

TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER 3/2019



INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 2/2019 promulgated on 04 June, 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 2/2019, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details regarding activities such as Annual Golf Outing, the deferral of the Decades' Reunion, and the Foreign Field Trip to Athens.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include: Lifetime Achievement Award for Major-General Tony Wall (Retd), Activity Reports, Planned Activities, and News from the Regiments.

2019 marks the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the 1 Anti-Aircraft Regiment. *Looking into the Past* provides an extract from an article written by Comdt John O'Brien, titled "*Brief History of 2 Air Defence Battery*", published in September 1989 in a commemorative magazine for the 1 Air Defence Regiment. Comdt John O'Brien (Retd) was elected to Honorary Membership of the Artillery Club at its 2108 AGM.

Photographs are credited to the Club's Membership, to Colonel George Kerton (Retd), Major Richard Gratton (Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery), and to the Defence Forces Press Office, including the above photograph at Áras an Uachtaráin of one of the 25 pdr Saluting Guns deployed for a recent State Visit to Ireland.

The Director of Combat Support & ISTAR, the School Commandant and Regimental Commanders are requested to post this Newsletter on 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 future Newsletters.

Upcoming activities include the Foreign Field Trip 06 – 10 October, Field Trip to Glen Imaal (date to be confirmed), the Annual Mass for 2 Arty Regt and disbanded Eastern Command Artillery Units on 09 November, and the Club's Annual General Meeting and St Barbara's Lunch on 06 December. The current version of the Diary of Events for 2019 is posted on the Club's website and is attached as Annex A.

GOVERNANCE

Focus for 2019

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

Since the 2018 AGM, the Club's Committee convened on four occasions: 24 January, 21 February, 25 April and 27 June. The Committee will reconvene on 26 September in Stephen's Club, and will have a pre-AGM meeting on 06 December.



To-date, the Committee has enhanced the Diary of Events for 2019, conducted planning for the various activities, and successfully executed the Field Trips to Killiney Mortello Tower on 21 February, to Áras an Uachtaráin and the Equitation School on 25 April, to the Cork Harbour's Coast Defence Artillery Forts on 23 and 24 May, and the Annual Golf Outing in Woodenbridge on 23 August.

Communications

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

The inaugural newsletter, Newsletter 1/2015, was distributed by email to 122 individuals. The Club's Email Contact List for this Newsletter is 311 individuals, far exceeding the Membership strength of 176. 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 12 September, the Club's membership is 176, compared with 159 in October 2016, 129 in October 2015, and 96 in October 2014.

As agreed in 2017, newly elected members are provided with a Club Tie, Tie Clasp and Lapel Pin.

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 2020 become due on 01 November, 2019. To date, 113 of the 176 registered members have paid their subscription.

The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription (€10) is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful to the 108 members who are currently paying their subscriptions by Standing Order.

Web Site

The Club's Website is accessible through www.artilleryclub.ie. The Website provides a library of relative information on the Artillery Corps and the Artillery Club. The Website remains the primary communications instrument for the Artillery Club.

Since the circulation of Newsletter 2/2019, the following postings were made on the Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (3):** Newsletter 2/2019, Annual Golf Outing 23 August, President M.D. Higgins Speech – Defence Forces Values Awards 11 Sep 19.
- **News and Events (2):** Newsletter 2/2019, Revised Diary of Events 2019.
- **Photo Gallery**
 - **Artillery Corps (1):** Operation Normandy Gunner 2019.
 - **Artillery Club (1):** Annual Golf Outing.
- **Information Section (3):**
 - **Artillery Equipment (0):**
 - **Artillery Corps (0):**
 - **Artillery Units (0):**
 - **Overseas (0):**

Currently, the Picture Gallery contains 25 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 37 Albums covering the activities of the Artillery Club.

As a small portion of the web site requires text population: *Artillery Corps Disposition and History*, and *Corps Units' Disposition and History*, members are encouraged to provide material on these subjects.

Observations on the Website's format and content will be welcomed by the Club's Committee.

