County Laois by dinner in 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 08 February, and duly posted on the Club’s Website. A limited number of rooms have been reserved in the Golf Resort for Members and Guests at reasonable rates.



For those yet to confirm participation or to book accommodation, are requested to contact Comdt Chris O’Flanagan (Retd) or Col Tom Carter (Retd).

Arty Decades’ Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1948-2018, 12 September (Col Mick Smyth Retd).

This annual event, now in its third year, envisages assembly at 1100hrs 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 1948, 58, 68, 78, 88, 98, 2008 and 2018, are requested to contact the Club’s President (ppakenham@eircom.net) and the Event Coordinator (michaelsmyth007@gmail.com).

Calling Notice later.

Foreign Field Trip Vienna: 07 – 11 October (Comdt Michael Flood Retd)



The Artillery Club's 2018 Foreign Field Trip will take place in Vienna, with Sunday, 07 October and Thursday, 11 October the travel days. The trip centralises on a visit to the Austrian Land Forces College, including the Artillery School, in Zwölfaxing, on 09 October. The Calling Notice issued on 06 June included a comprehensive CONOPS for the Field Trip.

In addition to the Artillery School, the programme includes visits to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE, the HGM-Kliege (Austrian Military Museum), the UN International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Spanish Riding School.

The Field Trip is open to members of the Artillery Club and their respective spouses. As in the successful trips in 2015 to Madrid and Segovia, in 2016 to Granada and Malaga, and in 2017 to Lisbon, Comdt Michael Flood (Retd) is the Tour Coordinator.

Participants are requested to advise Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) by email mike5555@gmail.com of their travelling dates, flight times and hotel reservation number, copy to Club President ppakenham@eircom.net

ARTILLERY CORPS

Home Appointments – Since Newsletter 1/2018

The Club's Committee and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Gunner Officers who were recently posted to the following appointments:

- Col Tim Daly: Deputy Commander and Executive Officer, HQ 1 Brigade
- Lt Col Dermot Hanifin: School Commandant, The Artillery School (OC 56 Inf Gp UNDOF)
- Lt Col John Prendergast: OC 2 Artillery Regiment, (Comdt, Arty Sch)
- Comdt Noel Maher: SO D Combat Sp and ISTAR

Overseas Appointments – Since Newsletter 1/2018

The Committee and all Members wish successful tours and safe return journey to the following Artillery Corps officers who are serving overseas, or who are due to deploy on overseas duty in the coming months:

- Capt Cillian Browne, 2 Arty Regt – 112 Inf Bn UNIFIL
- Lt Alexander Quigley, 2 Arty Regt – 112 Inf Bn UNIFIL
- Lt P. Wilson, 2 Arty Regt – 112 Inf Bn UNIFIL
- Comdt A. Keating, 1 Arty Regt – UNTSO
- Lt Col Denis Hanley, J1 DFHQ – UNTSO (July 2018)
- Capt E. Gallagher, HQ DFTC – MONUSCO
- Lt Col J. McCrann, 2 Arty Regt – NATO HQ
- Lt Col K. O'Sullivan, 1 Arty Regt – EUMS (July 2018)
- Lt P. Piper, 2 Arty Regt – 57 Inf Gp UNDOF
- Comdt E. McDaid, 2 Arty Regt – UNTSO
- Comdt R. McDermott, Mil Col – UNTSO
- Lt Col D. Power, DFHQ – EUMS

- Col P. Whelan, SPB COS Div – NATO HQ
- Lt Col F. Costello, Mil Col – KFOR
- Lt Col Ray Kane, Mil Col – EUTM Mali

Retirements - Since Newsletter 1/2018

The Club's Committee and Members commend the distinguish service both at home and overseas, and wish continued success to Lt Col Mervyn Farrell Regimental Commander, 2 Artillery Regiment, following his retirement from Óglaigh na hÉireann on 07 May.

53 Young Officers Course

The latest Young Officers Course commenced in the Artillery School on 05 February. 15 students are participating in the course, including the 12 officers of the 93 Cadet Class posted to the Artillery Corps on 24 January. The Class President is Capt Phil O'Leary. The Course will end on 27 July

Stand Down Parade – RSM Michael Dillon

RSM Michael Dillon's Stand Down Parade takes place in McKee Barracks, Dublin, on Wednesday 15 August at 1500hrs followed by a presentation in the Garrison NCOs' Mess. After almost 43 years of loyal and professional service to the State, its Defence Forces and, in particular, its Artillery Corps, RSM Dillon's final appointment is with Ceremonial Section, J1 DFHQ.

RSM Dillon served in the following Artillery Units: 1 Fd Arty Regt and 2 Fd Arty Regt. His overseas service was with:

- The 47, 57, 64, 106, 109, 110, Infantry Battalions UNIFIL;
- The IRSG RWANDA UNAMIR;
- The Irish Military Police Company SFOR;
- The 4 Irish Component UNTAET,
- The 93 Infantry Battalion UNMIL,
- The 99 Infantry Battalion EUFOR (Chad), and
- The 102 Infantry Battalion MINURCAT

Values Champion Inagural Award



The inaugural Defence Forces Values Champion Awards took place in McKee Barracks, Dublin on 11 May, recipients, which included RSM Noel Muldarry (Retd) 2 Artillery Regiment, “*demonstrated*

the highest standards of faithful adherence and commitment to your comrades in Óglaigh na hÉireann and to the citizens of Ireland". The Defence Forces values are Respect, Loyalty, Selflessness, Physical Courage, Morale Courage and Integrity.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

The following is an extract from an article published in An Cosantóir November 1973, titled "At the Beginning", written by Lieutenant-General P.A. Mulcahy (Retd).

"I WISH first to express my pleasure on being invited to contribute to the commemorative Artillery issue of AN COSANTOIR, but hasten to add that I hope, speaking of events which took place 50 years ago, I will be forgiven any lapses of memory which might give offence.

Before dealing with the actual formation of the Corps, I think it is necessary to set the scene prior to that event, so that the reader will have some idea of the many difficulties that had to be overcome.

Prior to the 11th July, 1921, this country was occupied and in a state of war: there were Flying Columns throughout the country. I was in north Tipperary with one of those Columns. The Truce came and we were given various assignments, e.g., I was one of a number of officers who took over the various Barracks from the British, Birr for example. That in itself would be an interesting, story, but has nothing to do with Artillery.

We were in Birr for some time when I was instructed to take over the old Hospital in Maryborough, now Portlaoise, as a Military Post. While there I started a School of Signal Instruction. I had no instructions to do this, but I thought that it would be very useful if the body of men which I had were trained in Signals, or I sup-post a better word, communications, something I was particularly interested in. We were there several months; then the Civil War came on and, of course, we all took our part in that.

One day I was instructed to report to G.H.Q., which was in Portobello Barracks at the time, where I was interviewed by the then Chief-of- Staff, Lt. Gen. Sean McMahon. He informed me that they were about to form an Artillery Corps and that I was being put in charge! I remember saying: " But, Sir, I know nothing about artillery." " Neither do any of us," he said, " but still you are going in charge of it." He continued: " I will nominate two officers and you can pick the remainder yourself and when that is completed submit an organisation."

I went back to Portlaoise to start selecting. We had a lot of officers at the time and many were unwilling to sign up as regulars and stay in the Army, but fortunately there were a few whom I had selected who were willing to stay, namely Paddy Maher (later Col.), Tom Finlay (later Comdt.—jumping team) and Ned O'Leary (later Comdt.)

So with these three, I set out for Dublin and was instructed to set up my Headquarters in Islandbridge Barracks, now Clancy Barracks, which at the time was mainly stores and a little ordnance, but it was a very disorganised place and not at all suited to our purpose, as we later found. Nevertheless, we went, got ourselves offices and "dug in."