Artillery Wing Curragh Military Museum

The Artillery Club's Working Group continues to actively engage with Lt Col Des Hanley who is the Museum's Curator. The Working Group is in the process of collecting a comprehensive range of Artillery artifacts from a benefactor in Cork with a likely handover taking place in October.

The Club retains an over-watch posture regarding the restoration of the Civil War 18-pounder QF Field Gun. On 10 June, the Club's President made a comprehensive submission to DCOS (Sp) regarding the restoration process. In the context of the gun's restoration costs, the Club's Committee will examine the proposal that serving and retired Gunners could be invited to make an appropriate donation.

Committee's Short Term Priorities

The Club's short term priorities are: Foreign Field Trip, Annual General Meeting & St Barbara's Lunch, the Artillery Wing in the Curragh Military Museum and Membership (PDF and AR).

Lifetime Achievement Award: Major-General Tony Wall (Retd)



Tipperary All Ireland Winners 1964: T Wall – 1st Left on Back Row

On 17 August, the eve of the 2019 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final, during the 7th Lifetime Achievements Lunch, the Gaelic Players Association honoured Major-General Tony Wall (Retd) with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Presenting the award, Mr Paul Flynn, CEO of the Gaelic Players Association, said: “*The Gaelic Players Association is honoured to present Tony Wall with the GPA Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019. His iconic hurling career touched the lives of so many on and off the field and we are delighted to acknowledge his contribution to the game and Irish society*”

Major-General Tony Wall is regarded as one of hurling’s greatest centre-backs with a long list of achievements. These include one Minor All Ireland medal, five Senior All Ireland medals, eleven Tipperary senior titles with Thurles Sarsfields, six National League titles, seven Munster titles and five Inter-provincial Championships.



In 1950 and 1951, he won back-to-back Dr Harty Cup medals with Thurles CBS. He was the first recipient of the Hurler of the Year (previously known as the Caltex Trophy) in 1958. His titled *Hurling by Tony Wall* was published in 1965. In 1999, Major-General Wall was named centre halfback on the Tipperary Team of the Millennium.

Major-General Wall joined the senior team during the 1953–54 National League, and was a regular member of the starting fifteen until his retirement after the 1967 championship. In retirement from playing, he was involved in team management and coaching, and was appointed coach and trainer of the Tipperary senior hurling team in January 1986.

Born in Clonmel in May 1934, Major-General enlisted in Óglaigh na hÉireann as a member of 27 Cadet Class in 1953. On commissioning in December 1954, he was appointed to the Artillery Corps. His distinguished military career saw service with the 1 Field Artillery Regiment, Depot and School Artillery, HQ Curragh Camp, HQ Eastern Command and Defence Forces Headquarters. As a Lieutenant-Colonel he was Regimental Commander in 1983 and was Command Adjutant in 1984. He served as Deputy Adjutant-General in 1989, and on promotion to Brigadier-General in 1991, he was appointed General Officer Commanding Curragh Command. On 15 April 1992, following the recommendation of the Government, the President appointed Major-General Tony Wall as Adjutant-General.

Major-General Tony Wall served overseas initially in 1966 as Heavy Mortar Troop Commander, 6 Infantry Group in Cyprus with UNFICYP, and in Lebanon with UNIFIL in 1982. During 1990 and 1991, he was Chief Operations Officer in Central America with ONUCA. Major-General Wall retired from the Defence Forces in May 1996.

On 26 March 2009, the inaugural Defence Forces Sports Awards were presented in McKee Barracks. Major-General Wall was inaugurated into the Hall of Fame. This category covers those military personnel, who have made a unique contribution to their particular sport. In accepting his award, Major-General Wall laughing stated, “*Heap much praise upon my head - Holy God I must be dead.*”. He went on to remark that his family present were too young to remember his glory days, but he paid a tribute to his wife, Betty who he credits with ‘*looking after his psychological and physical wounds over the years of playing hurling*’.