I was soon informed that "Guns," they weren't even referred to as Artillery, were distributed throughout the Commands — there was one or perhaps two field guns in each Command, and these, with their crews, had been ordered to report to Islandbridge Barracks.

When they arrived Col. Maher and I examined all the officers, most of them we returned to their units as they did not want to be Regular Gunner Officers and I agreed with some that they would be better employed elsewhere. Ultimately we finished up with very few officers but with sixty to seventy stout-hearted prospective gunners—the formation of a "small" Battery. I was a Major I/C; Ned O'Leary a Comdt. and Adjutant; Col. Maher was a Captain and assistant adjutant and for the time being Comdt. D. Mackey was Quartermaster, but ultimately he resigned and we got Capt. R. J. Callanan, now Maj. Gen. Retd., who remained with us for a long time.

Islandbridge, as I said before, was most unsuitable, consisting mainly of stores; there was no space for training; we had horses and most of our training was horse-riding which we had to learn properly. Most of us could ride — we could ride farm horses — but now we had to ride properly; there was no space for this in Island-bridge.



1924 Ceremonial March Past in Dublin

McKee Barracks was then occupied by the Garda Siochana who were being moved to their present quarters. Knowing that I was dissatisfied with our accommodation, I was informed by Hqrs. that McKee Barracks was available to me. I went up there, met Gen. O'Duffy, Garda Commissioner, and the transfer was arranged. It was a wonderful change which provided us with great training facilities.

We stayed for nearly two years until I was ordered in March, 1925, to occupy what was an old Artillery Barracks in Kildare. The Garda were there also, but they were being moved and

we were to take over. We moved lock, stock and barrel down to McGee Barracks. One little thing which I remember now with a smile. There was an Infantry Platoon on guard in McGee Barracks and we kept them there for about a year and a half or two years until somebody caught on." We had to supply our own guards from that on. We thought this was a great imposition to ask gunners to do. However, we did. That brings us down to Kildare.

One thing that Col. Maher and I were most interested in was to get somebody to train us. We weren't trained gunners. So we got a Training Officer, a Capt. Harry Froud St, Leger Caulfield — he was employed for about three months. Then we got Capt. Gary Brennan. Brennan was a fine type, a gentleman, and he gently taught us a certain amount of gunnery. But we were eager and soon surpassed his limited knowledge. Not his fault. He gave us what he knew. However, in 1926 a military mission was sent to America and included Major Charlie Trodden (decd.) who was with us at the time. He did an American Gunnery course and was later invaluable to us."

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

30 June 2018

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 30 Jun 18)



ARTILLERY CLUB's DIARY of Events – 2018

(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)

Date	Event	Coordinator	Remarks
25 January	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
22 February	Field Trip: Dublin Port Heritage Trail	Comdt Lar Joye	25 Attendees - Photos on Website
22 February	Committee Meeting: Dublin Port	Secretary	Minutes circulated
26 April	Field Trip: School of Music and Military Archives	Col C. Fitzsimons (Retd)	26 Attendees – Photos on Website
26 April	Committee Meeting: Cathal Brugha Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
13 May	Defence Forces Veterans' Day, Collins Barracks Dublin	Secretary	
21/22 June	Field Trip: Templemore & Birr (3 & 31 Fd Arty Regts)	Comdt D. Coulter (Retd)	24 Attendees – Photos on Website
28 June	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
05 July	Gala Dinner, DFHQ Officer's Mess	President	Calling Notice Issued 15 June
09 July	Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
10 July	National Day of Commemoration – Collins Barracks Dublin	President	
18 August	Wreath Laying, National Memorial, Merrion Square	President	
23 August	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: Heritage Golf Resort, Killenard, County Laois	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd) Col T. Carter (Retd)	Calling Notice Issued: 08 Feb
12 September	Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1948-2018, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Military College	Col M. Smyth (Retd)	
27 September	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
07 – 11 Oct	Foreign Field Trip: Vienna	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	Calling Notice Issued 06 June
TBA	Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	
10 Nov	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
07 December	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch: McKee Barracks	Secretary	