Operation Normandy Gunner 2019



On 08 June 2019, marking the 75th anniversary of the battles to liberate Normandy, the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery unveiled and dedicated a QF 25-pounder gun at Point 67, known locally as Côte de Cindais, to commemorate, in perpetuity, the contribution of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in the operations and battles in Normandy, France in the summer of 1944.



The Normandy Artillery Memorial located at Point 67 consists of a 25-pounder QF Gun, (S.I.C 9-42) which was manufactured in Canada by Sorel Industries in 1942. The 25-pounder QF Gun was extensively deployed by the Royal Canadian Artillery during the Second World War, see photograph below.



In 1949, the Defence Forces acquired forty-eight 25-pounders, some of which were used by Commonwealth forces during the Second World War. Whereas the 25-pounder fired for the first time in March 1949 at the Seskin gun position, the first regimental shoot, involving three batteries and 24 guns, occurred 60 years ago, on 21 June 1949. The Artillery Corps final shoot of the 25-pounder took place on 30 July 2009. The Director of Artillery Col Ray Quinn was the Gun Detachment Commander, the Layer was RSM John (Mingy) Morris, the Loader was Sgt Callery and the Rammer was Lt Col Eamonn Fogarty.

During the past six years, under the auspices of Col Ray Yorke, Lt Col Eamonn Fogarty (Retd) and RSM John Morris (Retd), the Artillery Corps presented six 25-pounder guns to The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

In addition to Point 67, one of these guns is located as a monument at Juno Beach, one is display in the town Heerenberg, The Netherlands where the Canadian Army crossed the Rhine and began the final push north to liberate Holland in 1945. Finally, three 25-pounders are located in Canada: Toronto (Limber Gunners), Montreal (3BAM) and the other in Lévis Quebec (6 RAC).



From the heights of Point 67, one can see virtually all of the Second World War battlefields of the period from 18 July to 10 August 1944.

For photographs of Operation Normady 2019, please revert to the Club's Website.

Update: St Mary's Battery, Canada



Following on from Newsletter 2/2019, the Saint Mary's Battery Restoration Committee, in Newfoundland, have now obtained the required number of 9pdrs. Of the four original cannons installed in 1779, one of the originals is on site, with three additional cannons recently sourced. It is envisaged that the Saint Mary's Battery of four 9pdrs will be rededicated during the month of September.

ACTIVITIES

Diary of Events - 2019

The Club's activities are of an Artillery nature, hopefully appealing to a large number of members. Members are encouraged to offer recommendations for next year's activities in 2020. As already mentioned, the current version of the 2019 Diary of Events is posted on the Club's website, and is attached as Annex A.

Acknowledgements

The Committee acknowledges the support provided by Mr Niall O'Donoghue owner of the Killiney Martello Tower for the Club's first event in 2019.

In particular, the Artillery Club was honoured when its members and spouses were received by President Michael D. Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin on 25 April. In this context, the Committee commends the support it received from all quarters for the Field Trip to Áras an Uachtaráin and the Equitation School.

Regarding the Field Trip to the Cork Harbour Forts, the Committee acknowledges the support it received by HQ Naval Service, Comdt Tom O'Neill (Retd) and Capt Noel McCarthy (AR) 1 Artillery Regiment, for the Guided Tour of Spike Island Fort Mitchell, and Comdt Pascal Cullen (Retd) for the Guided Tour of Camden Fort Meagher.

Reports and Information

Reports on activities executed since the last Newsletter (2/2019), and initial information on future activities are outlined below.

National Day of Commemoration: Collins Barracks, Dublin, 14 July



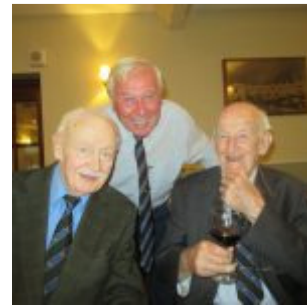
Members of the Club attended the Annual Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony in the National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, on Saturday, 13 July, and the National Day of Commemoration in Collins Barracks Dublin, on Sunday, 14 July, 2017.

The Minute Gun for the ceremony on the National Day of Commemoration was fired by Gunners of the 2 Artillery Regiment.

Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: Woodenbridge, County Wicklow: 23 August (Comdt Chris O’Flanagan Retd & Comdt Michael Flood Retd).



The Artillery Club’s Annual Golf Outing and Dinner took place on 23 August, at the Woodenbridge Golf Club, County Wicklow. Club members, spouses, partners and guests participated in the golf competition, and later were joined by non-golfers for an enjoyable dinner in the Woodenbridge Hotel. 31 attended the event.



Thankfully, the weather was very conducive for enjoyable rounds of golf. A total of 22 golfers took part in the Single Stapleford competition, including 5 lady visitors.



Confined to serving and retired members of the Artillery Corps, the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy was won by Captain Barry Carey (Retd) with a score of 36 points. To mark the sixteenth year of competition for the Perpetual Trophy, the Committee provided a keepsake Newbridge Silver Trophy to Captain Carey (Retd).

Mrs Nuala O’Flanagan won the Ladies’ Visitors Prize. Mr Roger Fitzgerald won the Men’s Visitor’s prize. Col Billy Nott (Retd) picked up the prize for nearest the Pin on the front nine Par 3, with Lt Col Noel Murphy (Retd) in respect of the back nine.

Once again, Commandant Frank and Mrs Joan Cavanagh were generous sponsors to the prize fund.

The Committee acknowledges the organisers of this very successful event Commandant Chris O’Flanagan (Retd) and Commandant Michael Flood (Retd), and the renowned hospitality and excellent support provided by the Woodenbridge Hotel and Woodenbridge Golf Club.

We look forward to next year's outing which will be seventeenth year of competition for the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy.

For photographs of the event, please revert to the Club’s Website.

Arty Decades’ Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1949-2019, 11 September (Col Mick Smyth Retd). Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of the control of the Committee the Reunion was deferred to September 2020.

Foreign Field Trip Athens: October 06 to 10 October (Comdt Michael Flood Retd)



The Artillery Club’s 2019 Foreign Field Trip will take place in Athens, with Sunday, 06 October and Thursday, 10 October, the travel days. Currently, 31 individuals have booked flights and accommodation in the recommended hotel: Polis Grand Hotel.

A comprehensive CONOPS for the Foreign Field Trip is available on the Home page of the Club’s Website. Coordinating Instructions will be circulated prior to the departure date.

As in the successful trips in 2015 to Madrid and Segovia, in 2016 to Granada and Malaga, in 2017 to Lisbon, and in 2018 to Vienna, Comdt Michael Flood (Retd) is the Tour Coordinator.

ARTILLERY CORPS

Gun Salute – 2 Artillery Regiment – 12 June



On the occasion of the State Visit to Ireland by King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of The Netherlands, on 12 June, the 2 Artillery Regiment deployed at Áras an Uachtaráin and fired a 21 Gun Salute during the formal welcoming ceremony. Capt Danielle Murphy was Acting Battery Commander

General Staff Reception, DFHQ Officers' Mess – 20 June



Members of the Club attended the General Staff Reception, hosted by Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, in McKee Barracks.

The 2 Artillery Regiment provided a gun display for the guests.

Defence Forces Values Awards – 11 September



At a ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin, on 11 September, President Michael D. Higgins presented the Defence Forces Values Awards.

The awards are given to serving or retired Defence Forces members whose conduct exemplifies the standards of respect, loyalty, selflessness, physical courage, moral courage and integrity expected of members of the Defence Forces.



As can be seen in the above photograph, Gunner David Stack (Retd), 1 Artillery Regiment was presented with the “*Integrity Award*”.

The Values Champion for 2018 was RSM Johnny Murray, CIS Group, Defence Forces Training Centre.

The speech delivered by An tUachtarán is posted on the Website’s Homepage.

Credentials – 13 September



The 2 Artillery Regiment provided a Lieutenant’s Guard of Honour for the credentials ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin on 13 September.

Their Excellencies, the Ambassador of Malaysia, the Ambassador of Japan and the Ambassador of Mongolia presented their Letters of Credence to President Michael D. Higgins.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

Extract from a Brief History of 2 Air Defence Battery, written by Comdt John O’Brien, and published in September 1989



2 Ack Ack Bty, Griffith Bks, 1960.



Comdt J. O'Brien 2 AD Bty receives his presentation on his retirement by Col. Dunne, January 1984.

Origin

“The origin of the 2 Air Defence Battery (FCA), previously designated 2 Anti-Aircraft Battery up to 1986, lies in the 1959 re-organisation of the Permanent Defence Force and the Reserve Defence Forces. The popular title given to this re-organisation was “integration”, and this succinctly describes the intention and effect of bringing the Forces together under common command and organisation. The newly formed 2 Battery (Dublin) and its comrade unit, the 3 Battery (Limerick) came together with the 1 Battery (PDF, Kildare) newly constituted 1 Anti-Aircraft Regiment with Headquarters in Magee Barracks, Kildare. The location of the batteries in Dublin and Limerick were influenced by the defence requirements of the major airfields.”

“The 4 Battery (Cork) was not formed until 1979, following the disbandment of the Coast Defence Artillery.”

“Under a later re-organisation of the Forces, most units reverted to structures somewhat comparable to the pre-1959 organisation. The 1 Air Defence Regiment, however, remains fully integrated.”

Formation

“The battery came into existence in October 1959 when ten officers selected from FCA infantry units in and around Dublin came together to the new unit, under Lt Paul Holahan who had been given command of the fledging team. Volunteers, NCOs and men were sought from other Dublin units to provide a nucleus of experience and skill before general recruitment was opened. Amongst those volunteers were Cpl Michael Flood, now Battery Commander, and Comdt Larry Holmes who was Battery Adjutant.”

Training

“In the initial years, firing practice was held during annual training camp, but for a period of ten years until the aerial target was acquired firing generally took place on a weekend in September. Between 1969 and 1977, the varied the locations of its annual camp. Kilkenny, Limerick, Lahinch, Duncannon and Ballincollig, all received the battery most hospitality and we were most thankful to the units and personnel who facilitated this enjoyable nomadic interlude.”

“In the late 1970s a decision was taken that the batteries should continue as an entity for the Regiment’s annual firing practice. From 1979 to 1981, the battery’s annual camp extended to three weeks. Since 1983, the annual camp has been confined to one week and this ensures a hectic programme to be carried out in Gormanston with the three batteries to fire.”

“It is a tribute to all concerned, particularly Regimental Headquarters that in this year 1989, time was found to mount a formal demonstration of weapons and mementos of the regiment and its predecessors.”

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

September 2019

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 13 Sep 19)



ARTILLERY CLUB's DIARY of Events – 2019

(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)

Date	Event	Coordinator	Remarks
24 January	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
21 February	Field Trip: Dublin Defences	Comdt Lar Joye	23 Attendees, Photos on Website
21 February	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
25 April	Field Trip: Equitation School and Áras an Uachtaráin	Col Tom O'Callaghan	29 Attendees, Photos on Website
25 April	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes circulated
11 May	Defence Forces Veterans' Day: Collins Bks Dublin	Secretary	
23/24 May	Field Trip: Cork Harbour Coast Defence Artillery Forts (1 & 8 Fd Arty Regts)	Lt Col C. Lalor (Retd)	36 Attendees, Photos on Website
27 June	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Minutes Circulated
13 July	Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
14 July	National Day of Commemoration	President	
23 August	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: Woodenbridge, Co Wicklow	Comdt C. O'Flanagan (Retd)	31 Attendees, Photos on Website
Deferred to 2020	Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1949-2019, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Military College	Col M. Smyth (Retd)	
26 September	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
06 – 11 Oct	Foreign Field Trip: Athens	Comdt M. Flood (Retd)	CONOPS circulated 23 March
October	Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal	Col S. McDermott (Retd)	
08 Nov (TBC)	Defence Forces Commemoration Ceremony, National Monument, Merrion Square, Dublin	Secretary	
09 Nov	Wreath Laying & Annual Mass: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
06 December	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch: McKee Barracks	Secretary	